LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

EID AL ADHA HOLIDAY ANNOUNCED

MUSCAT: Eid Al Adha holiday 1444 AH for employees in the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities, as well as establishments of the private sector will start on Tuesday, 9 Dhul Hijja 1444 AH, corresponding to 27 June 2023. Work shall be resumed on Sunday, 2 July 2023. The Ministry of Labour pointed out that employers may agree on terms to engage employees on the said holiday—if deemed necessary due to the nature of their work—provided they compensate the workers for the holiday. -ONA

HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN ISSUES THREE ROYAL DECREES

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday issued three Royal decrees reading as follows: Royal Decree No. 40/2023 promulgates the Water and Wastewater Sector Regulation Law, after presenting the same before the Council of Oman. >A6

Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 82 | 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

TIMESOFOMAN.COM · FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN · TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN · YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE · TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP · TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS · LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN · INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

HM RECEIVES ENVOYS' CREDENTIALS

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors and expressed his gratitude for their leaders' greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received, separately, credentials of Ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman, at Al Barakah Palace on Tuesday.

His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors:

- Guillermo Emilio Nielsen, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Eitvydas Bajarūnas, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Ingrid Amer, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Gerard Cunningham, Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Mohammad Habibu Tijani, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Anu Eerika Viljanen, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Nelson Yemil Chaben Labadie, Ambassador of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Petra Menander, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Sultanate of Oman.

During their meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings of their countries' leaders and their best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to His Majesty.

They also wished the Omani people further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan .

They also expressed their great honour and delight at presenting their credentials to His Majesty the Sultan. They affirmed to exert sincere efforts to promote relations of their respective countries with Oman in various spheres in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' citizens.

Ambassadors welcomed

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his gratitude for their leaders' greetings and best wishes. His Majesty affirmed that they would receive all support from him, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA

FUTURISTIC CITY

Sultan Haitham City to create 50,000 jobs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dubbed as a smart and futuristic city, the proposed Sultan Haitham City is expected to create around 50,000 jobs and will also allow expatriates to own properties in select areas, according to Dr. Khalfan Said Al Shu'aili, the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning.

Addressing the opening of a three-day media dialogue and accompanying activities at the Royal Opera House Muscat, Al Shu'aili said: "Sixty percent of the contracts for the first phase of Sultan Haitham City have been approved, and it will be implemented in phases within 10 years."

Al Shu'aili said that the Sultan Haitham City targets the eligible who are within the system of granting government residential lands, allowing foreign ownership, and aims to allocate 5 percent of the residential units in the city for the housing aid programme. >A6

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Spokespersons appointed for public

1 The Council of Ministers decided to appoint spokespersons for the State's Administrative Apparatus and public legal persons. >A2

WORLD

Yoga unites millions of people: UN chief

2 UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said that yoga not just unites body and mind, but also millions of people. >A7

SPORTS

England and France keep perfect record

3 England thrashed North Macedonia 7-0 while Kylian Mbappe's penalty gave France a narrow victory over Greece. >B6

EYE ON INVESTMENTS

Sayyid Bilarab leaves for Switzerland to explore investment opportunities

MUSCAT: HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Honorary President of Promising Omani Startups Programme, left on Tuesday for the Swiss Confederation on a visit lasting several days.

The visit embodies the depth of trade and investment relations between Oman and Switzerland. The two countries' relations are marked by cooperation and partnership in various business sectors over the ages.

The visit offers an opportunity to have a close look at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its affiliate institutions, notably the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the International Trade Centre (ITC). HH Sayyid Bilarab and his accompanying delegation will develop further knowledge about the roles of those institutions and the measures of support and cooperation in their repertoire that can benefit Oman.

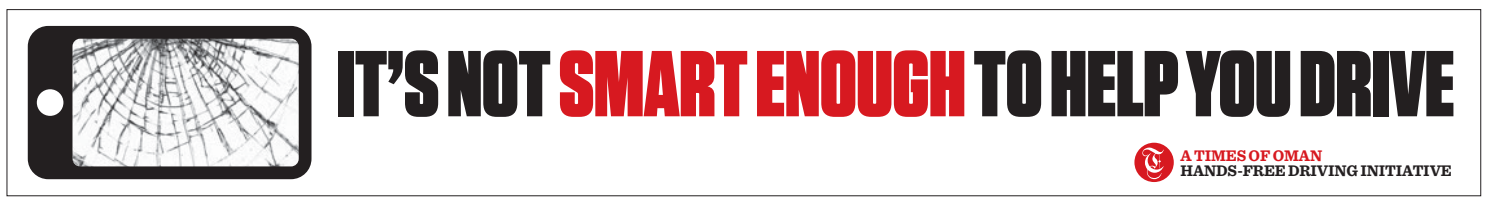
The visit also provides greater scopes for broader discussions with the ITC so that it could expand its cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and investment promotion on foreign trade and export issues. The ITC has a potential to consolidate Oman's export capacity, build relevant competencies and attract more investments to various promising sectors.

During the visit, HH Sayyid Bilarab and his delegation will get in direct contact with a group of industrial companies, particularly those specialised in healthcare and pharmaceutical industries and the improvement of life quality. Partnership and investment opportunities will be discussed with some of those companies. The visit will help explore means of establishing joint projects in Oman. >A5

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:14pm
Asr	3:31pm
Maghrib	7:01pm
Isha	8:24pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	3:53am



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Spokespersons appointed to inform media, public about government vision

MUSCAT: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, said that the Council of Ministers decided to appoint spokespersons for service units of the State's Administrative Apparatus and other public legal persons/entities.

The minister pointed out that the step seeks to present, through the media, the visions of government departments in matters related to the services they render to society. He said that a spokesperson answers queries made by the press about public services, besides dealing with issues raised in the media.

In a press statement, the minister said that a spokesperson would work in accordance with specific terms of reference to consolidate the relationship between his/her respective institution and the media.

A spokesperson portrays the typical image of a government institution by appearing on all media and various platforms, the minister added.

Dr. Abdullah affirmed that the Ministry of Information would work towards developing training plans to enhance spokespersons' skillls in dealing with the media.

This is in addition to promoting all that relates to skills of high professionalism, thus enabling the spokespersons to convey appropriate messages to the society and inform the media about the latest developments within the scope of a government unit where deemed necessary, said the minister.

Dr. Abdullah explained that the appointment of spokespersons will contribute to informing the media and public opinion about the roles entrusted to government units in a manner that realizes the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. The step also constitutes a major approach to keep pace with different situations as they develop, thereby limiting the spread of rumours, especially those related to government services. -ONA

WRITE A NOVEL CHAPTER IN YOUR MARKETING CAREER

We at NEXUS NOVEL are looking for

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT / CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

YOUR JOB PROFILE WILL INCLUDE:

- Identifying & developing new clients for the agency
- Managing a large portfolio of clients
- Building and maintaining client relationships through regular meetings
- Acting as the first point of contact for client queries and requests
- Facilitating with other departments in the organisation
- Identifying potential clients and crafting comprehensive strategic pitches
- Giving presentations about our offerings
- Managing a budget and achieving targets
- Heading a team of account executives and driving results
- Generating accurate reports on the status of existing accounts and new business opportunities
- Ensuring timely payments from clients

SKILLS THAT YOU MUST POSSESS

- Sharp, insightful, tactful and data-driven
- Strong interpersonal and people management skills
- Be resilient to tight deadlines and client requirements
- Should be able to take up leadership and ownership of the brand
- Should have good knowledge of google adwords, google analytics & social media management tools
- Should have a prior ad agency experience

MINIMUM EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

We are looking for 5 years of relevant industry experience in Advertising and Marketing Communications.

Have what it takes, then write into nnadvertise@gmail.com

Sultan Qaboos cancer centre obtains JCI accreditation

Joint Commission International accreditation certificate is highly sought by health institutions worldwide due to its indepth and rigorous evaluation process

MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre has been awarded the certificate of international accreditation by the Joint Commission International (JCI).

The certificate was issued after the centre succeeded in meeting conditions for international accreditation.

JCI accreditation certificate is highly sought by health institutions worldwide due to its indepth and rigorous evaluation process that covers all aspects of a health institution's system of functioning.

The evaluation process comprises more than 250 basic criteria, along with more than 1,000 sub-components on measuring the quality and safety of a health service. -ONA

Announcement

OPAZ stops paper transactions

الهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة
Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones
Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عمان

Backing its effforts towards digital transformation, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) announces that 30th of June, 2023 is the last day for receiving and sending **paper transactions except documents of a special nature.**

All documents and transactions will be received via email of Archives Department: **records@opaz.gov.om**. In case attachments cannot be uploaded via email, it can be submitted on various types of storage devices.

For inquiries, please contact our Call Centre: 1919

@omanopaz | +96824587474 +96824507500
P.O Box: 77 P.C: 100 , Muscat, Sultanate of Oman صندوق البريد : W الرمز البريدي : ١٠٠ ، مسقط، سلطنة عمان
info@opaz.gov.om www.opaz.gov.om

OMAN

KHAREEF SEASON 2023 BEGINS TODAY

Times News Service

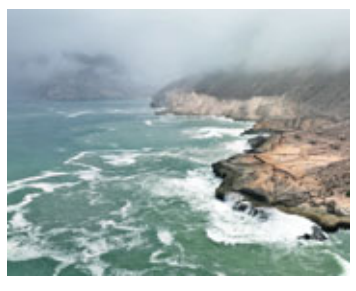
MUSCAT: Dhofar Khareef season 2023 will start on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 and it will last until September 21, 2023.

During the Khareef season, the coastal wilayats of Dhofar Governorate, specifically from the Wilayat of Dhalkut in the west to the Wilayat of Mirbat in the east, become green as a result of the monsoon and the flow of clouds coming from the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

The Khareef season is characterised by its cloudy and rainy weather and moderate temperatures, which dips more in the high mountainous areas that are shrouded in fog associated with light rain, which makes Dhofar Governorate a destination for visitors and tourists from Oman and around the globe.

The mountainous areas and plains are covered in green as a result of the continuous light rains and intermittent drizzling on the plains and mountains.

Water flow increases in the springs during the season throughout the governorate, which are among the beautiful tourist attractions, the most prominent of which are the Ain Razat, Ain Hamran, Ain Gerziz, Ain Sahlnut and Ain Tobruk. There are also some springs which come to life when the amount of rain increases during the season, especially in August, the most famous of which are the waterfalls of Darbat, Athom and Kour and Jojeb, in addition to the Al-Houta waterfall in the Wilayat of Rakhyut.



The Khareef season is characterised by its cloudy and rainy weather and moderate temperatures

The events and activities of the Dhofar Khareef season, organised by the Dhofar Municipality, will be held this year at several locations, including the 'Aten Square' in the Sahel Aten along with the return to the past activities in the Hafah area, and various activities in some natural and tourist sites.

The Governorate of Dhofar is famous for many natural tourist attractions due to the diversity of its terrain and its marine, agricultural, mountainous and desert environments, in addition to the archaeological and historical sites included in the World Heritage List, most notably the Al-Baleed and Samharam archaeological parks, the Frankincense Land Museum and the historical forts in the wilayats of Rakhyut, Taqa, Mirbat and Sadah.

Shopping centres in Salalah witness an active commercial activity during this season, with tourists flocking to traditional products and industries, especially shops selling frankincense, incense, silver and pottery, Omani Halwa, and restaurants serving traditional Omani food.

The Salalah Plain is also distinguished by various agricultural products of a tropical nature, the most famous of which are coconuts, bananas, fava beans and sugar cane, in addition to natural reserves, and rich animal and marine wealth.

The number of visitors to the Khareef Dhofar season in 2022 was about 813,000 and tourists, while the total visitor spending in the season amounted to OMR86 million, according to the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

THREE-MONTH LONG KHAREEF SEASON

Tourism Ministry gears up to welcome visitors

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MoHT) has completed its preparations for Khareef season, which is considered one of the most important tourist seasons in the Sultanate of Oman due to the exceptional weather that is unique to Dhofar Governorate.

