

SALAMAIR LAUNCHES DIRECT FLIGHTS TO ALMATY

SalamAir inaugurated its first direct flights to the city of Almaty in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The twice weekly flights will be operated on Saturdays and Wednesdays, using its latest Airbus aircraft. **>A2**



HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF BELARUS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Alexander Lukashenko of the Republic of Belarus on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Lukashenko. His Majesty also wished the people of Belarus further prosperity and growth. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 87 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN



Enjoy exclusive **lifestyle benefits** with Al Jawhar Privilege Banking from Bank Muscat.



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

OMAN MAKES HUGE JUMP IN GLOBAL PEACE INDEX

The Sultanate advanced 18 places to be ranked third in the MENA region and 48th in the world

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Amid the global turmoil and conflicts, the Sultanate of Oman made an impressive leap in the latest 2023 edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI).

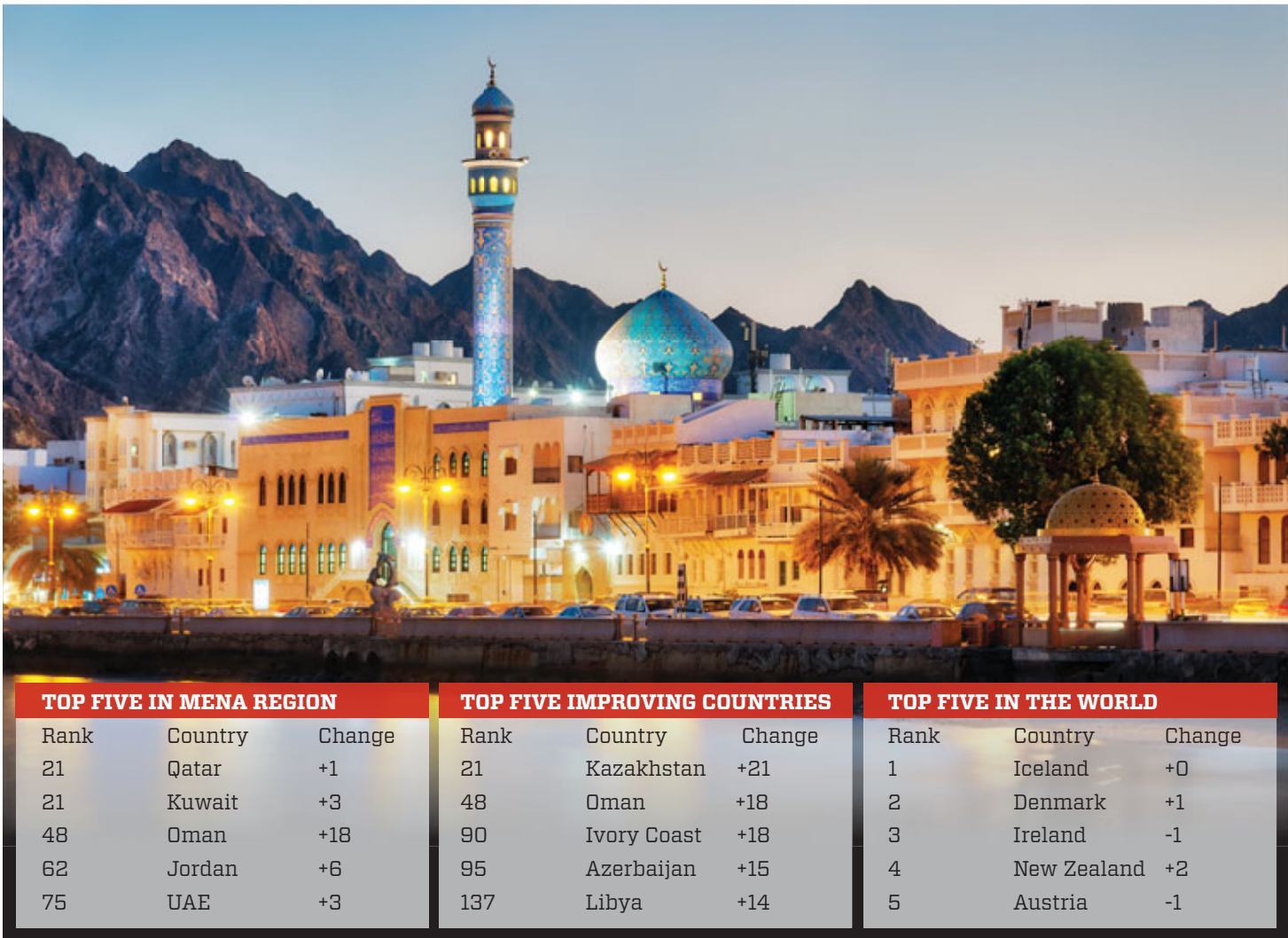
According to the 17th edition of the GPI from international think-tank, the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), Oman made a jump of 18 places, second largest improvement in the 2023 GPI along with Ivory Coast, just behind Kazakhstan, which improved by 21 places.

Oman is now ranked 48th in the world out of 163 countries with a total of 1.794 score, and third in the MENA region, highlighting the country's significant improvement amidst the global peace deterioration.

Oman stands out among the MENA region, as it has experienced the most significant improvement in overall peacefulness. The Sultanate climbed 18 places from its previous ranking of 66th last year.

According to the report, Oman's overall score improved by 6.2 per cent, with the biggest improvement occurring on the militarisation domain.

The report added that Oman also improved considerably on the



Safety and Security domain.

Qatar was the most peaceful country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), according to the latest GPI 2023. Qatar clinched 21st place on the global ranking, a two-spot increase from last year's list.

Qatar remains the most peaceful country in the region, a position it has held since 2008. It is the only country in the region to be ranked in the top 25 most peaceful countries globally.

Kuwait was ranked second in the MENA region and 35th globally, while Oman is third. Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) rounded out the top five, with Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia making it in the top ten. Yemen was the least peaceful country in the Middle East and North Africa region.

The MENA region remained the world's least peaceful region. While the region saw the greatest improvement in peace, it also

has four of the ten least peaceful countries.

The GPI, researched by the Australia-based Institute for Economics and Peace, is the measure of global peacefulness worldwide.

It provides a comprehensive data-driven analysis of peace trends, economic value, and strategies for building peaceful societies. The report assesses each country based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators, evaluating their placement across three categories – so-

cietal safety and security, ongoing domestic and international conflict, and the degree of the country's militarisation.

The 2023 report highlighted the continuous decline in global peace. For the ninth consecutive year, the average level of peacefulness deteriorated with 84 countries experiencing improvement and 79 witnessing deterioration. The conflict in Ukraine remains a key driver behind the decline in global peace. **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN



WPS set for launch in mid-October

1 The wages protection system (WPS), set to run for a duration of three months, is expected to be launched in mid-October. Workshops will be held to introduce workers to the system and emphasise its importance. **>A5**

WORLD



Rioters ram car into Paris mayor's house

2 Amid ongoing unrest in France, the mayor of a Paris suburb said his home was attacked on Sunday morning, and termed the incident "an assassination attempt" on his family, according to reports. Protests have erupted in France after the death of a teenager. **>A6**

MARKET

Value of real estate deals rises by 37.8%

3 The total value of real estate deals in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of May 2023 reached OMR1,220.6 million compared to OMR885.6 million during the same period in 2022, according to the latest data. The figures revealed that the total fees collected for all transactions amounted to OMR28.9 million. **>B1**



PILGRIMAGE

Hajj mission announces death of Omani pilgrim in Holy Lands

Times News Service

MAKKAH: The Omani Hajj mission on Sunday announced the death of Abdullah Said Al Rahbi, a 79-year-old Omani pilgrim who passed away in the Holy Lands after performing the farewell circumambulation of Hajj rituals (Tawaf Al Wadaa).

Sultan Said Al Hinai, head of the Omani Hajj Mission, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the mission's team is taking necessary measures to finalise related procedures in cooperation with authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in the presence of relatives of the deceased.

He prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in the abodes of Heaven and grant his relatives patience and solace.

In an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman*, Abdullah bin Hamdoun Al-Rahbi, the nephew of the deceased, said: "My uncle was of very good nature and will always be remembered for his deeds. Everyone used to respect him and he used to get all the love from the



Late Abdullah Said Al Rahbi (right) in Makkah

near and the dear ones."

