



HOTEL REVENUES IN OMAN EXCEED OMR119.4MN IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

MUSCAT: The revenues of 3-5-star hotels in the Sultanate of Oman stood at OMR119.49 million during the first half of 2024, up by 8.6 percent compared to OMR110.06 million registered over the corresponding period in 2023, according statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). **>A3**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 108 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Forum explores ways to boost cooperation

1 The Omani-Arab Investment Forum began on Sunday with an aim to discuss ways of boosting economic cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Arab countries. **>A2**

OMAN Sandan City: A hub for automotive sector

2 Sandan City, located in the Wilayat of Nakhal in the South Al Batinah Governorate, has emerged as a comprehensive hub for the automotive sector in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A4**

WORLD At least 32 killed in Bangladesh clashes

3 At least 32 people were killed on Sunday across Bangladesh, local media reported, as student protesters clashed with activists from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Awami League. **>A7**



SULTANATE CALLS FOR PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND HARMONY

Disruptions have led to humanitarian and environmental disasters and economic crises

MAKKAH: The Sultanate of Oman has called for promoting a culture of peace and harmony and consolidating the principles of common human values at a conference in Saudi Arabia.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, is taking part in the "9th Conference of Ministers of Endowments and Islamic Affairs in the Islamic World."

The two-day conference, which began on Sunday in Makkah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, deals with the role of the ministers concerned in consolidating the values



of moderation. Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, delivered Oman's speech, which cautioned against the challenges facing the world, including the disruption of value concepts, imbalance of morality, disputes and wars. These, he affirmed, led to humanitarian and environmental disasters and economic crises, undermined development efforts and threatened social ties.

"Our societies are not far from such challenges and their impacts because the Islamic world is an

integral part of the fabric of global community," said Al Maamari.

He added that Islamic societies have repeatedly found themselves facing polarization policies and hatred speech that portrayed our societies as if they were a burden on civilization and modernity.

Misleading narrative

Al Maamari pointed out that such targeting of the Islamic world "quotes a misleading narrative of history." He warned that these negative claims focus on families, the first and fundamental building



blocks in society. He noted that the action of targeting misuses the ongoing and expanding technological openness.

In this context, the minister highlighted the "Message of Oman" which, he said, laid emphasis on promoting a culture of peace and harmony and consolidating the principles of common human values.

In his speech, the minister touched on Oman's efforts in spreading tolerance, coexistence and understanding, confronting stereotypes about Islam and

Muslims and contributing to the reduction of hate speech and Islamophobia. The conference aims to enhance Islamic solidarity and cooperation among member states in the fields of advocacy, endowments and Islamic affairs. It explores all opportunities to streamline religious discourse.

The conference also seeks ways to promote the sanctity of places of worship, supporting relations with Islamic organisations abroad to enable them to carry out their Islamic mission based on humanitarian values.

INTEGRATED GAS COMPANY

IGC launches its first-ever spot sale of natural gas in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Integrated Gas Company (IGC) announced the launch of its first spot sale of natural gas in Oman, marking a significant milestone in the country's energy sector.

Under this pioneering agreement, IGC will supply 15,000 SM3/D of natural gas to OCTAL FZC, a leading global PET packaging company with operations in Oman.

In this regard, Dr Muslam Qatan, the chairman of the board of directors at Integrated Gas Company said, "This strategic partnership underscores IGC's commitment to bolstering Oman's economic diversifica-

tion and aligns seamlessly with Oman Vision 2040".

By enhancing the Sultanate's prominence in the global energy markets, this deal boosts IGC's revenue streams through positive price realisation.

It also signifies mutually beneficial partnerships with industries, in support of overall economic growth and sustainability. This inaugural agreement solidifies IGC's bold presence and role in the sector, setting a strong foundation to deliver on its mandates.

"We are proud to launch our first-ever spot sale of natural gas in Oman," said Abdul Rahman Al Yahyai, CEO of IGC.

"This agreement with OCTAL

is a testament to IGC's ability to meet short-term demands for natural gas and contribute to sustainable economic development. It reflects our dedication to advancing the goals of Oman Vision 2040 by fostering a diversified and robust economy."

IGC is committed to its mission of expanding its energy market presence, driving economic diversification, and promoting long-term prosperity for Oman.

The company's strategic initiatives, supported by the IGC Board of Directors, are designed to significantly enhance the country's revenue streams while pursuing national objectives related to industrialisation, and contribute to a sustainable future.

GAZA DEATH TOLL as of August 4, 2024



RESEARCH FINDINGS

Groundbreaking archaeological discoveries unveiled in Oman's Ja'alan region

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a significant advancement for Omani archaeology, groundbreaking research has unveiled major discoveries in the Western Part of the Ja'alan Region, offering unprecedented insights into the prehistoric communities that once thrived there.

Led by UNESCO World Heritage expert Professor Nasser Al Jahwari of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), the research sheds new light on the settlement history and societal development of this culturally influential part of Oman.

The findings, detailed in Professor Al Jahwari's latest publication, "The Archaeological Landscape of the Western Part of Ja'alan Region, Sultanate of Oman," highlight a series of remarkable discoveries, including early Bronze Age burials, intricate rock art, and triliths. These findings collectively paint a vivid picture of the daily life, rituals, and survival strategies of the region's ancient inhabitants.



During the excavations, numerous burial sites were uncovered, providing valuable insights into the funerary practices and beliefs of prehistoric communities.

Also discovered were intricate carvings and drawings discovered at the sites, which offer a unique window into the artistic expressions and symbolic communi-



ties of early societies.

Triliths (megalithic structures) suggest advanced construction techniques and possibly served ceremonial or astronomical purposes.

Azzan Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of Tourism at the Ministry of Heritage & Tourism, emphasised the importance of these discover-

ies. "Archaeological findings of this magnitude are rare and immensely valuable. Professor Al Jahwari's work enriches our understanding of the lives and practices of our ancestors, enhancing our appreciation of Oman's heritage," he said.

He added: "The ministry is proud to add this outstanding book to our publication catalogue and



urge academics, students, history enthusiasts and anyone interested in archaeology and anthropology to delve into its pages. Rich in insights and information, I am sure it will be of great interest to a broad readership."

The research focused on areas around Jabal Qahwan and Wadi Al Batha, between Jalan Bani Bu

Hassan and Al Kamil Wa Al Wafi. These sites have long been under-explored, making the revelations particularly significant.

The book documents extensive archaeological surveys and excavations conducted in the region, covering periods from the Stone Age through the Bronze and Iron Ages, and pre-Islamic and Islamic periods.

Al Jahwari, a distinguished UNESCO World Heritage expert, is a Professor in the Department of Archaeology at the College of Arts & Social Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University.

With over 30 years of experience, Al Jahwari specialises in field archaeology, landscape archaeology, and prehistory.

His research interests include settlement patterns over time, quantification in archaeology, ethnoarchaeology, and rock art. His expertise has garnered international recognition, including roles with ICOMOS and UNESCO World Heritage. **>A4**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:18pm
Asr.....	3:42pm
Maghrib.....	6:55pm
Isha.....	8:12pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:14am

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COMMENTARY

Salalah Khareef spreads its shine on seasonal festivals

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

The Salalah Khareef 2024 continues to mesmerise tourists with new features that are drawing large crowds not only from domestic tourists but regionally and also the rest of the world.

While the summer heat is pushing the mercury reading up to 50 degrees in most areas of Oman, Salalah's weather so far, since June, has been recorded at an average of 25 degrees, just half of the roasting heat in Muscat.

But it is not about the weather only. This year, the organisers deserve a huge credit. The seasonal celebrations in Dhofar feature an extended children park, double the size of the entertainment areas, more shopping arcades and a variety of events.

Last year, the Festival in Salalah attracted about 962,000 visitors. The organised this year is going for the million mark. While we are in the middle of the Khareef, the number of visitors who already visited Salalah in the last ten weeks, has matched the statistics of the entire year in 2023. With that fact in mind, the number of tourists in Salalah is well on course to

Currently, the majority of visitors to Salalah are domestic tourists and from the regional countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. The domestic visitors are a mix of both Omanis and expatriates working in the country. They all share the same enthusiasm of what this beautiful southern city has to offer.

Having said all that, Oman would also need to maintain a threshold of the number of tourists to a sustainable level visiting Dhofar. It is justifiable to target a million tourists for this year and Salalah is well on the way to achieve it this time. But how many would be enough in a small city like Salalah without eroding its cultural values? Should the organizers of the Salalah Khareef stick to a million visitors or stretch a little bit more?

That will be the next challenge in the next few years to put a lid on it and not push it up too far to preserve the local heritage while at the same time keep the tourists campaign going.

touch, or even exceed is target this year.

With Oman Economic Vision setting a target of 16 million tourists by 2040, Salalah will prominently feature in the build up to achieve that milestone. However, Salalah should not only be promoted during the Khareef Season. It has enough attractions to last throughout the year. It also has abundant opportunities to boost the economy, create SMEs and jobs for graduates.

However, for that happen, the infrastructure would need to be expanded with the help of the private sector. Hotels are always overwhelmed with

the higher demands of accommodation. Instead of building more luxury hotels, Salalah needs hotels at budget prices which are affordable to majority of visitors.

The road networks need to be improved, too. To make the trips to the sites of attractions much easier for visitors, more rest areas and restaurants need to be established along the routes. Also, it would help a lot if guesthouses are built near the waterfalls, green hills, historical sites and wadi areas. This way, tourists can stopover overnight without having to go back to the city to their hotels after a long drive.

TWO-DAY EVENT

Omani-Arab Investment Forum explores ways to enhance investment and economic cooperation

SALALAH: The Omani-Arab Investment Forum began on Sunday at Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

Moreover, the two-day forum discusses the possibilities of boosting investment and economic cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and Arab countries. It also touches on investment opportunities that are available for Arab businesspeople, as well as

the facilities provided to investors in Oman.

Further, the forum highlights promising sectors that are targeted by the goals of Oman Vision 2040, including converting industries, agriculture, fisheries, logistic services, education, research and innovation.

On the sidelines of the forum, an exhibition was held to introduce aspects of interest in the fields of real estate, banking, industry and the services provided by a number of government units.

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ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Five arrested for committing different crimes in the Sultanate

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Five people have been arrested in Oman for different crimes, one of them impersonating a police officer and stealing sums of money from an expatriate.

Royal Oman Police said: "North Al Sharqiyah Governorate Police Command arrests a person for robbing six shops in the Wilayat of Ibri, and completes legal procedures against him."

In second case, South Al Batinah Governorate Police Command arrests a person for impersonating a police officer and stealing sums of money from an expatriate.

In Al Buraimi Governorate Police Command arrested three people, including an Asian, for stealing electrical cables and wires from several lighting pole locations on the main street in the Wilayat of Mahdha.

Hotel revenues in Oman exceed OMR119.4mn during first half of 2024



MUSCAT: The revenues of 3-5-star hotels in the Sultanate of Oman stood at OMR119.49 million during the first half of 2024, up by 8.6 percent compared to OMR110.06 million registered over the corresponding period in 2023, according to statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The rise in revenues is attributed to the increase in the number of hotel guests by 10.7 percent to stand at 1,045,226 guests compared to 944,268,000 during the corresponding period in 2023. Occupancy rate also grew by 2.7 percent. The number of Omani guests

reached 363,240, comprising a rise by 7.4 percent.