Marwan bin Abdul Hakim Al-Ghassani, Director of the Promotion Department at the General Directorate of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate, said: "The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has developed a plan to promote the three-month long Khareef season and a marketing strategy for all periods of the season. The promotion will be done through social media, advertisements, and establishing partnerships with airlines and hotel establishments to implement a joint promotional campaign."

"There is an existing cooperation with airlines and hotels to design promotional packages that attract visitors. Many packages have actually been offered and sold through platforms and websites of tourist offices, which have witnessed great demand and interest," Al-Ghassani added.

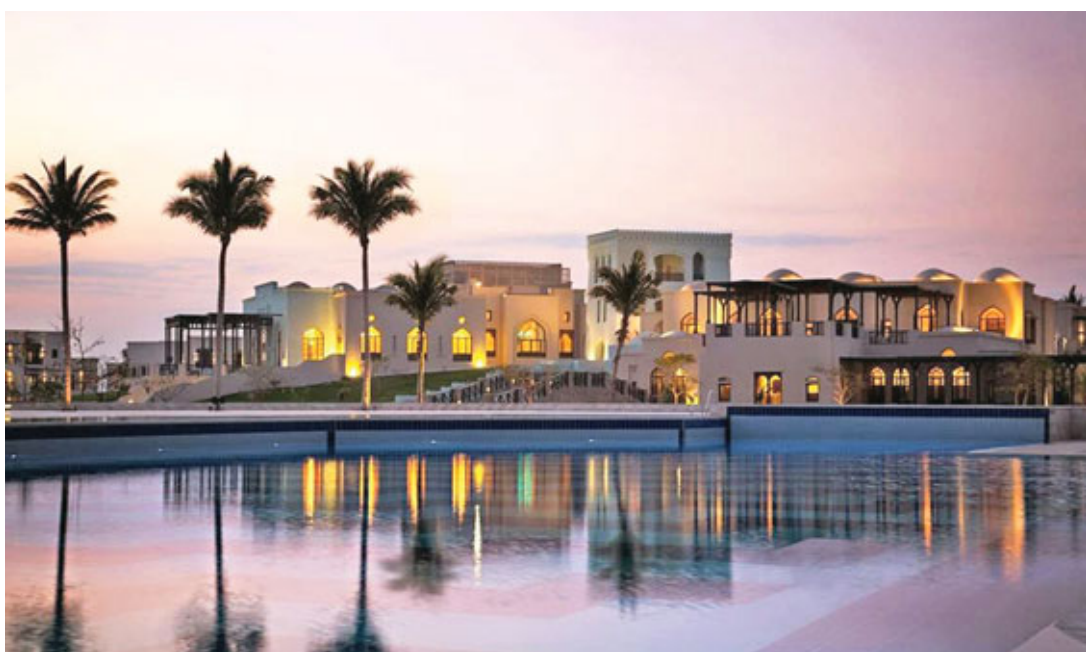
Al-Ghassani indicated that the ministry has succeeded, since the last season, in promoting the periods in which the tourist movement decreases before the beginning and after the end of the season due to the start of the academic year by focusing on adventure tourism and hosting international sports competitions and tournaments. In addition to coordinating joint efforts with the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center to organise specialised international conferences and exhibitions during September and October.

The Director of the Promotion Department at the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate confirmed that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is intensifying its efforts to enhance the position of Dhofar Governorate as one of the best sustainable tourism destinations in the region, while increasing the unique and diverse experiences for tourists through better services that meet the requirements of all groups, and to check the readiness of the accommodation facilities, which number about 50 that include approximately 6,000 licenced hotel rooms.

"Direct flights will be operated from several airports in the Sultanate of Oman and regional and international airports to Salalah Airport with more than 160 weekly flights during the season, to provide options for travellers to enjoy the Khareef season."

Regarding the efforts made by the Ministry to promote the Khareef season, Marwan bin Abdul Hakim Al-Ghassani said:"Mobile promotional workshops were organised in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, starting from Riyadh, passing through Dammam, and then Jeddah to keep pace with the growth of visitors coming from Saudi Arabia and other destinations in general, as 13 weekly direct flights will operate from Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam."

The governorate will also witness the opening of a number of tourism projects during this season, as part of the efforts made by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism to achieve the highest gains in the local added value of the tourism sector, in accordance with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.



POLITICAL AFFAIRS UNDERSECRETARY

Copies of credentials of envoys appointed to Oman received

MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received on Tuesday copies of credentials of ambassadors of several countries appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. The Political Affairs Undersecretary received the following ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry in Muscat:

- Bulgan Enkhtuvshin, Ambassador of Mongolia appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.
- David Velasquez Caraballo, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Mogobo David Magabe, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Liselotte Plesner, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark appointed to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Archbishop Nicolas Henry Marie Denis Thevenin, Ambassador of the Vatican appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

Eid Al Adha holiday fever grips people

With Salalah offering a green paradise and much cooler climate due to mist and drizzle during Khareef, the Eid Al Adha holidays are expected to bring a lot of domestic and tourists from the GCC to the city

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Holidays are around the corner with the date of Eid Al Adha holidays announced on Tuesday. Eid Al Adha will be celebrated on June 28 and that sets the ball rolling for people to plan their holidays, likely to begin early next week.

Eid holidays are synonymous with travel plans in this part of the world and this time around, with summer vacations in schools, it is easier for families to chart out their itinerary. While most parts of Oman are reeling under blistering heat, there are still quite a few options for people to travel inside the Sultanate with Salalah certainly one of the top picks.

Officially, the Khareef season begins on June 21 and the southern city has already experienced few showers in recent days.

With Salalah offering a green paradise and much cooler climate due to mist and drizzle during Khareef, the Eid Al Adha holidays are expected to bring a lot of domestic as wells as tourists from the GCC to the city.

The mountains of Jabal Al Akhdar and Jabal Shams offer yet another escape for Omanis and residents with the pleasant weather a perfect getaway as the drive is less than three hours from Muscat.

Local hotels and hotel apartments have confirmed encouraging responses to bookings during the last week of the month.

With the urge to travel much stronger in recent times, the holidays provide a time away from the hustle and bustle of daily lives.

Muscat resident D Manoj is looking forward to the Eid break. "Eid holidays are a time for me to spend a short holiday with my family. This time, my kids are having their summer vacation, so we are all extremely excited and looking forward to making a trip to Salalah."

Kiran S, a home-maker and mother of two said: "The kids' vacation and the forthcoming Eid Al Adha break make a great combo. We plan to make a short trip to Dubai." Another Muscat resident Iftikhar, who is from Karachi in Pakistan, said: "Eid Al Adha is the most sacred festival for all Muslims. After the first Eid day with family, I plan a staycation up in the mountains, where it is relatively much cooler than Muscat. We are looking forward to the holidays."

FOR RENT

CONSULTATION ROOMS IN ESTABLISHED LICENSED HEALTH CENTRE IN MABELAH IS AVAILABLE ON RENTAL BASIS.
CONTACT: 96386388

JOB OPPORTUNITY

An Omani Company looking for a
Service Station Manager
(Heavy Automobile)
in Duqm, Oman.

Qualification Required :
Bachelors in Automobile Engineering or Business Management or any professional qualification with requisite experience.

Work Experience :
Minimum 10 years relevant work experience and ability to handle staff , technicians and workers with business development acumen.

Email your CV on fulfilling above criteria :
info.duqm@gmail.com

STARTUPS

Delegation to study startups programmes

< FROM A1

In addition, the Omani delegation will study programmes of startups based in the Swiss Confederation and their experience in the field of business incubators and accelerators, notably in information technology and innovation sectors. It will conduct field visits to startups and their research centres.

Technology centres

The delegation will also visit advanced technology centres where it will discuss knowledge transfer from those companies and centres.

His Highness Sayyid Bilarab will be accompanied during the visit by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Halima Rashid Al Zar'ee, Chairperson of the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED), and owners of Omani startups whose business is based on innovation and technology.

The delegation will also comprise working teams from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, ASMED, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, and the National Programme for Investment and Export Development. -ONA

TOUR

Japanese delegation visits Maritime Security Centre

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Ministry of Defence in Japan, headed by Miura Jun, Director General for International Affairs of the Bureau of Defence Policy in the Japanese Ministry of Defence visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC) on Tuesday.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the maritime environment.

Centre's facilities toured

The delegation also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties. – ONA

Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in The following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
THREE YEARS CONTRACT TO SUPPLY AND FIXING CARPETS AND CURTAINS FOR SULTAN ARMED FORCES AND MOD PREMISES	17/2023	17th July 2023	17th July 2023	1140 OMR
THREE YEARS CONTRACT TO PROVIDE CLEANING SERVICES FOR SULTAN ARMED FORCES AND MOD PREMISES	18/2023	04th September 2023	04th September 2023	1500 OMR

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman

OMAN

WATER AND WASTEWATER SECTOR REGULATION LAW

HM issues three Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday issued three Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 40/2023 promulgates the Water and Wastewater Sector Regulation Law, after presenting the same before the Council of Oman.

Article (1) states that the provisions of the Water and Wastewater Sector Regulation Law attached to this decree shall be enforced.

Article (2) instructs the Chairman of Board of Directors of the Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) to issue the bylaws/regulations and decisions necessary for the implementation of the attached law. It states that, till such time, the existing bylaws/regulations shall continue to be enforced without prejudice to the provisions of this law.

Article (3) stipulates that all those practicing any activities whose regulation is subject to the provisions of the attached law shall adapt their conditions to the law's provisions within 6 months from the date of its enforcement. This period may be extended for a further 6 months under a decision by the Board of Directors of APSR.

Article (4) cancels all that contradicts this decree and the attached law or contravenes their provisions.

Article (5) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from the day following its date of publishing.

Royal Decree No. (41/2023) on ratifying the Sultanate of Oman's joining the general agreement of railway linking the GCC countries.

Article (1) ratifies the Sultanate of Oman's joining the general agreement of railway linking the GCC countries according to the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) stipulates that the departments concerned shall deposit the document of joining the abovementioned agreement as per its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (42/2023) on the issuance of first-class license to Starlink Muscat Company for setting up and operating a satellite communications system to provide fixed public communication services.

Article (1) states that a first-class license shall be issued in favour of Starlink Muscat Company for setting up and operating a satellite communications system to provide fixed public communication services according to the provisions of the license attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. -ONA

Times OF OMAN

Printed and published by: Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

BILATERAL RELATIONS

His Majesty sends written message to UAE President

ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Fraternal relations

The message deals with the fraternal relations between Oman and the UAE.

Oman's Ambassador

The message was handed over to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed by Sayyid Dr. Ahmed Hilal Al Busaidi, Oman's Ambassador to the UAE, when Sheikh Mohammed received him at the Sea Palace in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday. – ONA

UNITED NATIONS

Oman participates in counter-terrorism week in New York

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman joined other countries in the world at the Third United Nations (UN) Counter-Terrorism Week, which kicked off in New York on 19 June and will last till 23 June 2023.

Oman's delegation was headed by Dr. Mohammed bin Awadh Al Hassan, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN.

The conference, being attended by heads of authorities responsible for combating terrorism from member states, began with a session titled "Dealing with terrorism through active multilateralism and institutional cooperation".

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, stressed that terrorism impacts every region in the world and that it feeds on the weakness and instability of political, security and economic structures. The programme of the third counter-terrorism week includes several events focusing on initiatives related to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. -ONA

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Marburg virus alert lifted

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) announced in a circular that all alerts of Marburg virus (MVD) in the civil aviation sector of the Sultanate of Oman have been lifted.

A statement issued online by the CAA said that according to CAA Circular No. 1/2023-MVD dated 30 March 2023, regarding the Marburg virus disease, all passengers and aircraft operators in the Sultanate of Oman are hereby notified that all alerts of Marburg virus (MVD) in the civil aviation sector of the Sultanate hav been lifted.