He also said, "We received bad news in the afternoon that he passed away on Sunday morning after performing the farewell circumambulation, which is the last pillar of Hajj. Though the news was a huge shock for us, we are happy that he died in Makkah and every Muslim wishes to die in the holy land."

Abdullah bin Hamdoun Al-

Rahbi also confirmed that his funeral will take place in the Grand Mosque in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, and he will be buried in one of the cemeteries designated for the Hajj pilgrims who die while performing Hajj.

Al-Rahbi also indicated that prayers will be performed for his noble soul in the Wilayat of Dima Wal'Taeen in Naqsi area in North Sharqiyah Governorate.

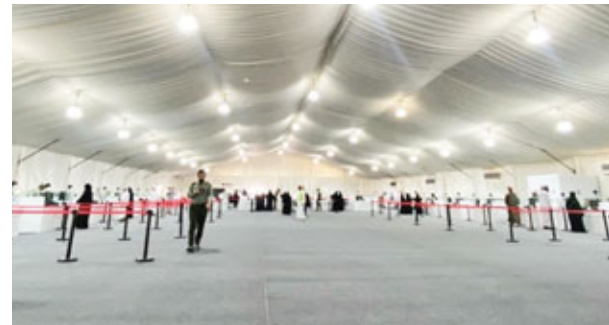
Convoys of Omani pilgrims begin to leave Holy Lands

MECCA: Convoys of Omani pilgrims began the trip back home from the Holy Lands after performing the farewell ritual circumambulation 'Tawaf al wadaa'.

Sultan Said Al Hinai, Head of the Omani Hajj mission, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the Hajj mission

is scheduled to leave Mecca on 4 July and that it would continue offering its services to the pilgrims until the time it quits the holy places.

As many as 14,000 pilgrims performed Hajj from Oman this year, while the number of Hajj companies stood at 93. **-ONA**



NEW DESTINATION

SalamAir launches direct flights to Almaty

MUSCAT: Oman's first economic air carrier, SalamAir, yesterday inaugurated its first direct flights to the city of Almaty in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The twice weekly flights will be operated on Saturdays and Wednesdays, using its latest Airbus aircraft.

Mohammed Ali Najmuddin, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Oman, said that the new destination will enhance bilateral relations between the two countries, especially economic and tourism relations.

"We are counting on this historic step, since it introduced the first scheduled flight between the two



countries," the ambassador added.

In his turn, Dr. Anwar Mohammed Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of SalamAir Company, said that choosing Almaty in the Republic of Kazakhstan was based on studies about the business market and tourism data.

The city, he explained, boasts large scale tourism potentials that made it an attractive destination for many visitors from around the world.

Al Rawas expressed the company's keenness to expand its fleet to more local, regional and international destinations in imple-

mentation of a strategy based on professional foundations.

Captain Mohammed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir, said that the new destination will provide regular flights throughout the year and is expected to attract many tourists and residents from both countries.

He pointed out that the company intends to expand the number of flights to more than two per week in the next stage.

SalamAir operates direct flights to 39 local, regional and international destinations. Its daily flights include Muscat, Salalah, Sohar, Duqm and Masirah. -OMA

INTERNATIONAL THINK-TANK

Europe most peaceful region in the world: Global Peace Index

<FROM A1 According to the GPI results, the world has become less peaceful over the last 15 years, with the average country score falling by 5 per cent.

According to the index, Europe is the most peaceful region in the world, with seven of the top ten most peaceful countries being European. The Asia Pacific region is home to the other three most peaceful countries.

Iceland maintained its position as the world's most peaceful country with a score of 1.124, while Denmark displaced Ireland to second place. New Zealand rose two places to fourth, Austria fell to fifth, and Singapore rose four places to sixth.

The report highlights that while countries are spending less on military, many more are now involved in external conflict.

The number of people who have died from conflicts around the world in the past year is the highest it has been this century (since the Rwandan genocide) and more than half of the world's countries (56 per cent) are involved in external conflict, showing just how far conflict has become increasingly



international. In addition to discussing the findings from the 2023 GPI, the report includes analysis of current conflicts and potential future conflicts, including an analysis of the likely economic impact of a Chinese blockade of Taiwan on the global economy.

The total number of conflict-related deaths increased by 96 per cent. Both the deaths from internal conflict and external conflicts fought indicators would have

deteriorated even if Ukraine and Russia were excluded from the analysis.

The two indicators with the largest deteriorations in 2022 were conflict-related, external conflicts fought and deaths from internal conflict, followed by political instability.

The indicators with the biggest improvement were UN peacekeeping funding and military expenditure.

Of the 23 GPI indicators, ten recorded an improvement, 11 had a deterioration, and two recorded no change over the past year. The largest deterioration occurred on the external conflicts fought indicator, while UN peacekeeping funding had the largest improvement.

Several countries that had experienced serious conflict in the past two decades recorded the largest improvements in peacefulness.

Libya, Ivory Coast, and Afghanistan were all ranked amongst the five biggest improvers in peace.

Impact of violence

The global economic impact of violence was \$17.5 trillion in 2022, equivalent to 12.9 per cent of global GDP, or \$2,200 per person.

The war in Ukraine had a devastating economic effect, with the economic impact of violence in Ukraine increased by 479 per cent

or \$449 billion. This was the largest increase of any country.

Ukraine, Afghanistan and Sudan incurred the highest relative economic cost of violence in 2022, equivalent to 63.1, 46.5 and 39.7 per cent of GDP, respectively.

In the ten countries most affected by violence, the economic cost of violence averaged 34 per cent of GDP in 2022, compared to just 2.9 per cent for the ten least affected countries.

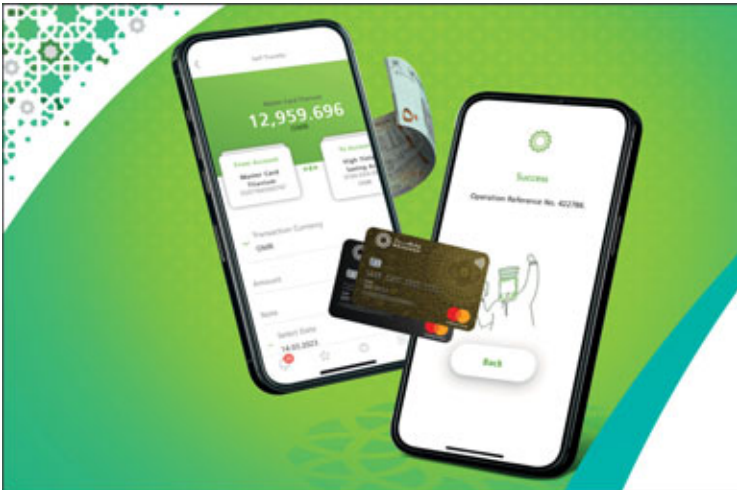


25% OFF

Dolphin Watching

Download the App NOW!





Need cash?

Transfer money easily from your credit card to your account

2477 5777 | www.maisarah-oman.com | [f/MaisarahOman](#) | [@MaisarahIslamic](#) | [@Maisarah.Islamic](#)

#MAISARAHWORLD

MAISARAH
الخدمات المصرفية الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

COMMENTARY



The holiday ‘hangover’ cure



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

NOW Eid Al Adha is over, everybody looks gloomy this week. The question I have is why don't holidays last forever? People go back to work this week with 'hangovers' hanging over their heads thinking what is the cure to restart their office

routine painlessly. There is no magic wand you could swipe in the air to make you feel better except to move on. Talking about swiping, there were a lot of expenses we all went through during the Eid holidays when we 'swiped' our bank cards for the long shopping list. The expenses were endless. At least, we can tell ourselves, while the time of relaxation is over, we are now taking a break from opening our wallets for a while. But Eid days have their special blessings, not just an excuse not to go to work. It is also not a justification to eat a lot and do nothing. But the time for family togetherness and catch up with what we have lost during the busy working routine. Usually, with the working stress on top us, many of us just shut out our emotions and drive ourselves inwardly forgetting the needs of the people around

us. Though there were only five days of Eid holiday, including the normal weekend, hopefully most of us made every minute of it count. But as the summer continue to hot up, some of us find another reason to get back into the holiday mood with a quick break abroad. Once more, we need to swipe our bank cards again for another expensive expedition. But again, the cost of counting 'baisas' and not spending it is like building a mountain of anxiety whose peak might explode unfavorably in the long run. So we need every excuse to get away from the routine. So the question I have is this, shall we wait until the next Eid holiday to 'chill out' or find another excuse to take a short break? But what I found out is that just thinking of another holiday is stressful. So how do you get yourself in a relaxing

mood while we are in the same routine? The answer is simple. We do not need to buy an airline ticket or drive to a hotel on the mountains of Jabal Akdhar to feel good again. We can take 'mini breaks' during the day such as looking at the sunset, a walk on the beach or simply people watching while having a hot drink in a coffee shop. It works for me all the time. It is just an excuse to put my mind in a temporary 'daze' to overcome the everyday stress. It is painless, cheap and most of the time, free. I am not trying to downgrade holidays like Eid but we can extend the mood in our daily routine by reserving 'special time' to be on top of the day without compromising what is important to us. So next time you look back and wish the holiday time never ends, create your own 'fun' time to keep you going.

EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE



US delegation visits Ministry of Education

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The delegation of the United States of America represented by the American Educational Testing Service (ETS), which includes Robert Thorton, Executive Director, Scott Nelson, Senior Vice President, Roy Ferreira, Associate Vice President, and Qudria Ercikan, Vice President, visited Oman's Ministry of Education recently. The delegation attended a meeting with the specialists of the Educational Measurement and Evaluation Centre. The meeting included a presentation explaining the evaluation system in the Sultanate of Oman, the various educational programmes applied in the educational system, the structure of the Educational Measurement and Evaluation Center, the mechanism used in the evaluation system, and the mechanism for preparing and managing national tests and general education diploma exams, and its equivalent.

The meeting also included a discussion of mechanisms for developing the assessment system, electronic transformation in applying exams, electronic correction, capacity building, question bank, and programmes for developing teachers' skills in applying formative assessment tools and developing exam vocabulary preparation skills. The delegation also visited the General Education Diploma Examination Centre at Sheikh Nasser bin Rashid Al Kharousi School, the General Education Diploma Examination Center at Shatti Al Qurum School for Basic Education, the Muscat Correction Centre at Safia Bint Al Khat-tab School, and the Central Committee for Education Diploma Examinations. During the visit, the delegation was briefed on the electronic correction process and the mechanism used in it and listened to a glimpse of the course of work in the implementation of examinations and its procedures.

WE HAVE OUR OWN STATE-OF-THE-ART MOTOR GARAGE



SCAN TO REACH OUR GARAGE IN MUSCAT
24 503685

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com

Oman United Insurance Co.
SAOG

SUGARCANE CULTIVATION

RECEIVES GREAT ATTENTION IN MANAH

MANAH: The wilayat of Manah in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah is famous for growing sugarcane, thanks to the availability of Aflaj water and the attention accorded by farmers for growing this crop, which boosts the national economy.

Growing of sugarcane in a number of governorates of the Sultanate of Oman has received great attention from the Omani people in general and the farmers in particular.

Al Yaqdhan bin Khalaf Al Masrouri, owner of one of the sugar factories, said that the cultivation of sugarcane crops is done from February to March every year and is harvested a year later with the support of the family members.

The harvested sugarcane is transported to Al Zabadia Factory, the only factory in the wilayat of Manah which receives tonnes of sugarcane every year from within the wilayat, he added.

Production of sugarcane undergoes three stages besides drying and packing the product, he said.

He stressed the significance of creation of marketing channels and outlets for this local product and involvement of local food industries, he said.

Local sugar faces some challenges from foreign suppliers due to their low price which has led to the drop in prices of locally produced sugar by 50 percent. Meanwhile, the output has also dropped to 17 tonnes from 40 tonnes last year, he said.

-DNA





امتلئها بثقة
Reliably Yours

THE BIG COMPRESSOR IS BACK



Follow us on
f t i @hommeroman
MyHommer.com

FOR ANY ENQUIRIES,
PLEASE CONTACT :
24818018 / 24818039,
WHATSAPP ONLY : 99316742

AVAILABLE AT LEADING
DEALER OUTLETS



MUSTAFA SULTAN ELECTRONICS CO. LLC

 @MustafaSultanElectronics

 @MustafaSultanElectronics

 @mustafa_sultanE

 @mustafa_sultanE

CR No. 1/25749/4

Wages protection system set for launch in mid-October

The Ministry of Labour collaborates with social partners, such as the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the General Federation of Oman Workers, in its endeavours

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour aims to regulate the labour market and develop its procedures to provide services to its beneficiaries, including workers, employers, and civil government entities.

It also strives to offer employment services and human resource development services to the public. The Ministry constantly monitors the interactions of the private sector, economic indicators, and the diverse skill requirements of the labour market.

The Ministry makes significant efforts to promote a culture of both private and public sector institutions and their employees in various domains.

It collaborates with social partners, such as the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the General Federation of Oman Workers, in its endeavours.

Moreover, the Ministry identifies violations through various inspection teams under the Directorate General of Labour Welfare. It closely monitors the different phenomena that arise in the labour market, as well as the violations that occur across diverse economic sectors and establishments of varying sizes.

This is done to ensure the attainment of decent work and uphold labour standards.



INSPECTIONS: The Ministry of Labour identifies violations through various inspection teams under the Directorate General of Labour Welfare.

Wages protection system

Regarding the wages protection system (WPS), Sheikh Mohammed bin Ghaleb Al Hinai, Chairman of the Main Committee for the Completion, Operation, and Development of the Wages Protection System, said: "The Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Oman, has been actively involved in developing WPS since 2017, up to its most recent version.

The system's development has encompassed various aspects to ensure smooth transactions and the confidentiality of information entered by all stakeholders, including both private sector establishments and their employees.

Committee for WPS

Al Hinai also spoke about the establishment of an executive committee whose mission is to finalise the construction and development of WPS.

Formed in March 2022, the committee consists of members from the Ministry of Labour, as well as representatives from external entities, including the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the Central Bank of Oman, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the General Federation of Oman Workers, and the Public Authority for Social Insurance. The team has conducted a comprehensive analysis of the project, studied the regulatory decisions of the labour law, assessed the Ministry's organizational structure, and examined the technical aspects and integration of the system with various ministry services.



Workshops for over 400 ministry staff

Al Hinai added, "The team has also developed the technical and administrative work plan and established a timeline for project completion. The administrative plan encompasses a communication and media strategy, as well as a plan to enhance the knowledge of Ministry of Labour employees regarding WPS."

Enhancing private sector's awareness

Al Hinai pointed out the plan devised by the Ministry of Labour in collaboration with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry to enhance private sector establishments' knowledge of the importance of WPS.

Enhancing workers' awareness of the system

Al Hinai went on to elaborate on the development of a plan, in collaboration with the General Federation of Oman Workers, aimed at enhancing workers' awareness. The plan, set to run for a duration of three months, is expected to launch in mid-October. As part of this initiative, workshops will be implemented to introduce workers to the system and emphasize its importance in ensuring workplace stability. Additionally, workers will be educated about their rights and responsibilities concerning the system.



Sheikh Mohammed bin Ghaleb Al Hinai, Chairman of the Main Committee for the Completion, Operation, and Development of the Wages Protection System.

The plan, scheduled to run for a period of three months starting in mid-July, will employ various communication channels, including direct and indirect visual mediums, screens, and diverse advertising billboards.

Communication is underway with facilitators of these campaigns, including government entities overseeing specific economic sectors such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman Investment Authority, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, as well as various associations, including the Oman Energy Association (OPAL).

Workshops for 892 Sanad offices

Al Hinai revealed that the Ministry of Labour has been in contact with the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development, which is responsible for overseeing Sanad Offices.

The purpose of this communication is to ensure that these offices are fully prepared to deliver their services efficiently and with a high level of professionalism to private sector establishments and beneficiaries of the Ministry of Labour's services when the Ministry announces the mandatory implementation according to the regulations outlined in Article (53) of the Labour Law.

