



OMAN CIVIL DEFENCE CONFERENCE STARTS

The second edition of “Oman Civil Defence and Ambulance Conference and Exhibition” kicked off on Monday. The two-day event, titled “Security and Safety of Establishments” discussed the latest studies and research in the field of security and safety of establishments. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Lt. Gen. Hassan Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs. **>A5**



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PHONE CALL

Oman's foreign minister, Arab League Secretary General discuss regional issues and challenges

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister made a phone call to Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League on Monday.

During the telephonic call, the two sides exchanged views on several topics related to the activities of the Arab League and the integration of joint Arab action. They also touched on bilateral Arab cooperation in various fields in a bid to serve joint interests and unify stances and approaches regarding a number of issues and challenges.



The two officials underscored the importance of positively addressing current developments and future aspirations. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Gambian President meets Oman's minister

1 President Adama Barrow of the Republic of Gambia received Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 15th Session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Banjul, Gambia. **>A3**



OMAN

RNO commander meets Pakistan official

2 Maj. Gen Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the RNO received Maj. Gen Munir Ud Din, Director General for International Military Cooperation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Pakistan. **>A5**

WORLD

Saudi Arabia to host global project forum

3 The third Global Project Management Forum is set to kick off in Riyadh on 2 June 2024, focusing on the theme “We Achieve the Dream: Leadership, Empowerment, Sustainability.” **>A6**



OMAN'S PRIVATE ENTERPRISES ADD OMR8.8 BILLION TO GDP

The number of workers in active enterprises rose by 6.4 per cent to 1.82 million during the fourth quarter of 2023

MUSCAT: The total added value of active private enterprises in the Sultanate of Oman reached OMR8.85 billion during the fourth quarter of 2023, according to preliminary data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and

Information (NCSI). The contribution of the actual operating enterprises to the gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices stood at 81.2 percent during the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to 84 percent during the fourth

quarter of 2022. The added value of large enterprises amounted to OMR6.57 billion, representing a rate of 60.4 percent, a decrease of 6.5 percent compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

The added value of medium enterprises amounted to OMR681.9 million (6.3 percent), registering a decline of 3.2 percent.

The NCSI data further revealed that the added value of small enterprises amounted to OMR718.6 million, representing a rate of 6.6 percent, constituting a decrease of 2 percent.

The total value added of mi-

cro enterprises amounted to OMR870.7 million, representing a rate of 8 percent, which constitutes a rise by 0.7 percent.

The NCSI data further revealed that the number of workers in active enterprises in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 6.4 percent to 1.82 million during the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to 1.71 million workers during the fourth quarter of 2022.

Meanwhile, the number of enterprises increased by 8.7 percent to 240,765 during the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to the corresponding period in 2022. — **ONA**

COMMENTARY

Wake up America, before it's too late!



MOHAMED ALZADJALI

The ongoing genocide in Gaza has ignited significant outrage and concern among people worldwide, including university students and protesters in the West.

As the violence intensifies, these individuals are mobilising on the streets, campuses, and social media platforms to show solidarity with the people of Gaza and call for an end to the suffering.

University students and protesters in the West are playing a pivotal role in raising awareness about the conflict in Gaza. Through organising rallies, leveraging social media, and demanding accountability, they are actively striving to effect change and demonstrate solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Despite facing criticism, their

activism undeniably contributes to fostering a broader global consensus on peace, justice, and the imperative for resolution.

Israel and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) have come to recognise that people are awakening to the reality of the Jewish state.

In 1979, they established the Political Leadership Development Programme to gather information on students and professors supporting the Palestinian cause.

In 1983, they successfully recruited 5,500 individuals and conducted 350 workshops, excluding anyone supporting the Palestinian cause from attending these seminars. Additionally, students were encouraged to organise workshops at their universities independently.

In 2002, the Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC) was established to provide support for students through scholarships and other means.

In October 2023, the organisation led petitions to multiple universities in an effort to defund organisations that supported Hamas.

In November 2023, online reports circulated alleging that the ICC compensated numerous pro-Israel college students, offering up to \$250 per person to participate in the November 14, 2023, rally for Israel in Washington



D.C. These funds were reportedly provided through its microgrant reimbursement programme, aimed at bolstering attendance at events hosted by pro-Israel organisations.

The Nation magazine alleged connections between the organisation and Israeli intelligence as well as AIPAC. It purported that the group collected data on pro-Palestinian students and organisations in the US, utilising Jewish informants and pro-Israel student groups to relay information to the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs.

The claim suggests a pattern

of influence akin to their alleged involvement in influencing the White House, the Senate, and Congress.

Canary Mission is a long-standing programme purportedly operated clandestinely from Israel, with the aim of blacklisting and targeting students, professors, and individuals who express dissent against Israel or support the Palestinian cause.

Many individuals have reported being startled to discover that their names have been included in the Canary Mission blacklist, resulting in efforts to silence their voices. **>A2**

'Israel to commit largest genocide by invading Rafah'

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian presidency warned that the Israeli occupation authorities had actually begun preparing to commit the greatest crime of genocide by invading Rafah, holding the US administration responsible for these alarming Israeli policies.

Spokesperson for the Palestinian Presidency Nabil Abu Rudeineh said that the US administration, which provides financial and military support to the occupation, and stands against the international community to prevent the implementation of international legitimacy resolutions and the cessation of aggression, is the party that encourages the Prime Minister of the Israeli government Benjamin Netanyahu, and his leaders to continue their massacres against the Palestinian people, whether in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank.

He referred to the violence and aggression in

Tulkarm Governorate and its refugee camps as an example. The invasion of Rafah means that 1.5 million Palestinian citizens will be subjected to the genocidal massacre, and the attempts at displacement that the Palestinian presidency has been warning about, Abu Rudeineh added, calling on the US administration to act immediately and prevent genocide and displacement, and to hold the occupation accountable for the gross violations it has been committing against international law, before it is too late.

Spokesperson for the Palestinian Presidency stressed that peace and security in the entire region will not be achieved without a just solution to the Palestinian cause, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem (Al-Quds) as its capital, along with its Islamic and Christian holy sites. — **ONA**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:08pm
Asr.....3:33pm
Maghrib.....6:43pm
Isha.....7:59pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:07am

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PALESTINE SUPPORT

<FROM A1 Wake up America, before it is too late!

The threat posed by Canary Mission is significant; speaking out may result in inclusion on the blacklist, potentially hindering future job prospects or professional advancement after leaving university. Given that many universities receive substantial funding from affluent Jewish Americans and Jewish American foundations, this dynamic adds another layer to the complexity of the situation.

Commander Benjamin Netanyahu's characterisation of US student protests as 'anti-Semitic' and his call for their cessation could be perceived as an implicit directive to US officials, implying that failure to act may jeopardise support from AIPAC.

Given historical precedents, I wouldn't be surprised if efforts were made to infiltrate peaceful Palestinian supporters to incite violence, potentially prompting intervention from US security forces. The term 'anti-Semitic' is often wielded as a rhetorical weapon when other arguments falter. It is time for the removal of this word, and it should be deemed illegal. There are Jewish and Jewish Zionists (Nazis), but only the Jewish Zionists use this word!



AGITATING STUDENTS: Protests against Gaza genocide continued in over 30 American universities and colleges amid growing dissatisfaction against the police response. More than 2,000 people were arrested throughout the United States for staging protests.

BREATHTAKING BLEND AT ROHM

Cirkopolis blends theatre and circus in a stunning show at ROHM



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat hosted Oman's premiere of Cirkopolis, the critically acclaimed show by Montreal-based troupe Cirque Éloize for three nights on May 3, 4, 5.

With Cirkopolis, Cirque Éloize presented their breathtaking blend of circus arts, theatre, and

dance in a highly-stylised metropolis setting.

In front of a captivated audience, twelve acrobats and multi-disciplinary artists rebelled against monotony, reinventing themselves and challenging the limits of the factory-city.

Since the show began touring in September 2012, it has received rave reviews from the public and

critics alike.

The New York Times wrote "There aren't more beautiful [shows than Cirkopolis]", while the New York Post wrote "Extraordinary! There's the circus, and then there's Cirque Éloize. These guys are on a whole other level."

As a world-class venue, ROHM has welcomed internationally acclaimed shows this season, focus-



ing on a diverse programme of performances especially popular with young and family audiences.

"Cirkopolis was imagined as a crossroads—between imagination and reality, between individuality and community, between limits and possibilities. The show is driven by the poetic impulse of life, the physical prowess of the circus and its humour, at once serious

and light-hearted.

Entering Cirkopolis is all about letting go and allowing yourself to be borne aloft by hope", explains Cirque Éloize's Cirkopolis Artistic Director and Co-Director Jeannot Painchaud.

"I am proud to present this iconic show at the prestigious Royal Opera House Muscat. We aim to provide the audience in Oman

with a poetic and unforgettable experience while nurturing cultural connections and sparking dreams that transcend our imagination," Painchaud emphasised.

A driving force in the circus art reinvention movement, Cirque Éloize has been creating award-winning entertainment content for nearly 25 years and ranks among the world's leading contemporary circuses. Cirque Éloize has taken part in numerous prestigious international festivals and has enchanted both New York's Broadway and London's West End.

The Royal Opera House Muscat will be hosting its final shows of the 2023/24 season in May including a Homage to Maria Callas featuring mega opera stars Sonya Yoncheva and Leo Nucci on May 15, their co-production of La Bohème with Opéra di Monte Carlo on May 16 and 18 and Scheherazade by Cairo Opera on 23 and 24 May.

For more information and reservations, visit the ROHM website, app or contact the opera house's box office.

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Labor

TENDER
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
23/2024	Consulting services for the job competency indicators project	Sunday 26/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 13/06/2024 10 a.m.
09/2024 Re-floated	Supply and installation of independent air conditioners for the central data services rooms of the Ministry's General Office building	Sunday 26/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 13/06/2024 10 a.m.
17/2023	Supply, installation and operation of an electric elevator at the Directorate General of Labour in South Al Batinah Governorate (Rustaq) and the Musandam Labor Department	Sunday 26/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 13/06/2024 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tenders' documents online through the following link, starting from Monday 6/5/2024 at 08:00 a.m.: [/https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om](https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
- Bids shall be submitted online.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Thursday 13/06/2024.

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Winning student companies honoured

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Centre for Vocational Guidance and Student Counselling, in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, celebrated on Sunday morning the honouring of the winning student companies of the Oman My Destination programme.

The event was held under the patronage of Azzan bin Qasim Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism, in the presence of Sheikh Yaqoub bin Saif Al-Shuhaimi, Director-General of the Centre for Vocational Guidance and Student Counseling.

The honouring ceremony took place at Oman Hall at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism's General Diwan.

The ceremony began with the playing of a piece from the Royal Anthem, followed by a presentation of the Oman My Destination programme.

The presentation included an introduction to the programme, its idea, objectives, its target group.

The ceremony aims to review the programme's goals and activities, highlight its achievements and future aspirations.



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NCSI starts poll for information on govt services



The poll aims to measure satisfaction with government services provided by governors' offices in general and the municipal services

MUSCAT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), on Monday started the 2nd edition of an opinion poll on satisfaction with government services across the governorates of Oman. The poll will run till 30 May 2024.

The poll aims to measure satisfaction with government services

provided by governors' offices in general and the municipal services, as well as measuring the extent to which satisfaction with these services has changed in each governorate. Those opinions will be compared to the outputs of the first edition of the same survey, which was implemented by the NCSI at the end of 2023.