Moreover, the number of guests from GCC countries increased by 3 percent to stand at 75,066. The number of other Arab guests stood at 49,040 (up by 11 percent). The number of European guests also surged by 19.2 percent to stand at 298,247. The number of guests from the American continents stood at 32,090, while guests from the African continent stood at 5,528 (up by 0.8 percent).

Asian guests also rose by 12.6 percent to stand at 159,187, while guests from Oceania countries reached 15,619. — **ONA**

WILAYAT OF BIDIYAH

Programme begins to train 100 innovators from Oman and Arab countries



BIDIYAH: The activities of an international training programme themed '100 Arab Innovators' kicked off on Sunday in the Wilayat of Bidiyah, the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah.

The ten-day programme is organised by North Al Sharqiyah Governor's Office in partnership with the Arab Private Schools Federation.

100 innovators

Commenting on the occasion, Badr Ahmed Al Habsi, Director of Activities and Awareness in the governor's office said that the programme targets 100 innovators from Oman and a number of Arab countries.

Latest AI technologies

It aims to enhance digitisation and innovation by training the candidates on the latest artificial intelligence technologies and apps in the oil and gas sector. The programme was launched under the auspices of Sheikh Hamad Khalifa Al Abri, Wali of Ebra. — **ONA**



OFFICIAL MEETINGS

Nepal's Foreign Secretary to take part in bilateral meeting in Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sewa Lamsal, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nepal departed for Muscat, the Sultanate of Oman on Monday. Sewa is leading a Nepali delegation to attend the first bilateral consultation mechanism meeting between Nepal and Oman, scheduled to be held on 7 August in Muscat. During her stay, the Foreign Secretary is scheduled to hold official meetings and programmes in Muscat. She is scheduled to return to Kathmandu on Friday.



ROYAL HOSPITAL



Royal Hospital doctors perform rare laparoscopic surgery

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team at the Royal Hospital successfully performed the laparoscopic cholecystectomy (first of its kind in Oman) for a patient who was infected with a liver fluke Fasciola hepatica.

The diagnosis of such rare cases requires exceptional skills and treatment. Dr. Al Warith Ahmed Al Hashemi, Consultant, Liver and Pancreas Transplants and Surgery at the Royal Hospital, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that diagnosing Fasciola hepatica is a real medical challenge due to the similarity of its symptoms to many other digestive system diseases.

Such diagnosis requires extensive experience and the use of advanced techniques, he added.

Dr. Al Warith pointed out that this operation was performed using laparoscopic technology, which, he said, "reduced the usual complications of traditional surgery and shortened the recovery period, allowing the patient to return to his normal life more quickly and with less pain".

The use of laparoscopy in such delicate operations reflects the extent to which the medical team at the Royal Hospital masters high skills in using this technology, said Dr. Al Warith. — **ONA**

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Recruitment process in full swing for Oman armed forces



RAO

Coordinated with the Ministry of Labour, these efforts are part of a strategic initiative to bolster national defence capabilities by enlisting and training new cadets and recruits

MUSCAT: The recruitment process for the Oman Armed Forces is progressing robustly across the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), the Royal Army of Oman (RAO), and the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF).

Coordinated with the Ministry of Labour, these efforts are part of a strategic initiative to bolster national defence capabilities by enlisting and training new cadets and recruits.

Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)

The RAFO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, has begun appointing national cadets who will undergo various evaluation stages as per the Royal Air Force

of Oman's procedures, leading up to their admission. RAFO leverages its extensive experience and resources to streamline the military service joining process.

Royal Army of Oman (RAO)

Similarly, the RAO continues its recruitment process for citizens joining its various units as recruits, after completing military training. The RAO utilises its expertise and resources, including meeting administrative and health requirements, to expedite the military service enlistment process.

Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF)

The SAF headquarters, in con-



junction with the Ministry of Labour, has initiated the appointment procedures for national jobseekers meeting the criteria set forth in employment notices. Applicants will proceed through the various admission stages as per SAF's established procedures. SAF employs its comprehensive experience and manpower to hasten the military service

joining process. These efforts by the Sultan's Armed Forces are part of broader plans and programmes aimed at employing the national cadre within the SAF corps and other Ministry of Defence departments, in service to the country and His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander.

-ONA



CULTURAL HERITAGE



Groundbreaking archaeological discoveries unveiled

< FROM A1 While the primary focus remains on the groundbreaking discoveries, the comprehensive details are meticulously documented in Al Jahwari's new book.

The 300+ page volume, featuring 114 figures, pictures, and maps, as well as 76 statistical and illustrative tables, is available for purchase at the General Office (main building) of the Ministry

of Heritage & Tourism.

These discoveries not only mark a significant milestone in Omani archaeology but also contribute to the broader understanding of human history in the region. The unveiling of these ancient secrets highlights the enduring legacy of Oman's rich cultural heritage and underscores the importance of ongoing archaeological research in uncovering the stories of our past.



WILAYAT OF NAKHAL

Sandan City emerges as a hub for automotive sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sandan City, located in the Wilayat of Nakhal in the South Al Batinah Governorate, is emerging as a comprehensive hub for the automotive sector.

The third phase of the Sandan Economic City project is currently underway, featuring several new initiatives in collaboration with a local developer.

This phase includes creating "Auto Park," a state-of-the-art automotive centre that will house 50 car showrooms designed to attract both car agencies and used car dealerships.

This development aligns with the government's vision of regulating the labour market and providing employment opportunities for Omani youth.

Plans also include the construction of a mosque, a car fueling station, and various workshops and warehouses.

Mohammed bin Hamad Al Siyabi, Director of Asset Management at Sandan City, highlighted that the project exemplifies Oman's significant progress in organising industries, businesses, and real estate development.

Well-organised environment

The city's success in creating a well-organised environment has drawn interest from international companies and investors, offering a facility that meets global standards.

Al Siyabi noted that Sandan City boasts the largest collection of used car showrooms in Oman, with 100 showrooms established in the first and second phases. Currently, half of these showrooms are operational, showcasing over 1,000 vehicles. The city also provides a range of services, including financing, insurance, workshops, and luxury shops, within more than 1,200 specially designed establishments tailored to business needs.

Additionally, Sandan City fea-



tures large showrooms for electronics and construction supplies, as well as spaces for small, low-emission industries.

Al Siyabi emphasised that the concept behind Sandan City aligns with the government's goal of creating job opportunities for young Omanis and organizing business

sectors to foster a conducive environment for local entrepreneurs.

The strategic location of Sandan City was selected to accommodate the expansion and urban development of Muscat Governorate, ensuring easy access for visitors from Muscat, South Al Batinah, and neighbouring governorates.

Sandan City is distinguished as the first integrated automotive sector city in Oman, covering an area of 250,000 square metres with an investment of OMR100 million.

It currently houses more than 2,500 residents in over 1,200 housing units, forming an integral part of the project's vision.



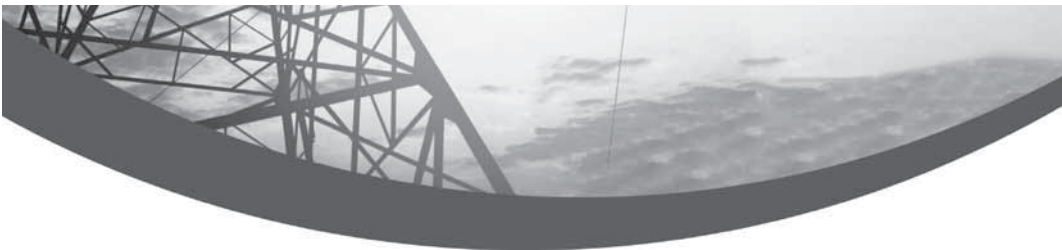
WILAYAT OF SEEB

One arrested for possessing over 2,000kg of tobacco derivatives

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A person has been arrested for possessing more than 2,000 kilograms of tobacco derivatives in the Wilayat of Seeb, Muscat Governorate. Oman Customs said in a state-

ment: “The Compliance and Risk Assessment Department stops a truck in the Wilayat of Seeb, and arrests an accused in possession of more than 2,000 kilograms of tobacco derivatives. The necessary legal measures are currently being taken.”



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders: -

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2024/084	Replacement of D.I. Force Main at Area Pumping Stations	19 August 2024	09 September 2024	105/-
DISC/2024/089	Utility Network Extension – Lot- 05D/2024	19 August 2024	27 August 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/090	Utility Network Extension – Lot- 06C/2024	19 August 2024	27 August 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/091	Utility Network Extension – Lot- 07E/2024	19 August 2024	27 August 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/092	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot- 07C/2024	19 August 2024	27 August 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/093	Re-Tender: Replacement of Pilot relays In 33kv CRP, RTU Panel, 11kv Capacitor Banks, LVAC Panel & 110v DC System (Battery & Charger) at existing 33/11kv Al-Husn-1 PSS and replacement of distance relay at remote ittin GSS end.	19 August 2024	03 September 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/094	Refurbishment/Rehabilitation of existing manholes in Salalah Waste-water collection and conveyance system	19 August 2024	09 September 2024	105/-
DISC/2024/095	Extension of TSE pipeline from free Zone to Salalah Port	19 August 2024	09 September 2024	52/500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below: https://isupplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 10:00 am of the last day for submitting bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using “supplier portal”. No hard copies are accepted.



Dhofar Integrated Services Company s.a.o.c.
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Phone Number 23232523 ,Fax 23201183
www.dhofarservices.nama.om



Investment Manager Report

On behalf of the Fund Management Board, I am pleased to present the un-audited financial results of ahli Global Equity Fund for the quarter ended 30th June 2024:

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30th June 2024	30/06/2024
Number of units	15,794,939
Net asset value (RO)	16,057,557
Net asset value per unit (RO)	1.017
Dividend Paid Per Unit (RO)	-
Net profit/(loss)	156,135

*As of June 30th 2024

Market Outlook

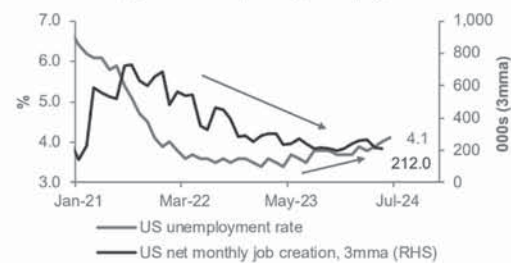
In June meeting, the Federal Reserve (FED) voted to hold policy rates steady for the seventh consecutive time, leaving the Fed Funds Target Rate unchanged at 5.25% to 5.50%. The Fed signaled that rates could begin to decline in the future, but will keep an eye on stubbornly high inflation, hinting that perhaps only one rate cut will occur in 2024.

The European Central Bank however, decided to lower the three key ECB interest rates by 25 basis points. The dynamics of underlying inflation and the strength of monetary policy transmission prompted the council to take the measures after nine months of holding rates steady. GCC central banks have held interest rates steady for the sixth time as the Fed benchmark level until inflation cools down and moves sustainably toward the 2 percent target.

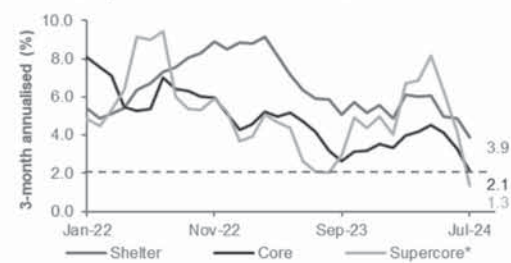
Considering the prevailing market conditions, the prospects for Money Markey Fund are favorable, with expected returns of ~5% over the medium-term.