To enhance the knowledge of employees at Sanad Offices, the Ministry organized workshops through virtual communication on the 21st and 22nd of June. These workshops, consisting of two sessions per day, reached a total of 892 offices across the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. Furthermore, workshops will be organized to enhance the knowledge of entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprises about the system as part of the private sector orientation workshops.

Regulations for Article (53) of the legal framework

The regulations for Legal Article (53), expected to be issued in July of this year, will cover the uniform format of the Salary Information File, administrative penalties that will be imposed in case of non-compliance with the directive, and other regulatory matters that will be announced upon its release.

The successful implementation of this system requires co-operation among the three parties involved in production, the participating entities, continuous communication between them, ongoing monitoring, proactive measures to address anticipated phenomena, and facilitation of processes to mitigate any negative consequences that may arise.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

Annual strategic exercise 'Decision Making-10' starts



MILITARY DRILL: 'Decision Making-10' aims for striking a balance in utilising the country's resources to achieve the national interests. - ONA

MUSCAT: Activities of the annual strategic exercise "Decision Making-10" began at the National Defence College (NDC) on Sunday.

The exercise is carried out by the NDC tenth batch from various

military, security and civil units.

The exercise aims to enhance the participants' decision making on the strategic level, analysing the main strategic topics within simulated national, regional and international events.

"Decision Making-10" also targets striking a balance in utilising the country's resources to achieve the national interests, establishing harmony in utilising tools of global powers and developing strategic thinking. - ONA



SULTANATE OF OMAN

TENDER NOTICE

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

Tender no.	Description	Tender documents price (R.O)	Class	Last date for collection of documents	Last date for Submission of documents
441/2023/MAFWR/HQ-36	Dredging Work at LiwaFishery Harbour	25/-	Specialized	Tuesday 11/7/2023	Tuesday 1/8/2023
445/2023/MAFWR/HQ-37	Supply and the installation of materials and equipment and the rehabilitation of a rainfall enhancement station in the Musandam Governorate	25/-	Specialized	Monday 3/7/2023	Wednesday 12/7/2023

- Interested Companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board (in the 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 (regarding the exemption from submitting a bid bond in tenders).
- 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

US STATE OF MARYLAND

Two killed, dozens injured in Baltimore shooting

BALTIMORE: Police were deployed to the scene of a mass shooting in Baltimore, in the northeastern US state of Maryland, on Sunday.

Officials said that at least two people were killed in the attack and dozens more were wounded. Three of those injured were in critical condition, according to police.

Police said 9 people were taken

to hospitals by ambulance and that more injured made their own way to hospital. There were a total of 30 victims, police said. All of the victims were adults.

One 18-year-old woman was found dead at the scene, and another 20-year-old man was pronounced dead at a hospital, according to a police statement.

Witnesses told the WBFF-TV

broadcasters that hundreds of people had gathered in South Baltimore for the “Brooklyn Day” event. Police said that there had been a “block party” in the area on Sunday morning.

Police said the shooting took place just after 12:30 a.m. local time (Saturday 1630 UTC).

No arrests were made immediately after the incident.

Worley said that authorities were working to identify a suspect and determine the motive for the attack.

“This is an extensive crime scene, our detectives are going to be here quite a while,” he said.

Mayor Brandon Scott urged people to come forward to assist investigators to locate those responsible for the attack. — **DW**



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



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

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

Rioters in France ram car into Paris mayor’s house

Protests have erupted in France after the death of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk, who was shot by a police officer in Nanterre earlier this week



PARIS: Amid ongoing unrest in France, the mayor of a Paris suburb said his home was attacked early Sunday morning, and termed the incident “an assassination attempt” on his family, according to media report.

“At 1:30 a.m., while I was at the city hall like the past three nights, individuals rammed their car upon my residence before setting fire to it to burn my house, inside which my wife and my two young children slept,” said mayor Vincent Jeanbrun of L’Hay-les-Roses, a commune in the southern suburbs of Paris.

“While trying to protect the children and escape the attackers, my wife and one of my chil-

dren were injured,” he said, CNN reported.

Thanking the police and rescue services for their help, the mayor said he had “no words strong enough” to express his emotion “towards the horror of this night.”

Protests have erupted in France after the death of 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk, who was shot by a police officer in Nanterre earlier this week.

The funeral of Nahel Merzouk took place at a mosque in Nanterre on Saturday amid heavy security presence.

The death of Nahel Merzouk has sparked a debate on policing

in France’s marginalised communities and raised questions on whether race played a role in his death, the CNN report said.

The officer who is accused of shooting him was taken to jail. Nahel Merzouk’s mother Mounia while speaking to television station France 5 on Friday blamed only the officer who shot her son for his death.

In order to control the protests, the French government has deployed security personnel and riot police across the country as the unrest continued into a sixth night of protests. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin

on Sunday said that it had been a “quieter night thanks to the resolute actions of the police,” as per the CNN report.

Darmanin further said that 427 people were detained overnight on Saturday. Over 1300 people were detained and 2560 fires were reported on public roads on Friday. Darmanin said that many of those detained since the unrest are minors with an average age of 17, according to CNN. French President Emmanuel Macron has postponed a trip to Germany due to begin on Sunday amid the unrest in the country, Al Jazeera reported.

On Saturday, French Interior Ministry said that 1,311 people had been detained following the fourth night of violence, an update on its previous figure.

It said 2,560 fires had been reported on public roads, with 1,350 cars burned, and that there had been 234 incidents of damage or fire in buildings, CNN reported. 79 police and gendarmes were injured over the course of Friday night and there were 58 attacks on police and gendarme stations, the Ministry added.

Two police officers suffered gunshot wounds in Vaulx-en-Velin. — **ANI**

IN DUTCH COLONIES



Dutch king apologises for colonial-era slavery

AMSTERDAM: Dutch King Willem-Alexander has apologised for his country’s historic involvement in slavery and its ongoing repercussions, as the Netherlands on Saturday begins an official event to mark 150 years since the end of slavery in Dutch colonies.

The king issued his apology during a speech marking the event.

“Today I’m standing here in front of you as your king and as part of the government. Today I am apologising myself,” Willem-Alexander said. “And I feel the weight of the words in my heart and my soul.” The king commissioned a study into the exact role the Dutch royal family, the House of Orange-Nassau, played in slavery in the Netherlands.

He asked for forgiveness “for the clear failure to act in the face of this crime against humanity.”

Thousands of descendants from the former Dutch colony of Suriname and the Dutch overseas territories of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao are attending celebrations in Amsterdam.

The event has been dubbed “Keti Koti,” meaning “breaking chains” in Sranan Togo, a Creole language spoken in Suriname.

Queen Maxima and Prime Minister Mark Rutte are also expected to attend Keti Koti commemorations. Activists had called for the king to apologise for the institution of slavery during his speech.

“That is important, especially because the Afro-Dutch community considers it important,” Linda Nooitmeer, chairman of the National Institute of Dutch Slavery History and Legacy, told the NOS public broadcaster. “It is important for processing the history of slavery.”

Last December, Rutte apologised for slavery on behalf of the Dutch government.

A number of Dutch cities, including Amsterdam, issued their own apologies before the prime minister did so. — **DW**

FROM DEFICIT TO SURPLUS

India’s spectacular milk production journey

NEW DELHI: In India, milk is more than just a drink, a staple that never goes out of style. Consumed hot and cold and in all seasons. The country’s favourite refreshment and source of nourishment, milk is a dietary delight for Indians across the country.

From individuals producing their own milk to mega dairy co-operative brands catering to the calcium cravings of hundreds of millions of Indians, the Indian milk industry has emerged as ‘the biggest’ and ‘the best’ in the world.

CEO of Lakshya Food India LTD, Ankit Redhu, from Jind, has prioritised profitability and aims to create more job opportunities

on the back of innovative methods used to enhance milk production in the country.

There are many individuals like him who have revolutionised the operational landscape of the Indian milk industry, leading to its current status as the best in the world. As per the sources, India’s milk production today surpasses that of the United States by 50 per cent and is three times greater than that of China.

Formerly a milk-deficient country that would produce a little over 55 million tonnes of milk during a fiscal year in the 90s, India is now home to 23 per cent of global milk production. Multi-

ple factors including innovation, robust research, technological advancements and government support have enabled India to optimise its milk production.