Through the outputs of the poll, the NCSI formulate six basic indicators for each governorate, including the general satisfaction index, the satisfaction index of hygiene and public health services in the governorate, the satisfaction index of the governorate's efforts in market management and control, the satisfaction index of the governorate's development efforts, the satisfaction index of the management and maintenance of parks, and the satisfaction index of electronic government services in governors' offices. This poll is implemented semi-annually. The data is collected through e-questionnaires that are completed via telephone interviews. -ONA

NURSING FIELD

Pact signed to boost skills of healthcare professionals



KUWAIT: Oman College of Health Sciences and the Ministry of Health of the State of Kuwait signed a co-operation agreement to boost the nursing field and develop the skills of healthcare professionals.

The agreement includes the implementation of several specialised programmes to train nursing staff with the aim of enhancing their scientific and practical skills.

The project kicked off with the implementation of training in

critical care nursing for adults, followed by paediatric critical care nursing, scheduled to commence in mid-May.

This collaboration aims to exchange knowledge and experiences between the two parties, and develop training and education curricula to meet the needs of the nursing job market, ultimately improving the quality of healthcare provided in hospitals and medical centres. -ONA

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Oman participates in ATM Dubai

DUBAI: The Sultanate of Oman is taking part in the 31st edition of the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2024, the leading global event for the travel and tourism sector, which kicked off on Monday under the theme "Empowering Innovation - Transforming Travel through Entrepreneurship".

The 4-day event is organized in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Oman's delegation is headed by Azzan Qassim Al Busaidi, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism for Tourism.

Oman is represented at the event by 36 establishments from the government and private sectors, including small and medium enterprises, said Al Busaidi.

Al Busaidi told reporters that Oman's participation is aimed at exploring the most prominent developments in the field of travel and tourism.

The event offers an opportunity to meet representatives of the largest number of international companies and institutions and seek chances of cooperation with them with the aim of increasing the number of tourists to Oman.

A press conference was held during the event to outline events and activities of the three-month Dhofar Khareef (monsoon season) 2024. Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Al Ghassani, Chairman of Dhofar Municipality, said that the Dhofar Khareef will last for 90 days from 20 June and to 20 September 2024. Dhofar Khareef 2024 will focus

MEETING

Gambian President receives Oman's endowments minister

BANJUL: President Adama Barrow of the Republic of Gambia on Monday received Dr. Mohammed Said Al Maamari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 15th Session of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit Conference, held in Banjul, Gambia.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and underscored the importance of promoting coexistence and peace among nations. -ONA



BILATERAL TIES

Oman, Qatar explore means of boosting cooperation, expertise

MUSCAT: Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat on Monday received Eng. Abdullah Hamad Al Attiya, Minister of Municipality of the State of Qatar and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting came within the framework of boosting bilateral cooperation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several matters of mutual interest. They also highlighted related experiences and projects.

The two officials underscored the importance of boosting cooperation and exchanging expertise.

Al Busaidi underlined the importance of administrative decentralization in governorates, as well as empowering governorates to



undertake their roles in the march of development.

In his turn, the guest shed light on joint features and components between Oman and Qatar.

It is worth noting that the Qatari

delegation's visit to Oman aims to exchange expertise and experiences in various fields, including fisheries, fish farming, food security, scientific cooperation and research. -ONA



this year on international events, including the First Dhofar International Theatre Festival, to be outlined later, said Al Ghassani.

One of the most important developments is that the Dhofar Municipality will begin rotating events in its sites rather than repeat events for more than two years, said Al Ghassani, noting that Atteen Square will continue to take centre-stage for tourism events.

The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at the exhibition hosts Dhofar Municipality, the Arab Tourism Organization, Oman Tourism Development Company (Oman), Oman Airports Company and the national travel operator-VisitOman. It will also showcase products from Oman Botanical Garden, Oman Across the Ages Museum, the National Museum, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Musandam Governorate, and a number of tourism and hotel companies and establishments. -ONA



AL BURAIMI: The activities of the second edition of Al Buraimi Carnival which started on May 3, will end on May 7 at the Al Buraimi Public Park.

Salim bin Namshan Al Ka'abi, Director of the events and awareness department at the office of the Governor of Al Buraimi, said that the carnival is one of the activities to attract tourists in the Governorate of Al Buraimi. The events witnessed good turnout of visitors.

The event offers an opportunity for the SMEs and families to display their products. He said that the carnival includes a number of activities, entertainment and cultural events, theatrical shows, heritage villages and several corners for food, competitions and accompanying activities.

He said that the number of participants amounted to 40, including event organisers.

The first edition of the carnival received over 25,000 visitors and saw the organisation of 70 events with the participation of 15 jobseekers from the Governorate of Al Buraimi

The first edition of the carnival received over 25,000 visitors and saw the organisation of 70 events with the participation of 15 jobseekers from the Governorate of Al Buraimi.

It also provided 33 marketing outlets for SMEs and 26 outlets for families. *-OWA*



MEETING

RNO Commander meets senior Pakistan’s military official



DISCUSSION: Maj. Gen Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the RNO with Maj. Gen Munir Ud Din, Director General for International Military Cooperation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. -ONA

MUSCAT: Maj. Gen Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) received Maj. Gen Munir Ud Din, Director General for International Military Cooperation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several matters of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by several senior officers and the

Military Attaché of Pakistan’s embassy in Muscat.

Moreover, the Omani-Pakistani joint programme meeting was held under the chairmanship of Maj. Gen Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of

Oman and Maj. Gen Munir Ud Din, Director General for International Military Cooperation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Pakistan.

This meeting was attended by several senior officers from both sides. -ONA

MEETING



State Council hosts media professionals to study draft law

MUSCAT: The State Council, represented by the Social and Cultural Committee, hosted representatives of media establishments, civil authorities and media professionals to exchange views with them about the freedom of expression and the draft version of the new media law.

The meeting looked into the provisions of the draft media law and the extent to which it maintains balance between rights, obligations and penalties.

The participants studied how the statute-to-be would serve the media industry in Oman and influence the country’s global rating in the future.

- ONA

ELECTRONIC CONSENSUS

NCSI bags award in digital transformation field



KUWAIT: The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) won the “Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al Sabah Informatics Award” in its 23rd edition.

The NCSI won in the category of “Digital Transformation in Sustainable Development” for its electronic consensus of population, housing and establishments in 2020.

The award was handed over to

Dr. Khalifa Abdullah Al Barwani, CEO of the NCSI at Bayan Palace, Kuwait.

Al Barwani emphasized that winning the award comes as an appreciation for NCSI efforts in the field of digital transformation in statistical, informative tasks, digitising data, boosting knowledge and supporting decision-making in line with Oman Vision 2040.

He added that the 2020 e-Census created a renewed information system linking various government entities.

This enabled the NCSI to implement a census of population, housing, and establishments in the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, with minimal human effort, financial cost, and in a period not exceeding seven working days.

-ONA

SECURITY AND SAFETY

Oman civil defence conference kicks off

MUSCAT: The second edition of “Oman Civil Defence and Ambulance Conference and Exhibition” kicked off on Monday.

The two-day event, titled “Security and Safety of Establishments” discussed the latest studies and research in the field of security and safety of establishments.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Lt. Gen. Hassan Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs.

The conference is organised by the Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance (ACDA) in cooperation with strategic partners, institutions and companies.

It included a presentation on innovative equipment, services and technologies used in



civil defence and ambulance services.

The event is aimed at cutting down the volume of accidents and risks to public safety, to help save lives and properties.

The conference includes three workshops that focus on the fol-

lowing topics: “First aids taught by life skills teachers at educational institutions”, “security and safety measures to be applied by school bus drivers” and “safety procedures to be maintained by those interested in adventure tourism”. -ONA





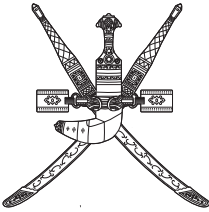
Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Subject	Tender number	Last date for inquiries	Last date to submit the tender	Tender documnet price
SUPPLY OF PAINTS AND ASSOCIATED ITEMS FOR ROYAL NAVY OF OMAN FOR THREE YEARS	12/2024	24/06/2024	01/07/2024	138 OMR
SUPPLY OF DRY BATTRIES FOR ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN FOR THREE YEARS	13/2024	27/05/2024	03/06/2024	128 OMR

- 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.
- 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.



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
187/2024	General maintenance work for the building of the General Directorate of Social Development at South Al Sharqiyah Governorate	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second or third degree.	Sunday 26-5-2024 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-6-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
188/2024	Annual maintenance contract for the Ministry's General Office building at Airport Heights	companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with excellent or first degree.	Sunday 26-5-2024 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-6-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
189/2024	Contracting with consulting offices to provide engineers to work in the General Directorate of Social Development at Dhofar	Companies specialized in the field of project management consulting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second or third	Sunday 26-5-2024 02:00 PM	Sunday 16-6-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

- Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), on **Tuesday 7/5/2024**
- For Inquiry, please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) Tel. (24402200)

“The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry”

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OMAN/WORLD

FRENCH

Bakers recapture world’s longest baguette title

PARIS: An 18-member team of bakers in the French city of Suresnes, a western suburb of Paris, set a new Guinness World Record on Sunday by creating a 143.53-metre-long (461-foot-long) baguette.

The team bested the previous record by more than 10 metres, reclaiming the title for France after it had been held by bakers from

Como, Italy, for the past five years.

It was made during an event for the French Confederation of Bakers and Pastry Chefs.

Confederation President Dominique Anract said, “A record for the longest handcrafted baguette requires true spirit and collective sportsmanship,” adding, “Bread is an engine of performance, our baguette is an essential

part of our gastronomic heritage.”

Guinness rules stipulate that the baguette — a symbol of Frenchness recognised the world over — must be at least 5 centimetres (just under 2 inches) thick throughout, in line with the standard baguette, which must be roughly 60 centimetres in length, weigh about 250 grams (roughly half a pound) and be made solely from wheat flour,

water, salt and yeast.

Participating bakers said they began kneading dough for the 152 kilogram (335 pound) delicacy — which required 90 kgs of flour, 60 litres of water, 1.2 kgs of salt and 1.2 kgs of yeast.

It was then baked in a specially constructed, slow-moving wheeled tent oven.

— DW



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IN JUNE



Saudi Arabia to host third Global Project Management Forum

RIYADH: The third Global Project Management Forum (GPMF) is set to kick off in the capital Riyadh on 2 June 2024, focusing on the theme “We Achieve the Dream: Leadership, Empowerment, Sustainability.”

The two-day event will be a pivotal platform for industry leaders, project managers, and decision-makers worldwide.

The GPMF will delve into a wide array of topics pertaining to project management across various sectors. It aims to foster collaboration, share insights, and devise innovative solutions to ensure the successful execution of major projects while addressing challenges and promoting sustainable economic development on both regional and global scales.

The forum is designed to cater to a diverse audience from various sectors, including public and private enterprises, semi-governmental entities, engineering and contracting firms, procurement companies, startups, construction and infrastructure firms, and more. Its aim is to empower women, professionals, and youth by equipping them with

The GPMF will delve into a wide array of topics pertaining to project management in various sectors

the skills and knowledge necessary for project management excellence.

Key areas of focus include the economy, governance, work methods, value chain, large projects, sustainable social impact, digital transformation, artificial intelligence applications, and soft power skills.

These topics align with global sustainability goals and aim to empower leaders worldwide.

In addition to insightful discussions, the forum features an interactive exhibition with participation from local and international economic sectors. — **ONA**

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

Bangladesh delegation visits military institutions

MUSCAT: A delegation from the National Defence College of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, headed by Lt. Gen Mohammed Saiful Alam, Commandant of the college, yesterday visited the Joint Command and Staff College.