We believe a slowdown in job creation and cooling inflation are setting the stage for the first Fed rate cut in this cycle.

US net monthly job creation (3mma), unemployment rate



US core, 'supercore'* and shelter inflation, 3-month annualised



Source: Bloomberg, Standard Chartered*, 'core services, excluding housing, inflation

Our Fund remains an attractive option for short term cash management, offering investors both liquidity and competitive returns. The Fund's performance has been strong and stable.



INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 June 2024
RO	
ASSETS	
Term deposits	7,300,548
Financial assets at amortised cost	1,048,500
Cash and cash equivalents	8,169,624
Interest and other receivables	52,965
Total assets	16,571,637

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities

Accruals and other payables	514,081
Total liabilities	514,081

Total net assets attributable to the Unitholders	16,057,557
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Net asset value per unit	1.017
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STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	For the period from 3 March 2024 to 30 June 2024
RO	
INCOME	
Profit income	178,677
Other Income	9
	178,686

EXPENSES

Management fees	15,575
Custodian service fees	2,996
General and administration	3,980
	22,551

Net profit and total comprehensive income for the year	156,136
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INTERIM REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2024

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Dear Shareholders,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to present the second quarter ended 30th June 2024 unaudited results of Voltamp Energy SAOG.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS:

The summary of the Company's performance (including subsidiaries) is as follows:

Particulars	Six months period ended 30th June 2024	Six months period ended 30th June 2023	% Increase/ (decrease)
Revenue	16,174,277	12,922,272	25.17
Other Income	65,614	13,780	376.15
Expenditure	(13,768,689)	(12,802,777)	7.54
Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	2,471,202	133,275	1754.21
Taxation	(396,212)	(22,659)	1648.59
Profit / (Loss) After Tax	2,074,990	110,616	1776.85
Total Comprehensive Income	2,450,456	113,728	2054.66
Basic Profit / (Loss) per share	0.022	0.000	4624
Net assets per share	0.228	0.205	11.22

During the the second quarter and the first half of the year, the Company achieved revenues of RO 16,174,277, a 25% increase on RO 12,922,272 recorded during the same period of the last year. This was driven by strategic initiatives in planning and business development initiatives which resulted in substantially enhanced order book.

The Company also recorded a fair value gain of RO 375,466 on its “Available for Sale” investment compared to a gain of RO 3,112 during the same period in 2023.

The Total Comprehensive Profit net of tax, including the fair value gain, was RO 2,450,456, substantially higher than RO 113,728 recorded during the same period of the last year. With controlled total cost of sales, cost leadership strategy combined with improved design process and productivity, the net profit margin was 15.15% compared to 0.88% during the same period of the last year.

OUTLOOK:

With successful expansion of its customer base, the Company has a robust orders book and monitors relentlessly the progress of various large-scale projects across multiple sectors in the GCC countries as well as exploring strategic opportunities outside the region. It will continue to leverage its diverse product mix and technological advances to drive growth.

The Company monitors closely the current logistic and global geo-political situation that present certain supply chain challenges and takes proactive measures to ensure timely availability of materials to honour its delivery schedule.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:

The Board and Management believe in maintaining a high level of professionalism and integrity in all operations and confirm standing fully compliant with the Code of Corporate Governance. Corporate Governance and the Management Discussion and Analysis Reports are included in the Annual Report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

On behalf of Voltamp Energy SAOG, the Board of Directors expresses gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq and the Omani Government for providing a secure and stable economic environment focused on driving growth and continued prosperity for all. The Board also conveys sincere appreciation for the support extended to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the Financial services Authority, Muscat Securities Market, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates, Rusayl Industrial Area (Madayn).

Appreciation is extended to all customers and banks dealing with the company for their continuous support, to the valued Shareholders for their confidence in the Company and all the Company's employees and Management for their loyalty, hard work, dedication and commitment during difficult times.

Aymen bin Hamad Al Busaidi
Chairman
Voltamp Energy SAOG

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Quarter ended 30th June 2024	Quarter ended 30th June 2023	Six months ended 30th June 2024	Six months ended 30th June 2023
Revenue	9,635,818	8,450,665	16,174,277	12,922,272
Cost of sales	(6,315,290)	(6,234,761)	(10,855,339)	(10,264,820)
Gross profit	3,320,528	2,215,904	5,318,938	2,657,452
Other income	43,512	16,189	56,596	13,780
Selling, administrative and general expenses	(1,546,249)	(1,197,381)	(2,692,851)	(2,261,598)
Gain on investments at fair value through profit or loss	9,018	-	9,018	-
Profit from operations	1,826,809	1,034,712	2,691,701	409,634
Finance cost	(115,020)	(125,379)	(220,499)	(276,359)
Profit / (Loss) for the period before taxation	1,711,789	909,333	2,471,202	133,275
Taxation	(284,521)	(136,805)	(396,212)	(22,659)
Profit/(Loss) for the period after taxation	1,427,268	772,528	2,074,990	110,616
Basic earnings per share (Bzs)			0.022	0.000
Net Income attributable to :				
Equity holders of the Parents	1,199,254	647,393	1,826,478	39,497
Non controlling interest	228,014	125,135	248,512	71,119
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss				
Investments at FVOCI - net change in fair value	(3,253)	(16,552)	375,466	3,112
Total comprehensive (loss)/ income for the period, net of tax	1,424,015	755,976	2,450,456	113,728

UNAUDITED CONDENSED INTERIM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT

	30th June, 2024	30th June, 2023	31st Dec. 2023 (Audited)
RO	RO	RO	RO
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8,628,632	8,741,941	8,504,687
Intangible Assets	399,168	416,367	481,153
Investments at fair value through other comprehensive income	26,380	231,722	173,792
Right-of-use assets	2,286,367	1,193,262	2,332,369
Deferred tax asset	532,226	1,191,573	778,845
Total non-current assets	11,872,773	11,774,865	12,270,846
Current assets			
Inventories	9,419,826	10,196,386	7,106,532
Trade and other receivables	15,924,289	12,980,394	16,325,329
Amount due from related parties	-	34,785	-
Deposit With Finance company	1,500,000	200,000	200,000
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	2,509,518	-	-
Term deposits	80,462	309,080	359,566
Cash in hand and at banks	3,460,197	71,164	878,133
Total current assets	32,894,292	23,791,809	24,869,560
Total assets	44,767,065	35,566,674	37,140,406
Equity and liabilities			
Equity			
Share capital	8,140,275	8,140,275	8,140,275
Share premium	3,146,070	3,146,070	3,146,070
Fair value reserve	(34,168)	(1,154,868)	(1,212,798)
Legal reserve	3,251,901	3,069,835	3,117,932
Retained earnings	4,087,700	3,449,329	3,849,577
Equity attributable to the share holders of of the Parent Company	18,591,778	16,650,641	17,041,056
Non controlling interest	1,309,036	1,017,246	1,060,524
Total equity	19,900,814	17,667,887	18,101,580
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Non-current portion of lease liabilities	2,588,438	1,030,361	2,555,583
End of service benefits	791,813	654,865	747,167
Total non-current liabilities	3,380,251	1,685,226	3,302,750
Current liabilities			
Bank borrowings	5,379,152	7,927,263	6,054,339
Trade and other payables	15,719,128	8,168,653	9,269,252
Current portion of lease liabilities	87,812	100,411	121,896
Income tax payable	136,600	17,234	183,958
Amount due to related parties	163,308	-	106,631
Total current liabilities	21,486,000	16,213,561	15,736,076
Total liabilities	24,866,251	17,898,787	19,038,826
Total equity and liabilities	44,767,065	35,566,674	37,140,406
Net assets per share	0.228	0.205	0.209

32 killed in Bangladesh clashes, students call for PM’s resignation

The Interior Ministry declared an indefinite nationwide curfew from 6 p.m. (1200 GMT), in the first such move since the protests started

DHAKA: At least 32 people were killed Sunday across Bangladesh, local media reported, as student protesters clashed with activists from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ruling Awami League. The Interior Ministry declared an indefinite nationwide curfew from 6 p.m. (1200 GMT), in the first such move since the protests started. The demonstrations broke out



in June against a controversial quota system for public sector recruitment, which the country's Supreme Court has now all but scrapped. Students returned to the streets this week in huge numbers, in an

all-out non-cooperation movement aimed at paralyzing the government and demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation. Large groups of protesters packed into Dhaka's central Shah-

bagh Square, with street battles erupting at multiple locations in the capital as well as in other cities, police said. Protest organisers had urged people not to pay taxes and utility bills and not show up for work in

a show of "non-cooperation" with the government. Sunday is a working day in Bangladesh but many shops and banks in Dhaka stayed closed. At one stage, thousands of protesters attacked a major public hospital in Dhaka's Shahbagh area, torching several vehicles, the police said. A police officer, who asked not to be named, told the French AFP news agency that "the whole city has turned into a battleground." In the capital's Uttara neighborhood, police fired teargas to disperse hundreds of protesters who blocked a major highway. At least 32 people were killed and dozens were injured across the country, according to a tally by DW based on hospital, police and local media sources. The death toll included two people who were declared dead from their injuries on arrival at a hospital in Munshiganj district near Dhaka, a hospital official said. The construction workers were killed during a three-way clash of protesters, police and activists

from the ruling Awami League, witnesses said. Around 30 people were injured. Four people were killed in clashes between ruling party activists and protesters in the northwestern Rangpur city. Five people died when Awami League activists attacked protesters in the southeastern city of Feni, local media reported. At least three people were killed and 50 hurt in the northeastern district of Pabna during a clash between protesters and Awami League activists, witnesses said. Three more were killed when police opened fire on protesters in the northern district of Bogura, the Daily Star reported. Two people were killed in the northern city of Kishoreganj, where protesters torched a ruling party office, police said. Five people were killed — one each in the northwestern city of Sirajganj, as well as Magura — which is located in the southwest, Savar — near Dhaka, south-central Barishal, and Cumilla — which lies in the east. -DW

WARM AND FRIENDLY TIES

What’s the reason behind India’s silence on Bangladesh protests?

DHAKA: India has been keeping a close eye on the unrest in Bangladesh, which is both a neighbouring country and one of New Delhi's closest allies. It is also a temporary home for thousands of Indian students. "India considers the ongoing situation in the country to be an internal matter of Bangladesh. With the support and cooperation of the Bangladesh government, we were able to arrange for the safe return of our students," the foreign office spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a weekly press briefing. Around 6,700 Indian students have returned from Bangladesh amid the violent clashes in the country. "Being a close neighbour with whom we share very warm and friendly ties, we are hopeful that the situation in the country would return to normal soon," Jaiswal added.



India and Nepal. This region includes Indian states to the north and east of Bangladesh. These states in the northeast of India were once integrated into the supply chain in undivided India," Chakravarty told DW. Now, Bangladesh and India are working to boost transport links and "restore what existed in the pre-partition era," he added.