— Times News Service

SULTHAN HAITHAM CITY

New city will house 100,000 people

< FROM A1

The city will cover an area of approximately 15 million square metres, with a focus on utilising green spaces estimated to be 2.9 million square metres. The city will house 100,000 people and will have 20,000 residential units that include independent villas, semi-attached villas, townhouses and flats.

The Minister of Housing and Urban Planning also said that there are plans for four more wilayats in the Sultanate of Oman to have similar model cities - in Bausher, Manah, Sohar and Salalah.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2023

Yoga gaining popularity in Oman shows new video by Indian embassy

MUSCAT: In a novel initiative, the Embassy of India in the Sultanate of Oman has launched an iconic short video called 'Soulful Yoga, Serene Oman' on the eve of the International Day of Yoga 2023.

In the video, Yoga enthusiasts from different countries can be seen doing beautiful Yoga postures in the backdrop of stunning locations including mountains, beaches and sand dunes in and around the city of Muscat.

This makes it perhaps the first time anywhere in the world that a foreign Government is making use of Yoga to promote its own country. The video showcases the growing popularity and acceptance of Yoga as a health discipline all over the world.

The Embassy of India in Muscat, in collaboration with Visit Oman, the national travel operator and a subsidiary of Omran Group have jointly released a short video titled "Soulful Yoga-Serene Oman."

This groundbreaking initiative marks the first time that India and Oman are utilizing yoga as a medium to promote tourism and spread the message of yoga's harmony to both Omani citizens and international tourists, the Embassy of India in Muscat said in a press release.

To ensure the success of this project, around 35 passionate yoga volunteers from different countries eagerly participated in a yoga curtain raiser video shoot. "Their dedication and commitment perfectly symbolise the harmony between yoga and Oman's picturesque landscapes," the press release said.

In Oman, which is India's close maritime neighbour and a close strategic partner in the Gulf region, Yoga has become very popular in recent years. The seven lakh-strong Indian community in Oman plays an important role in this endeavour.

The video has been made in collaboration with the Government of Oman. The Embassy of India partnered with 'Visit Oman', a subsidiary of Oman's Ministry of Tourism to produce this video.

Unique initiative

"Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman and Shabi A'Maamri, the Managing Director of Visit Oman, jointly launched the video in an exclusive event held at the Embassy of India.

Indian Ambassador Amit Narang expressed his gratitude to Visit Oman for their support in bringing this unique initiative to life, stating that it would undoubtedly foster a deeper understanding of both countries' cultural and natural treasures," the press release said.

The Embassy of India has also played a crucial role in promoting Yoga in Oman. With 75 years of India's independence under 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', the Embassy organized a never-before 'Muscat Yog Mahotsav' in 2022 with over 75 Yoga events spread across 75 days in the run-up to International Day of Yoga 2022.

This event saw the participation of thousands of people across all the major cities of Oman in the celebration of the power of Yoga.

This year, the Embassy has organized a 5-month long journey of Yoga titled 'Oman Yoga Yatra' which is building up to a large-scale celebration of International Day of Yoga 2023 in which more than 2000 people from all walks of life are expected to participate on June 21, 2023.

Importance of Yoga

Embassy's efforts have reached out to special segments of Omani society. Earlier, in February 2023, a special Yoga session was organised for the Men and Women's National Hockey teams of Oman, showcasing the potential and importance of Yoga for the sports community.

Similarly, a specially curated Yoga session was organized for Children with special needs in March, bringing the healing power of Yoga to the well-being of these children.

The collaborative endeavour between the Embassy and the Government of Oman seeks to create a profound visual representation of the union between the tranquillity of yoga and Oman's picturesque landscapes. -ANI

China-US ties 'on right trail' after Blinken trip, says Biden

During Blinken's visit, the US and China agreed to stabilise their relations and maintain communication lines open to avoid an all-out conflict between the two nations

WASHINGTON: The United States and China are on the "right trail" after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing, US President Joe Biden said on Monday.

"We're on the right trail here," Biden told reporters after a climate event in California, adding that Blinken had made progress on his two-day trip which concluded on Monday.

Blinken did "a hell of a job," Biden added, touting the efforts of his top diplomat.

During Blinken's visit, the US and China agreed to stabilise their relations and maintain communication lines open to avoid an all-out conflict between the two nations.

Relations between Washington and Beijing had reached an all-time low due to growing tensions in the Taiwan Strait. An intensifying rivalry in the semiconductor industry, an incident where the US shot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon and disagreements on Russia's war in Ukraine have also contributed to the soured relations.

Blinken is the highest-ranking US official to have visited the Chinese capital in five years. He met with China's president, Xi Jinping, and other senior officials.

In his meeting with Xi, Blinken touched upon all key contentious issues between China and the US.

"We have made progress and we are moving forward," Blinken told reporters in Beijing, but acknowleged that: "None of this gets resolved with one visit."

Washington and Beijing are also discussing the release of three US citizens detained in China, Blinken said later in an interview with US broadcaster CBS News.

"I don't want to get into the details, but we are very actively talking about that," he said.

The three Americans are David Lin, a pastor that has been imprisoned in China since 2006; Kai Li, who was given a 10-year sentence in 2018 for spying charges; and Mark Swidan, a Texas businessman convicted by a Chinese court in 2019. The US claims all three were wrongfully convicted.

"It (their release) would, regardless of anything else be a very important and positive development and we're working intensely," Blinken said. — DW

ADF MILITANTS

Uganda detains 20 people linked to student massacre

KAMPALA: Authorities in Uganda said on Monday that 20 people had been arrested in connection to a gruesome attack on a school in Mpondwe, western Uganda, near the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Some 42 people were killed when militants of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rampaged the Lhubiriha Secondary School, burning, stabbing and even shooting the victims.

"Twenty arrests have been made of suspected collaborators, suspected ADF collaborators," police spokesman Fred Enanga told a press conference.

In a separate statement, it was revealed that among those arrested were the school's head teacher and its director.

The perpetrators fled back into the DRC, reportedly taking an unknown number of students hostage, with authorities saying that 15 people from the community, including five girls, were still unaccounted for after the attack.

"Their action -- the desperate, cowardly, terrorist action -- will not save them," President Yoweri Museveni said Sunday in his first statement on the attack, vowing to hunt the militants "into extinction." — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

Yoga unites millions of people across globe: UN Secretary-General

NEW YORK: Ahead of International Yoga Day, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday said that yoga not just unites body and mind, but also millions of people across the globe, and urged people to embrace it to build a more harmonious world.

The International Day of Yoga is celebrated on June 21. "Yoga unites. It unites body and mind, humanity and nature, and millions of people across the globe, for whom it is a source of strength, harmony, and peace. In a dangerous and divided world, the benefits of this ancient practice are particularly precious," the UN Secretary-General said in his video address.

He said that yoga reduces anxiety, promotes mental well-being, and helps people in connecting with the planet which is very much needed today.

"Yoga offers a haven of calm. It can reduce anxiety and promote mental well-being. It helps us to develop discipline and patience. It connects us to our planet, which so badly needs our protection. And it reveals our common humanity - helping us to understand that despite our differences, we are one," Guterres said.

The UN Secretary-General further urged everyone to embrace the spirit of unity and resolve to build a better and more harmonious world.

"On this International Day of Yoga, let us embrace the spirit of unity, and resolve to build a better, more harmonious world for people, planet and ourselves," he added.

PM Modi will lead a 9th edition of International Yoga Day on June 21 at the United Nations headquarters in New York during his official state visit to the United States.

The International Day of Yoga has been celebrated worldwide annually on June 21 since 2015, following its inception in the United Nations General Assembly in 2014.

Yoga is a physical, mental, and spiritual practice that originated in ancient India.

In his 2014 UN address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested the date of June 21, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

After the yoga day celebration in New York, PM Modi will then travel to Washington D.C., where he will receive a ceremonial welcome at the White House on June 22, and meet President Biden to continue their high-level dialogue. — ANI

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

RESCUE EFFORT UNDERWAY

Fears mount for five people on board missing Titanic submersible vessel

LONDON: Searchers continued for a third day on Tuesday to look for a missing submersible craft that had been due to visit the wreckage of the Titanic.

Fears are growing for the five people aboard, as the vessel only had enough oxygen for up to 96 hours when it set out on Sunday morning.

Who was on board?

Prominent Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son, Suleman, were on board the vessel in the North Atlantic, their family said in a statement. British billionaire Hamish Harding is also among the passengers, according to a social media post from a family member.

"We are very grateful for the concern being shown by our colleagues and friends and would like to request everyone to pray for their safety," the Dawood family's statement said.

Dawood is the vice chairman of one of the largest conglomerates in Pakistan, Engro Corporation, which has stakes in fertilizers, vehicle manufacturing, energy and digital technologies.

"As of now, contact has been lost with their submersible craft and there is limited information available," the statement continued.

"A rescue effort that is being jointly led by multiple government agencies and deep-sea companies is underway to reestablish contact with the submersible and bring them back safely."

Harding, a 58-year-old aviator, space tourist, and chairman of Action Aviation, had posted Sunday on Instagram that he was proud to join OceanGate's Titanic mission.

"Due to the worst winter in Newfoundland in 40 years, this mission is likely to be the first and only manned mission to the Titanic in 2023," he wrote.

Harding also said that "the team on the sub has a couple of legendary explorers, some of which have done over 30 dives to the RMS Titanic since the 1980s."

What happened?

The 6.5-metre (21-foot) submersible began its dive on Sunday morning, according to authorities.

The US Coast Guard tweeted that a boat on the surface — the Polar Prince — lost contact with the submarine, called the Titan, about one hour and 45 minutes after it began its descent toward the site of the Titanic's wreckage.

The Titanic is strewn across the seabed some 3,810 metres (12,500 feet) below the surface.

Remoteness makes it a 'challenge'

"It is a challenge to conduct a search in that remote area, but we are deploying all available assets to make sure that we can locate the craft and rescue the people on board," US Coast Guard Rear Admiral John Mauger told reporters in Boston on Monday.

But with no reported sightings of the vessel or communication signals on Monday, the US Coast Guard abandoned its missions before restarting on Tuesday.

Titanic's location unknown for more than 70 years

Famously branded the "Unsinkable Ship," Titanic struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on April 14, 1912, and sunk below the surface less than three hours later.

Before reaching the seabed, the ship split in two, leaving the bow and the stern some 800 metres (2,600ft) apart, with the remainder of the Titanic strewn between.

More than 1,500 people died in the disaster

More than 1,500 people died in the disaster, and the vessel remained undiscovered until 1985. Since then, numerous expeditions to the wreck have taken place, albeit with limited visibility due to its sheer size and remote position — some 400 nautical miles off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada. — DW

AFGHANISTAN

Fifth polio case of 2023 reported

KABUL: A total of five instances of polio have been detected in Afghanistan in 2023, according to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Afghanistan.

The Khaama Press is an online news service for Afghanistan. According to the chief of the UNICEF Polio Eradication Programme in Afghanistan's communications department, Kamal Shah Sayed, the fifth polio case has been reported in the Nangarhar province's Dur Baba region.

Taliban's Ministry of Public Health earlier this month announced the fourth polio case in the Besud district of Nangarhar province.

According to the Taliban's public health ministry's reports, Nangarhar and the entire eastern portion of the country are under a severe polio threat because of past incidences of the disease in that region. — ANI

SPORTS

CAFA NATIONS CUP

Oman edge Kyrgyzstan to clinch bronze in Tashkent

MUSCAT: Oman staved off a tough challenge from Kyrgyzstan before winning by a solitary goal to clinch the third place in the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup on Tuesday.

Playing in the bronze medal playoff match at the Pakhtakor stadium in the Uzbekistan capital of Tashkent, Oman had to dig deep to overcome their gritty rivals.

Both the teams failed to break the stalemate and the first half ended goalless. The all-important goal came in the 71st minute of the match when striker Arshad Al Alawi found the net, much to the delight of Oman camp and their coach Branko Ivankovic.