Director of Sumul Dairy in Surat, Jayesh Patel, tells about the Journey of the Dairy which started with just 200 liters of milk and is now processing 22 lakh liters (2.2 million) of milk every day. “It has benefitted all, especially the tribal people and as many as 250,000 women who are associated with us. It is because of this that today we are able to supply milk from Kolhapur in Maharashtra and to Goa,” Patel said.

Surat-based Shakuntala Ben,

a small dairy farmer is a living example of the empowerment of women in India’s dairy industry. Shakuntala, who has six cattle, has successfully established her business and is contributing to the larger picture of India’s milk industry. The government, cooperative societies and milk processing units in the country are encouraging dairy farmers by providing easy loans, high milk-producing cow breeds and other technical assistance. As per the sources, India, which produced 116 million tonnes of milk just a decade ago, has almost doubled its production capacity, producing 221.1 million Tonnes of milk in 2021-22.

India, a country that produced 210 MT of milk in 2020-21 now has set its eyes on surpassing its own record by implementing the National Action Plan for Dairy Development.

The plan aims to achieve a milk production target of 300 million tonnes by 2023-24. It also aims to enhance the per capita milk availability from 444 grams per day in 2022 to 592 grams per day by 2023-24.

The action plan is the result of great government efforts coupled with the high ambitions of the individuals and industry players that have kept the Indian milk industry thriving. — **ANI**

RESEARCH STUDY

Flexible, friendly workplace culture makes for better remote work

WASHINGTON: The pandemic forced many people to work from home, but it wasn’t always a pleasant situation. Remote work has numerous advantages, including more flexibility, inclusion for parents and people with disabilities, and work-life balance. It can, however, cause issues with teamwork, communication, and the overall work environment.

New research from the Georgia Institute of Technology used data from the employee review website Glassdoor to determine what made remote work successful.

Companies that catered to employees’ interests, gave employees independence, fostered collaboration and had flexible policies were most likely to have strong remote workplaces.

“One of the biggest changes during the pandemic for all of us, for better or worse, was remote work,” said Munmun De Choudhury, an associate professor in the School of Interactive Computing.

“The motivation for us in this research was to understand what makes some organizations more suitable for remote work and others not. We found that cultural aspects matter the most.”

De Choudhury and her Ph.D. student Mohit Chandra presented the research in the paper, “What Makes Some Workplaces More Favorable to Remote Work? Unpacking Employee Experiences During Covid-19 Via Glassdoor,” at Proceedings of the 15th ACM Web Science Conference.

Data discovery

Glassdoor made for an ideal dataset because employees can post anonymously, leading to more authentic reviews. Although review sites are known for attracting people with strong views, this bias worked in the researchers’ favour -- they were looking for people with strong opinions on company culture.

“We are missing the people who are in the middle, but it also actually works in our favour because we really were interested in those positives and negatives,” De Choudhury said.

“We recognise the bias, but at the same time, it was still a pretty good data set for us to know the extremes of how people felt.”

Ultimately, they collected more than 140,000 reviews from current employees at 52 Fortune 500



companies that allowed remote work from March 2019 to March 2021, which overlapped with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some of these companies included Verizon, Walmart, and Salesforce. Their textual analysis mostly focused on the pros and cons section of the Glassdoor reviews.

To analyse the data, the researchers created an algorithmic prediction task to identify which cultural attributes a company had prior to the pandemic would lead

to favourable remote work environments. Their model used statistical and deep learning methods and correctly predicted a company’s favourable remote work environment 76% of the time.

Using organisational behaviour theory, the researchers divided company culture into 41 different dimensions categorized into seven subgroups: interests, work values, work activities, social skills, job structural characteristics, work styles, and interpersonal relationships.

The company culture curve

Companies with a positive culture for remote work excelled in three main categories:

Interests: Companies that empower employees to pursue their own goals, interests, and how they conduct their work were viewed more favourably.

Work values: Companies that give their employees the freedom to make their own decisions and work in a collaborative environ-

ment led to more satisfaction.

Structured job characteristics: Companies with flexible remote work and hours were more likely to entice employees.

“We found these keywords in reviews like ‘work-life balance’ or ‘flexible work’ occurring frequently in the pros section of good companies,” Chandra said.

Conversely, companies with toxic cultures frequently failed to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts; made workers feel disrespected; and acted unethically. Ultimately, the researchers believe these results reflect generational differences in what’s most valuable to employees.

“There are a lot of reports of quiet quitting and the great resignation because millennials or Gen Z value culture a lot, in contrast to previous generations like Baby Boomers, for whom job satisfaction was largely about compensation,” said De Choudhury. “Younger generations might say they’re OK with an average salary if they can have that flexibility in work hours, and that’s what makes these companies more favourable to remote work.” — **ANI**

CAMPAIGN BY RARE

Thailand takes back elephant from Sri Lanka over abuse claim

BANGKOK: A Thai elephant returned to his home country on Sunday, after being away in Sri Lanka for over two decades. Activists claim the animal had suffered mistreatment.

The 29-year-old Muthu Raja, also known as Sak Surin, spent 22 years abroad. Until last year, the 4-tonne elephant was kept at a Buddhist temple in Sri Lanka, where he is believed to have suffered torture and neglect.

The elephant was rescued from the temple following a campaign by the Rally for Animal Rights and Environment (RARE) group. RARE has petitioned authorities to prosecute those who it blames for his condition.

The animal was in pain and covered in abscesses when it was extracted from the temple to a zoo at the Sri Lankan capital, according to the Zoo's chief veterinarian.

Animal rights groups say Muthu Raja was forced to work with a logging crew and that his handler inflicted some of the wounds.

The elephant is now due to undergo hydrotherapy in Thailand for further treatment. RARE or-

ganised a Buddhist blessing on Friday to bid the animal farewell.

The elephant's \$700,000-journey (roughly €641,000) has strained ties between Thailand and Sri Lanka. Thai authorities revealed the cost of the journey, without clarifying who would pay for it.

Sri Lanka-based wildlife environmentalist Jagath Gunawardana said that when a gift is taken back, it is bound to have a negative effect on both countries' ties. Sri Lanka considers elephants sacred and protects them by law.

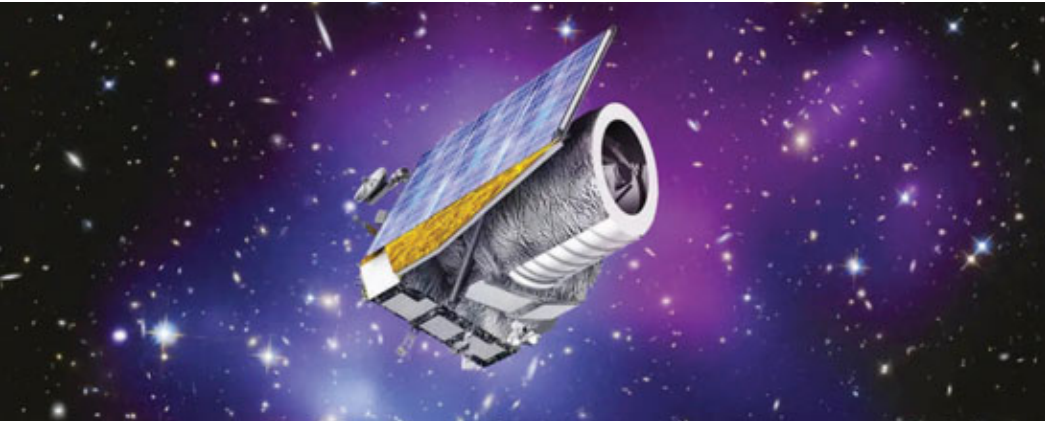
However, that does not eliminate the possibility of animals experiencing abuse, which also a common problem in Thailand.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena told parliament last month that he had personally conveyed his country's regrets over the animal's condition to the Thai king.

Thailand has stopped sending its elephants abroad, and is currently checking the conditions of those already overseas, Thai Environment Minister Varawut Silpaarcha said. — **bw**



Euclid space telescope lifts off from Florida to explore dark matter



The telescope is set to explore the unknown realms of the universe

FLORIDA: The European Space Agency's Euclid space telescope lifted off aboard a SpaceX rocket from Florida on Saturday.