Billions in credit to Dhaka India recognises Bangladesh as a vital eastern buffer and provides critical support through its ports and power grid access. New Delhi has so far extended almost \$8 billion (€7.39 billion) in lines of credit to Dhaka which is used for development projects, building infrastructure and construction of a pipeline to supply diesel. Major Indian companies that have invested in the country include Marico, Emami, Dabur, Asian Paints, and Tata Motors. Any escalation of the student protests could directly or indirectly affect these companies. "The relations between India and Bangladesh are embedded in their shared history, complex socio-economic interdependency, and their geo-political positioning. Any confrontational politics and political instability in the region invite the problems of terrorism, fundamentalism, insurgency, and

migration," Sanjay Bhardwaj of Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for South Asian Studies told DW. "The violent protest and political instability will lead a circle of violence and people's migration to India," he said. In recent years, both India and China have expanded their economic stakes in Bangladesh, which is being folded into the two countries' growing geopolitical rivalry. Despite boasting close ties to Bangladesh, however, some analysts believe that Indian policymakers struggle to understand the anti-Indian sentiment prevalent among parts of the Bangladesh population. Some of it can be explained by New Delhi's support to the ruling Awami League. "The 'uneasy quiet' is India's silent support for Hasina's government and its policies to deal with the ongoing unrest. Over the past decades, India has invested heavily in the Awami League as a pro-India entity in Bangladesh," Shanthie Mariet D'Souza, the founder of independent research forum Mantraya, told DW. Regime critics in Bangladesh accuse Hasina of trying to turn Bangladesh into a one-party state and are especially enraged by her crackdown on political opponents and civil society groups.

"The Indian government has shielded her government from American pressure to yield to the opposition's demand to make the polls more democratic and transparent. The present silence is a continuation of the policy," D'Souza added. **India looks at bigger picture** According to D'Souza, India sees Bangladesh as crucial for several strategic reasons — including the development of the northeast, curbing migration into India, and dealing with radicalisation. "Despite significant Chinese investments in that country, New Delhi still considers Hasina as someone who will prevent Bangladesh from transforming into a stooge of foreign powers. As a result, supporting her becomes New Delhi's only strategic option, even while her policies have often bordered on autocracy," she said. Seen from that angle, the recent failings of the Hasina government and strengthening of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, as well as local Islamist parties, is not good news for India. Even so, professor Sreeradha Datta from the India-based Jindal School of International Affairs believes that the extreme response of the Hasina government to the student protests cannot be justified. She criticised the Bangladeshi officials over their attempt to place all blame for the violence on opposition parties and Islamist students. The protests turned violent as a reaction to the government's "non-response and rather derogatory remarks," Datta said. "The mindless violence and deaths cannot be ignored or excused. The government turned the peaceful protests to the darkest phase in Bangladesh's recent history," she said. -DW

KERALA LANDSLIDES

Wayanad search operation continues, death toll at 308

WAYANAD: The search and rescue operations in Kerala's Wayanad have entered its sixth day on Sunday, as several people are still feared trapped in the debris after a series of landslides that occurred in Chooralmala and Mundakkai of Wayanad. Providing details about the rescue operation, Wayanad District Collector Meghashree told ANI, that the rescue operation is in full swing, and over 1,300 forces have been deployed for operation. "Rescue operation is going on in full swing. Today, 1,300+ forces are deployed...volunteers are also there...yesterday volunteers who went for the rescue operation got stranded there, today we are taking precautions so that it doesn't happen," Wayanad District Collector told ANI. Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister's Office has informed that night patrolling of the police has been instituted in Chooralmala and Mundakkai areas where landslides occurred. Action will be taken against those trespassing in the houses or areas of the victims at night, the

statement from CM's office said. No one should enter the houses or areas of these places at night without the permission of the police for the purpose of rescue operations, it added. On Saturday, the Indian Air Force airlifted one ZAWER and four REECO radars from Siachen and Delhi to fasten the search operations in the landslide-affected areas of Wayanad. On the same day, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Indian Army, and Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully rescued three personnel stranded at Soochipara Waterfalls, located in the landslide-hit Wayanad district of Kerala. On Saturday, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan expressed his gratitude to the Tamil Nadu government for contributing Rs 5 crore towards the relief efforts in landslide-hit Wayanad, which claimed more than 300 lives in the state. The death toll in the massive landslides that occurred on July 30 in Chooralmala and Mundakkai of Wayanad stands at 308 as of Friday. -ANI



EXPAND COOPERATION

Germany, Philippines plan to ink defence deal

MANILA: Germany and the Philippines on Sunday said they planned to sign a defence agreement later this year to expand cooperation between their armed forces. During talks in Manila, German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius and his Philippine counterpart Gilberto Teodoro committed to work more closely on military training and weapons procurement. The partnership comes at a time over tensions in disputed areas of the South China Sea, although Pistorius was at pains to stress the cooperation was not aimed at any specific country. "Instead, we are focussing on maintaining rules-based order, securing freedom of navigation

and protecting trade routes," Pistorius said. The Philippines has committed \$35 billion over the next decade to modernize its military to boost external defense capabilities amid escalating tensions with Beijing. Manila has signed defence co-operation deals with other countries, including the United States, Japan, India and Sweden. Teodoro said the Philippines would be "looking to engage Germany as a possible supplier of these [training and weapons] capabilities." "These are in the command and control, anti-access aerial denial, maritime domain, aerial domain," he said. -DW

BLAZED ACROSS GERMANY

Ribbeck meteorite 4.5 billion years old



BERLIN: Fragments of a meteorite that blazed across the skies near Berlin in January are about 4.5 billion years old, scientists wrote in an article published in the Meteoritics & Planetary Science journal. Named after the site of its discovery, researchers led by the Institute of Planetology at the University of Münster also found the Ribbeck meteorite belongs to the scarce class of aubrites. They are so rare that only 11 other aubrite falls have been recorded, while 76 finds are listed in the meteorite database. Scientists have examined the Ribbeck meteorite fragments closely, and they estimate that Ribbeck's parent body is approximately 4.5 billion years old. It likely originated from the asteroid belt situated between Mars and Jupiter. Curiously, the meteorite fragments emitted an intense

smell of hydrogen sulfide, reminiscent of rotten eggs. This odor results from chemical reactions between the mineral phases and moisture — likely caused by snow and thaw — altering the rock's mineralogy. Ribbeck, initially named asteroid 2024 BX1, burned up on January 21 this year over Germany. The first piece of the meteorite was only found days later. "When searching for meteorites, you usually look for black rocks. However, due to their mineralogy and composition, the Ribbeck fragments did not have a consistently dark fusion crust," Addi Bischoff, one of the authors of the paper, explained. "This is probably why numerous fragments were missed in the first days of the search, until this peculiarity was recognized," he said. -DW

NET FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

The buying spree in Indian stock markets by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued into the second month. The net foreign investments into the Indian stock market stood at Rs 32,365 crore, data made available by National Securities Depository Limited showed.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

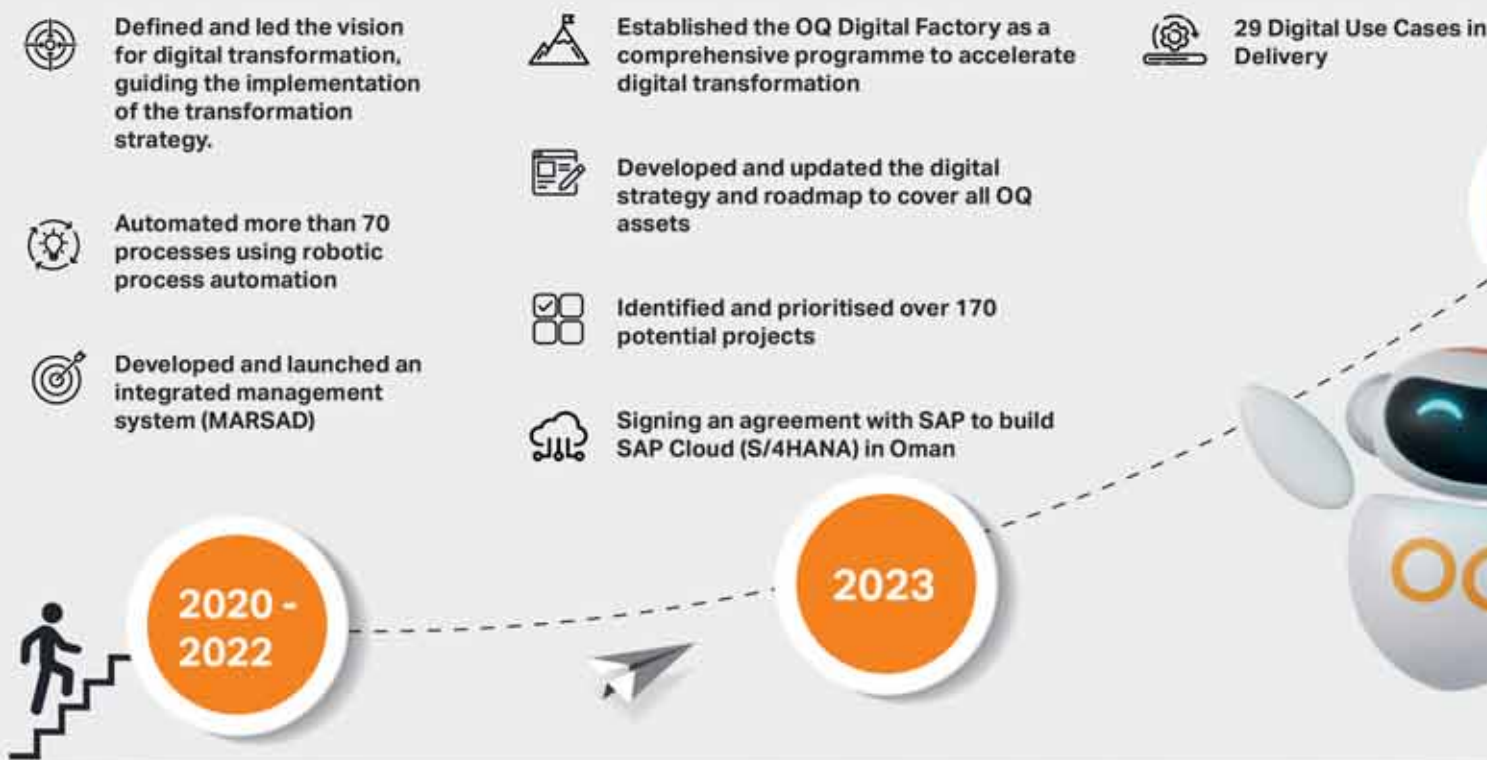


MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,647.20 points, down by 0.43% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.19% at 443.98 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 8.86%, was the top gainer while, National Gas, down 8.11%, was the top loser.