Oman were the only invited nation in the Central Asian Football Association tournament that featured six other teams. Co-hosts Uzbekistan were due to play fancied Iran in the final at the Bunyodkor stadium in Tashkent. Both the teams had topped their respective group to secure a place in the summit clash.

Oman were clubbed with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in Group A while Iran, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan made up Group B.

Oman began their campaign with a disappointing 3-0 defeat to Uzbekistan on June 11 and then earned their first points when they shared the spoils with Tajikistan 1-1 on June 14. In the concluding group match, Oman earned a morale-boosting 2-0 win over Turkmenistan to qualify for the bronze medal playoff against Kyrgyzstan, which finished second in Group B behind Iran.

Both Uzbekistan and Iran won all their games in the group stage.

Amazing Australia win thriller

A captain's knock by Pat Cummins sealed his team's dramatic two-wicket victory against England in the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston

LONDON: Australia's skipper Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon produced a heroic rearguard action with the bat to deny England's late charge and win the first Ashes Test by two wickets on a rain-hit final day at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

The final day's play did not get under way until 2.15pm (local time) due to early rain and a wet outfield. When play began, Stuart Broad removed the nightwatchman, Scott Boland, and Moeen Ali defied a painful blister to conjure the wicket of Travis Head for 16.

England held a slight advantage, but they could not find a way to disrupt Usman Khawaja's concentration as he led Cameron Green in an unbroken stand worth 40. Australia reached the tea break at 183 for five, needing 98 more runs for victory.

After the resumption, the duo at the crease continued to frustrate England before Ollie Robinson struck to remove Green for 28. Australia whittled down their target to 72 before Ben Stokes removed Khawaja for 65, the captain's leg-cutter forcing his previously immovable opponent to drag on to his stumps.

The home crowd sensed the game shifting, with Alex Carey surviving an lbw review and an admittedly tough dropped catch from Joe Root in the same over. Root made amends soon after, this time holding on to Carey's drive off his own bowling.

Two more wickets were needed, but with Stokes refusing the second new ball, Cummins struck a pair of sixes to bring the target down to 30 runs. England then took the new ball but Cummins and Lyon kept the scoreboard moving with bold shots and decision-making.

Broad came within a whisker of finding Cummins' outside edge – drawing an appreciative smile from the Australia captain – but Lyon then clipped Broad to the boundary, bringing the target to single figures.

Victory was sealed when Cummins (40 not out) flicked Robinson away for another four runs, sparking wild celebrations among the tourists.

Earlier on Monday, Stuart Broad and Ollie Robinson's prowess with the ball set up a perfect final day.

Australia ended the fourth day with a score of 107/3 with Usman Khawaja and night watchman Scott Boland unbeaten on the crease with scores of 34* and 13* respectively.

Australia started the final session aggressively as David Warner and Khawaja looked to gather runs quickly before the former was dismissed by Robinson for 34.

Broad joined the action and stole the entire limelight, picking up wickets of Marnus Labuschagne and the big fish - Steve Smith.

Australia were left to chase 174 runs on the final day.

England's second innings was rocked by Lyon and Cummins as they shared eight wickets to bowl out the hosts for 273 to set a target of 281. The pair sent down 42.2 of the 66.2 overs in England's second innings for combined figures of 8 for 143.

Brief scores: England 393/8 decl & 273 (Joe Root 46, Harry Brook 46; Pat Cummins 4/63, Nathan Lyon 4/80) **vs Australia 386 & 282/8** (Usman Khawaja 65, David Warner 36, Pat Cummins 44 n.o., Nathan Lyon 16 n.o.; Stuart Broad 3/64, Ollie Robinson 2/43). -Agencies

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP QUALI FIER

Raza shines for Zimbabwe; Nepal down USA

HARARE: Hosts Zimbabwe produced a second big chase in succession to continue their fine start to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2023 in Harare on Tuesday.

Sikandar Raza's unbeaten century carried his team to a six-wicket victory over the Netherlands as Zimbabwe successfully chased down the target of 316 set by the Dutch. That followed an opening victory over Nepal in Group A, leaving Zimbabwe in a good position in the race for a spot in the Super Six.

In the other match of the day, Nepal bounced back from that opening loss to record their first win of the campaign, as they beat the USA by six wickets. Bhim Sharki was the star of the show, making 77 not out, as Nepal chased down 211 against the US, who have now lost twice in as many matches.

Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza celebrates his century - ICC/Getty photos

Zimbabwe batters step up in chase again

Two days after chasing down 291 against Nepal, Zimbabwe found themselves with an even bigger target to achieve against the Netherlands. But an unbeaten 102 from Sikandar Raza saw them home in comfortable fashion, reaching 319 for four with 55 balls remaining. He reached his century off just 54 balls, the fastest ever by a Zimbabwean in ODI cricket.

Raza was spectacular with the bat, smashing eight sixes in his 54-ball knock as he carried on the good work of skipper Craig Ervine (50) and Sean Williams (91).

The Dutch had looked in good position at the halfway stage, making 315 for six as Vikramjit Singh (88) and Scott Edwards (83) gave them a dream start to their tournament.

Nepal's Bhim Sharki in action

Singh and Max O'Dowd (59) put on 120 for the first wicket before Raza bowled O'Dowd, before getting Wesley Barresi out in the same way.

A 96-run partnership between Singh and Edwards continued the Netherlands' fine batting effort with Raza again the man to find the breakthrough, removing Singh, on the way to figures of four for 55.

Richard Ngarava (2/40) chipped in with a couple of useful wickets, including the skipper, but Saqib Zulfiqur's 34 not out off 31 balls ensured the Dutch went into the interval feeling good.

Zimbabwe needed to start quickly and they did just that, Ervine and Joylord Gumbie (40) putting on 80 for the first wicket before the captain was removed by Singh.

Gumbie and Williams then added another 62, and while Shariz Ahmed claimed the wicket of the former, as well as Wessly Madhevere, Zimbabwe were comfortably keeping up with the asking rate.

Raza joined Williams and the pair added 84 in ten overs to ease any tension, and while Williams eventually departed, it was left to his partner to complete a magnificent all-round performance to see the side home.

Nepal up and running with US success

Karan KC (4/33) did the damage with the ball to restrict the Americans to 207, before Bhim Sharki carried Nepal home with seven overs to spare. Karan was sensational early on after Nepal had chosen to bowl first, taking four wickets in the first ten overs to reduce the USA to 18 for four.

Sushant Modani (42) and Gajanand Singh (26) started to rebuild, adding 47 before the latter edged Dipendra Singh Airee to slip.

That brought keeper Shayan Jahangir to the crease and he counter-attacked in style, making 100 not out from just 79 balls as wickets continued to fall at the other end.

Gulsan Jha (3/52) finished the job with an over to spare, rattling through the tail to leave Nepal with 208 to win, despite Jahangir's maiden ODI century.

Despite Aasif Sheikh falling leg before to Saurabh Netravalkar for 12, that total never looked like being enough, Kushal Burtel (39) and Sharki adding 49 for the second wicket.

Skipper Rohit Paudel and Kushal Malla both made starts before falling, leaving Nepal on 137 for four as Airee joined Sharki.

Any danger of a collapse was quickly averted though as the pair added 74 to carry Nepal to a comfortable win.

Brief scores: Netherlands 315/6 (Vikramjit Singh 88, Scott Edwards 83; Sikandar Raza 4/55, Richard Ngarava 2/40) **lost to Zimbabwe 319/4 in 40.5 overs** (Sikandar Raza 102*, Sean Williams 91; Shariz Ahmed 2/62)

USA 207 all out in 49 overs (Shayan Jahangir 100*, Sushant Modani 42; Karan KC 4/33, Gulsan Jha 3/52) **lost to Nepal 211/4 in 43 overs** (Bhim Sharki 77, Dipendra Singh Airee 39*; Steven Taylor 1/14, Saurabh Netravalkar 1/29). (icc-cricket.com)

Oman take on UAE today

MUSCAT: Attention will turn back to Group B on Wednesday when Oman, the shock winner over Ireland, take on neighbours UAE at the Bulawayo Athletic Club in one of two games.

Ireland will look to bounce back in the other match against Scotland at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo. Scotland will be playing their first game of the tournament.

Oman will be brimming with confidence and will look to build on Ireland's success against their rivals, who were comfortably beaten by Sri Lanka in their first game.

CWC QUALIFIER

Sri Lanka call up 3 players as stand-by options

HARARE: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) confirmed on Tuesday that Dilshan Madushanka, Dunith Wellalage, and Sahan Arachchige will fly to Zimbabwe as stand-by players for the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (SWC) Qualifier. The three players will act as injury cover for the team.

Madushanka and Wellalage are capped international players, with a combined experience of 23 games for Sri Lanka.

The inclusion of Madushanka, a left-armer able to swing the ball at pace, follows impressive recent outings against South Africa A, where he picked up nine wickets across three 50-over games and then another four in a four-day encounter.

The uncapped Arachchige is a top-order left-hand batter who can also contribute a few handy overs of right-arm off-break. The 27-year-old has played nearly eight years in domestic cricket, scoring 1454 runs at an average of 29.67 in 66 List-A games while also picking up 38 wickets.

The players will join their team on June 23, when Sri Lanka play aagainst Oman. Sri Lanka are looking to shore up their options after their pace spearhead Dushmantha Chameera missed their opening match with a shoulder injury. The Islanders beat UAE by a massive margin of 175 runs in their opener. (icc-cricket.com)

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2023 reaching $77.16, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME).The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 99 cents from the price of Monday, which was $76.17. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,681.79 points, up by 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.10 per cent at 465.25 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 6.98 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Maha Ceramics, down 3.73 per cent, was the top loser.

OQ signs agreement with SAP to adopt various solutions

The agreement entails OQ adopting various solutions, including (Rise with SAP) and operating SAP's integrated ERP system and assets within a newly established local data centre

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ, the Global Integrated Energy Group, signed an agreement with the global tech giant, SAP.

The agreement entails OQ adopting various solutions, including (Rise with SAP), and operating SAP's integrated ERP system and assets within a newly established local data centre. This landmark agreement positions OQ as the inaugural user of SAP's solutions in the Sultanate of Oman, solidifying its commitment to technological advancement and innovation.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Dr Ali bin Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology. Eng. Maryam bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Vice President of Integrated Digital Solutions at OQ, and Waheed Murtadha Al Hamaid, Executive Director of SAP Oman, officially sealed the agreement. This momentous event marked a significant step forward in the collaboration between OQ and SAP, with both organisations demonstrating their commitment to advancing digital solutions in the Sultanate.

Global tech giant, SAP (NYSE: SAP) announced the launch of its first Private Cloud Data Center in the Sultanate, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. The SAP Data Centre will empower the realisation of Oman Vision 2040, by accelerating innovation and cloud adoption and enabling businesses in more than 25 industries to leverage the benefits of SAP's cloud solutions, ensuring secure data storage within the Sultanate of Oman.

Reflecting on the occasion, Al Shidhani said, "The launch of a local SAP cloud service that enables companies to securely store information within Oman's borders is aligned with the MTCIT's commitment to providing efficient digital systems and solutions as set out in the four-track digital transformation programme we announced last year. We believe that this step will inspire new public and private sector agendas related to digital transformation. In addition, the adoption of cloud computing, along with the utilisation of advanced technologies such as AI and machine learning, is expected to ignite innovation among Omani entities.

With the utilisation of cloud computing, OQ stands to harness the advantages offered by SAP S/4HANA ERP. This transformative solution offers a host of benefits, including increased efficiency, comprehensive visibility across operations, and greater control. By streamlining and automating routine business tasks, this software solution speeds up decision-making and better positions businesses to take advantage of emerging market trends and opportunities.

Maryam Al Shaibani expressed her views on the partnership, stating, "As OQ becomes SAP International's first partner in Oman through this agreement, it will instil confidence in the transition of Omani companies to cloud systems. This will not only enhance the quality of data retention but also accelerate the digital transformation process within the Sultanate of Oman. Additionally, it will foster the development of competent national talents across various technological fields, aligning with the objectives of Oman Vision 2040 in the realm of digital transformation."