Upon their arrival at the college, the guests were greeted by Brigadier Saif Hamad Al Yousifi, Commandant of the Joint Command and Staff College.

The visiting delegation watched a presentation about the college and its training and educational programmes. They also toured the college’s various facilities and departments.

Moreover, the delegation also visited the National Defence College (NDC) at Bait Al Falaj



Garrison.

Upon their arrival at the NDC, they were received by Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the NDC.

During the meeting, the two

sides discussed several matters of mutual interest.

The guests were briefed on the NDC and its facilities.

Further, within the framework of the visiting delegation’s pro-

gramme in Oman, they were received by Maj. Gen Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies in his office at Bait Al Falaj garrison. —**ONA**

Over 23mn Afghans in dire need of humanitarian aid

Of the 23.7 million individuals requiring aid, 5.9 million are women and 5.4 million are men, according to the latest UNAMA report



ian challenges, as emphasised by UNAMA on Sunday.

Of the 23.7 million individuals requiring aid, 5.9 million are women and 5.4 million are men, according to the agency’s statement, as

reported by Khaama Press.

Echoing similar concerns, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has also highlighted the severe deterioration of the humanitarian

situation in Afghanistan.

Millions of Afghans endure the consequences of four decades of conflict, poverty, repeated disasters and an economic downturn.

Since the Taliban assumed control of the country in August 2021, the political transition, contraction of the economy and reduced levels of donor funding have increased risks and needs at the local level, witnessing an exacerbation of the humanitarian crisis, marked by forced deportations and dwindling international aid.

Returnees from neighbouring countries face a myriad of obstacles, including scarcity of food, clean water, adequate shelter, and employment opportunities.

The recent surge in migrant expulsions from neighbouring nations, coupled with recent earthquakes and natural calamities such as floods, has further underscored the pressing need for humanitarian intervention, Khaama Press reported.

— ANI

ARABIAN TRAVEL MARKET

Dubai welcomes 5.18mn international visitors in first quarter of 2024

DUBAI: Dubai welcomed 5.18 million international overnight visitors from January to March 2024, an 11 percent rise over the 4.67 million tourist arrivals during the same period in 2023, according to data published by Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) at the 31st edition of Arabian Travel Market (ATM).

Following a milestone year in 2023, with Dubai receiving a record 17.15 million international overnight visitors, the city’s tourism industry is building on the momentum in the first quarter of the year, driven by the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. This growth also aligns with the ambitious goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda, D33, to further consolidate Dubai’s position as a leading global city for business and leisure.

Commenting the achievement, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, said, “The number of visitors in the first quarter of 2024 indicates that Dubai is on course for another standout performance this year after the emirate received a record number of visitors last year, with international visitors reaching 17.15 million. This will ensure that the tourism sector continues its growth journey in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and in line



with the objectives of the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33), which aims to strengthen its position as a leading global city for business and leisure.”

He added, “Integrating diverse aspects, the blueprint behind Dubai’s success as a tourist destination is based on the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and it has gained the trust of visitors from around the world. Effective promotion efforts showcase the best of Dubai for tourists, but it has also invested for years in developing world-class infrastructure that serves citizens, residents, and visitors alike. The performance of various sectors has been enhanced in line with the highest international standards and best

practices with the ultimate goal of becoming the smartest, most advanced and agile city, serving everyone who resides on its land or visits it as an honourable guest.”

Sheikh Hamdan praised the efforts of the DET in successfully promoting the emirate at a global level and showcasing the distinguished experience that it is keen to provide visitors, noting that its well-considered strategies are clearly reflected in the steady growth in tourist numbers. His Highness also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of all strategic partners in the private sector for their contributions in highlighting the attractiveness of Dubai and emphasised the importance of strengthening coop-

eration between the public and private sectors to ensure that the emirate continued to retain its lead on the global tourism map in coming years as well.

Sheikh Hamdan stated, “Ensuring the highest levels of tourist satisfaction translates into each visitor becoming an ambassador for Dubai, carrying to the world the image of a city that spares no effort for the happiness and comfort of its guests. We affirm our commitment to continue working to further enhance the capabilities of our tourism sector and diversify options we put at the disposal of our guests, ensuring that these always exceed their expectations. This is part of an ambitious economic strategy with a human ele-

ment at its heart, the goal being to live up to every individual’s aspirations and requirements at multiple levels.”

Dubai’s exceptional performance reinforced global recognition for the destination, having begun 2024 by being named the No.1 global destination for an unprecedented third successive year in the TripAdvisor Travellers’ Choice Awards, the first city to achieve this unique accolade.

The rise in international tourists during Q1 is the result of city-wide strategies established across vital pillars in the tourism sector, including sustainability, accessibility, entrepreneurship, and innovation, while various other key factors contributed to visitation growth. The city hosted several major industry events, such as Arab Health, Gulfood and the Dubai International Boat Show, while new hotel openings included The Lana, Dorchester Collection’s first property in the Middle East; SIRO One Za’abeel, Dubai’s first fitness hotel; Marriott Marquis Dubai; and Hilton Dubai Creek Hotel & Residences. Catering to all budgets and preferences, Dubai’s diverse offerings are constantly evolving, supported by world-class infrastructure, exceptional service at all touchpoints, and continuous collaboration between the government and private sectors.

Helal Saeed Almarri, Director-General of Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), said, “Under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin

Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the emirate’s continued record-breaking visitation performance demonstrates the sustained commitment to delivering on our long-term D33 Agenda goals, and further solidifies the pivotal role the tourism and hospitality sectors play in propelling Dubai’s positive growth trajectory.”

“In addition to our high-performing tourism ecosystem, these figures also continue to be spurred by upswings in the number of international businesses setting up, existing companies expanding business lines and catchment footprint from Dubai, a very healthy MICE sector, and an influx of new talent relocating to the city, demonstrating the wide-reaching and synergistic impact of a successful and well calibrated D33 economic blueprint.”

Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DCTCM), said, “Inspired by the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and guided by the objectives of the D33 Agenda, Dubai is committed to further elevating standards across the emirate and expanding its tourism offering with innovative and distinctive world-class infrastructure, experiences and attractions. — **WAM**

Israel continues to deny aid access to UN in Gaza Strip

A UNRWA official demanded an independent investigation and accountability for the blatant disregard of humanitarian workers, operations, and facilities, all protected under international law

NEW YORK: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) affirmed that the Israeli entity continues to deny UN humanitarian access to Gaza. “Just this week, they have denied - for the second time- my entry to Gaza where I planned to be



with our UNRWA teams including those on the front lines,” the UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said. “We have recorded 10 incidents involving shooting at convoys, arrests of UN staff including bullying, stripping them naked, threats with arms and long delays at checkpoints forcing convoys to move during the dark or abort,” he added. The UNRWA Commissioner-General explained that “these incidents happen repeatedly at the time we are engaged in a race

against the clock to avert famine in Gaza. It also creates fear among courageous and committed humanitarian teams.” Since the beginning of the war, the UN including UNRWA and other humanitarian personnel, premises and operations have been blatantly disregarded. “I demand an independent investigation and accountability for the blatant disregard of humanitarian workers, operations, and facilities, all protected under international law,” he said. “To do otherwise would set a



dangerous precedent and compromise humanitarian work around the world,” he added. He called on the Israeli Authorities to facilitate humanitarian access across the Gaza Strip including to the north, considering that the denial of humanitarian access is a violation of humanitarian law. **Israeli forces intensify airstrikes** The occupation warplanes and artillery intensified on Monday their bombardment on various areas of the cities of Gaza and Rafah. The occupation warplanes carried out intense airstrikes on the eastern areas of the city of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, Israeli fighter jets

further targeted the vicinity of Gaza (Yasser Arafat) International Airport and the Al-Shoka neighbourhood, east of the city of Rafah. Moving to the city of Gaza, a Palestinian journalist who was identified as Mustafa Ayyad was killed after being targeted by a missile from a drone in the Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, south-east of the city. Additionally, occupation artillery also targeted multiple homes in the vicinity of Street 8 in the Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood. Israeli military tanks and vehicles intensively opened gunfire towards civilian's homes in the Sheikh Ajlin area, southwest of the city. — Agencies

PANAMA ELECTION

Mulino declared president-elect

PANAMA CITY: Jose Raul Mulino, the stand-in candidate for disqualified former President Ricardo Martinelli, was declared Panama's president-elect after elections on Sunday. Panama's electoral authority announced Mulino's win, after he garnered 34.4% of the votes, with over 85% of the votes counted. “I promise to the country at this time to put together, to establish, a government of unity as soon as possible,” Mulino said after electoral officials called him to confirm he had won the presidency. Eight candidates were competing to replace the center-left President Laurentino Cortizo, who by law is limited to one consecutive term. Mulino only officially joined the race on Friday after his former running mate was forced to drop out over a money laundering conviction. Mulino took over the candidacy of the Realising Goals (RM) party from ex-President Ricardo Martinelli after the latter lost an appeal against his conviction. Mulino then faced his own problems after his candidacy was challenged on the basis of not having won a primary vote and not having picked a running mate, which is a requirement by law. But the Supreme Court threw out the complaint on Friday, leaving Mulino free to run. — DW

AMID TURMOIL

Disillusionment high among voters in Chad election

N'DJAMENA: For Lydie Beasemda, May 6 (Monday) will be an important date: When Chadians head to the polls to elect a new president, the 57-year-old will also stand for election. She's one of 10 candidates, but the only woman to vie for the most important public role in the central African country. She told DW in a recent interview that it was her father who founded the Party for Complete Democracy and Independence, making her career in politics a family affair. “I wanted to lend a hand and offer a break to those who were there and who had grown slightly weary of the fight,” said Beasemda. Since 2018, she Beasemda been

at the helm of the party. But the cards might not be stacked in her favor on Monday. After three decades of authoritarian rule under President Idriss Deby Itno, the country saw a seamless transition of power to his son Mahamat Idriss Deby in 2021. Deby has been ruling Chad as the head of a military junta since his father's death, and is considered most likely to win the election. **An election amid chaos** The vote is taking place under difficult circumstances. Several security issues throughout the region have also directly affected Chad, from insurgencies in the West African Sahel countries to the ongoing



war in neighbouring Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing Sudan have settled in Chad's eastern provinces. Amid this turmoil, European countries are also paying close

attention to the events in and around the region. With European and US armed forces having been driven out of most Sahel countries and thus losing their influence in the region, the West is

largely clinging to Chad as its only remaining partner. Meanwhile, armed groups are rife in the country's northern regions, where government control is considerably low. Residents of the north have been complaining about being forgotten by politicians; none of the 10 candidates have come to the north during their respective campaigns. “It's an election that concerns all Chadians, so the campaign should cover the whole country,” said tradesman Younouss Ali in the northern town of Miski, in Tibesti province. “The president who is going to be elected will be the president of all Chadians. Unfortunately, here we are neglected, nobody is com-

ing to explain to us why to vote or to ask us what we want or what's on our minds.” In the capital, N'Djamena, the political tug-of-war in the run-up to the vote has witnessed some surprising twists and turns in recent months. A standoff between Deby and his fiercest rivals in late February had the country on the brink and led to his opponent and would-be challenger Yaya Dillo being killed by security forces. Observers have described Dillo's death as a political execution. Meanwhile, some of the other political figures in the running saw their applications for candidature turned down by the electoral council. — DW