PIONEERING
DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION
IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

FROM VISION TO REALITY:
OUR DIGITAL JOURNEY



ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE ☆



Key
Highlights

2024

1st FIRST
Digital Twin Implementation in Oman

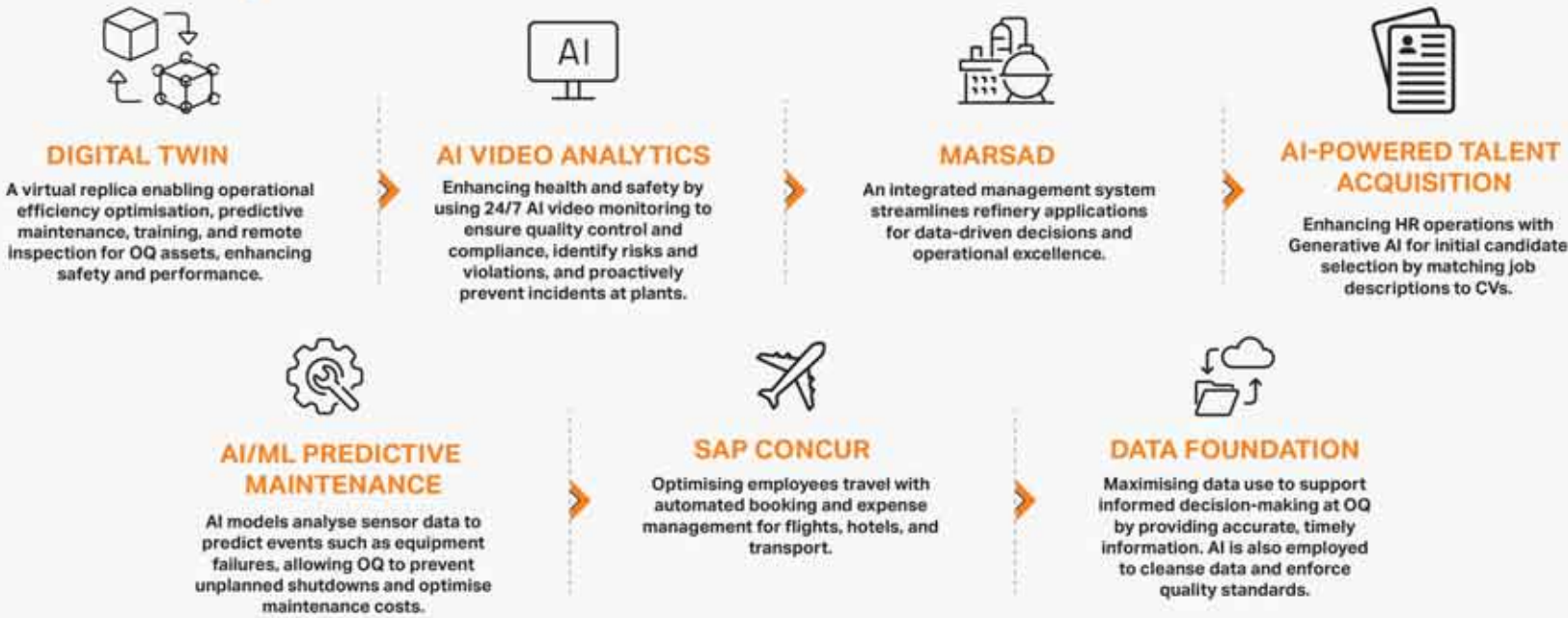
1st FIRST
company to Utilise AI to analyse environmental, social, and governance (ESG) impacts in Oman

193 Digital Use Cases Identified

29 Digital Use Cases in Delivery

8 Executed with of AI

TOP 7 SUCCESS PROJECTS



MARKET

MSX index ends lower

A'Saffa Foods, up 8.86%, was the top gainer while, National Gas, down 8.11%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,647.20 points, down by 0.43% from previous close. The Shari Index ended down by 0.19% at 443.98 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 8.86%, was the top gainer while, National Gas, down 8.11%, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 451 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 1.4 million, with more than 8.08 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded securities, 4 advanced, 22 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 34K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 27K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 7K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,579.64 points, down 0.27%. Prices of Oman Arab Bank were

up by 1.35% respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Oman & Emirates Investment, Al Madina Investments, Global Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa were down by 3.90%, 2.70%, 1.70%, 1.30%, 0.95% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,909.38 points, down 0.85%. Prices of A'Saffa Foods were up by 8.86% respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Gulf International Chemicals, Galfar Engineering, Gulf Mushroom Products, Raysut Cement were down by 7.51%, 5.48%, 3.36%, 2.22%, 0.79% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.5% before closing at 1,809.44 points. Prices of Muscat Desalination, Abraj Energy were up by 1.41%, 0.34% respectively.

Prices of National Gas, Muscat Gases, Salalah Port Services, Al Batinah Power, OQ Gas Networks were down by 8.11%, 4.48%, 3.45%, 2.63%, 1.40% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,669.10	4,646.00	4,647.20	4,667.43	-20.23	-0.43
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,597.82	7,559.75	7,579.64	7,599.85	-20.20	-0.27
Industry Index	5,991.76	5,909.38	5,909.38	5,960.24	-50.86	-0.85
Services Index	1,818.44	1,809.44	1,809.44	1,818.44	-9.01	-0.50
MSX Shariah Index	445.03	440.77	443.98	444.81	-0.83	-0.19
MSX TR INDEX	6,489.32	6,457.21	6,458.87	6,486.99	-28.12	-0.43
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,631.91	8,588.66	8,611.26	8,634.21	-22.95	-0.27
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,913.06	6,818.02	6,818.02	6,876.70	-58.68	-0.85
SERVICES TR IDX	2,116.04	2,105.56	2,105.56	2,116.04	-10.48	-0.50
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,081,449	1,404,606	451	24,380,117,550	4	22	15	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. HPT	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PER VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	132,170	56,448	6	0.380	0.430	0.380	0.430	0.395	0.035	8.861	0.430	0.380	0.430	0.100	51,600.000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	125,985	37,068	17	0.283	0.285	0.283	0.284	0.283	0.001	0.341	0.284	0.282	0.289	0.100	226,438.800
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	7,284	1,248	7	0.171	0.175	0.170	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.169	0.175	0.100	38,500.000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	1,000	280	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.277	0.280	0.100	34,971,429
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	25,000	1,425	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.058	0.100	20,295,256
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	34,184	9,640	14	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.000	0.000	0.282	0.270	0.282	0.100	183,566,273
OM0000004735	SEMCORP SALALAH	8,000	832	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.100	0.104	0.100	0.100	99,275,483
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	150,580	10,872	17	0.070	0.077	0.070	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.075	0.083	0.100	13,475.000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	93,777	93,922	13	1.000	1.010	1.000	1.000	1.002	-0.002	-0.200	1.000	0.982	1.000	0.100	750,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	2,500	1,010	3	0.418	0.418	0.396	0.396	0.398	-0.002	-0.503	0.396	0.397	0.437	0.100	131,025,593
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,104,043	147,947	36	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.135	-0.001	-0.741	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.100	747,351,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,385,215	596,304	51	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.252	-0.002	-0.794	0.250	0.250	0.252	0.100	1878,598,266
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	40,000	4,510	3	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.112	0.113	-0.001	-0.885	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.100	16,800.000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	674,276	51,245	22	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.077	-0.001	-1.299	0.078	0.074	0.077	0.100	15,200.000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	95,555	7,253	12	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	53,580,476
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	505,763	71,586	78	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.143	-0.002	-1.399	0.141	0.141	0.143	0.100	610,617,973
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	269,610	19,951	16	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.076	-0.002	-2.632	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	49,941,670
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	42,000	3,041	5	0.073	0.073	0.072	0.072	0.074	-0.002	-2.703	0.072	0.071	0.073	0.100	8,775.000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	10,000	740	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.077	-0.003	-3.896	0.074	0.074	0.082	0.100	6,660.000
Total	19	5,586,942	1,085,320	306												
Parallel Market																
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	182	13	1	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1.408	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	11,199,629
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	12,000	1,900	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.148	0.002	1.351	0.150	0.146	0.150	0.100	250,441,500
OM0000001046	PACKAGING CO. LTD.	1,005	1,960	2	1.950	1.950	1.950	1.950	0.000	0.000	1.950	0.000	1.950	1.000	5,850.000	
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	4,976	1,344	2	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.243	0.269	0.100	43,200.000
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	3,100	1,090	2	0.351	0.370	0.351	0.351	0.351	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.000	0.370	0.100	28,572,365
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	98,346	5,704	3	0.058	0.059	0.058	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.058	0.061	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	405	47	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.114	0.120	0.100	59,448,115
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,384,334	144,361	27	0.106	0.108	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	232,643,115
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	69,786	4,545	8	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.063	0.065	0.100	31,904,365
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	201,880	11,709	4	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.057	0.062	0.100	4,830.000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	35,500	7,835	13	0.222	0.222	0.220	0.220	0.225	-0.005	-2.222	0.220	0.220	0.222	0.100	10,068,476
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTR.	351,029	50,962	36	0.147	0.147	0.144	0.144	0.149	-0.005	-3.356	0.144	0.144	0.145	0.100	29,230,048
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	50	14	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.290	-0.010	-3.448	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	50,354,472
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	10,000	1,280	1	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.134	-0.006	-4.478	0.128	0.000	0.128	0.100	3,840.000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	43,636	3,033	5	0.067	0.072	0.067	0.069	0.073	-0.004	-5.479	0.069	0.069	0.072	0.100	1,448.000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	20,000	9,600	2	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.519	-0.039	-7.514	0.480	0.480	0.480	0.100	75,600.000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	102,000	10,404	18	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.111	-0.009	-8.108	0.102	0.102	0.105	0.100	8,670.000
Total	17	2,338,209	255,700	127												
DESIGN FLAWS																

Delay to Nvidia's new AI chip could affect Microsoft, Google, Meta

CALIFORNIA: Design flaws could cause a delay of three months or more in the launch of chip giant Nvidia's upcoming artificial-intelligence chips, tech-focused publication the Information said on Friday.

The setback could affect customers such as Meta Platforms Alphabet's Google and Microsoft, which have collectively ordered tens of billions of dollars' worth of chips, it said, citing people who help produce chip and server hardware for Nvidia.

The AI chip company unveiled its Blackwell chip series in March, succeeding its earlier flagship AI chip, the Grace Hopper Superchip, that was designed to speed generative AI applications.

"As we've stated before, Hopper demand is very strong, broad Blackwell sampling has started, and production is on track to ramp in the second half," an Nvidia spokesperson said in an emailed statement in response to the report.

Microsoft said it had nothing to add, while Meta and Google did not immediately respond to requests for comment. - **BNA**

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GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR STATISTICS

Saudi Arabia's non-oil merchandise exports to GCC reach \$2.9 billion

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's total non-oil merchandise exports to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries reached SR10.99 billion (\$2.9 billion) in May, a significant increase from SR8.43 billion in the same month last year, Arab News reported, citing official figures.

According to preliminary data from the General Authority for Statistics, during this period, merchandise imports from GCC countries saw a modest rise from SR6.03 billion to SR6.24 billion.

As a result, Saudi Arabia's non-oil trade balance with the GCC saw a notable improvement, climbing to SR4.74 billion in May from SR2.40 billion a year earlier. The UAE continued to be Saudi Arabia's largest non-oil trading partner within the GCC. Non-oil exports from the UAE to Saudi Arabia grew from SR4.90 billion in May 2023 to SR6.07 billion this year. Imports from the UAE also increased, rising from SR3.63 billion to SR4.54 billion. This led to an improved trade balance with the UAE of SR1.52 billion, up from SR1.26 billion last year.

Kuwait, however, experienced a decrease in its trade balance with Saudi Arabia, dropping from SR1.26 billion in May 2023 to SR571.4 million this year. This decline was largely due to a significant drop in re-exports, which fell from SR898.2 million to SR147.6 million, alongside a slight reduction in imports from SR158.5 million to SR114.6 million.

Substantial improvement

Oman saw a substantial improvement in its trade deficit with Saudi Arabia, narrowing to a deficit of SR239.3 million in May from SR887.1 million the previous year. This positive shift was driven by an increase in Omani exports to Saudi Arabia, which rose to SR384.4 million from SR289.8 million, coupled with a reduction in imports to SR623.7 million from SR1.18 billion.