"Continuing to drive OQ's growth and diversification of operations has motivated OQ to have an integrated, flexible and scalable system that suits future needs and is in line with specialised best practices," she added.

She concluded by saying, "Cloud computing will enable us to take advantage of the latest technological advances such as artificial intelligence, support our Sustainable Development Goals and maintain sufficient flexibility to continue our growth journey. Recognising the rapid expansion in the field of IT, there are countless opportunities to enrich the ways we work, innovate and collaborate, all made possible through cloud-based solutions."

In alignment with the nation's digital transformation, OQ and SAP are actively seeking collaboration with the MTCIT to foster the development of emerging talent. Together, they intend to provide comprehensive training to Omani nationals through various in-country, global, and virtual programs, encompassing technology, business, and behavioural skills. One noteworthy initiative is the SAP Young Professionals Programme in Oman, which has already trained 140 university graduates in core and emerging technologies. Furthermore, a new platform designed by SAP will be introduced to support job seekers and freelancers, effectively bridging the gap between supply and demand for full-time and freelance opportunities.

Commenting on SAP's investment in cloud and skills development in Oman, Alaa Jaber, Managing Director for SAP Fast Growth Markets, said, "Oman is a significant market for SAP as it is widely recognised for its commitment to digitalisation. The new data centre will enable forward-thinking businesses, such as OQ, to develop and enhance their operations with the latest SAP solutions and improve efficiencies, while reducing total cost of ownership".

Jaber further highlighted that Omani businesses have the opportunity to expedite their transition to the private cloud, unlocking the numerous advantages of cloud computing, "With our RISE with SAP and GROW with SAP offering, businesses of all sizes can migrate to the cloud, starting from wherever they are, and realise immediate benefits. Cloud-based solutions play a pivotal role in future-proofing businesses, as they provide a platform for SAP to deliver ongoing innovation while ensuring security, compliance, and scalability. It is through the immense scale and power of cloud technology that groundbreaking advancements like Generative AI become attainable."

The SAP Data Centre is ready for immediate use by businesses who wish to adopt SAP cloud solutions or existing cloud computing clients who wish to transfer their information to be hosted within Oman. The versatility of the Data Centre extends across various industries, including but not limited to oil and energy, education, higher education, healthcare facilities, local businesses, and other entities handling confidential information that requires strict adherence to data privacy regulations within the Sultanate. The data centre provides a trusted and secure environment that prioritises the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive data, allowing these organisations to fully leverage cloud computing while complying with local regulations and safeguarding their valuable information.

OQ Trading signs LNG SPA agreement with Petrobangla

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ Trading Ltd (OQT), an energy trading entity owned by OQ, the global integrated energy group, signed a new LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Petrobangla, a state-owned company responsible for the exploration, production, and distribution of oil, gas, and mineral resources in Bangladesh, on Monday, June 19.

Under the new SPA, OQT will deliver between 0.25 million tons to 1.5 million tons of LNG per annum from their diverse global portfolio, adding to the 1.0 MTPA already contracted in the initial SPA signed in May 2018. This new SPA is set to last until 2035, providing both companies with increased stability and a prolonged avenue for growth.

On this occasion, Wail bin Zuhair AlJamali, CEO of OQT, said, "The new LNG Sales and Purchase Agreement mark a pivotal moment in the collaboration between OQT, Petrobangla and both nations. This new long-term agreement solidifies the partnership of both companies and sets a new stage for mutually beneficial cooperation."

He added: "This significant increase in LNG trade between OQT and Petrobangla serves as a testament to the strong partnership that has developed over the years."

By signing this agreement, both Oman and Bangladesh affirm their commitment to enhancing collaboration in the energy sector.

SUPPORTING TAXPAYERS

Businessmen apprised on VAT requirements

Times News Service

MUSCAT: EY hosted over 160 business professionals, finance managers, and tax executives at a special seminar on the Omani VAT law to support taxpayers receiving their first annual VAT assessment notification.

The session occurred as the Omani Tax Authority continues to enhance its VAT assessment requirements and announces the third wave of its digital stamp system, which has been expanded to include carbonated, energy and sweetened drinks. The event provided the latest updates on regional E-invoicing implementation and solutions, tax trends across the MENA region and the applicability of VAT, excise, and customs duties on Omani imports and exports. The seminar also provided crucial guidance on preparing for VAT inspections and audits from Omani authorities.

Alkesh Joshi, Oman Tax Leader and EY MENA Energy & Sustainability Tax Leader says, "The tax system in Oman – and indeed the wider region – is rapidly evolving, with an expansion of reporting requirements and an accelerated shift towards digital tax platforms. As discussed in our special seminar on VAT readiness in Oman, businesses should proactively prepare for any site visits from the Oman Tax Authority with VAT. The Oman VAT Law allows certain Tax Authority employees to perform physical site inspections and review documents, accounting records, financial statements, and any other documents relating to the enforcement of the Oman VAT Law. As such, businesses should ensure that they maintain business records as required by the country's VAT regulations and that their employees are adequately prepared to answer any questions from the Tax Inspectors during their site visits."

VAT was implemented in Oman as part of the government's commitment to diversifying its income streams, with tax revenues for 2023 projected to be in the region of OMR1.15 billion, of which OMR0.59 billion is anticipated to come from taxes on goods and services.

At the seminar, EY regional tax leaders discussed how digitisation is reshaping the future of tax for businesses in Oman and the broader region, explaining how businesses should streamline their tax compliance models to prepare themselves for the potential introduction of E-invoicing in the coming future – developments that have the potential to drastically change the way they do business. E-invoicing seeks to increase the tax authority's visibility on the movement of goods, services, and payments on a real-time basis.

Aamer Bhatti, EY MENA IndirectTax Leader, says, "Businesses should regularly check the tax authority portal and their emails for correspondence from the tax authorities on the issuance of VAT assessments – and to use these platforms to request additional information wherever possible. Firms should also watch for changes to the VAT return form - or indeed the taxpayer checklist - that could create additional reporting requirements.

"Furthermore, in light of Oman's increasingly sophisticated VAT and tax landscape, businesses must be proactive in their approach toward VAT audit readiness. EY advises that firms perform a health check to ensure they have filed correct VAT returns and maintain all documents needed for their audit defence."

To ensure full tax readiness, companies are advised to carry out a VAT health check well in advance of receiving an audit notification. Businesses could apply for an advance ruling with the Omani Tax Authority for sector-specific challenges not addressed in the VAT Law - or guidance and manuals issued by the Tax Authority.

PROMINENT EVENT

Oman to host meeting of International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Middle East is about to witness a prominent global event for the first time in a decade. Oman Investment Authority (OIA) was selected to host the annual meeting of the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF) headquartered in London.

The selection of Oman, represented by OIA, to host this event cements OIA's role as an active member of the IFSWF. It also showcases the role it plays in attracting investments to Oman. The annual meeting will be held in Oman in Q4 of 2024.

Sheikh Nasser Al Harthy, Deputy President for Operations at OIA, said that Oman was selected by the majority of IFSWF members during their meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan. This achievement reflects a culmination of the efforts made by OIA since becoming a full member of the IFSWF, whether through its participation in meetings or by hosting different delegations, committees, and workshops.

He added that the meeting to be hosted by the Sultanate of Oman for the first time is considered the first of its kind in the Middle East in a decade, as Qatar hosted the last meeting in the region in 2014.

He added that the meeting represents an opportunity for Oman, as it will see the attendance of the heads of the world's largest Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs). These SWFs in attendance have a wealth of over $8 trillion, representing over 80% of SWF assets internationally. Such a meeting will play a role in promoting the Sultanate's natural resources and investment opportunities. This, in turn, will enhance the global profile of Oman, attract foreign capital, and create opportunities for building long-term investment relationships that contribute positively to the efforts of economic diversification and growth of the national economy.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Gulf Mushroom Products, up 6.98 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Maha Ceramics, down 3.73 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,681.79 points, up by 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.10 per cent at 465.25 points. Gulf Mushroom Products, up 6.98 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Maha Ceramics, down 3.73 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 328 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.27 million, with more than 5.66 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 6 advanced, 12 declined, and 26 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR151,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR133,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR18,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,623.67 points, up 0.07 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Al Batinah Development Company and Bank Muscat were up by 2.44 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 0.75 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment and Oman United Insurance were up by 1.41 per cent and 1.17 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,050.52 points, down 0.64 per cent. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products were up by 6.98 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products, Construction Materials, Al Anwar Ceramics and Galfar Engineering were up by 3.73 per cent, 2.48 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.48 per cent and 1.08 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.12 per cent before closing at 1,685.67 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Ooredoo were up by 2.56 per cent and 1.11 per cent respectively. Prices of National Gas, Oman National Engineering, Al Jazeera Services and Renaissance Services were up by 3.03 per cent, 0.94 per cent, 0.80 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,685.34	4,674.78	4,681.79	4,679.97	1.82	0.04
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,629.41	7,611.20	7,623.67	7,618.02	5.65	0.07
Industry Index	6,089.77	6,041.13	6,050.52	6,089.77	-39.25	-0.64
Services Index	1,689.42	1,681.36	1,685.67	1,687.75	-2.08	-0.12
MSX Shariah Index	465.96	463.85	465.25	465.72	-0.47	-0.10
MSX TR INDEX	6,159.83	6,145.94	6,155.16	6,152.77	2.39	0.04
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,311.01	8,291.17	8,304.76	8,298.60	6.16	0.07
SERVICES TR IDX	1,857.22	1,848.35	1,853.09	1,855.38	-2.29	-0.12
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,505.38	6,453.43	6,463.46	6,505.38	-41.93	-0.64

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,662,847	1,270,999	328	23,756,911,461	6	12	26	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 20

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	25,860	9,463	14	0.364	0.366	0.364	0.366	0.362	0.004	1.105	0.366	0.326	0.398	0.100	238,245,588
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	314,011	84,156	43	0.266	0.269	0.266	0.268	0.266	0.002	0.752	0.268	0.268	0.270	0.100	2,011,714,413
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,518	692	1	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.275	0.300	0.100	447,135,248
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTEMENT & FINANCE	53,100	4,649	12	0.087	0.088	0.082	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.100	21,898,800
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	39,000	13,659	4	0.350	0.360	0.350	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.350	0.360	0.100	240,611,553
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	7,613	2,741	3	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.360	0.360	0.364	0.100	119,114,176
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	110,000	6,291	6	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.054	0.057	0.100	20,299,256
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	19,893	3,461	2	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.174	0.000	0.000	0.174	0.173	0.174	0.100	521,365,150
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MRKT.	1,000	1,060	1	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	1.060	0.000	0.000	1.060	1.035	0.000	0.100	73,140,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	3,257	3,176	5	0.968	0.976	0.968	0.976	0.976	0.000	0.000	0.976	0.976	0.992	0.100	732,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	188,520	11,123	8	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	11,800,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,000	102	1	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.101	0.103	0.100	468,186,354
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	6,372	529	6	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.082	0.083	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	35	14	1	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.400	-0.002	-0.500	0.398	0.398	0.390	0.100	94,091,180
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,100	2,513	4	0.250	0.250	0.248	0.248	0.250	-0.002	-0.800	0.248	0.246	0.250	0.100	15,178,660
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV.	7,501	790	2	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.105	0.106	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	23,107	5,908	9	0.257	0.257	0.254	0.254	0.257	-0.003	-1.167	0.254	0.252	0.254	0.100	25,400,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	90,206	6,334	5	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.071	-0.001	-1.408	0.070	0.068	0.071	0.100	8,531,250
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	66,546	17,951	4	0.270	0.270	0.266	0.266	0.270	-0.004	-1.481	0.266	0.262	0.266	0.100	58,520,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	10,000	2,750	1	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.282	-0.007	-2.482	0.275	0.270	0.282	0.100	34,346,939
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	35,367	2,796	6	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.082	-0.003	-3.659	0.079	0.078	0.085	0.100	15,771,212
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	18,284	5,668	4	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.322	-0.012	-3.727	0.310	0.350	0.350	0.100	17,050,000
Total	22	1,033,290	185,828	142												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,251	513	5	0.220	0.234	0.220	0.230	0.215	0.015	6.977	0.230	0.219	0.230	0.100	10,526,134
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	18,519	707	6	0.039	0.040	0.038	0.040	0.039	0.001	2.564	0.040	0.036	0.040	0.100	6,400,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	10,000	415	3	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.001	2.439	0.042	0.042	0.044	0.100	3,570,000
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEVELOPMENT & INV. HO.	11,110	1,036	3	0.094	0.096	0.093	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.091	0.096	0.100	2,880,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	84,580	14,255	9	0.168	0.171	0.168	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.168	0.171	0.100	34,200,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	320	637	1	1.990	1.990	1.990	1.990	1.990	0.000	0.000	1.990	0.000	1.990	0.100	178,503,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	813,475	70,849	29	0.087	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.087	0.088	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	414	397	1	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.000	0.000	0.960	0.900	0.960	0.100	91,200,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	11,212	3,263	1	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.291	0.000	0.000	0.291	0.280	0.295	0.100	34,920,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	350,000	33,250	4	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.086	0.098	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	82,000	2,296	5	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.027	0.029	0.100	18,896,848
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	105,921	2,966	6	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.026	0.030	0.100	20,003,378
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	990	287	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.280	0.290	0.100	20,413,100
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,000	950	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	2,967,515	926,822	79	0.310	0.316	0.308	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.304	0.310	0.100	238,762,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	107,313	19,842	22	0.186	0.186	0.184	0.184	0.186	-0.002	-1.075	0.184	0.183	0.184	0.100	37,349,506
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	1,024	57	1	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.000	0.056	0.100	3,500,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	35,000	3,360	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.099	-0.003	-3.030	0.096	0.095	0.098	0.100	8,160,000
Total	18	4,611,644	1,081,903	178												