BRAZILIAN CITY PORTO ALEGRE

Rescue effort continues as death toll in Brazil floods rises to 75

PORTO ALEGRE: Rescuers in the southern Brazilian city Porto Alegre — the capital of Rio Grande do Sul state — used jets skis and boats to reach residents trapped on their roofs as floodwaters in the city continued to rise. Civil Defence officials say at least 103 of the city's 1.4 million residents are missing and more than 88,000 have been forced to flee. The official death toll from the natural catastrophe now stands at 75. Sustained rains in the region have led the Guaiba River, which flows through Porto Alegre, to rapidly swell, triggering flooding and mudslides. Local officials say flooding has pushed water levels to 5.3 metres (17.4 feet), far exceeding the historic high of 4.76 metres registered in 1941. The inundation has all but swallowed many homes in the area, yet the waters continue to rise as rain remains in the forecast for the next couple of days. Beyond the tens of thousands forced to flee, Civil Defence officials say more than one million people have been cut off from access to drinking water. Officials say it is impossible to begin calculating the damage caused in the incident, with Rio Grande do Sul Governor Eduardo Leite calling for a “Marshall Plan” to rebuild the prosperous state. Leite took to Instagram to give a live update Sunday, calling the event “absolutely unprecedented.” An agro-industrial powerhouse, the region saw much infrastructure, especially roads and bridges, simply swept away by rushing floodwaters. The dam at a small hydroelectric power plant in the area was also partially destroyed. Rescuers say some cities in the area have become entirely inaccessible, noting that over 300 municipalities had suffered damage since flooding began on Monday. Many people seeking to flee Porto Alegre, for instance, became trapped there when bus service out of the city was canceled. Porto Alegre's international airport was also closed indefinitely on Friday. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio



Rescuers say some cities in the area have become entirely inaccessible, noting that over 300 municipalities had suffered damage since flooding began on Monday. Many people seeking to flee Porto Alegre, for instance, became trapped there when bus service out of the city was canceled. Porto Alegre's international airport was also closed indefinitely on Friday. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio

Lula da Silva — who blamed the catastrophe on climate change — arrived in the state on Sunday with most of his Cabinet. The president and his team were expected to discuss rescue and reconstruction efforts with state and local officials. The water destroyed roads and bridges in several cities in the state. The rains also caused landslides and a partial collapse of a dam at a small hydroelectric power station. — Agencies

TENDER

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries
Wealth and Water Resources

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders :-

Tender no.	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
1	575/2023/MAFWRI/HQ-55 Recall-2 Development of traditional agriculture irrigation system in Alhawiyah Falaj, Wilayat Bidiyah	Thursday 25/4/2024	Tuesday 14/5/2024	Monday 3/6/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with second and third grades	(42/600) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
2	1032/2023/MAFWRI/HQ-114 Recall-1 Design and Build Services for Construction of Boat Berthing and Onshore Facilities at Musandam Governorate	Thursday 25/4/2024	Sunday 5/5/2024	Wednesday 15/5/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with excellent, first, second, third and fourth grades	(30/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
3	549/2022/MAFWRI/HQ-61 Recall-1 Rehabilitation and Improvement of Al Malki Falaj at Nizar and Yaman Villages at Wilayat Izki in Al Dakhila Governorate	Thursday 25/4/2024	Sunday 5/5/2024	Wednesday 15/5/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with second and third grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
4	265/2024/MAFWRI/HQ-21 Consultancy services for Construction Supervision of Fishery Village Building Works at Ras Mudrakah, Al-wusta Governorate	Thursday 25/4/2024	Wednesday 15/5/2024	Monday 3/6/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with second and third grades	(50/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
5	282/2024/MAFWRI/HQ-22 Design and build services to manage / alleviate sedimentation problem at Al-ashkarakah fishery harbour in Sharquiyah South Governorate - sultanate of oman	Tuesday 30/4/2024	Sunday 19/5/2024	Sunday 9/6/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with Excellent and first grades	(280/-) Omani riyals for local companies (28/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

• Above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.

• The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.

• The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration for local companies, and for international company that not have head quarters in the Sultanate of Oman should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender) and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources.

• All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.

• All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: +968.24402200 or etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om.

TENDERS COMMITTEE

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

SPORTS

Narine's blitz, bowlers secure victory for KKR against LSG

Lucknow Super Giants suffered a huge 98-run defeat after Kolkata Knight Riders scored 235 for six in Lucknow

LUCKNOW: Sunil Narine smashed 81 off 39 deliveries while there were crucial and quick contributions from batters as Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) routed hosts Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) by a whopping 98 runs on Sunday.

KKR's Ramandeep Singh got only six balls to face and smashed 25 while Phil Salt, Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Shreyas Iyer played aggressive innings to lead KKR to 235/6 in their 20 overs.

LSG innings didn't really take off. There was a 50-run second-wicket partnership between KL Rahul and Marcus Stoinis, but even that went at too slow a pace (they took 33 balls). Once that stand was broken, the innings fell apart quickly, the last nine wickets falling for 67 runs, as the required rate ballooned out of control.

Varun Chakravarthy and Harshit Rana took three wickets each. Andre Russell took two. And Ramandeep claimed two catches, the first of which was one of the most spectacular of the season.

Salt was the first aggressor, hitting 24 off the first nine balls he faced. But he was soon out for 32 off 14, and from then, it was the Narine show.

Narine warmed up with five fours, then started getting the big hits going at the end of the fourth over, bludgeoning a Mohsin Khan



short ball over deep square-leg, clubbing Krunal Pandya over deep midwicket not long after, and later thrashing Yash Thakur over the square-leg boundary. In the middle overs, he dealt almost exclusively in sixes, and by the end of his stay, he had walloped seven, to go with six fours. He holed out to long-off attempting another six off LSG's

best bowler Ravi Bishnoi, who was the only one to finish with an economy rate lower than 11.

LSG had a good period between overs 14 and 18, where they conceded only 45 while taking three wickets. Raghuvanshi and Narine shared a 79-run partnership to help KKR post a mammoth total, aided by Ramandeep's cameo as

he finished the last over with 2, 6, 1, 6, 4, 6.

Later, Ramandeep also pulled off one of the catches of the season to get rid of Arshin Kulkarni. Speeding towards the boundary from point, he kept his eyes on a leading edge that had gone high into the air, and put in a spectacular dive to get his hands on a ball whose trajec-

tory he did not seem like he would intersect. He took another catch at deep point later, to dismiss Rahul, the other LSG opener.

With a required rate of almost 12 set from the start of the innings, LSG were up for a big challenge and by the end of the powerplay, the required rate was up near 13.

When LSG tried to hit out, wick-

ets fell rapidly and Rahul's wicket set off a collapse.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 235/6 (Sunil Narine 81, Phil Salt 32, Angkrish Raghuvanshi 32, Naveen-ul-Haq 3-49) beat Lucknow Super Giants 137 (Marcus Stoinis 36; Harshit Rana 3-24, Varun Chakravarthy 3-30, Andre Russell 2-17). - Agencies

49ER COMPETITION



Oman's 49er quartet to compete in European championships

MUSCAT: The 49er pairs of Musab Al Hadi and Waleed Al Kindi and Abdul Rahman Al Mashari along with Ahmed Al Hasni will represent Oman at the 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 European Championships 2024 in La Grande Motte, France, which begins today.

The Oman Sail quartet will join 71 teams from 25 nations in the competition as a total of 148 crews, including Olympic sailors will vie for the top honours.

The two Omani teams will be battling it out against 11 Olympic qualifiers, in what is the last big meet before the Paris 2024 sailing competition.

Having narrowly missed out on qualification, all four Omani sailors will be looking to produce their best show.

Hashim Al Rashdi, Oman Sail's Head of Performance and 49er coach, said, "The European Championships is a great opportunity to continue our journey in the 49er



competition and compete against some of the very best crews in the world. It is also the start of a new campaign and we're hopeful of a strong performance in France this week.

The conditions and the fleet are very similar to the Olympic competition and the level of competition is expected to be high. This is

our chance to grow as sailors while learning from more experienced competitors in the 49er event."

Racing officially begins on May 7 and will continue until May 12 with three races per day.

The first three days have been designated for Qualifying Series races with the top 10 boats in each event moving on to the final



series and medal races from May 10-12 where the winners will be decided.

The 2024 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 European Championships are organised by the Yacht Club de La Grande Motte in conjunction with the International 49er and Nacra 17 Class Associations.

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

Wheal, Jones return to Scotland squad



EDINBURGH: Michael Jones and Brad Wheal have returned to Scotland's 15-man provisional squad for the Men's T20 World Cup in West Indies and USA next month, but the experienced Somerset seamer Josh Davey is a notable absentee.

Jones and Wheal, who play for Durham and Hampshire respectively, were not included in Scotland's squad for this month's T20 Tri-Series against Netherlands and Ireland.

However, they have been cleared by their counties for involvement in the World Cup campaign, along with the Sussex 2nd XI wicketkeeper Charlie Tear, and at the expense of seam bowler Gavin Main, who is the only change from the Tri-Series squad.

Davey, however, misses out, having been integral to Somerset's strong start to the season, including with key wickets in their two-day victory over Essex at Taunton in this week's round of County Championship fixtures, a result that has left the club just two points off the top of the Division One table.

Davey's absence is a particular setback given his wealth of experience.

He has played in each of Scotland's last three T20 World Cup campaigns in 2016, 2021 and 2022, including a haul of nine wickets at 13.66 in the 2021 tournament.

"It was a really difficult selection meeting and it's never easy getting it down to a squad of 15," Doug Watson, Scot-

land's head coach, said. "It was ultimately about getting the balance of the squad just right and we feel we've done that here."

"It's good that we've got some of our county players available, and we are really excited with the 15 we've chosen, so now we can look forward to what lies ahead."

"To have Michael Jones and Brad Wheal available, their experience from previous T20 World Cups is crucial for the group," Watson said.

"The bulk of the squad have been together for a while now and did a fantastic job last summer at both the 50-over [World Cup] Qualifier and the T20 Qualifier. It's nice to have a bit of continuity along the way, although they haven't played a lot of cricket since."

"Hopefully, we can see the same level from these players, if not higher, when we get to the Caribbean."

Scotland are due to play England (June 4), Namibia (June 6), Oman (June 9) and Australian (June 15) in Group B of the tournament, with the top two sides from each group then progressing to the Super Eight phase of the tournament ahead of the knockout semi-finals and final on June 29.

Squad: Richie Berrington (capt), Matthew Cross, Brad Currie, Chris Greaves, Ollie Hairs, Jack Jarvis, Michael Jones, Michael Leask, Brandon McMullen, George Munsey, Safyaan Sharif, Chris Sole, Charlie Tear, Mark Watt, Brad Wheal. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2024 reaching \$83.93, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 9 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$84.02. -ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,791.67 points, down by 0.28 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.01 per cent at 453.26 points. Arabia Falcon Insurance, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Chlorine, down 4.20 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR85.5mn issued

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR85.5 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR6.5 million, for a maturity period of



28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.647 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.645 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.59760 per cent and 4.61387 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR17 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average ac-

cepted price reached OMR98.745 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.740 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.03497 per cent and 5.09898 per cent, respectively.

While, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR42 million, for a maturity period of 182 days. The average accepted price reached OMR97.450

for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR97.445 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.11449 per cent and 5.24833 per cent, respectively.

On the other hand, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR20 million, for a maturity period of 364 days. The average accepted price reached OMR95.160 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR95.160 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.85330 per cent and 5.10014 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. -ONA

SHARIA INDEX FORUM



Forum discusses economic prospects of investment compatible with Islamic Sharia

MUSCAT: The Sharia Index Forum, organised by Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) in cooperation with Alizz Islamic Bank, opened yesterday at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The forum discussed the economic prospects of the index and its role in promoting investments compatible with Islamic Sharia and attracting local and foreign investors.