Bahrain achieved a significant increase in its trade surplus with Saudi Arabia, reaching SR2.83 billion in May, up from SR555.2 million the previous year. This improvement was due to a dramatic rise in re-exports from Bahrain, which surged from SR1.16 billion to SR3.36 billion, while imports decreased from SR922.1 million to SR795.6 million.

In contrast, Qatar's trade balance with Saudi Arabia declined, falling from SR204.9 million in May 2023 to SR56.9 million this year. This decline was attributed to a reduction in Qatari exports to Saudi Arabia, which fell to SR223.2 million from SR344.4 million, while imports from Qatar increased slightly to SR166.3 million from SR139.4 million. - **WAM**

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO INVESTORS



LIFESTYLE

DEMENTIA:
HEALTHIER
LIFESTYLES COULD
PREVENT IT

The Lancet Commission on dementia said in its 2024 report
that 14 lifestyle factors make up 45% of a person's risk
— a guide to reduce your risk

More than 55 million people worldwide live with some form of dementia or cognitive impairment. In the next three decades that number is predicted to triple — climbing to 152 million people by 2050.

Dementia is often presented as an inevitable threat that looms in the distance of old age. Its causes are baked in with genetic risks and the advancing state of human aging — or so the thinking goes.

But scientists are discovering that dementia is not set in stone. A large-scale reevaluation of the science, published by the Lancet medical journal, concluded that many more dementia cases could be avoided than previously believed.

About 45% of the risk of developing dementia is due to 14 health factors. The Lancet Commission report, compiled by 27 leading dementia experts, updates a previous list of risk factors. The 2024 list included two new risks: high cholesterol and vision loss.

“This is important as, by understanding and acting on true risk factors of dementia, we can indeed delay, or prevent some cases of dementia,” said Sarah-Naomi James, an expert in aging diseases at University College London in the UK. James was not involved in writing the Lancet report.

What causes dementia?

Dementia is a group of many diseases, but the most common form is Alzheimer's disease.

It is caused by damaged nerve cells in the brain and causes confusion and memory loss. People with dementia often cannot control their emotions, and their personalities may change.

Around half of the risk factors for dementia are due to genetic mutations, which we inherit from our parents and grandparents.

But 45% of our dementia risk is due to 14 environmental risk factors and can therefore be reduced, the Lancet commission on dementia said.

The two new risk factors are associated with 9% of all dementia cases: 7% of cases are attributable to “bad” cholesterol from the age of 40 years, and 2% of cases are attributable to untreated vision loss in later life.

Other risk factors are lower levels of education, hearing impairment, high blood pressure, smoking, obesity, depression, physical inactivity, diabetes, excessive alcohol consumption, traumatic brain injury, air pollution and social isolation.

Together, they make up 40% of dementia risk.

Dementia prevention

The study authors call on national and international government bodies to be ambitious about dementia prevention.

“Actions to decrease dementia risk should begin early and continue throughout life,” the authors wrote.

Currently, two-thirds of people with dementia live in developing countries. People in China, India and Sub-Saharan Africa are likely to be worst hit as the global population ages.

The authors wrote that there was “more poten-

tial for reduction in risk in low-income and middle-income countries and among minoritised and lower socioeconomic groups.”

In particular, reducing pollution levels, increasing educational standards in children, and promoting midlife cognitive activity could significantly reduce dementia risks.

How to reduce your risk of getting dementia

The report offers guidelines for governments and health authorities to reduce dementia risk across people's lifespans, including:

- making hearing aids accessible for those with hearing loss
- ensuring good-quality education for all supporting people to give up cigarettes
- encouraging exercise and sport
- encouraging the use of helmets and head protection in contact sports and on bicycles
- reducing high blood pressure from the age of 40
- treating high cholesterol from mid-life
- maintaining a healthy weight and treating obesity as early as possible
- reducing high alcohol consumption
- making sure people are not socially isolated or lonely, especially in old age
- screening for eyesight problems and giving glasses to those who need them
- reducing people's exposure to air pollution

“If we did simple things well, such as screening for some of the factors identified in this report, with adequate resources to perform this, we have the potential to prevent dementia on a national scale,” said Masud Husain, a neurologist at the University of Oxford in the UK. Husain was not involved in the report.

“This would be far more cost-effective than developing high-tech treatments which so far have been disappointing in their impacts on people with established dementia,” said Husain in a statement.

Is there a cure for dementia?

Researchers have been looking for medical treatments for dementia for decades, but their successes have been limited.

New hope arose after the discovery of a medicine called lecanemab, which slows the development of some forms of dementia, such as Alzheimer's in its early stages.

But the drug has proved controversial. Lecanemab was approved for use by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2023, but the European Medicines Agency (EMA) rejected the drug for use in the European market in July 2024. The EMA reasoned the benefits of lecanemab did not outweigh the risks of a patient having serious side effects.

Scientists are still working to understand the disease's underlying biology. Without a better understanding of how dementia damages the brain, it's difficult to create new treatments to halt or reverse cognitive decline.

James highlighted that scientists still had major gaps in understanding how the 14 dementia risk factors highlighted by the Lancet were linked with dementia-related changes in the brain.

“We don't know how these factors [such as blood pressure] are affecting dementia risk, and which aspects of dementia pathology type and development are conferring this risk,” James said, adding that the report's recommendations ought to be encouraged by anyone interested in encouraging people to live healthier lives overall. -**ow**

SPORTS

Magnificent McClenaghan is the king of pommel horse in Paris

The Northern Ireland gymnast won the gold to cement his place as one of the sport's all-time greats

PARIS: The Prince of Pommel has become the King. Rhys McClenaghan completed the gymnastics 'Grand Slam' with a magnificent routine in the Olympic final worthy of the gold medal on Saturday. Olympic champion, two-time world champion, three-time European champion and Commonwealth champion - McClenaghan has cemented his place as one of the sport's all-time greats.

The Newtownards gymnast, now one of Northern Ireland's most successful athletes of all time, has often talked about reaching the top of the mountain.

In Paris, he ascended to the summit in what he called "the greatest pommel horse final in the history of gymnastics, ever."

McClenaghan's journey to the ultimate prize is just over a decade in the making, starting from the moment his mum, Tracey, went searching for a new coach and found former international gymnast Luke Carson.

"We set a long-term plan at the age of 14. My coach met with my mum and said 'this kid could be the best in the world on the pommel horse,'" explained McClenaghan.

As a junior he finished third behind Max Whitlock and Louis Smith at the British Championships.

Smith, who was in Paris to see his friend win the gold, was an inspirational role model for McClenaghan.

"One of my favourite Olympic moments was watching Louis per-



form his routine in London. I was at the opening ceremony and I saw all the posters of him all over the city and it felt like the weight of the world was on his shoulders.

"This felt like my Louis Smith London 2012 moment. I was the reigning world champion and could win Ireland's first ever gymnastics medal.

"That's why the emotions came out, because I'd done my job under all that pressure."

The journey from Tokyo disappointment to Paris gold

The Commonwealth Games title and first European win came in 2018 and when the delayed Tokyo Olympics arrived three years later he was among the favourites.

That day, it didn't happen for McClenaghan.

However, since then he has dominated the world with a pair of global and continental titles.

"It's a crazy journey. All athletes have their own story. Of course, I am paying close attention to my own story but I'm going to write it in the happiest fashion that I possibly can.

"That journey isn't medal-dependent. It is enjoying the journey, enjoying going to competitions around the world, enjoying going to training every day, having gymnastics as my job - it never gets old even just saying that.

"That in itself is a lifelong dream and something I dreamt of when I was in school.

"Literally daydreaming in classes about gymnastics routines.

"So the fact is, that is what I do, that is me, I am a professional gymnast and that is already a win.

"Yes, the medals are the driving force. That is the pinnacle of our sport and I'm always working towards that, but I made it very ap-

parent after Tokyo that I wanted to enjoy that journey to the top of that mountain.

"Even if I didn't walk away with a medal today I would have a lifetime of experience, a lifetime of wins and losses, but today was a win."

For the first time, there were three current world champions from Northern Ireland competing at an Olympic Games.

All three - McClenaghan, Hannah Scott and Daniel Wiffen - have become Olympic champions in the space of just five days for what has arguably been the greatest week of sport in Northern Ireland's history.

"It is remarkable," McClenaghan added. "It makes me incredibly proud to come from Northern Ireland and bring home this medal.

"It's the first gold medal for Newtownards in the Olympics, so I hope I've made everyone back home proud." - Agencies

Biles claims vault title for her third gold in Paris



PARIS: American gymnast Simone Biles won her third Olympic gold of the Paris Games when she took the vault title in emphatic fashion on Saturday.

After helping the USA to women's team gold and then taking the all-around title, the 27-year-old reclaimed another of the titles she first won at Rio 2016, having lost them in Tokyo when she pulled out of several events.

She nailed her huge Biles II vault before sticking to her 'easier' vault - whose difficulty is harder than many attempt as their best vault - to score an average of 15.300.

Brazil's Rebeca Andrade, the only gymnast who has skills that can come close to Biles and who won the title in Tokyo, took silver with 14.966 and American Jade Carey got bronze with 14.466.

Biles had said after winning the all-around title two days ago that facing Andrade was "stressful" as she was the only gymnast who had ever pushed her closely and joked she did

not want to face her again. There had been anticipation that Andrade might try a new skill that she has submitted - a triple-twisting Yurchenko vault that would have a difficulty value closer to Biles' best vault - but that did not materialise.

The 25-year-old, who beat Biles on this apparatus at last year's World Championships, performed her vaults well.

She scored higher than Biles for execution on both vaults, but with difficulty values that were a full mark lower than her rival's efforts, Andrade would only have had a chance if the American had faltered.

Biles became the third most decorated female gymnast with 10 Olympic medals and with two more finals to come on Monday - floor and beam - she can overtake second-placed Vera Caslavskia, who won 11 for Czechoslovakia between 1960 and 1968. The all-time record of 18 is held by Soviet Union gymnast Larisa Latynina. - Agencies

WOMEN BOXING

Lin secures medal amid eligibility row

PARIS: Taiwanese boxer Lin Yuting became the second boxer at the centre of a gender eligibility row to secure a medal at the Paris Olympics as she reached the semi-finals of the women's featherweight division on Sunday.

The 28-year-old beat Bulgarian Svetlana Staneva by unanimous decision. A visibly frustrated Staneva, 34, left the arena making a cross with her fingers, shouting "no, no". A scrappy fight threatened to boil over at times with Staneva regularly complaining about Lin's use of elbows. Before the bout, the Bulgarian Boxing Federation said it "strongly opposed" Lin's participation.

Like Algerian welterweight Imane Khelif who progressed on Saturday, Lin is competing in Paris despite being banned from last year's World Championships by the International Boxing As-



sociation (IBA). The fighters were reported to have failed gender eligibility tests at the Worlds, a situation which has sparked huge controversy.

Lin will face Brazil's 2023 Pan American Games champion Jucielen Romeu or Turkey's Esra Yildiz Kahraman in Wednesday's semi-finals. Even if she loses she will take home a bronze medal. - Agencies

WOMEN SWIMMING

'Queen of the pool' Ledecky wins record-equalling ninth gold

PARIS: American superstar Katie Ledecky equalled the record for the most gold medals by a female Olympian as she won the 800m freestyle title at the Paris Games on Saturday.