IN RIYADH

Oman participates in Saudi Food Show

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), has commenced its participation in the first edition of the Saudi Food Show at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Saudi Arabia.

This participation is geared towards generating new business prospects and fostering valuable connections for Omani food and packaging industries through showcasing their products, services, and solutions to key buyers and stakeholders from around the globe. The Saudi Food Show is affiliated with 'Gulfood', renowned as one of the world's largest annual events in the food and hospitality industry.

Hamood Al Balushi, Assistant Director General at Madayn, stated that Madayn is committed to promoting Omani products and exploring untapped markets for these products. "We have observed a genuine willingness from Omani companies and factories specialising in the food and packaging sectors to participate in this regional event to showcase the exceptional quality of their products to industry experts attending the exhibition," Al Balushi said, adding, "This exhibition offers an ideal opportunity to promote Omani products and highlight their advanced level of quality, which has contributed to increased demand in both local and international markets over the past years."

Al Balushi added that the Saudi Food Show also offers an opportunity for Madayn to introduce its extensive range of incentives to attract investors to its diverse industrial cities, and hence attract and localise new investments and bolster the national economy, aligning with the objectives outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

The pavilion of the Sultanate of Oman at the Saudi Food Show features several government bodies including Madayn, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and SMEs Development Authority, in addition to companies including Areej Vegetable Oils and Derivatives, Oman Foodstuff Factory, Salalah Mills, Majan Glass, Pragati Glass Gulf and several small and medium enterprises.

It is worth noting that the Saudi Food Show was inaugurated under the patronage of Bandar bin Ibrahim Al Khorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources in Saudi Arabia. The exhibition brings together thousands of renowned global brands from countries around the globe, to keep aligned with Saudi Vision 2030, which aims to establish a thriving hub for the food and beverage sector in Saudi Arabia, given its significant social and economic benefits.

PARIS AIR SHOW 2023

IndiGo buys 500 planes from Airbus, the largest order in aviation history

NEW DELHI: India's largest airline IndiGo's board has approved an order for 500 Airbus A320 family aircraft, making it the biggest order in its history, an official said on Monday.

The purchase agreement was signed on June 19 at the Paris Air Show 2023 in the presence of Chairman of the Board of IndiGo V Sumantran, CEO of IndiGo Pieter Elbers, CEO of Airbus Guillaume Faury, and, Airbus' Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International Christian Scherer. An official statement from the airline said that the engine selection for this order will be done in due course and so will be the exact mix of A320 and A321 aircraft.

"This will provide IndiGo a further steady stream of deliveries between 2030 and 2035. This 500 aircraft order is not only IndiGo's largest order but also the largest-ever single aircraft purchase by any airline with Airbus," the statement said.

IndiGo operates over 300 aircraft and has previous orders totaling 480 aircraft which are yet to be delivered between today and the end of this decade.

"With this additional firm order of 500 aircraft for 2030-2035, IndiGo's order book has almost 1,000 aircraft yet to be delivered well into the next decade," the airline said.

This IndiGo order book comprises a mix of A320NEO, A321NEO and A321XLR aircraft.

The evaluation of the offers was shared and discussed with IndiGo's Board, and consequently endorsed.

As per the official statement, the new order will bring the strategic relationship between IndiGo and Airbus to an unprecedented depth and breadth.

"With this new order, since its inception in 2006, IndiGo has ordered a massive total of 1,330 aircraft with Airbus," it said.

The fuel-efficient A320NEO Family aircraft will allow IndiGo to maintain its strong focus on lowering operating costs and delivering fuel efficiency with high standards of reliability, the statement added.

The young and fuel-efficient fleet will help IndiGo realize its sustainability ambitions, building on the already realized CO2 reduction of 21 per cent between FY16 and FY23.

This year, IndiGo expects to welcome 100 million customers on board and as such literally give wings to the nation.

"The Indian economy is expected to further grow from being the world's 5th largest today to being the 3rd largest before the end of this decade. For aviation specifically, Prime Minister Modi has stated his mission to ensure that by 2030 India comes into her own on the world stage of aviation leadership by building cutting-edge infrastructure and developing India into a global aviation hub," the airline said.

Pieter Elbers, CEO of IndiGo, said, "It is difficult to overstate the significance of IndiGo's new historic order for 500 Airbus A320 Family aircraft. An order book now of almost 1.000 aircraft well into the next decade, enables IndiGo to fulfil its mission to continue to boost economic growth, social cohesion and mobility in India. At IndiGo, we take pride in being India's preferred airline for connectivity in and with India; and by doing so, being one of the leading airlines in the world. This order strongly reaffirms IndiGo's belief in the growth of India, in the A320 Family and in our strategic partnership with Airbus."

— ANI

LIFESTYLE

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY 2023

FIVE ASANAS TO HELP YOU STAY FIT AND HEALTHY

Yoga has many health advantages for your body, mind, and spirit, but sometimes it's just not possible to do it. We don't have the room, the time, or the mental capacity to do yoga for an hour every few days. Even if you don't currently practise yoga regularly, you can incorporate it into your daily life. You may incorporate yoga's physical, mental, and emotional advantages into your daily life by doing a few easy things. As International Yoga Day is celebrated today (June 21), let us look at a few asanas you can try to stay healthy and fit.

1

SHAVASANA

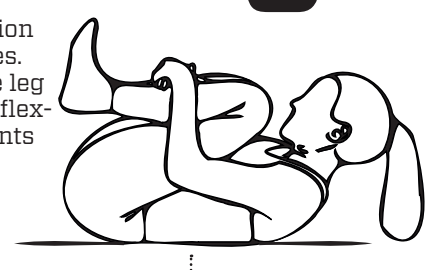
Shavasana is one of the best poses for your general health and well-being even though it may seem more like a snooze fest than a yoga practice. You can release tension and possibly lower your heart rate by concentrating on your breath while letting your body relax, which will benefit both your body and mind.
It is simple to do as well.
Just you need a yoga mat or blanket. Relax by lying on your back with your head and limbs on the ground. Alternatively, if resting on your side feels more comfortable for you, find that position.

VAJRASANA

This easy seated position offers many advantages. Your knees, your entire leg muscle group, and the flexibility of your ankle joints will all benefit greatly from it. Although it could be challenging at first and your ankles might hurt, if you sit in this position for just a few minutes each day, you'll soon notice how fast your body adapts and be able to easily hold the vajraasana position for extended periods of time.
Maintain a straight back while you sit. With your knees bent, fold your legs under your body. Your ankles should be turned inward and your toes should touch each other.

2

3



APANASANA

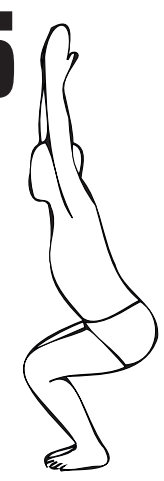
This basic yoga pose enhances flexibility and relieves back pain by stretching your lumbar spine. On your back, bend your knees and hips, and place your hands on your knees. Draw your navel in towards your spine and exhale while clasping your knees to your chest. Return to the beginning position when you take a breath.

PADMASANA

This one is the most advantageous and efficient of all the yoga poses. It could be challenging at first, but with daily practice, your hips, pelvis, and legs will learn to open out on their own. This pose is fantastic for your spine, digestion, circulation, and leg muscles.
Make yourself comfortable and sit. Place your right ankle on your left thigh. Take your left ankle and place it on top of your right thigh. Adjust your legs to the most comfortable position.

4

5



UTKATASANA

In this position, you hold a static squat with your feet together, simulating sitting in a chair. The chair position is perfect for building both upper and lower body strength, especially in the glute and back muscles. Additionally, it improves balance, especially if you elevate your heels. -ANI

SPORTS

England rampant; France maintain perfect record

Bukayo Saka scored his first career hat-trick in England's 7-0 rout over North Macedonia in Euro 2024 Qualifiers

LONDON: Bukayo Saka scored the first hat-trick of his career as England made it four wins out of four Euro 2024 qualifiers by thrashing North Macedonia 7-0 at Old Trafford in Euro 2024 qualifying on Monday, while Kylian Mbappe's re-taken penalty gave France a narrow victory over Greece.

Harry Kane swept England ahead at Old Trafford before Saka stole the show with two superb finishes either side of Marcus Rashford's goal.

Saka completed his treble early in the second half, Kalvin Phillips added another and Kane then struck again from the spot as England won their fourth straight match in Group C.

It was England's biggest win since the 10-0 victory over San Marino in November 2021, and inflicted North Macedonia's heaviest defeat.

"It's a feeling I can't put into words. I can't describe how I'm feeling right now. I'm so happy," Saka told Channel 4 as he became the youngest player in 15 years to record a hat-trick for his country.

England top the section on a maximum 12 points, six ahead of Ukraine, who are second after a 1-0 win over Malta in Trnava was secured by Viktor Tsygankov's second-half penalty.

European champions Italy are nine points adrift in third but have played just twice.

France also kept up their 100 percent record in Group B with a 1-0 win over Greece in Paris, which propelled the World Cup runners-up six points clear of their opponents. Mbappe saw his initial spot-kick saved by Odysseas Vlachodimos, but the France striker made no mistake with his second attempt after encroachment by a Greek defender.

Mbappé's 55th-minute penalty was his 54th goal of the season, beating the national record for club and country set by the Late Just Fontaine in the 1957-58 season — the year Fontaine also set an individual scoring record with 13 at the '58 World Cup.

It was Mbappe's 13th goal in 13 games for France this season, to go with 41 in all competitions for Paris Saint-Germain.

He now has 40 goals in 70 games for his country and needs just one more goal to equal Michel Platini's tally in a France shirt.

Greece finished with 10 men as Kostantinos Mavropanos was sent off, having escaped red earlier when he caught Antoine Griezmann in the face with his studs and gave away the penalty.

Wales in trouble

Mikey Johnston, Evan Ferguson and Adam Idah scored as the Republic of Ireland picked up their first points of the campaign with a 3-0 home victory over minnows Gibraltar.

Wales face a difficult task to qualify after a second loss in four days, going down 2-0 in Turkey following the dismissal of midfielder Joe Morrell late in the first half.