The opening of the forum was held under the auspices of Dr Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

The forum studied three working papers. The first dealt with Sharia-based aspects of corporate stock trading. The second paper made an analysis on Islamic investment funds and their impact on stock exchanges and

financial institutions. The third paper highlighted Alizz Islamic Bank's Sharia-compliant financial products.

Moreover, experts and economic officials engaged in panel discussions that focused on Islamic finance and its significance to the economy.

The session discussed the role of investment funds and their contributions to domestic development in accordance with the Sharia perspective. It looked into the flexibility of Islamic Sharia, its economic advantages and ways to direct charitable funds towards investment. The participants also reviewed key challenges facing efforts aimed at achieving compliance with the Islamic Sharia and related legal requirements. -ONA

SAMAIL INDUSTRIAL CITY

Pact inked for OMR16mn beverage manufacturing project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Samail Industrial City, pertaining to the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), has signed an investment contract with Al Khayal Business and Investment Company to establish a project of beverages, juices and soft drinks. The project is planned to be implemented on a total area of 5,000 sqm, involving an investment of OMR16 million for phases 1 and 2 of the project.

On another note, Madayn has recently announced an investment

opportunity of equipping, managing, and operating the Medical Fitness Examination Centre in Samail Industrial City, which aims at delivering top-tier healthcare services to the workforce the industrial city and the surrounding population. The prime location of the centre facilitates easy access, thanks to its proximity to the entrance gate and the highway. The centre covers an area of 1100.71 sqm and comprises various facilities, including laboratories, clinics, X-ray facilities, offices, among other facilities.



NEW SERVICE CENTRE

John Crane announces third expansion in Oman with Seven Seas Petroleum

CHICAGO: John Crane, a global leader in rotating equipment solutions and energy transition technologies and services, and a business of Smiths Group plc, announced the opening of its Oman Service Centre under the patronage of Mohsin bin Hamad Al-Hadrami, the Undersecretary of Energy and Minerals, John Crane's third expansion in Oman with Seven Seas Petroleum LLC, a partner specialising in rotating equipment.

The new service centre in Oman, located at the heart of Muscat, solidifies John Crane and Seven Seas Petroleum LLC's commitment to bolstering country value and investment in the region. This partnership aims to not only enhance the local service capabilities but also contribute significantly to Omanisation efforts by providing employment opportunities and technical skill upgrades for the citizens of Oman.

Since this partnership's inception in 2004, it has served prestigious customers in Oman including Petroleum Development Oman, OQ Group of companies, Occidental of Oman, Oman LNG, and various other Omani-based companies. This long-standing relationship underscores the trust and reliability established over these years.

One of the key highlights of this expansion is the introduction of state-of-the-art technology to Oman. The facility will feature a 3D scanner, marking the first of its kind to be used in any John Crane repair center in the Middle East. Additionally, the inclusion of a 36-inch lapping machine with a pneumatically operated load application will cater to the maintenance needs of large-diameter wet mechanical seals, further enhancing efficiency and precision.

Moreover, the facility is fully equipped with in-house machining and stocking capabilities, ensuring faster turn-around times for clients. This enhanced infrastructure also positions the service facility to cater to reliability-based, compre-

hensive mechanical seal maintenance contracts, meeting the evolving needs of the industry.

In line with their commitment to knowledge sharing and capacity building, the new service center will offer vocational and hands-on training programmes for Oman customers. The facility includes a dedicated training room, facilitating interactive learning experiences and fostering skill development within the local workforce. Adhering to the highest standards of quality assurance, the service facility conforms to the rigorous John Crane quality assurance protocols, ensuring consistent and reliable service delivery.

The expansion of the John Crane and Seven Seas Petroleum LLC partnership represents a significant milestone in enhancing in country value and investment in Oman. With its focus on Omanization, adoption of cutting-edge technology and commitment to knowledge sharing, the new service center is poised to contribute to the long-term socio-economic

development of the region while meeting the diverse needs of its customers.

John Crane is a global leader in mission-critical technologies for the energy and process industries and an innovator in rotating equipment, encompassing mechanical seals, couplings, filtration systems and cutting-edge asset management and digital diagnostics solutions. Blending a rich legacy of innovation with a commitment to service excellence, we've enabled our customer's reliable and sustainable operations for over a century. While recognising the role of traditional energy, we are pioneering solutions that enable cleaner alternatives, crafting a vision for a sustainable energy future. Our extensive global presence underscores our promise to customers, with over 200 service centers in 50 countries. With £1 billion in revenues in 2023, we are an integral pillar of Smiths Group plc, a FTSE 100 listed company dedicated to improving our world through smarter engineering.



MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Arabia Falcon Insurance, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Chlorine, down 4.20 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,791.67 points, down by 0.28 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.01 per cent at 453.26 points. Arabia Falcon Insurance, up 10.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Oman Chlorine, down 4.20 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 1034 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.31 million, with more than 15.07 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 10 advanced, 26 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR286,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR184,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR102,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at

7,739.64 points, down 0.46 per cent. Prices of Arabia Falcon Insurance, Al Madina Takaful, Bank Muscat were up by 10.00 per cent, 1.24 per cent, 0.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Dhofar Insurance, Muscat Finance, Takaful Oman, United Finance were down by 2.78 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 2.00 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.64 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,879.97 points, down 0.64 per cent. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Oman Fisheries, Oman Cement were up by 2.16 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.90 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Chlorine, Raysut Cement, A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy were down by 4.20 per cent, 3.15 per cent, 2.89 per cent, 2.35 per cent, 1.64 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.31 per cent before closing at 1,831.21 points. – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

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EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,822.22	4,785.22	4,791.67	4,805.25	-13.58	-0.28
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,795.65	7,726.70	7,739.64	7,775.11	-35.47	-0.46
Industry Index	5,928.54	5,874.15	5,879.97	5,917.85	-37.88	-0.64
Services Index	1,838.07	1,831.03	1,831.21	1,836.92	-5.71	-0.31
MSX Shariah Index	453.72	452.36	453.26	453.22	0.04	0.01
MSX TRI INDEX	6,691.03	6,639.70	6,648.64	6,667.48	-18.85	-0.28
FINANCIAL TRIDX	8,837.05	8,758.90	8,773.56	8,813.77	-40.21	-0.46
SERVICES TRIDX	2,123.85	2,115.72	2,115.93	2,122.53	-6.60	-0.31
INDUSTRIAL TRIDX	6,840.13	6,777.37	6,784.09	6,827.79	-43.70	-0.64
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,068.20	1,068.20	1,068.20	1,068.20	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
15,078,468	2,305,495	1,034	24,409,417,715	10	26	14	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MAY 6

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFF	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	17,366	6,475	6	0.370	0.375	0.370	0.375	0.368	0.007	1.902	0.375	0.365	0.380	0.100	124,077,266
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	13,100	1,074	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.082	0.080	0.083	0.100	14,350,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	180,425	191,201	76	1.058	1.061	1.055	1.061	1.055	0.006	0.569	1.061	1.060	1.080	0.100	795,750,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	744,994	195,825	31	0.264	0.264	0.262	0.263	0.263	0.000	0.382	0.263	0.262	0.263	0.100	1,974,182,427
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	30,900	8,338	10	0.274	0.274	0.267	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	438,065,516
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	80,000	12,800	2	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.150	0.176	0.100	479,416,239
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	12,220	3,665	6	0.298	0.300	0.298	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.302	0.100	195,283,269
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	10,200	1,734	3	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.000	0.000	0.170	0.162	0.170	0.100	9,350,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	269,899	80,981	17	0.300	0.302	0.299	0.299	0.300	-0.001	-0.333	0.299	0.286	0.299	0.100	37,344,490
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	9,225	3,506	5	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.382	-0.002	-0.524	0.380	0.380	0.390	0.100	89,835,800
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	9,937	3,708	3	0.375	0.375	0.373	0.373	0.375	-0.002	-0.533	0.373	0.373	0.375	0.100	249,300,304
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,804,330	153,445	58	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	10,237,500
OM0000003396	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,230,220	167,564	38	0.138	0.139	0.135	0.136	0.138	-0.002	-1.449	0.136	0.126	0.136	0.100	758,505,493
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	427,674	25,082	16	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.639	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	21,397,638
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	89,047	10,190	5	0.115	0.115	0.114	0.114	0.117	-0.003	-2.564	0.114	0.114	0.116	0.100	1,710,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	2,186,857	154,488	58	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.068	0.070	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	125,800	41,492	8	0.339	0.343	0.328	0.328	0.339	-0.011	-3.245	0.328	0.325	0.335	0.100	65,480,477
Total	17	7,242,334	1,062,168	344												
Parallel Market																
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INSURANCE	4,117	498	1	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.121	0.110	0.011	10.000	0.121	0.110	0.121	0.100	12,499,501
OM0000002812	SAHARA HOSPITALITY	120	336	1	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.800	2.600	0.200	7.692	2.800	2.800	2.800	1.000	22,185,240
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	500	41	1	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.079	0.002	2.532	0.081	0.074	0.082	0.100	18,001,440
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	71,581	168,712	20	2.370	2.371	2.335	2.370	2.330	0.050	2.155	2.370	2.370	2.370	0.100	212,589,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	46,820	3,901	7	0.083	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.100	6,970,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	257,929	22,885	14	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.088	0.089	0.100	18,334,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	51,236	3,535	7	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.071	0.100	5,865,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	217	20	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.091	0.103	0.100	1,541,046
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	49,608	3,820	4	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.100	51,966,332
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	26,500	2,088	10	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.078	0.080	0.100	54,438,101
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	275,041	16,517	13	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	87,758,088
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	2,170	260	2	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.100	60,972,426
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	201,304	60,266	51	0.299	0.300	0.298	0.298	0.299	-0.001	-0.334	0.298	0.298	0.299	0.100	229,519,600
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	5,148	1,163	3	0.226	0.226	0.225	0.225	0.226	-0.001	-0.442	0.225	0.224	0.225	0.100	10,297,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	203,278	21,344	9	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	28,464,500
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	584,329	57,849	12	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	221,458,350
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	4,241	3,393	2	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.810	-0.010	-1.235	0.800	0.750	0.800	0.100	49,020,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	10,000	4,500	4	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.456	-0.006	-1.316	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.100	70,875,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	2,419,426	344,410	204	0.143	0.144	0.142	0.142	0.144	-0.002	-1.389	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.100	614,949,597
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	37,700	11,406	12	0.305	0.308	0.296	0.300	0.305	-0.005	-1.639	0.300	0.290	0.300	0.100	24,420,825
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,585	551	3	0.053	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100	13,250,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	363,000	17,847	18	0.050	0.050	0.049	0.049	0.050	-0.001	-2.000	0.049	0.049	0.051	0.100	15,050,170
OM0000003631	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,923,614	327,002	126	0.171	0.173	0.166	0.166	0.170	-0.004	-2.353	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.100	33,695,750
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	2,300	525	1	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.216	-0.006	-2.778	0.210	0.000	0.210	0.100	22,924,600
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	500	185	1	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.381	-0.011	-2.887	0.370	0.370	0.415	0.100	44,400,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,056,600	132,844	123	0.127	0.129	0.122	0.123	0.127	-0.004	-3.150	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.100	24,600,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	37,500	10,373	13	0.261	0.290	0.261	0.290	0.290	-0.010	-3.448	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	44,800,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	1,909	914	2	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.500	-0.021	-4.200	0.479	0.479	0.479	0.100	34,252,735
Total	28	7,647,473	1,217,182	665												

ENRICHING

Workshop on MSX – ESG 30 Metrics Masterclass to begin today

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) and Crowe Oman, a leading audit, tax, and advisory firm, will conduct a collaborative two-day workshop on MSX – ESG 30 Metrics. The programme will be held on May 7 and 8 at the Novotel Hotel. This timely workshop has been designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the evolving landscape of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting. Launched in September 2023, the MSX guidelines mandate Sustainability Reporting for SAOG companies, with voluntary disclosure encouraged in 2024 and mandatory compliance by March 2025.