The telescope, which successfully separated from the rocket about an hour after the launch, is set to explore the "dark" or unknown realms of the universe.

Flight controllers in Germany declared success less than an hour into the flight, applauding

and shouting "Yes" after they received a signal from the telescope after it separated from the rocket.

"I'm so thrilled, I'm so excited to see now this mission up in space, knowing it is on its way," the European Space Agency Director General Josef Aschbacher said from the launch site in Florida.

The Euclid telescope now sets off on a monthlong journey to its destination, known as the second Lagrange point (L2) of the solar orbit, where gravity from the sun and Earth balance the orbital motion of a satellite.

There are five so-called "Lagrange Points," according to NASA. L2 is nearly 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometres) away from Earth.

From L2, the telescope will survey galaxies as far away as 10 billion light years from Earth across an immense expanse of

the sky beyond our own Milky Way galaxy.

The spacecraft, which weighs 2 tons, is also equipped with instruments designed to measure the intensity and spectrums of infrared light from those galaxies in a way that will precisely determine their distances.

The telescope is set to produce the largest and the most accurate map of the universe so far, including the distribution of galaxies spanning the last 10 billion years of cosmic time, explained Elsa Montagnon, the head of Mission Operations Division at NASA.

That gives scientists the ability to comprehensively study the evolution and composition of the universe, Montagnon added during a live broadcast of the launch.

— Agencies

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

'Voices of Afghan women silenced, dreams shattered'

KABUL: The rule of the Taliban has proved to be a hell for Afghan women — ban on education and working in the organisation — the situation is deteriorating for them, Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported citing Amnesty International.

Amnesty International said that the voices of Afghan women and girls have been silenced and their dreams have been shattered adding that them from public life is a "crime against humanity." The organisation said that women are given no vocational training opportunities and are forced to wear a hijab in public places.

Amnesty International released a video on Twitter on July 1 demonstrating the desperate situation of Afghan women and stressed that "sidelining women and girls" from public life can be considered a crime against humanity. It said that the Taliban-led government should be held accountable for it, Khaama Press reported.

Amnesty International said that the Taliban-led government has been accused of widespread human rights violations. The organisation said that the Taliban has responded with violence to the legitimate demands of Afghan wom-



Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of six countries have jointly called on the Taliban to swiftly reverse policies and practices that restrict women and girls from exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, Afghanistan-based TOLO News reported.

The call was made during a meeting of the foreign ministers from France, Germany, Indonesia, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, and South Africa at the Female Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on June 29 and 30. The statement issued at the meeting emphasized the need for full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

It "urged the Taliban to promptly reverse policies that hinder women and girls from enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their access to education, employment, freedom of movement, and their full and meaningful participation in public life", as per TOLO News.

The statement also called on all states and organisations to use their influence, in accordance with the United Nations Charter, to facilitate an urgent reversal of these policies and practices. — **ANI**



Raysut Cement Company

P.O. Box: 1020, P.C. 211, Salalah, Sultanate of Oman

Tender Code	RCC/PRO/2023-00X- RCC PLANT CANTEEN CONTRACT
Tender Title	RCC PLANT CANTEEN OPERATION & MAINTENANCE WITH THREE-TIME FOOD FOR APROX 200 PERSONS.
Collection Start date	03.07.2023
Collection End date	12.07.2023
Submit Date	15.07.2023
Tender Brief	CANTEEN CONTRACTING COMPANY SHOULD PROVIDE 3 MEALS (breakfast, lunch and dinner) ITS EMPLOYEES AS PER DETAILED SOW.
	TENDER FEE:
	Payment type:
	Scope of Work:
	Scope of work Canteen Contracting Company:
	1. Canteen Contracting Company should provide 3 meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner).
	2. Number of employees: 200 (Omanis + Expats). This includes expat employees residing in the Employees' Camp in Raysut.
	3. Canteen Contracting Company needs to maintain high standards of hygienic food.
	4. All cooking equipment and the maintenance of the same will be under the Canteen Contracting Company.
	5. Canteen Contracting Company will provide separate quotes for Fresh and frozen foods (chicken/meat and fish).
Tender Details	6. Chillers and freezers shall be considered by the contractor for storing purposes.
	7. All SS table with drain facilities for Meat preparation, Veg preparation etc. shall be considered.
	8. Drinking (Mineral) water shall be arranged by the contractor.
	9. The contractor shall not consider power and water (washing purposes).
	10. Electricity (lighting, Water heaters in the kitchen area and toilet) bills.
	11. Water (utilities) bills.
	12. Bidders need to be submitted the relevant document as per Article-1
	RCC will provide the followings: -
	1. Kitchen area,
	2. Dining area, tables and chairs (blew)
Contact Details	3. Air conditioning system (New)
	4. Kitchen hood with Exhaust and fresh air fan.
	5. Electricity and water (lighting, water heater in the kitchen area and toilet bills.
	6. Maintenance of the Air-conditioner, lighting, and plumbing.
	7. Washable water
	For all other terms and conditions, please refer to the detailed SOW and
	Contract period: ONE YEAR (The contract will be extendable to three years subject to satisfactory performance of serving high-quality foods)
	Commercial Terms & Conditions:
	1. Price: Prices be quoted on delivery at our site DDP/ CIF Salalah site basis.
	2. Payment: 30 days credit.
Notes	Note:
	Sealed Tenders are invited by Raysut Cement Company (S.A.O.G.), Salalah, Sultanate of Oman.
	Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by bid bond will not be considered.
	Any tenders received beyond the above closing time and date or not being supported by bid bond will not be considered.
Email: PURCHASING@RAYSUTCEMENT.COM.OM	Tel: (968) 23220600 -Extn 509
Raysut Cement Company, Salalah, Raysut Industrial Area, Post Box: 1020., Postal Code: 211.	Salalah – Sultanate of Oman
	Procurement Department: Office hours 7:00-15:00 hours.



MAXimum Power. MAXimum Cooling.



MAX Power - Stable Operation at high temperature

High-efficiency heat dissipation technology, results in stable cooling even at 55°C....



MAX Guard - 5 Anti-corrosion Measures

5 Anti-corrosion measures, for all-round protection, Longer service life and less maintenance.



MAX Safety

The Main board and electric box is enclosed in fire proof material for additional safety.

GS18GMAX60
18000 BTU
EER: 11.70

GS24GMAX60
22178 BTU
EER: 11.60

GS26GMAX60
24000 BTU
EER: 12.00

GS30GMAX60
27500 BTU
EER: 11.96



MUSCAT
96742452

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

C.R. No. 1009680

SALALAH
94048494



www.genetco.net

@GenetcoOman

@GenetcoOman

Genetco Oman

Genetco is a registered trademark of Genetco Oman. All rights reserved. © 2023 Genetco Oman. All rights reserved.

SPORTS

Aussies survive Stokes scare to take a 2-0 Ashes series lead

England skipper's superb knock of 155 and Bairstow's controversial stumping headlined final day's action

LONDON: One of the best fourth innings knocks ever from Ben Stokes (155) wasn't enough to stop Australia from going 2-0 up in the series at Lord's in a cliffhanger of a fifth day at Lord's on Sunday.

It took a monumental bowling effort from Australia, without Nathan Lyon, to stop a rampaging Ben Stokes in a riveting day of Test match cricket. The England skipper was in ravishing form, unleashing his aggressive avatar when stranded with the tail, and taking the attack to the Australian bowling attack with the game seemingly out of England's grasp.

A century stand with Stuart Broad (11) saw Stokes bludgeon the Aussie attack with disdain,



picking and choosing the short boundaries to push England closer to the target. But Stokes' dismissal on 155, with England 70 runs away signalled the end of the fight. The rest of the line-up hung around for a while, but Starc sent Josh Tongue back with a searing yorker to hand Australia a memorable win and a 2-0 lead in the series after two Tests.

Earlier, Stokes and Ben Duckett (83) resumed from where they had left off, nudling the ball around and getting on top of the bounce.

The Australians persisted with the short-ball play without much success early in the session with the uneven bounce that was on display late on day four not popping up very often.

Stokes survived an LBW review off Mitchell Starc's sharp yorker and the century stand was up soon. Just as England seemed to be on course to push Australia into panic mode, Josh Hazlewood struck. The pacer found Duckett's top-edge as the batter tried to pull away a short ball.