Hakan Calhanoglu had his penalty saved before Umut Nayir and Arda Guler struck in the final 20 minutes to keep Turkey top of Group D.

Wales are five points behind Turkey in fourth place, level with Nations League runners-up Croatia, who have two games in hand.

Armenia are second after Tigran Barseghyan converted a stoppage-time penalty to snatch a 2-1 win against lowly Latvia in Yerevan.

Finland lead a tight Group H in which the top four are separated by only two points.

Substitute Daniel Hakans bagged a hat-trick in Finland's 6-0 mauling of San Marino, the world's lowest-ranked side, with Glen Kamara, Benjamin Kallman and Teemu Pukki also on target.

Kazakhstan are level on nine points in second after winning 1-0 away to Northern Ireland, Abat Aimbetov's late goal fuelling their surprise qualification push.

Slovenia and Denmark drew 1-1 in Ljubljana as Andraz Sporar opened the scoring for the hosts only for Rasmus Hojlund to level.

Valentin Mihaila stunned Switzerland with two late goals as Romania fought back for a 2-2 draw in Lucerne after Zeki Amdouni's brace had put the Group I frontrunners in control.

Israel saw off Andorra 2-1 while Belarus beat Kosovo by the same scoreline in Budapest.

FOOTBALL

Mexico part ways with coach Cocca

MEXICO CITY: Diego Cocca has been sacked as manager of Mexico's national team after just seven games in charge, the country's football federation said on Monday.

The announcement followed a poor run of results that included a 3-0 CONCACAF Nations League semi-final defeat to the United States in Las Vegas last Thursday.

It comes less than a week before the start of the CONCACAF Gold Cup, with Mexico scheduled to debut in the tournament against Honduras on June 25.

"The natural thing would be to wait for the Gold Cup to end, but there is no time to waste, so I am informing you that I have made the decision to terminate the contract of Diego Cocca and his assistant coaching staff," said federation president Juan Carlos Rodriguez in a video published by the federation.

Cocca guided Mexico to three wins, three draws and one loss after replacing fellow Argentine Gerardo Martino in February. - Xinhua

TENNIS

Former world No. 2 to retire

LONDON: Former world No. 2 Anett Kontaveit on Tuesday announced her retirement from tennis due to a condition in her back.

The Estonian said the problem "does not allow for full-scale training or continued competition" and explained Wimbledon will be her last tournament. The 27-year-old's best result in a grand slam tournament was reaching the Australian Open quarter-finals in 2020.

"Tennis has given and taught me a lot," Kontaveit said.

She added in a statement on Instagram: "It has been important for me to bring the Estonian flag to the tennis courts and to be able to play in front of my supporters and fans all over the world. "I am ready for new challenges after my last effort as a professional tennis player."

LA LIGA

Real Madrid sign Spain striker Joselu

MADRID: Real Madrid on Monday confirmed the acquisition of Spain international striker Jose Luis Mato 'Joselu' on a season-long loan from Espanyol.

"Real Madrid and Espanyol have reached an agreement for the loan of Joselu. He will play for our club for the upcoming season, with an option to purchase at the season's end," stated the announcement on the Real Madrid website.

Joselu, 33, who made his debut for Spain in March, is returning to the club where he appeared 67 times for the B-team from 2009-2012, but made just a single first-team appearance before embarking on a career that led him to clubs such as Hoffenheim, Eintracht Frankfurt, and Hannover 96 in Germany.

His career then took him to Stoke City and Newcastle United in England before returning to Spain, with stints at Alaves and Espanyol.

Despite both those clubs experiencing relegation during his tenure, Joselu proved his scoring prowess, netting 36 goals in three seasons with Alaves and 17 goals in 33 matches for Espanyol last season, despite the campaign ending in relegation.

Real Madrid regards Joselu as a striker who, while being low-cost, is efficient in the penalty area. He's expected to help fill the void left by Marco Asensio, Mariano Diaz, and Karim Benzema, who all departed the club at the end of last season. - Xinhua

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Bournemouth sack O'Neil

LONDON: Bournemouth on Monday dismissed coach Gary O'Neil in a surprising decision, less than a month after he steered them to an unlikely Premier League survival.

O'Neil assumed control of newly promoted Bournemouth when the club was at the bottom of the league following a 9-0 defeat to Liverpool at the end of August 2022. His predecessor, Scott Parker, had publicly questioned whether the squad could compete in the Premier League.

His commendable work with a limited squad led to some pundits placing O'Neil on their shortlists as a contender for coach of the season and resulted in an automatic two-year extension of his contract.

However, Bournemouth's American owner, Bill Forley, stated his belief that O'Neil was not the best fit to lead the club forward.

"Gary's achievement last season is one I will always be grateful for. This has been a difficult decision, but it has been made with considerable thought to best position ourselves ahead of the coming season."

"As a club, we have set plans for long-term success, with improvements being made to our infrastructure, most notably the development of a new state-of-the-art training facility and ongoing discussions around upgrades to our stadium. We have also identified several significant targets in this summer's transfer market and believe this change in direction will provide us with the best platform to build upon."

"Gary will go on to have a prosperous career as a head coach or manager, but we feel that, at this point in time, a change is in the best interest of this football club. I would like to place on record my thanks to Gary and wish him all the best for the future," said Forley on the Bournemouth website.

The club is expected to announce a replacement within the next two days. - Xinhua

SIX NATIONS TOURNAMENT

Asian Champions Trophy hockey in India from August 3

CHENNAI: The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) on Tuesday announced the schedule for the upcoming edition of the Asian Champions Trophy in the southern Indian city of Chennai .

The tournament will begin on August 3 with defending champions South Korea taking on Japan in the opener.

Hosts India will play the third game on the opening day when they take on China, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai.

The Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 will be played from August 3-12. The six-team tournament will see South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, China and India battle it out for top honours.

All the teams are part of one pool and the positions on the points table will be decided by a league system.

South Korea won the 2021 edition of the tournament. India (2011, 2016 & 2018) and Pakistan (2012, 2013 & 2018) have both won three titles each.

Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said, "We are absolutely delighted to be hosting the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023.

"The announcement of the schedule is a landmark day as it sets the ball rolling for the tournament. I would surely love to see the Indian team come out on top but I am certain that all the nations will put their best foot forward and treat us with exceptional hockey during the tournament."

AHF President Fumio Ogura said: "It is my great pleasure to announce the eagerly awaited match schedule for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023. This prestigious tournament promises to be an extraordinary celebration of hockey, showcasing the exceptional talent and unity of Asian hockey.

"Our vision for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 is to create an unforgettable experience for players, fans, and stakeholders alike."

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh said, "Hosting the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Chennai 2023 is a matter of immense pride for us, and we are excitedly awaiting the start of the tournament. The announcement of the schedule signals the start of the final stages before the tournament." - ANI

Bank Muscat organises 2 seminars on successful leadership skills

The events covered the basics of successful business leadership and work-related values and strategies such as integrity, ensuring good role models, developing talent, customer satisfaction, and maintaining a competitive advantage

MUSCAT: In line with its keenness to develop leadership skills, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently organised two special seminars for its employees and customers.

The events covered the basics of successful business leadership and work-related values and strategies such as integrity, ensuring good role models, developing talent, customer satisfaction, and maintaining a competitive advantage.

The seminars were held at the Hormuz Grand Hotel at Airport Heights and were presented by Dr Marshall Goldsmith, an eminent author, executive coach and global leadership consultant.

Dr Goldsmith, who has been ranked as the world's #1 Executive Coach and among the Top 10 Business Thinkers, has been featured extensively by prestigious business magazines and management-research organisations like INC, Fast Company and Global Gurus.

The seminars touched on a number of topics related to the development of future leaders, including the importance of unique skills and qualities for future leaders as well as challenges and how to deal with them through leadership guidance.

International practices

Participants also learnt through group discussions about the qualities of a good global leader and well-known international practices with proven positive results for qualified employees to be a leader at the personal level as well as the organisational level.

These qualities include integrity, role models, clear vision, motivation of people, development of talents, ensuring customer satisfaction and maintaining competitive advantage.

Challenges

The seminars were conducted as a part of the bank's ongoing commitment to providing its employees and customers with information related to the various trends in leadership and the ways to enhance their skills, especially those related to the banking sector. Such events are important as they address globalisation-related challenges faced by young leaders and provide them with new learning and experiences, which will enable them to face new and emerging challenges.

Bank Muscat is one of the leading financial institutions in the Sultanate of Oman, which is well known for its learning and Development programmes. The bank organises such meetings and seminars to contribute to the development of employee skills as well as discuss important topics to benefit its valued customers. Previously too, the bank has organised a number of successful meetings that were well attended by dignitaries and officials.

Bank Muscat is always keen to discuss various issues and topics related to the development of human resources as it adopts an innovative strategy for expanding the abilities of young employees and preparing them to assume leadership positions in various fields within the banking sector.

FILM ACTOR

Malabar Gold & Diamonds renews association with superstar NTR Jr as brand ambassador

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 6th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 320 showrooms across 11 countries, has signed mass superstar Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao Jr. also known as NTR Jr. as its newest brand ambassador.

NTR Jr. will be featured in the upcoming consumer campaigns of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. A prolific actor and a pan-India mass superstar attracting global attention, NTR Jr. reflects the core values of the group i.e., trust, transparency, and excellence with his affable and grounded persona.

The second innings of NTR Jr. as the brand's ambassador will make Malabar Gold & Diamonds 30th anniversary even more glittering. Signing the super-star is in line with the group's aim to further expand its customer base and build a stronger consumer-connect in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region as well as across India and around the world.

Speaking about the association, NTR Jr. shared, "I am happy to be associated once again with Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Apart from being one of the most trusted jewellery brands, they are actively showcasing Indian designs, art & culture at the global stage. Their customer-centric promises and ESG initiatives have established their leadership in the industry. I see great synergy between the values I believe in and what the brand stands for."

Commenting on associating with NTR Jr., MP Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group said, "We are excited to renew our time-tested association with NTR Jr. He has emerged as a one of the widely admired movie stars in India across regions.

"His outstanding filmography underlines his command over the crafts of acting. He is an actor par excellence, and his impressive personality will further elevate our brand proposition. We had an amazing association in the past with NTR Jr. and the revival of the relation will help accelerate the acceptance of the brand globally in our ambition to be the no. 1 global jewellery retailer.

"As we celebrate our 30th anniversary this year, we would like to reaffirm our commitment to offering our valued customers excellence in transparency, jewellery variety and craftsmanship along with world-class jewellery shopping experience."

Malabar Gold & Diamonds boasts of an extensive retail network in India, UAE, KSA, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Malaysia, Singapore, the US& the UK. The group has plans to foray into new markets such as Australia, Canada, South Africa, Egypt, Bangladesh, Turkey and New Zealand as well as major cities in India.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is known for providing an exceptional jewellery shopping experience with convenience and customer-friendly policies, known as the 'Malabar Promise.' This promise assures customers of unmatched quality, transparency, and service assurance. With more than 25 exclusive brands and collections in gold, diamond, and precious gems, Malabar Gold & Diamonds presents designs curated from 20 countries, catering to the diverse tastes and preferences of their vast, multicultural customer base.

TIMELY SERVICE

MG Oman's after-sales network expands for hassle-free service

MUSCAT: MG Motor Oman has recently expanded its after-sales network to include 12 service centres across the country.

These service centres are located in Buraimi, Azaiba, Salalah, Ibri, Ibra, Jalan Bani Bu Ali, Barka, Suwaiq, Nizwa, Seeb, Sohar, Sur and Bidiyah.

MG service centres are staffed by highly trained professionals and equipped with the latest technology to provide the best possible service for MG vehicles. Customers will be able to get timely service so they can get back on the road in no time.

Furthermore, customers can rest assured that their vehicles will be maintained to the highest standards at these service centres.

The centres also offer a wide range of services, including regular maintenance, repairs, warranty works, and lots more. Technicians will also be able to diagnose any potential problems and carry out any necessary repairs, ensuring that an MG car continues to operate at its best.