The workshop caters to participants seeking to bridge the gap between their existing ESG knowledge and the practical application of reporting on their company's sustainability performance. The workshop agenda delves into overcoming challenges associated with ESG reporting, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emission identification and calculation.

Carefully designed to align with the latest International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Sustainability Standards (S1 and S2) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards, the workshop provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of ESG reporting best practices.

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D/L& NOC available. Contact 77411231	Indian, MBA finance, 13 yrs of Oman experiences, 8 yrs in electricity sector & 5 yrs in Insurance industry. Contact: 97304941. Email: ajirc06@gmail.com Indian male, Chief accountant, 10 yrs experience in Oman up to finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, tax assessments. Working experience in SAP & other ERP systems, looking for a suitable position, having valid D/L. Contact 92024380 Email: mithun.chittedathu@gmail.com Indian Male (B.Com, MBA) 12 yrs. of experience in Oman, valid Omani D/L seeks jobs in Accounts, finance. Contact: 97163179 Indian male 24 yr, Bcom looking for a suitable position in accountant, who has experience in computer hardware and software. Contact: 97119773 Accountant with 19 yrs experience in SAP software, manufacturing, telecom automotive 7 also have 9 yrs Oman experience. Contact: 95598262 12 yrs experience Accountant with D/L & NOC. Contact: 72197689. Email: mb72197689@gmail.com Indian male, M.Com, 17 yrs exp accounts, tax audit, VAT. Looking for Senior position in accounts & finance,valid D/L. Contact: 97228382. Email: anbilsivak@gmail.com Indian male, MCOM, 6 yrs. experience in Accounts, audit, taxation, and VAT looking for jobs in finance and accounts, currently working in a reputed firm in Muscat. Contact: 93272970 Looking for Senior position in Accounts & Finance 17 yrs exp Accounts, tax audit, VAT, valid D/L.Contact 97228382. Email:anbilsivak@gmail.com Chief accountant, Indian Male, 20 yrs experience in finance,accounts up to finalisation. Well versed with ERP systems, audit, MIS, banking, budgeting etc. Valid D/L. Contact 79187945 M.Com, Indian, Chief Accountant, having D/L, 16 yrs experience in Oman up to finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, Income Tax, Tax assessments, looking for a suitable position. 78233089. Indian Male 22 yrs B.Com Indian qualified, 1+yr India experience accountant with looking for full time placement, will be available immediately. Contact: +968 79534299, musharaffsheikh@gmail.com	Indian male with 7 yrs experience in Oman in cleaning and pest control services as a supervisor or site Incharge looking for job. D/L available. Contact: 99329535 Indian male 14 yrs work experience in Oman, seeks job for admin, secretary or any suitable post. D/L & NOC available. Contact: 78723915 Email: krvaz505@outlook.com. Indian female, MCA. looking for any admin, office assistant, IT, jobs full time/part-time. Contact: 92473775 Omani national, fluent in English with 3 yrs experience, looking for suitable placement. Contact 91205081. Email: modiburundi@hotmail.com Indian male B.Com graduate. 6+ yrs accounting experience in Oman. Valid D/L. Seeking suitable placements. Contact: +968 90810048 ARCHITECT Recently graduated female Architect with distinction from Bangalore, India, having 06mths of experience and proficiency in Auto CAD, sketchUp, revit, and other software, seeks exciting opportunities in Muscat. Contact: 95914042 Email sanal601sayeed@gmail.com DRIVER Looking for driving job, 15yrs exp. Contact: 78037801 Indian driver with 27 yrs experience looking for job. Contact: 79160630 Indian driver 42, 20 yrs exp. with valid Omani D/L. Contact: 78783298 Looking for driving job, experience of more than 15 yrs. Contact: 92015802 Looking for driving job, 15 yrs exp. Contact: 78037801 Looking for driving job, with 12 yrs experience. Contact: 94709633 Looking for driving job. Contact: 96968050 MECHANICAL/ TECHNICAL Indian male 24 yr ITI mechanical and diesel, who has experienced as assistant technician in automobile. Contact: 97119773 Indian male 23 with 3 yrs experience in automobile technician. Contact: 78028420	Indian male with 10 yrs experience in Saudi Arabia of Block automatic factory as a factory controller looking for job.D/L available. Contact: 99329535 MBA, Mechanical Engineer with 5 yrs of experience as a Sales engineer. Seeking a suitable placement. Currently residing in Oman. Contact: 79733764. Email:waliuddin2394@gmail.com Indian male, Mechanical engineer with 7 yrs of experience, seeking a suitable position as mechanical engineer or any other suitable position,good computer skills and language proficiency in English and Hindi, currently residing in Oman. Contact : 78344395 Email: jincejoseph10@gmail.com Quantity Surveyor (BSC Qs & G.dip Civil) with 6 yrs of experience looking for a suitable position. Currently residing in Oman. Having valid D/L. Contact: +968 91132424 Indian having 12+ years of experience in Oman specialised in QS,estimation, tendering and billing in joinery, Bespoke furnitures and Interior fit out projects looking for suitable openings. Contact: 79861771 Experienced Software QA Engineer seeks QA & office roles. Proficient in quality assurance methodologies and manual testing techniques. Contact: 78327866 / vijithanthomas@gmail.com Indian male B. Tech mechanical & Msc. industrial Eng. 1 yr exp in manufacturing. Ready to join immediately,have an Omani D/L & resident Visa. Contact: 96496426 Site supervisor with 8 yrs experience in Oman having D/L looking job. Completed 3 yrs diploma in Civil. Contact: 90161261 Civil Engineer having 5 yrs experience in GCC have valid visa and D/L Autocad civil work. Contact: 79985583 Civil Project Manager with 25 yrs of experience in contracting, consultant, client representative. Looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79081315. Email: riyas05@hotmail.com EDUCATION/ TRAINING Indian female B.Ed MSc, Science lecturer,looking for job. Contact: 78963783, 78270420 MBA postgraduate with 4 yrs of teaching experience for primary classes looking for immediate joining.Contact 79880468.Email sana.hameed537@gmail.com	Freelancer MEP design, drafting, MEP calculations, estimation, value eng. Contact: 97103168 MANAGER MBA, Sri Lankan male with 14 yrs experience in sales marketing & operations in Oman. Seeking a suitable placement. Contact: 79790296. Email: upekavish@gmail.com Facility, MEP manager 6 yrs in Oman and 4 yrs UAE experience. Contact: 9170 1152 PROCURMENT/ PURCHASE Indian Male (51) with 23 yrs of experience in managing purchase, Store and subcontracts in building construction, water pipeline and electrical projects with valid Oman D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact. 95845496. Email: sunnymthomas13@gmail.com MBA postgraduate highly experienced in procurement with valid Omani D/L available for immediate joining. Contact: 78999758. Email: ayazafar@gmail.com IT Expert IT professional with over 7 yrs of experience seeking a full-time position in IT system administration or desktop support engineering. Call/WhatsApp: +968 7899 8239 LOGISTIC Indian male with 8 yrs of logistics, freight forwarding, and procurement experience, with Omani D/L. Contact / WA: +968 9744 2565. Email:husain_khizar@yahoo.com IT graduate with experience in logistics, warehousing and air cargo operations seeking suitable opportunity and available to join immediately. Contact: 79069075 Indian male, looking for freelance work like, goods delivery, Co. guest pickup and dropoff, bank related work, documents. Contact: 97780296 MISCELLANEOUS Indian male 33 yrs valid D/L, looking for suitable job. Contact 91154731. Email: veetil108@gmail.com Indian male 32, valid D/L. Looking for any part time or full time job. Contact: 93079335. Email: adarshsoman2@gmail.com	PG in applied management 23yrs old Indian fresher with retail experience in Indian & New Zealand markets. Contact: 77582238 Indian male MBA 18 yrs experience in Sales and Accounts, looking for suitable placement in senior positions (Employment On Contract Base). Currently working in Oman with valid D/L & valid visa. Contact: 91127809 Sales & Marketing Manager MBA Indian, having 25 yrs experience in Oman for consumer durable and an excellent contact with the major retailers in the country is looking for a suitable placement. Contact: 71134042. 11 yrs sales and marketing experience female with D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact: 99220415 Indian male, 25, B.Tech in Industrial engineering, with 2 yrs of rich sales support experience in Oman's top metal industry. Seeking sales & marketing roles, holds valid D/L & visa. Contact: 79721302 Indian (M) 9 yrs Oman exp in sales & marketing with D/L Oman. Contact: 77113215. Indian graduate with 11 yrs of experience as coordinator (project & Sales)with Oman D/L, looking for suitable openings. Contact: 97619257 Indian male with BBM graduate having 9 yrs of experience in sales, marketing and operations in Oman & U.A.E. D/L available. Contact: 93523626 Email: affank191@gmail.com. Indian male having 17 yrs exp in sales & marketing, able to manage division independently, building materials, water proof & coating. Looking for suitable post. Contact: 79222935 Indian male, having 14 yrs experience in commercial vehicles sales. Contact: 97717152 Indian Salesman have 7 yrs of experience FMCG and supermarket,with Oman D/L. seeks job. Contact: +968 94438968 Female, well qualified with 10+ years experience in local market, looking for a marketing job. Valid D/L. NOC available. Contact :96042006 Indian graduate 7 yrs experience in sales with D/L. Contact: 98613373. Email: syedismailnoor@gmail.com



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LIFESTYLE

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT
ASTHMA AND SUMMER HEAT

Nearly 25 million people of all ages in the United States are living with asthma, a lifelong chronic disease that makes it harder to move air in and out of the lungs.

Here's what the American Lung Association wants everyone to know during summer, when extreme heat can make asthma harder to manage.

1 New challenges are emerging.
Beyond traditional asthma triggers like respiratory infections, secondhand smoke and pets, new challenges are emerging. The effects of climate change include extreme heat, poor air quality, increased allergens, extreme weather events, and more frequent and intense wildfires, all of which are making asthma more difficult to manage.

Excessive heat and humidity increase the risk of asthma exacerbations, asthma-related hospitalization and asthma-related death, especially for children and women. Patients should limit time outdoors during heat waves, seek access to air conditioning and take steps to improve indoor air quality, as humidity allows dust mites and mold to thrive.

2 City dwellers are particularly vulnerable.
Two-thirds of the average U.S. city is made up of roads, parking spaces, sidewalks and roofs. Since these surfaces are typically dark and non-porous, they contribute to flooding, increased air pollution, poor health and what is known as "urban heat," a phenomenon in which cities experience warmer temperatures than surrounding areas. Urban heat, combined with pollutants from power plants, motor vehicles and other pollution sources, creates ozone pollution, also known as smog. Those with asthma can experience symptoms like shortness of breath, wheezing and coughing from both ground-level ozone and particle pollution, as well as from the impacts of extreme weather and airborne allergens.

Sadly, these issues disproportionately impact certain communities. Due to a history of discriminatory practices like systematic denial of mortgages, insurance loans, and other financial services on the basis of race and ethnicity, Black and Indigenous people, and other people of color, are more likely to be living in areas impacted by urban heat and poor air quality.