Jonny Bairstow joined Stokes in the middle as England's last recognised pair with the visitors continuing to barrage them with short balls. However, the wicket came in quite unexpected fashion when Bairstow wandered outside the crease after leaving a delivery with an alert Alex Carey throwing down the stumps to catch the England batter well short. The bizarre dismissal was Stokes' cue to tee off and the captain went into ultra-aggressive mode, taking on the short ball with relentless pull shifts

through mid-wicket.

In the 54th over, he smashed Cameron Green for three fours, all off pull shots, and treated him to another four followed by a hat-trick of sixes in his next over to reach his hundred in quite dramatic fashion. The subdued celebration from the skipper sent the message that there was work in plenty to be done with more than 130 runs left and four wickets in the bank.

Stokes wasn't done, and England weren't either. Stuart Broad held his end firm as Stokes contin-

ued to flay the Aussie attack. Two sixes came in the 60th over bowled by Hazlewood and two more followed in the 65th over from Starc with the left-arm seamer resorting to T20 tactics to outfox Stokes.

The duo soon brought up the century stand at more than run-a-ball, with Broad contributing only 11 runs to it at that point of time.

Stokes, targeting bowlers from only one end to evade the deep fielders, raced past 150, but Headingley 2019 was not to be repeated as Hazlewood eventually bounced Stokes out - the batter edging one to the keeper off a short delivery with 155 runs to his tally.

Earlier on Saturday, fiery bowling spells from Tongue, Broad, and Ollie Robinson helped England bundle out Australia for 279 in their second innings, as the visitors set the hosts a target of 371.

Broad took the last wicket of Lyon, who hobbled to the crease and batted on one leg after sustaining a calf injury. He scored 4 off 13 balls, with one boundary.

Brief scores: Australia 416 (Smith 110, Head 77, Warner 66, Root 3-19, Tongue 3-98) and 279 (Khawaja 77, Broad 4-65) beat England 325 (Duckett 98, Brook 50, Starc 3-88) and 327 (Stokes 155, Duckett 88, Cummins 3-69, Starc 3-29, Hazlewood 3-80) by 43 runs. - Agencies

ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Sri Lanka trounce Zimbabwe to book ODI World Cup ticket

BULAWAYO: Sri Lanka secured their place at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 by breezing past Zimbabwe in their Super Six encounter on Sunday.

Maheesh Theekshana took four for 25 to bowl out Zimbabwe for 165 inside 33 overs before a century from Pathum Nissanka powered Dasun Shanaka's side to a nine-wicket win.

In the day's other game, lower-order striking from Dipendra Singh Airee rescued Nepal as they defeated the United Arab Emirates by three wickets in the second seventh-place play-off semi-final.

Having been put into bat by Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe wobbled in Bulawayo, losing Joylord Gumbie for a five-ball duck before Wessly Madhevere departed for one to leave the Chevrons on eight for two.

Dilshan Madushanka took his third wicket of the morning to dismiss captain Craig Ervine, but in doing so brought the dangerous Sikandar Raza to the crease to join Sean Williams. Raza played with the patience the situation required



before Madushanka took a fine low catch to dismiss the all-rounder for 31 from 51 balls and end the 68-run partnership.

Williams could not add to his back-to-back centuries but did make 56 before he was bowled by Theekshana, who then combined with Matheesha Pathirana (2/18)

to clean up the tail.

Zimbabwe's final five batters added only 38 runs with three wickets in six balls drawing the hosts' innings to a close after 32.2 overs. In response to 165, Sri Lanka were led by Nissanka who made a run-a-ball fifty in a century partnership with the more watchful

Netherlands meet Oman today

HARARE: The Netherlands will look to force their way back into qualification contention as they take on Oman in the Super Six at the Harare Sports Club on Monday.

Zimbabwe's loss to Sri Lanka has set up a three-way shootout between the hosts, Scotland and the Netherlands for the final qualification spot.

Oman are already ruled out of contention. Duleep Mendis' men lost to Zimbabwe in their opening match of Super Six.

Scott Edwards' side needs to win both of their remaining games by a healthy margin to stand any chance of qualifying, while also requiring Zimbabwe to lose their final game against Scotland.

sanka a shot at a hundred.

A wide from Wellington Masakadza brought the scores level with Nissanka three short of his second ODI ton before a four off the next ball brought up the milestone and the win.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe are still in the driving seat to join Sri Lanka knowing victory over Scotland on Tuesday will make their first appearance at a Cricket World Cup since 2015 certain.

Brief scores: Zimbabwe 165 all out in 32.2 overs (Sean Williams 56, Sikandar Raza 31; Maheesh Theekshana 4/25, Dilshan Madushanka 3/15) lost to Sri Lanka 169/1 in 33.1 overs (Pathum Nissanka 101 not out, Dimuth Karunaratne 30; Richard Ngarava 1/35, Blessing Muzarabani 0/28).

UAE 181 all out in 46.5 overs (Vriitaya Aravind 44, Rohan Mustafa 35; Sandeep Lamichhane 3/23, Karan KC 3/36) lost to Nepal 185/7 in 43.2 overs (Dipendra Singh Airee 79 not out, Kuhsal Bhurtel 35; Muhammad Jawadullah 3/46, Junaid Siddique 1/20).

YOKOHAMA Summer Delights!

Campaign Period: 19th June 2023 – 17th August 2023

RO 10 Discount on purchase of 4 tyres of RIM 17 and below

RO 20 Discount on purchase of 4 tyres of RIM 18 and above

Discount applicable only for PCR/VAN/4WD & LTR TYRES ON DOT 2022 on NSP without VAT. Offer is applicable only at Saud Bahwan Automotive Tyre Retail Outlets on Cash/ Bank Card sales. Offer is valid on select sizes. Prices/Others does not include tyre fitting, balancing and alignment charges. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion.

This season get more with Yokohama tyres! For details visit your nearest Saud Bahwan Group tyre retail outlets

Azaba: 24035658 • Barka: 26887673 • BB Ali: 25553605 • Bureimi: 25660281 • Ghala: 24625165 • Ibra: 25570881 • Nizwa: 25410024 • Salalah: 23210138 • Seeb: 24452438 • Sohar Sanaya: 26948346 • Sohar: 26858661 • Suwaiq: 26860782 • Wataiyah: 24579595

Email - enquiries@sbgta.com 91261728

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX

Fifth win in a row for Verstappen

SPIELBERG: Red Bull's Max Verstappen continued his imperious march towards a third world title with a dominant victory at the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday. The Dutchman's fifth win in a row moves him 81 points clear of team-mate Sergio Perez in the championship.

Verstappen completed a clean sweep of pole positions and race wins at the Austrian Grand Prix with another dominant display in Sunday's main event, leading home Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc and Red Bull team-mate Perez.

Despite an action-packed encounter at the Red Bull Ring that saw several drivers penalised over track limits and strategies differ - Verstappen one of few drivers to stay out during an early Virtual Safety Car (VSC) period - the Dutchman could not be stopped en route to his fifth win on the bounce, and seventh of the season.

Leclerc briefly led the way after taking advantage of the VSC, but he fell back behind Verstappen as the pair worked through their opposing tyre plans and the Red Bull showed its raw pace - underlined by a late and successful bid for the fastest lap bonus point.

Perez delivered a fine recovery from 15th on the grid to end a difficult run and take his first podium since the Miami Grand Prix four races ago, overhauling Carlos Sainz in the closing stages and making the most of the Ferrari driver's time penalty for track limits.



Lando Norris capped off his and McLaren's encouraging weekend with their batch of upgrades en route to fifth, beating the Aston Martin of Fernando Alonso and the Mercedes machines of Lewis Hamilton - another to be penalised - and George Russell to the line.

Pierre Gasly navigated his own five-second penalty to give Alpine a couple of points in ninth, with the other Aston Martin of Lance Stroll passing Williams rival Alex Albon - also penalised - late on for the final point on offer.

A time penalty for an unsafe release left Esteban Ocon 12th in the second of the Alpine cars, with Williams rookie Logan Sargeant - yet another to fall foul of track limits - coming home in 13th as his wait for a maiden F1 point continues.