Ledecky clocked eight minutes 11.04 seconds to become the only woman - and only swimmer other than the great Michael Phelps - with four Olympic golds in the same event.

It was Ledecky's ninth Olympic gold, moving her level with former Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina, and taking her overall tally to 14 medals. Phelps has the most medals of any Olympian with 28, including 23 golds.

"The four-times record is the one that means the most to me," Ledecky, 27, said afterwards.

"3 August is the day I won in



2012, and I didn't want 3 August to be a day I didn't like moving forwards. "I put a lot of pressure on myself, so I'm happy I got the job done."

Earlier on Saturday, Summer McIntosh's astonishing debut Games continued, with the Canadian 17-year-old securing her

third gold with victory in the women's 200m individual medley.

Ledecky has won four medals in Paris alone - two golds, a silver and a bronze. She became the United States' most decorated female Olympian with silver in the women's 4x200m relay on Thursday.

Such is her dominance in the

800m freestyle that she has lost just once over the distance in 13 years - and that was to rising star McIntosh at a regional meet earlier in 2024.

McIntosh opted not to swim the 800m in Paris, meaning Ledecky's biggest rival was old foe Arianne Titmus.

Australia's Titmus beat Ledecky to 400m freestyle gold earlier in the week but she could not stay with the American in the closing stages of her favourite distance.

The two shared a warm moment at the end of the race, with Ledecky raising both their arms in the air before Titmus applauded her opponent as she left the arena.

Titmus took silver in 8:12.29, with Ledecky's American teammate Paige Madden (8:13.00) completing the podium. - Agencies

FOOTBALL FRIENDLIES

Liverpool cruise past Man United

COLUMBIA: Liverpool completed their three-match US tour with a 100% record as Arne Slot's side eased to a 3-0 win against Manchester United in Columbia on Saturday.

In front of a 77,559 crowd - the biggest at a non-US football match - at the Williams-Brice Stadium, Fabio Carvalho put Liverpool ahead after 10 minutes when he took advantage of some slack defending inside the area from Casemiro. The lead was doubled on 36 minutes when Mohamed Salah's excellent close control beat United youngster Toby Collyer on the touchline, with the Egypt forward bursting to the byline to set up Curtis Jones with a low cross.

A third came when Konstantinos Tsimikas seized on a loose ball in the 61st minute, scoring after Andre Onana failed to hold Diogo Jota's instinctive first-time effort.

Haaland hat-trick gives City 4-2 win over Chelsea Elsewhere, a hat-trick from Er-



ling Haaland helped Manchester City to a 4-2 pre-season win over error-prone Chelsea in Columbus on Saturday. Haaland, 24, scored twice in the first five minutes, profiting from two disastrous Chelsea mistakes as Enzo Maresca's side gifted the Premier League champions an early lead.

The first goal came from a Tosin Adarabioyo loose pass, with Levi Colwill bringing down Haaland for a fourth-minute penalty, which the Norwegian scored after a re-take.

Haaland doubled City's lead almost straight away when he intercepted a miscued Moises Caicedo pass to slot in.

Another quick-fire pair of soft goals in the second half saw Pep Guardiola's champions build a commanding lead, City's third coming as substitute Raheem Sterling's mistake enabled Oscar Bobb to score in the 55th minute. And Haaland got his hat-trick just one minute later after another error from Malo Gusto. - Agencies

US FRIENDLY

Barcelona defeat Real Madrid

NEW JERSEY: Pau Victor scored twice as Barcelona beat Spanish rivals and La Liga champions Real Madrid in a friendly in the United States of America on Saturday. Real were without England international Jude Bellingham and France forward Kylian Mbappe, with the duo missing the club's tour of the US after playing at this summer's European Championship in Germany for their respective countries.

In what was the first El Clasico of the season, the match at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey was paused after 12 minutes because of a heavy storm.

The action resumed after a delay of more than an hour, and Barcelona took the lead just before half-time when 22-year-old forward Victor headed in from Robert Lewandowski's ball.

Thibaut Courtois made a good save from Lewandowski before Victor got his second of the game shortly after the break to double



the lead for Hansi Flick's side.

Nico Paz headed home late on for Real Madrid but Barcelona held firm to secure the victory.

Victor's double means he has scored three goals in Barcelona's two games during their tour of the US, having also struck in a 2-2 draw with Premier League champions Manchester City earlier this week. The match was suspended after 12 minutes because of a heavy storm

The defeat was Real Madrid's

second of their US tour after losing 1-0 to Italians AC Milan last week.

They play Premier League side Chelsea on 6 August in North Carolina, but Real boss Carlo Ancelotti is not reading too much into his side's successive losses.

Vinicius Jr looked sharp as he played his first minutes of the summer for the Spanish giants and Ancelotti said the games' purpose was to give his players game time rather than focus on the result.

"We're working on our preparations and the players are gradually coming back to the team. The result is not so important," he said.

"The objective is for players to get minutes and to get them in good shape. We're not focusing on tactical aspects. That starts on the seventh [of August].

"We're not worried. It's a pre-season game and we're missing eight players." - Agencies

10.72

As the rain teemed down at a raucous Stade de France, Alfred dominated the final and sealed victory by a clear margin in a national record 10.72 seconds.

Alfred reigns supreme in women's 100m final



The 23-year-old wrote her name into history books as she became the first Olympic medallist for St Lucia

PARIS: Julien Alfred stormed to the women's 100m title at Paris 2024 to make history as St Lucia's first Olympic medallist on Saturday night.

As the rain teemed down at a raucous Stade de France, Alfred, 23, dominated the final and sealed victory by a clear margin in a national record 10.72 seconds.

American world champion Sha'Carri Richardson took silver in 10.87, with compatriot Melissa Jefferson (10.92) third.

Great Britain's Daryll Neita finished four-hundredths of a second off the podium in fourth, crossing the line in 10.96.

Neita produced the best finish by a British female athlete in an Olympic sprint final for 64 years but that will be of little consolation in her pursuit of a first individual global medal.

Her British team-mates Dina Asher-Smith and Imani-Lara Lansiquot earlier failed to make the final, while Jamaican sprint icon Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce withdrew from the competition before her semi-final. Asher-Smith finished fifth in her semi-final in 11.10 and Lansiquot missed out after running 11.21.

Alfred celebrates historic success

St Lucia had not won an Olympic medal of any colour before Paris 2024 St Lucia, a Caribbean island

of fewer than 200,000 people, has fielded athletes at seven previous Olympic Games without winning a medal.

But Alfred has broken her nation's duck - and takes home a stunning gold - following her heroics in a Paris downpour.

She did not look like being caught from the moment she hit the front, leaving Richardson among those in her wake as she took a commanding victory.

With her first global outdoor title secured, a jubilant Alfred continued to sprint far beyond the finish line in celebration before tearing her pinned name off her vest and showing it to the crowd.

"I'm thinking of God [and] my dad, who didn't get to see me," Alfred said.

"He passed away in 2013. Dad, this is for you. I miss you. I did it for him, I did it for my coach and God."

Alfred announced herself at the start of this Olympic year by winning world indoor 60m gold - also a first by an athlete from St Lucia.

The 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medallist has improved steadily during the season and set a new personal best - and national record - when she ran 10.78 at the start of June, before reducing her 200m best to 21.86 in London last month.

Based in Austin, Texas, where she trains under coach Edrick Floreal alongside Asher-Smith,

Alfred reached the final in both the 100m and 200m at the 2023 World Championships - finishing fifth and fourth respectively.

She has now delivered on the world-beating promise she has displayed - and will reset for the 200m in a bid for further history, inspired by Jamaica's sprint king Usain Bolt.

"Usain Bolt won so many medals, I went back this morning and watched his races. I'm not going to lie, it was all Usain Bolt's races this morning," said Alfred.

For all eight athletes on the start line of the 100m final, there appeared to be a huge opportunity.

Reigning Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah, of Jamaica, had been ruled out of defending her title because of an Achilles tendon injury, while world 200m champion Shericka Jackson chose just to focus her efforts on that event in Paris.

The shock withdrawal of two-time champion Fraser-Pryce before Saturday's semi-finals meant no Olympic medallists from Tokyo would be present. Richardson lined up as the world's fastest woman this year after running 10.71 in June, but the American simply could not get close to Alfred on her Olympic debut. Jefferson, 23, edged out GB's Neita to claim her first individual global medal, having won successive world 4x100m relay golds. - **Agencies**

TENNIS

Djokovic defeats Alcaraz to win his first Olympic gold



PARIS: Novak Djokovic claimed his first Olympic gold medal by beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) in an enthralling men's tennis singles final on Sunday, giving the 37-year-old from Serbia the last significant accomplishment missing from his glittering resume.

Djokovic's impressive career already featured a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles and the most weeks spent at No. 1 in the rankings by any man or woman. It also already contained a Summer Olympics medal, from 2008, but it was a bronze - and he has made clear that simply was not sufficient.

Until he got past bronze medalist Lorenzo Musetti of Italy in the semifinals Friday, Djokovic was 0-3 in that round at the Games. He lost to the eventual gold winner each time: Rafael Nadal at Beijing in 2008, Andy Murray at London in 2012, and Alexander Zverev in Tokyo three years ago.

In Paris, wearing a gray sleeve over the right knee that required surgery for a torn meniscus two months ago, Djokovic faced Nadal in the second round and eliminated his longtime rival in straight sets. Now Djokovic is the oldest man to win the singles gold in his sport since 1908 - and prevented Spain's Alcaraz, who is 21, from becoming the youngest.

Earlier on Saturday, in the men's bronze medal match, Italian Lorenzo Musetti came out victorious in a deciding third set against Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime, winning 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Zheng is tennis queen

Zheng Qinwen beat Donna Vekic to win Olympic women's singles gold for China on Saturday. Zheng, who lost in the Australian Open final in January, was a 6-2, 6-3 winner on Court Philippe Chatrier at Roland Garros.

The 21-year-old raced into a 3-0 lead in the first set against Croatian world number 21 Vekic and converted her first set point, also on the Vekic serve. The second set was a much tighter affair, but Zheng - ranked seventh in the world - broke in eighth game before serving out the match.

Vekic, 28, was appearing in the gold medal match less than a month after losing in Wimbledon semi-final to Jasmine Paolini in a deciding set tie-break.

Earlier on Friday, Iga Swiatek of Poland claimed the bronze medal. - **Agencies**



MEN'S HOCKEY QUARTER-FINALS

Incredible India edge past GB; Spain stun holders Belgium

PARIS: Experienced midfielder Manpreet Singh heaped praise on his India team-mates after reaching the Olympic semi-finals against all odds, defeating Great Britain (GB) 4-2 in a shoot-out despite being a player down for almost three quarters of the match on Sunday.

Just minutes into the second quarter and with the score locked at 0-0, Amit Rohidas was shown a red card to leave the eight times Olympic champions with ten players for the remaining 43 minutes.

Remarkably, India took a shock lead five minutes later through a Harmanpreet Singh penalty corner, before Great Britain's Lee Morton tied the scores from open play before halftime.

Great Britain put India under intense pressure for the remaining two quarters, battering at a door that India refused to open thanks to some wonderful defending and a world class save from goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, playing his final tournament for India, before the game went to a shoot-out.

Sreejesh was the man of the moment in the one-on-ones, forcing Great Britain's Conor Williamson to fire over and denying Phil Roper before Raj Kumar sealed a 4-2 win with a glorious lofted finish.