3 Flooding can harm lung health.
Increased severe storms due to climate change results in more flooding, which can harm lung health. Chemicals, sewage, oil, gas and other dangerous substances found in floodwaters can pose health risks, and mold, associated with asthma attacks, can grow anywhere there is water or dampness.

4 Advocacy efforts are underway.
The Smart Surfaces Coalition is made up of 40 national and international organizations committed to making Smart Surfaces the global urban design standard. Smart Surfaces encompass a suite of cutting-edge technologies, including reflective (cool) roofs and pavements, green roofs, trees, solar panels and rain gardens. Designed to mitigate urban heat, enhance air quality and improve health, these transformative urban features can cool cities by 5 degrees F, reduce flooding, provide economic benefits and potentially advance environmental justice.

The American Lung Association, an active member of the Smart Surfaces Coalition, encourages cities to take these actions:

- Install light-colored roads, parking lots and driveways to reflect sunlight and reduce heat.



- Install solar panels to convert sunlight into electricity and provide shade for roofs.
 - Plant trees to increase shade.
 - Select porous surfaces to collect polluted stormwater, soak it into the ground, and filter out pollution.
- Other strategies to reduce urban heat, air pollution and ozone levels include using public transportation carpooling, increasing green spaces and installing cooling centers in extreme conditions.

5 Resources are available.
Educational programming can help people better manage the disease in summer and year-round. Patients can check out the self-management education programs, information and tools available at [Lung.org/asthma](https://lung.org/asthma) or call the American Lung Association's Lung Helpline at 1-800-LUNGUSA. Living with an illness, or being the caretaker to someone who is, can take a physical and emotional toll. Patients can get support and knowledge, and connect with others by joining the Lung Association's Patient & Caregiver Network.

For the 24.8 million Americans living with asthma, extreme summer temperatures and emerging environmental threats can make life more difficult. Fortunately, new educational resources and expanded programming can help patients navigate new and old challenges alike. -StatePoint

SPORTS

Norris defeats Verstappen for first Formula 1 victory

The race win in Miami is McLaren’s first since the 2021 Italian Grand Prix

MIAMI: McLaren’s Lando Norris beat Red Bull’s Max Verstappen with help from the safety car to take his maiden Formula 1 victory at the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday. Norris jumped to the front because he was able to make his pit stop when a safety car was deployed at about half distance while others had already stopped. Verstappen was unable to keep pace with Norris when the race restarted with 27 laps to go, and the Briton stretched ahead, while the world champion had to settle for second ahead of Ferrari’s Charles Leclerc. “About time, huh?” Norris, 24, said after victory in his 110th grand prix. “The whole weekend has been good. I’ve had a few setbacks along the way. I knew on Friday we had the pace and just a couple of mistakes here and there but today we managed to put it together, we put the perfect strategy, it all paid off.” In addition to a bit of luck and timing, Norris’ victory was based on genuine pace - he was the quickest car on track once he was released from behind the struggling Red Bull of Sergio Perez when the



Mexican made an early pit stop for tyres on lap 17. From then until the safety car for a collision between Williams’ Logan Sargeant and Haas driver Kevin Magnussen at Turn Three, Norris turned on the pace and set the foundations for his win. The fact that this was not the usual cruise to victory for Verstappen was obvious when he missed the chicane on lap 21 and displaced a bollard. The virtual safety car had to be deployed for half a lap to clear the debris from the track. Verstappen pitted two laps later, and rejoined 10 seconds behind Norris. But despite having fresher tyres, Verstappen did not close on Norris - in fact the McLaren started to pull away. And when the safety car was deployed Norris had a sufficient advantage to pit and come out still in the lead. There was a bit of confusion when the safety car picked up Verstappen rather than Norris and the field had to be let past to run around and catch up behind Norris, but now it came down to a straight fight between the McLaren and the Red Bull. Usually, Verstappen would have been expected to pass Norris, and



the Briton made it difficult for himself with a nervy restart which gave Verstappen the chance to think about a pass at Turn One. Norris was eliminated at the first corner of Saturday’s sprint race in Miami. But the combination of the pace of the upgraded McLaren and Verstappen struggling with a lack of front grip meant Norris was able to stretch away, turning the tables on Verstappen, on whom Norris inflicted the pain the Dutchman usually does on the rest of the field. In doing so, and winning by nearly eight seconds, he became

the first driver to beat Verstappen on track when he had finished the race since Ferrari’s Carlos Sainz in Singapore in September last year. Behind them, Leclerc drove a strong race to stay within two seconds of Verstappen despite making his pit stop for tyres four laps before the Red Bull driver. His team-mate Carlos Sainz finished fourth on the track, but lost that place after being penalised for colliding with McLaren’s Oscar Piastri when passing the Australian with 17 laps to go. The collision wrecked Piastri’s front wing and he had to stop for it to be replaced. Sainz managed

PREMIER LEAGUE

Salah scores as Liverpool return to winning ways

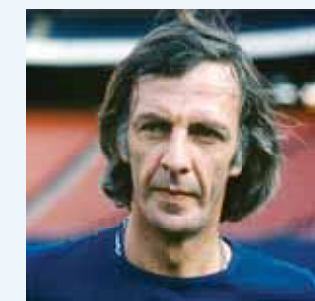


LONDON: Tottenham’s dramatic decline continued as their hopes of reaching the Premier League’s top four faded even further after they were well beaten 4-2 by Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday. Aston Villa’s defeat at Brighton left the door open for Spurs to make a late push for next season’s Champions League but even a late comeback could not prevent a fourth successive defeat as Liverpool found form once more after their own recent slump. Mohamed Salah put his touchline bust-up with manager Jurgen Klopp at West Ham behind him to open the scoring with a far-post header from Cody Gakpo’s cross after 16 minutes, Andy Robertson adding the second right on half-time when Spurs keeper Guglielmo Vicario could only push out the Egyptian’s shot. Spurs lost discipline and Vicario had to separate team-mates Cristian Romero and Emerson Royal as they went off at half-

time, with matters not improving for Ange Postecoglou’s side as they were over-run after the break by a rampant Liverpool. Gakpo headed the third from Harvey Elliott’s delivery five minutes after the interval, the latter getting on the scoresheet himself in the 59th minute with a glorious curling finish from 20 yards into the top corner. Liverpool then inexplicably switched off to allow substitute Richarlison and Heung-Min Son to give Spurs unlikely hope but it was too late and they remain seven points behind fourth-placed Aston Villa with a game in hand. Tottenham’s two goals gave the scoreline a closer look than Liverpool’s performance deserved but they were never in serious danger of giving up the victory. **Jackson double seals easy win for Chelsea** Chelsea strengthened their chances of securing European football next season, cruising to

5-0 victory against West Ham at Stamford Bridge on Sunday. It took just 15 minutes for Chelsea to get their noses in front with Cole Palmer reacting quickest to meet a loose ball in the West Ham box. West Ham almost hit back immediately when Jarrod Bowen’s header crashed back off the crossbar, but it was one-way traffic from then on. Chelsea doubled their lead on the half-hour mark through Conor Gallagher before Noni Madueke headed in the third six minutes later. Nicolas Jackson struck twice in the second half to round off a wholly positive afternoon for the Blues. With just three games left to play, Chelsea’s season seems to be heading for a strong finish as they have climbed up to seventh and sit just two points shy of sixth-placed Newcastle, while West Ham, who have two games remaining, stay ninth. - Agencies

WORLD CUP WINNER



Legendary Argentine coach Menotti dies

Buenos Aires: Argentina’s World Cup-winning coach Cesar Luis Menotti died aged 85 on Sunday. Menotti led his country to victory on home soil in the 1978 tournament, beating the Netherlands 3-1 after extra time thanks to two goals from player of the tournament Mario Kempes. “The Argentine Football Association regrets to report with great sadness the death of Cesar Luis Menotti, former world champion coach of Argentina,” said the AFA in a statement. As a player, Menotti, a striker, played alongside Pele for Brazilian side Santos and won 11 international caps. He then embarked on a coaching career which lasted 37 years including winning two trophies in a two-season spell with Barcelona and spells in Italy, Mexico, Uruguay and Argentina. He took over the Argentina role in 1974 and his reign ended after the 1982 World Cup in Spain where Argentina were eliminated by Brazil. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Lopetegui agrees deal with Hammers



LONDON: Julen Lopetegui has agreed a deal to become West Ham manager at the end of the season, BBC Sport reported on Monday. Nothing has been signed yet but the 57-year-old is close to making a return to management following his departure from Wolves in August last year. Current Hammers boss David Moyes has come under increasing pressure after a poor run of results that has seen his side win one win of their past nine Premier League games and exit the Europa League in the quarter-finals. West Ham were thrashed 5-0 by Chelsea on Sunday to leave them ninth in the table. Moyes, who is out of contract in the summer, has repeatedly fended off questions about his future at the club, saying talks will not take place until after their final game at Manchester City on 19 May.

Former Spain and Real Madrid coach Lopetegui has been linked with numerous jobs since and is thought to be keen on returning to the Premier League after guiding Wolves to safety last term, having joined them when they were bottom of the table. He won the Europa League with Sevilla in 2020 before moving to Molineux two years later. Wolves finished 13th under Lopetegui last season but he had become frustrated by the club’s financial situation before resigning. Moyes, meanwhile, presided over three successive European campaigns for the first time in the club’s history and last June ended the Hammers’ 43-year wait for a trophy with a last-minute victory over Fiorentina in the Europa Conference League final. But many fans are critical of what they view as Moyes’ negative tactics. - Agencies

MADRID OPEN

Rublev overcomes illness to clinch title

MADRID: Andrey Rublev overcame illness and losing the first set to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 for his first Madrid Open title. The Russian world No.8 was under the weather with a fever coming into Sunday’s final and looked out of sorts when he trailed 4-1 in the opening set. But Rublev fought his way back into the match, striking at the end

of both sets to get past the world No.35 and win his second Masters 1,000 tournament. “I have no words,” Rublev said. “If you knew what I had been through in the past nine days you would not imagine that I would be able to win a title. “I’m incredibly happy. I have to give full credit to the doctors. They were doing some tricky things and I was at least able to play.

“I would say this is the most proud title of my career. I was almost dead every day. I was not sleeping at night. The last three, four days I didn’t sleep.” The 26-year-old had lost four consecutive matches before arriving in the Spanish capital but his performance will have encouraged him before the French Open, which starts in three weeks’ time.