Introduced in Oman in 2018, MG Motor has quickly become a popular choice for buyers in the country and offers a wide range of vehicles, including sedans, SUVs, and pickups. The company is committed to providing its customers with high-quality vehicles that are reliable, safe, and affordable. With its growing after-sales network, it now ensures that customers are provided with the best possible service.

The expansion of the after-sales network speaks to the commitment that MG has to give its customers a hassle-free and convenient experience. Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE, says, "With these 12 service centres throughout the country, customers will have quick and hassle-free access to complete vehicle repair and maintenance services for their MG Motor vehicle."

MG Motor Oman's after-sales network will continue to grow, ensuring that customers receive the best possible service across the Sultanate of Oman.

ROUND-UP

All-new Mazda CX-60 Japanese Luxury officially arrives in Oman

It is a stylish and luxurious SUV that is equipped with a powerful engine, comfortable seats, and a spacious interior to make your driving experience enjoyable

MUSCAT: The all-new Mazda CX-60 Japanese Luxury has officially arrived in the Sultanate of Oman. Towell Auto Centre (TAC) is excited to give you a sneak peek and are confident that the launch of the Mazda CX-60 will satisfy your expectations. It is a stylish and luxurious SUV that is equipped with a powerful engine, comfortable seats, and a spacious interior to make your driving experience enjoyable.

Performance

The new CX-60 takes driving to the next level with its innovative design and state-of-the-art features. The car is built on a scalable platform that provides a smooth and adaptable ride, making it perfect for long journeys or quick errands. The longitudinally mounted engine optimises the balance of the car, providing a seamless and thrilling driving experience. The front-engine rear-wheel-drive layout of the CX-60 has been purposefully designed to achieve better weight distribution, while its 8-speed Activmatic SkyActiv transmission with a clutch instead of torque converters ensures faster, smoother, and more responsive gear shifting, making it feel more like driving a manual gearbox.

Exterior

The Mazda CX-60 is a practical and stylish SUV option for drivers who want performance and looks. Its exterior has impressive features, such as shiny silver alloy wheels and a commanding signature grill. The front wipers are timing adjustable, and rain sensors make driving in bad weather comfortable & safe. The LED headlamps and rear fog lamp increase safety at night, while keyless entry and a power back door add to convenience and security. The CX-60 is available in a variety of colours, including Soul Red Crystal, and Rhodium White Metallic, amongst others.

Interior

The Mazda CX-60's interior is packed with features that enhance the driving experience. The car's steering wheel is wrapped in luxurious leather and equipped with audio controls, sport mode controls, and paddle shifters for optimal performance. In addition, the stylish shift knob is also wrapped with leather, adding to the luxurious feel of the vehicle. You can stay connected to your smartphone with ease using the Apple CarPlay and Android Auto which is seamlessly integrated with the 12-inch multimedia display & eight dynamic speakers. Not only this but also you can navigate across various features using the commander switch, which adds to the effortless and enjoyable experience of driving. Other handy features include a cargo net, USB ports, and a power outlet socket at the rear providing practicality. The auto-dimming rearview mirror and cloth door trims lend an air of luxury.

Mazda Proactive Safety

Mazda Proactive Safety is a suite of safety features designed to help drivers anticipate and avoid danger. The system uses a variety of sensors to monitor the car's surroundings and alerts the driver to potential hazards. If necessary, the system can also take corrective action to help the driver avoid a collision.

Smart Brake Support Front (SBSF): This system uses a forward-facing camera to detect potential collisions and automatically apply the brakes if necessary.

Mazda Radar Cruise Control (MRCC): This system automatically maintains a set distance between the car and the vehicle in front, even in stop-and-go traffic.

Blind Spot Monitoring (BSM): This system uses radar sensors to detect vehicles that are in the car's blind spots and alerts the driver with a visual and audible warning.

Lane Keep Assist (LKA): This system uses a camera to detect the car's lane markings and automatically steer the car back into the lane if it starts to drift.

With its stunning design, advanced technology, and impressive safety features, the all-new Mazda CX-60 Japanese Luxury is definitely going to be a game changer in Oman. So, what are you waiting for? Visit your nearest Mazda showroom today and get ready for a hands-on experience with the all-new Mazda CX-60.

DISCUSSIONS

Oxy Oman sponsors Oman Road Safety Forum

MUSCAT: Oxy Oman recently announced its sponsorship of the Oman Road Safety Forum, an event that aimed to bring together industry professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss challenges, and showcase advancements in road safety regulations.

The one-day forum organised by Opal (Oman Energy Association), was held at Crowne Plaza Qurum and brought together attendees from various sectors of the industry. Hassan Al Ajmi, Vice President of Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) at Oxy Oman attended as a representative of the company and gave a keynote speech at the forum.

The forum introduced discussions on the 2nd edition of the Road Safety Standard, a framework widely followed by industries. Additionally, the event held panel discussions with industry experts on road safety strategies and goals to enhance collaboration in the field.

This sponsorship falls under Oxy Oman's umbrella of strategic partnerships and continuous collaboration with key stakeholders and is part of Oxy Oman's endeavour and long-term commitment to support programs that enhance economic growth and sustainable development and that yield positive impacts in the neighbouring communities.

RECOGNITION

Saud Bahwan Automotive honoured with prestigious Yokohama Award

Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan receiving the award

MUSCAT: At a special ceremony held recently, Takeshi Fujino, General Manager Sales, Yokohama Tire, honoured Saud Bahwan Automotive with a prestigious award which recognised Saud Bahwan Automotive's outstanding sales performance for 2022.

Receiving the award on behalf of the group was Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan, Managing Director – Corporate, Saud Bahwan Group.

Accepting the prestigious award, Abdullah Mohamed Bahwan said, "I take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the support and guidance extended to us at all time by Yokohama Tires. An achievement like this would not have been possible without it. I would also like to thank our valuable customers who have been with us for years together."

The Yokohama Rubber Co. Ltd. is one of the world's leading manufacturers of rubber products, offering an extensive range of tire, rubber and adhesive products. Established in 1917, Yokohama Rubber has expanded its worldwide business scope with a line-up of high-technology products meeting customer needs in the fields of automobiles, civil engineering, construction, marine engineering, aerospace and sporting goods.

Yokohama Tyres are manufactured at one of the world's largest and the most advanced facilities of its kind, and are also torture-tested at D-PARC, one of the most challenging test tracks in the world, to ensure maximum safety.

In Oman, Yokohama tyres are marketed by Saud Bahwan Group, with an extensive network of more than 12 branches and over 350 dealers spread across the Sultanate.

DRIVEN BY PASSION

THE ALL-NEW MG ONE

ACTIVATE YOUR ADVENTURE

1.5L Turbo ENGINE | **125kW** MAX POWER | **285Nm** TORQUE

CR NO. 1001990

ACERE

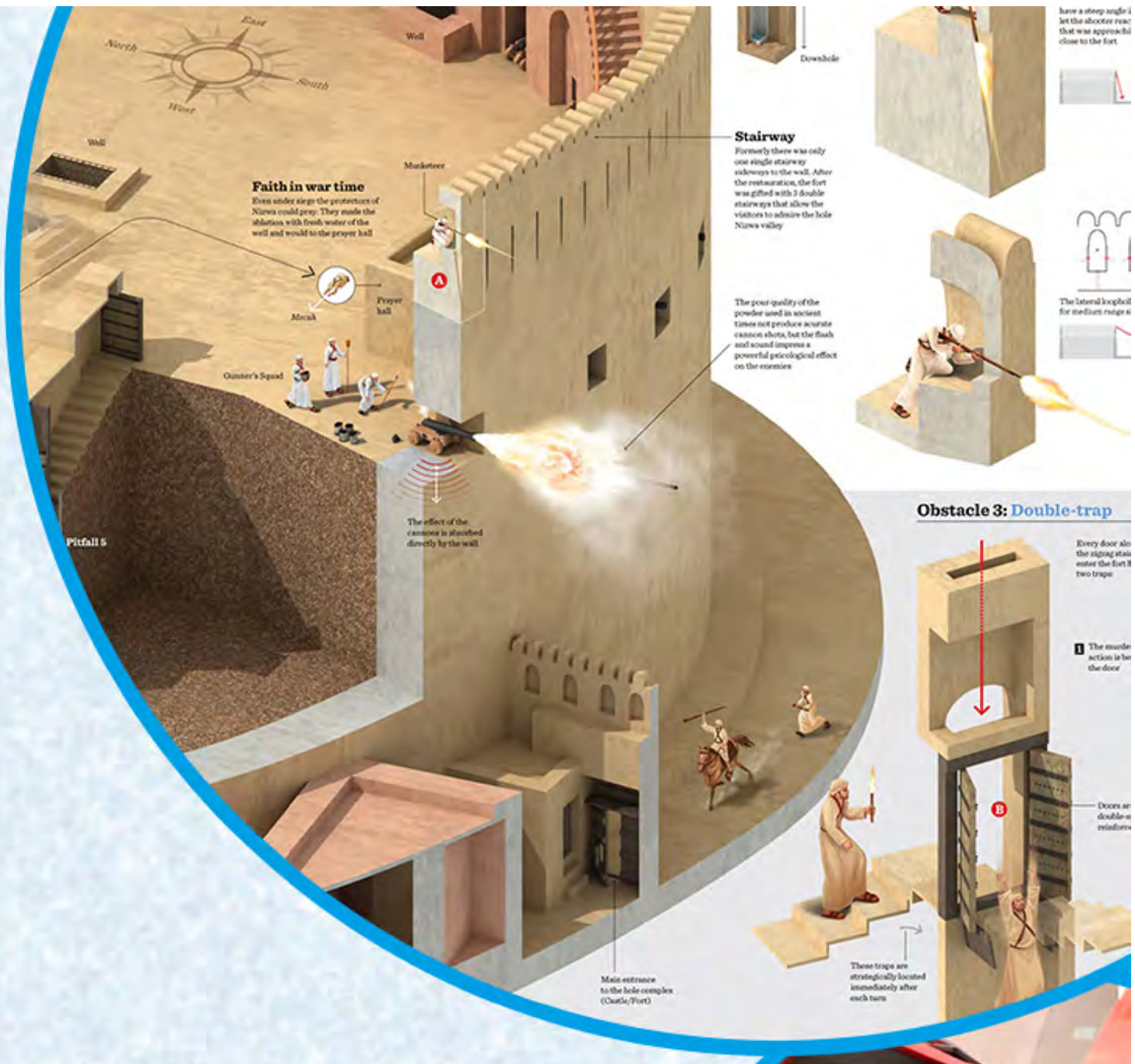
10 YEAR UNLIMITED KILOMETRE WARRANTY
FIRST TIME IN OMAN

WINNER OMAN'S MOST TRUSTED BRAND 2022

71557334

Al Manuma | Al Azaiba | Bidayah | Al Buraimi | Ibra | Ibri | Nizwa
Jalan Bani Bu Ali | Salalah | Sinaw | Sohar | Sur | Wattayah | Barka

mg-om.com /mgmotoroman @mgmotoroman



novagram

Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
90139993

sales@novagram.om

مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

SUZUKI

Celebrate this Eid with
SUZUKI's savings offer

Offer includes:

- VAT Charges
- Insurance (Oman & UAE) + Registration
- 2 Years / 40,000 Kms Service
- 5 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty
- Quality Window Tinting

Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes only.

Offer is valid from 11.06.23 to 10.08.23

MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC | 94760010 Wattayah | 94106970: For branches at Salalah | Sohar | Nizwa | Sur | Ibri | 800 76 200 | suzuki.moosagroup.com | suzuki.oman | suzukioman | Suzuki Global

SKYWORTH
Lead the future

Experience Every Moment Vividly

4K UHD
androidtv
HDR 10

جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680
MUSCAT 96742452
SALALAH 94048494
Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

www.genetco.net
@GenetcoOman
@GenetcoOman
Genetco Oman