"It was so amazing", said experienced midfielder and former India captain Manpreet Singh, who won Olympic bronze with the team at Tokyo 2020. "I expected that (it would be difficult) when we lost one guy, but we still defended very well. So I give thanks to our entire team, because they gave their best today."

Manpreet admitted that while India were upset about losing a player, it also had a galvanising effect on him and his team-mates. "We said okay, whatever. We forget it. We just need to defend well and not give them easy opportuni-



ties because they are a really good team and will take it. So that's what we did. Every player in our team defended very well. They were like, 'no, I'm not gonna let you (win) today'."

When asked about the goalkeeping performance of retiring shot-stopper PR Sreejesh, Manpreet was full of admiration for the two-time FIH Hockey Stars Goalkeeper of the Year.

"He's always good. We never doubt him, he always does his best. Whenever he's in between the posts, we are always confident that he will save a few balls. Big thanks to him and the entire team, they did well."

Commenting on reaching the semi-finals for the second Olympic Games in a row, Manpreet expressed pride while also reiterating India's ambitions here at Paris 2024.

"We are really proud of that, but last time we lost the semi-final (against Belgium)", said Manpreet, whose team faces the winner of the quarter-final between Germany and Argentina.

"This time we want to win and whoever comes next, we will give our best."

Spain knock out reigning champions Belgium

Later on Sunday, eighth-ranked Spain upset reigning champions Belgium 3-2 in the men's hockey quarter-finals as skipper Marc Miralles netted a crucial third goal with three minutes to go before the defence stifled an attempted comeback.

Spain had not made it past the last eight since Beijing 2008, while Belgium reached the last two Olympic finals.

Forward Jose Maria Basterra opened the scoring in the 40th minute by converting a goalkeeper deflection off a blistering pass from defender Jordi Bonastre but the lead did not last long as Belgium's Arthur de Sloover equalised a minute later. Forward Marc Reyne put Spain back in front after 55 minutes with a strike from the field and Miralles stretched the lead before Alexander Hendrickx pulled a goal back.

"I think today is the best day of my life," Basterra said. "We had pointed to this day in our calendar, and now we are so happy. We have to enjoy today and tomorrow we will see (face) our opponents and we will see how to beat them."



PARIS 2024



MEDALS TALLY

Rank	Country	G	S	B	T
1	China	18	14	9	41
2	USA	14	25	25	64
3	France	12	14	16	42
4	Australia	12	8	7	27
5	Great Britain	10	11	15	36
6	South Korea	10	7	7	24
7	Japan	8	5	9	22
8	Italy	6	8	5	19
9	Netherlands	6	4	4	14
10	Germany	5	5	2	12
11	Canada	4	4	8	16
12	Romania	3	3	1	7
13	Hungary	3	2	2	7
14	Ireland	3	0	2	5
15	New Zealand	2	4	1	7
16	Croatia	2	1	1	4
17	Belgium	2	0	2	4
17	Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
19	Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2
19	Philippines	2	0	0	2
19	Serbia	2	0	0	2
22	Brazil	1	4	5	10
23	Israel	1	4	1	6
24	Sweden	1	3	2	6
25	Spain	1	2	5	8
26	Georgia	1	2	1	4
27	Switzerland	1	1	4	6
28	Kazakhstan	1	1	2	4
28	South Africa	1	1	2	4
30	Ukraine	1	1	1	3
31	Uzbekistan	1	0	2	3
32	Czechia	1	0	1	2
32	Guatemala	1	0	1	2

Last updated: August 4, 2024 at 19:40 (Oman time)

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar launches an exclusive credit card for Ladies Banking

This card not only offers the standard benefits of a Visa card but also includes a range of exclusive perks tailored to meet the needs of the bank's women customers

MUSCAT: BankDhofar is proud to be one of the few banks in Oman offering a credit card exclusively for women, reinforcing the bank's commitment to provide personalised solutions for customers. This card not only offers the standard benefits of a Visa card but also includes a range of exclusive perks tailored to meet the needs of the bank's women customers. As a special welcome offer, new

cardholders will receive a 5 OMR voucher from Talabat App upon joining. Additionally, members will enjoy a complimentary subscription to the BankDhofar Entertainer app, providing buy-one-get-one-free offers and discounts at over 450 outlets across the Gulf. To activate the BankDhofar Entertainer App benefits, BankDhofar customers simply need to download the BankDhofar's En-

tertainer app and register using their credit card. They will then have instant access to a multitude of exciting offers, making every day an opportunity to save and discover something new. BankDhofar's Entertainer Mobile App includes various offers such as; food and beverage, attraction and leisure, beauty and fitness, fashion and retail and everyday services in Oman and GCC. It's one of many features that continue to make its customers' lives easier and more rewarding. The Entertainer offers are available for the ladies credit card holders on the BankDhofar's Entertainer Mobile App. The Visa Ladies Credit Card comes with no annual fee for the first year. Cardholders can also benefit from the exclusive rewards. The Rewards points program provides a seamless and user-friendly

experience, making it easy for cardholders to track their points, browse the rewards, and redeem their points through BankDhofar's mobile app or website. With a diverse range of redemption options and an ever-expanding catalog of high-quality products and experiences, customers enjoy endless opportunities to indulge, explore, and save. These points can then be redeemed, allowing customers to choose from more than 900 airlines and destinations worldwide. Customers can earn up to 0.75% value back on purchases made outside Oman, 0.5% on local purchases on all their purchases. The card provides extensive benefits of Visa Ladies Credit Card, including: Access to airport lounges in Muscat and Salalah, comprehensive travel and purchase protection and global acceptance at millions of locations worldwide.



ISLAMIC BANKING



Explore endless exclusive offers with Meethaq Savings Account

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to distinguished and exclusive services to its valued customers, Meethaq Islamic Banking offers savings account designed to cater to various segments of society with a wide range of sharia-compliant banking options. Meethaq is dedicated to innovation and excellence in customer service as its products reflect its continuous efforts to meet its customer's aspiration by developing innovative products and delivering unparalleled services for a unique banking experience. Being the leading Islamic banking service provider, Meethaq focuses on launching products and services tailored to meet customers' needs. The Meethaq Savings Account represents an opportunity to set up long-term goals, thus contributing to enhancing the culture of saving in the country. The Account offers a wide range of features, including competitive profit rates credited to the customer's account on a monthly basis, no minimum balance requirements for profit eligibility, free Life Takaful for customer maintaining an average balance of RO 30,000 or above, no minimum balance fee. Customers can manage their account wherever they are with

free, round-the-clock e-banking services, including internet banking, ATMs and CDMs. The account allows them to enjoy flexibility when shopping through millions of visa-approved outlets worldwide and to pay electricity, water, telephone, internet, schools and services bills. The Meethaq Savings Account is based on the concept of mudarabah - a kind of partnership under Islamic Shari'a. All Meethaq products are designed according to the guidelines set by the Central Bank of Oman for Islamic banking and undergo a thorough compliance certification process by the Bank's Shari'a Supervisory Board. Throughout its successful career, Meethaq Islamic Banking has received praise for its leadership in providing the best banking services and facilities that comply with Islamic principles and provisions. Meethaq Islamic banking has won numerous prestigious local, regional and international awards, such as the Best Digital Bank Award from Global Finance, the Global Private Banking Award from PWM/The Banker, the Global Islamic Finance (GIF) Market Leadership Award, and Oman's Best Domestic Islamic Bank Award from Euromoney.

OFFICIAL AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR

Al Hashar Automotive to oversee sales and services of new and used INFINITI vehicles across Oman

MUSCAT: INFINITI Middle East, a subsidiary of Nissan Middle East, has appointed Al Hashar Automotive, part of Al Hashar Group, as its official authorised distributor in Oman. Recently designated as the official authorised Nissan distributor, Al Hashar Automotive's selection for INFINITI underscores their natural fit for expanding the brand's operations in the Middle East. This partnership aims to deliver world-class service to INFINITI customers throughout the Sultanate, upholding the brand's values of excellence. It aligns with INFINITI's commitment to providing modern Japanese luxury experiences for individuals who seek distinction in their lives, styles, and vehicles. Thierry Sabbagh, Divisional Vice President, President Middle East, KSA - Nissan, INFINITI, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration: "We are thrilled to welcome Al Hashar Automotive to the INFINITI family as an authorised distributor in Oman. With



their support, we are poised to elevate the INFINITI brand to new heights, setting the standard for Japanese luxury in Oman." Albert Khreiche, Managing Director, INFINITI Middle East, said: "At INFINITI, we pride ourselves on customer-centricity and a seamless service offering. With Al Hashar Automotive as a partner in Oman, we can trust that this legacy will be well-executed to our valued customers in the market."

Sheikh Al Muhannad Al Hashar, Chairman of Al Hashar Group, shared his enthusiasm about the partnership, stating: "We are honoured to be selected as the authorised distributor for INFINITI in Oman. Our customer-centric approach will drive our vision for INFINITI in this market, supporting our long-term goal of becoming the leading automotive business in Oman." This collaboration ensures that

customers in Oman are provided with continuity in their access to exceptional standards of luxury and a best-in-class customer journey. The partnership between INFINITI Middle East and Al Hashar Automotive signifies a promising future for the luxury car segment in Oman, with both entities dedicated to providing customers in the Sultanate with the best in Japanese luxury and a seamless ownership experience.

INTERNATIONAL DANCE FEST

Leelangika to perform at Tokyo Dance Festival



MUSCAT: Jhumpa Chakraborty, the Director of Leelangika along with her young talented Kathak dancers Aditi Guru, Aviva Shibu, Maheeka Mahanta, Manvi Shanker, Rupsa Mandal are all excited and geared up to participate in the Tokyo International Dance Festival and Competition, to be held in Tokyo on August 11 and 12, organised by International Dance Council Tokyo section. An international dance compe-

tition that transcends all genres! Overcoming the barriers of technique and language, dancers from all over the world, of all genres will work together to realize the importance of World Peace, which is the philosophy of UNESCO! Jhumpa and her troupe Leelangika has performed at the India International Dance Festival, 2015, held at Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India and at the Bharath Nrityotsav, 2016, held at Vishakhapatnam,



India. She has been awarded the title 'Natya Saradhi' at the Bharath-Nrityotsav. She is a member of the International Council of Dance, which is a part of the UNESCO. She along with her students have performed at the 50th World Dance Congress, held in Athens, Greece, in 2017 and bagged several awards at the Dance World Cup 2018, held in Mont Tremblant, Canada. In 2022 Jhumpa along with her students participated at the Barcelona

Dance Awards, held at Barcelona, Spain and won the first prize in Ethnic Dance Category and also a special prize from the Catalunya Theatre Jury for the best choreography. Leelangika students along with their Guru Jhumpa Chakraborty were privileged to perform at the 60th World Dance Congress held at the Dora Stratou Theatre, Athens, Greece in July 2023 and also at the India International Dance Festival held at Bangalore!



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إجازة الأبوة في قانون العمل

7 أيام 

شروطها:

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 أن يتقدم العامل لطلب هذه الإجازة بمدة لا تتجاوز 98 يومًا من عُمر الطفل.

 في حالة انتفع العامل بإجازة الأبوة بشكل متصل تحتسب الإجازة الأسبوعية ضمنها، ويمكن للعامل تجزئة هذه الإجازة.