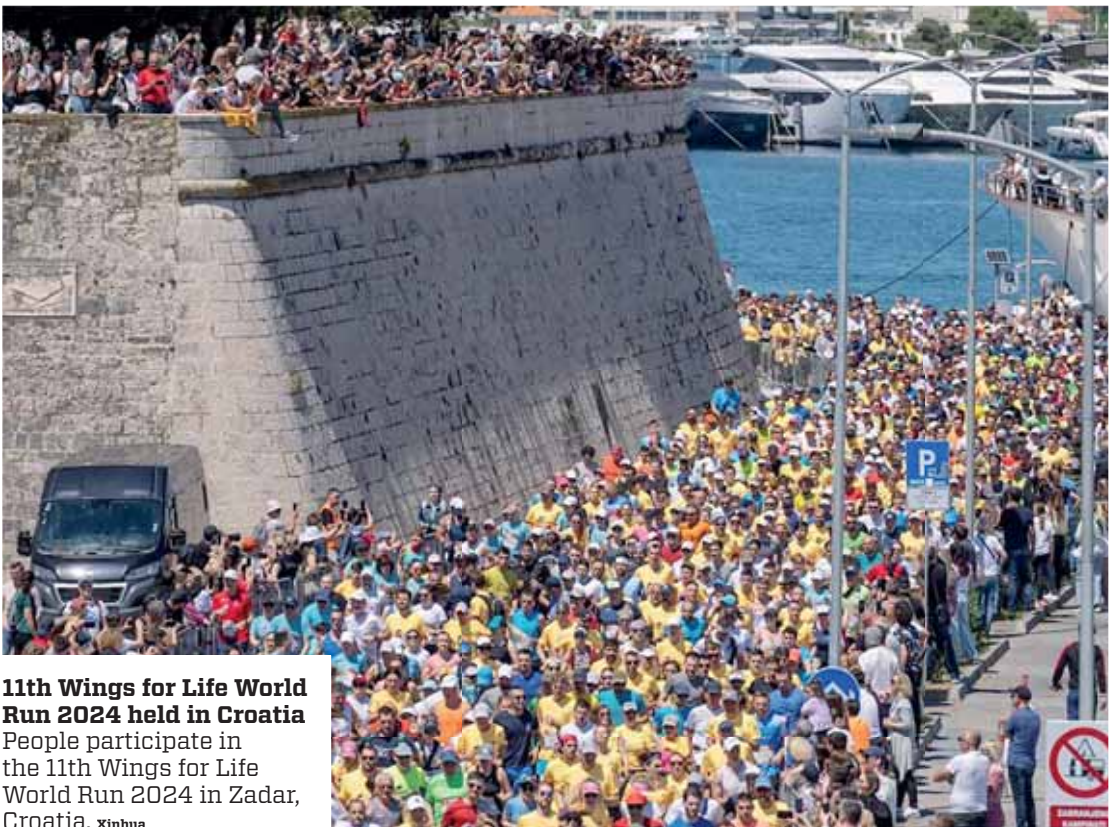
Auger-Aliassime, 23, had benefited from the retirement of his semi-final opponent Jiri Lehecka early in their match and the withdrawal of world number two Jan-nik Sinner with a hip injury before their quarter-final. The Canadian had to work hard to save breakpoints in the third set where Rublev was the better player, but was eventually undone by a double fault on match point. - Agencies



IN PICTURES



One killed, another injured in Texas floodwaters
This picture shows a flooded area near Channelview, east of Houston, Texas, the United States. At least one boy was killed and a woman injured in floodwaters in Texas. [Xinhua](#)



11th Wings for Life World Run 2024 held in Croatia
People participate in the 11th Wings for Life World Run 2024 in Zadar, Croatia. [Xinhua](#)



2024 Fashion Art Toronto's Fashion Week
A model presents a creation at the 2024 Fashion Art Toronto's Fashion Week in Toronto, Canada. [Xinhua](#)



Bollywood actors pose for a photo on the first day of Bombay Times Fashion Show
Bollywood actors Rahul Dev and Mugdha Godse along with Archunaa Jain, Founder, Florian Foundation, designer Vishal Kapoor pose for a photo on the first day of Bombay Times Fashion Show, in Mumbai. [ANI Photo](#)



China sees nearly 300mn domestic tourist trips during May Day holiday
An aerial drone picture shows tourists visiting the West Lake in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province. China saw about 295 million domestic tourist trips during the five-day May Day holiday. [Xinhua](#)



World's largest deinonychosaur tracks discovered
An aerial drone picture shows a dinosaur tracksite discovered in Lincheng Town, Longyan City, southeast China's Fujian Province. [Xinhua](#)

ROUND-UP

Kalyan Jewellers celebrates Akshaya Tritiya with mega-bonanza offers

The jewellery brand is offering a 2 gram gold coin on purchase of Diamond or Polki jewellery worth OMR600 and a 1 gram gold coin free on purchase of platinum, precious stones and uncut jewellery worth OMR600 or diamond or Polki jewellery worth between OMR350 – OMR599



MUSCAT: Kalyan Jewellers, one of the largest and most-trusted jewellery brands has recently announced mega-bonanza giveaways as part of its Akshaya Tritiya celebrations. Following a customer-centric approach, the jewellery brand has

been offering exciting offers to ensure patrons gain maximum benefits on their jewellery purchases. The jewellery brand is offering a 2-gram gold coin on purchase of Diamond or Polki jewellery worth OMR 600 and a 1-gram gold coin free on purchase of platinum, pre-



cious stones and uncut jewellery worth OMR 600 or Diamond or Polki jewellery worth between OMR 350 – OMR 599. Moreover, the jewellery brand is also offering a 1/2 gm gold coin free on gold jewellery purchases worth OMR 600 or platinum, precious stones and uncut jewellery worth between OMR 350 – OMR 599. Also a 1/4 gm free gold coin on purchase of gold jewellery between OMR 350 and OMR 599. Apart from these offers, the brand has also launched an exciting array of new festive collections for their patrons.



Speaking on this occasion, Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive Director, Kalyan Jewellers said, “Akshaya Tritiya is a special time for new beginnings and cherished traditions like family gift exchanges. At Kalyan Jewellers, we understand the deep emotional connection our customers have with jewellery and festivals. Through this exciting giveaway offers, we aim to enhance their celebrations by offering exceptional jewellery and enabling them to maximize benefits on their purchases.” To streamline the Akshaya

Tritiya shopping experience, Kalyan Jewellers introduced an attractive pre-booking program so customers can conveniently select and place their jewellery orders in advance, ensuring a hassle-free pickup on or near the auspicious day. This initiative aims to alleviate the rush and long waits traditionally associated with the festival, offering their patrons a seamless and stress-free shopping experience. The pre-booking option also helps customers to stay protected against price hikes within that time period. All Kalyan Jewellers showrooms stock Muhurat – their bridal jewellery line curated from across India. They also have exclusive sections featuring Kalyan’s popular house brands such as Tejasvi (Polki jewellery), Mudhra (Handcrafted Antique Jewellery), Nimah (Temple Jewellery), Glo (Dancing Diamonds), Ziah (Solitaire-like Diamond Jewellery), Anokhi (Uncut Diamonds), Hera (Daily Wear Diamonds), Rang (Precious Stones Jewellery), and the recently launched Lila (Coloured Stones and Diamond Jewellery).

STRATEGIC PARTNER



Omran to sponsor SOCCA 2024 World Cup for six-a-side football tournament

MUSCAT: Demonstrating its commitment to enriching tourist experiences in the Sultanate of Oman and contributing to the enhancement of the Omani tourism sector, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) entered into an agreement with the Sports Makers to sponsor the SOCCA 2024 World Cup for six-a-side football tournament. This marks the tournament’s inaugural edition in the Middle East, scheduled to take place from November 28 to December 8, 2024, in Madinat Al-Irfan, Muscat. The agreement was signed by Dr. Hashil Obaid Al-Mahrooqi, CEO of Omran Group, and Waleed Juma Al Obaidani, President of the International SOCCA Federation in the Middle East and CEO of Sports Makers, in the presence of several officials from both organisations. Commenting on the agreement, Sultan Sulaiman Al Khudhoori, Asset Manager at Omran Group, stated, “Hosting the SOCCA 2024 World Cup is a landmark event that will attract visitors from around the world. This agreement reflects Omran Group’s ongoing efforts to support various prominent international events, which play a crucial role in enhancing the Sultanate of Oman’s global tourism profile. The group remains committed to supporting initiatives aimed at revitalising tourism in Oman.” Waleed Juma Al Obaidani,

President of the International SOCCA Federation in the Middle East and CEO of Sports Makers, expressed, “We value the strategic partnership with Omran Group to host the SOCCA 2024 World Cup for six-a-side football tournament in the Sultanate of Oman at the end of this year. The tournament will be an exceptional event among the global competitions held on Omani, and we are confident that the partnership with OMRAN Group will enrich the tournament and its participants in many aspects. We look forward to collaborating in the execution of all the planned events in various governorates as part of the promotional campaign for the SOCCA World Cup”. The SOCCA 2024 World Cup for six-a-side football tournament is expected to feature the participation of more than 44 to 85 teams from various countries. Additionally, it is anticipated that many spectators will attend to witness the participating teams and immerse themselves in the global competition atmosphere. Omran Group is actively collaborating with various local, regional, and international institutions and entities to enhance tourist experiences across different destinations. Furthermore, the group is identifying opportunities and projects aimed at strengthening the tourism sector and its role in achieving sustainable development goals.

FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

ROP and Bank Muscat continue partnership for anti-fraud campaign

MUSCAT: With the increased popularity of digital channels due to the ease with which they bring services closer and enable transaction processes, criminal activities from all over the world have been on the rise to scam the public through a variety of deceptive methods via these channels. Against this background, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) and Bank Muscat have announced that they continue to partner closely in implementing a joint anti-fraud campaign for the fifth consecutive year. The campaign focuses on raising public’s awareness about this phenomenon among different institutions and individuals in the community. The awareness campaign will be carried out as part of social responsibility efforts of both institutions using various media channels including Oman TV, radio, print, online media, and social media. This year, the campaign will include a number of new programmes and topics reflecting the more recent



deceptive activities used by criminals. The public can easily contact the Royal Oman Police hotline at 80077444 to report fraud or for any fraud-related queries. The jointly-run campaign launched this year will be supported by a number of new aware-

ness messages in various media channels, websites and electronic newspapers to reduce the consequences of falling for fraud. Criminals use multiple methods such as sending phishing emails or links to employees and members of the community in general. People can

also fall for fraud when playing online games or making online purchases without verifying the persons or entities being dealt with. With cases of electronic fraud increasing globally and often causing tremendous financial and psychological harm to both individuals and businesses, Bank Muscat has further strengthened its efforts to combat this crime by partnering regularly with a number of institutions and authorities including the Royal Oman Police, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and other institutions. The campaign sought to help the public recognise fraud and avoid falling prey to it. Royal Oman Police and Bank Muscat will continue during the coming period to spread new messages reflecting the importance of never sharing personal details with anyone, including those claiming to be a bank employee or an official as this is an essential first step to defend one against criminal activities..

BANKING

BankDhofar high yield savings account offers competitive interest rates of up to 4.25%

MUSCAT: As part of BankDhofar’s constant endeavour to help customers achieve their financial goals that suit their future aspirations, the bank continues to offer a high-yield account to obtain an interest rate of up to 4.25%, which is calculated on a daily balance at the end of each day, to be added to the customer’s account at the beginning of the subsequent month. The high-yield savings account includes a number of features that allow customers to achieve their financial goals at an accelerated pace, as the account provides a world of convenience and possibilities, whether as an account for daily transactions, optimal returns on funds, or access to various services such as debit and credit cards, and term deposits and insurance options.



Additionally, customers can access the account around the clock via the mobile application and online banking services, and the ease of conducting banking transactions through ATMs, cash deposits, direct debit cards, and the cardless withdrawal feature. An existing customer of BankD-

hofar can open a High-Yield Saving Account, via the mobile application. New customers can open a High Yield Saving Account via our Intilaqa App or can visit one of the bank’s 118 branches conveniently located throughout the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. BankDhofar is one of the lead-

ing banks in the region, providing integrated banking services to the corporate and the individual customers, as well as commercial financing services. It also works to meet customers’ needs by implementing the best international practices in the world of banking and finance. The bank continuously seeks to enrich the banking services provided to customers by developing products based on their needs. The bank is aligned to the government’s Vision 2040 and builds the proposition with a commitment to drive economic growth and development in Oman. BankDhofar is also committed to keeping pace with digital developments that appear from time to time in the world through a huge investment in technology.



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Which mountain on the Oman-UAE border lends its name to the railway project between the two countries?

'Hhalas', 'Hhunaizi' and 'Fargh' are varieties of which fruit associated with Omani heritage?

Two violins, one viola, and one cello make up a "String _____"

What is the name given to Taylor Swift's fanbase?

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