Alfa Romeo had a quiet race, as Zhou Guanyu and Valtteri Bottas

finished 14th and 16th respectively, sandwiching the AlphaTauri of Nyck de Vries, who was docked five seconds for forcing Haas driver Kevin Magnussen off track.

Oscar Piastri's race was hindered by contact and the need for a replacement front wing, meaning the McLaren man came home back in 17th, followed by Yuki Tsunoda, who picked up damage on the first lap and ran off the track in his AlphaTauri, before being hit with a penalty for track limits.

Haas' strong start to the event ended with the disappointment of P19 for Magnussen - making his 150th Grand Prix start - and a retirement for Nico Hulkenberg, whose loss of power forced him to park at the side of the track, triggering the aforementioned VSC.

(formula1.com)

LIMITING OF TWEETS
Twitter is limiting how many tweets per day various accounts can read, to discourage "extreme levels" of data scraping and system manipulation, Executive Chair Elon Musk said in a post on the social media platform on Saturday.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,774.43 points, up by 0.13 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.16 per cent at 47775 points. Oman Oil Marketing, up 5.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Musandam Power, down 9.94 per cent, was the top loser.

Total value of real estate deals in Oman rises by 37.8%

The figures revealed that the total fees collected for all transactions amounted to OMR28.9 million, comprising an increase of 17.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2022

MUSCAT: The total value of real estate deals in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of May 2023 reached OMR1,220.6 million compared to OMR885.6 million during the same period in 2022, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).
The figures revealed that the total fees collected for all transactions amounted to OMR28.9 mil-



lion, comprising an increase of 17.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2022. The traded value of sales contracts increased by

6.4 per cent, to stand at OMR468 million. The number of sales contracts declined by 4.1 per cent. The statistics indicated a rise in

the traded value of mortgage contracts by 70.3 per cent, to reach OMR748.4 million (10,110 contracts). Meanwhile, the number of

swap contracts reached 620 at the value of OMR4.2 million. The number of title deeds issued by the end of May 2023 stood at

99,893, comprising a rise of 7.6 per cent. The number of issued title deeds for GCC citizens surged by 68.1 per cent to reach 516. -ONA

SIGNIFICANT SURGE

India emerging as an attractive investment destination for automotive manufacturers

NEW DELHI: The Indian automotive industry has achieved a remarkable feat by producing 27 million vehicles valued at \$108 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23. This significant surge in automobile production has surpassed the previous fiscal year, indicating a thriving industry. This success can be attributed to various factors such as the country's favourable business environment, expanding consumer base, and the presence of leading global automobile manufacturers.
With proactive government policies geared towards making sure that India has emerged as an attractive investment destination for automotive manufacturers. The Make in India initiative has also effectively created a conducive environment for foreign direct investment in the automotive sector with the availability of skilled labour at competitive wages, a robust supply chain, and extensive vendor networks that have been able to further enhance India's appeal as a manufacturing hub.
The annual Auto Expo also holds a significant place serving as a platform for manufacturers, enthusiasts, and industry professionals to witness the latest innovations, cutting-edge technologies, and trends in the automotive sector.
India has witnessed a gradual shift towards electric mobility and now forging ahead in its commit-



ment to curbing carbon emissions and fostering sustainable transportation. With a resolute focus on supporting the widespread adoption of electric vehicles (EVs), the nation has diligently established the necessary infrastructure to fuel their growth among consumers.
However, it is not solely the domestic market that propels India's automotive prowess, a significant factor driving the surge in vehicle production lies in the flourishing export market. India has emerged as a formidable exporter of vehicles to diverse regions, including Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.
This remarkable expansion has not only bolstered the industry's

overall revenue but has also fortified India's standing as a formidable global player in the automotive sector.
With each stride forward, India continues to leave an indelible mark on the world stage, shaping the future of the automotive landscape with sustainability and ingenuity.
Prime Minister Modi's Union Cabinet launched \$3.5 billion Production-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), propelling India's automotive sector with financial incentives up to 18 per cent to boost domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive technology (ATT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

The PLI Scheme for the automobile and auto component industry in India has successfully attracted a proposed investment of Rs74,850 crore, surpassing the target estimate of Rs42,500 crore over a five-year period from April, 2022. The scheme has two components: the Champion OEM Incentive Scheme and the Component Champion Incentive Scheme. Under the Component Champion Incentive Scheme, approved applicants are expected to invest Rs29,834 crore.
The PLI Scheme offers incentives of up to 18% to encourage fresh investments in the indigenous supply chain of Advanced Au-

tomotive Technology (AAT) products. This initiative aligns with the government's goal of promoting environmentally cleaner, sustainable, advanced, and efficient electric vehicles (EVs) through the PLI Scheme for Automotive Sector, along with the FAME Scheme.
The successful implementation of the PLI Scheme is a major boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India and AtmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan (Self-Reliant India) Initiatives. It will enhance India's manufacturing capabilities for AAT products, create economies of scale, overcome cost disabilities, and build a robust supply chain. The scheme will also generate employment opportunities and enable the automobile industry to move up the value chain.
The approval of 115 companies under the PLI Scheme demonstrates the industry's confidence in India as a world-class manufacturing destination. The response from both local and globally headquartered groups reaffirms India's progress and self-reliance as a manufacturing powerhouse.
This scheme, along with the PLI scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) and the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) initiative, will facilitate the transition to a greener and more efficient EV-based transportation system. -ANI

NETWORK



Nokia renews patent licence agreement with Apple covering 5G and other technologies

HELSINKI: Network infrastructure and 5G technology provider Nokia has signed a new long-term patent license agreement with Apple to replace the current deal between the two companies that are set to expire at the end of 2023.
The deal, which enables Apple to use the Finnish company's technology in its products, covers Nokia's inventions in 5G and other technologies. The terms of the agreement announced late Friday remain confidential, The Associated Press (AP) reported.
Nokia expects to recognise revenue related to the agreement starting January 2024, and the company said the deal is consistent with its long-term outlook disclosed in the first quarter.
"The agreement reflects the strength of Nokia's patent portfolio, decades-long investments in R&D, and contributions to cellular standards and other technologies," Nokia Technologies President Jenni Lukander said in a statement.
The previous license agreement between Apple and Nokia was announced in May 2017.
Nokia said its patent portfolio is built on more than €140 billion (\$153 billion) invested in research and development since 2000, and is composed of around 20,000 patent families, including over 5,500 patent families declared essential to 5G.
The Espoo, Finland -based Nokia is one of the world's main suppliers of 5G, the latest generation of broadband technology, along with Sweden's Ericsson, China's Huawei and South Korea's Samsung. -BNA

CHINA

Dual carbon goal propels thriving energy storage sector

BEIJING: China's dual carbon goal and targeted policies have provided strong tailwinds, enabling the country's energy storage businesses to thrive amid the rapidly evolving market competition.
Driven by the carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals, China has been actively advancing the use of renewable energy, with energy storage playing a vital role.
As the country ratchets up policy support for the sector, an increasing number of Chinese enterprises have jumped on the bandwagon to develop business layouts oriented toward energy storage and compete in the lucrative market, with the industry scale predicted to surpass 1 trillion yuan (about 138.39 billion U.S. dollars) by 2025.
Based on cooperation with local



governments, a slew of companies operating in the new energy industry have made recent moves to beef up their energy storage investment across the country.
A wholly-owned subsidiary of China Tianying Inc., an A-share listed company operating in the

environment industry, recently announced its decision to build a 100-megawatt-hour gravity-based energy storage project in Huailai County of Hebei Province, in cooperation with the local government.
China's electric carmaker BYD and electric vehicle battery maker

Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Ltd. also announced to up their investment ante in the energy storage sector in partnership with local governments in south China's Guangdong Province. US carmaker Tesla has also joined the race as it plans to build a gigafactory for energy storage in Shanghai.
The promising market prospects, fuelled by policy tailwinds, serve as the driving force for new-energy conglomerates and competent businesses as they compete on the emerging track of the energy storage sector, according to analysts.
At present, there are nearly 90,000 registered enterprises involved in the energy storage industry, data from the China Industrial Association of Power Sources

(CIAPS) showed.
According to the National Energy Administration, China's energy storage sector, hydropower storage excluded, will enter the stage of large-scale development in 2025. Last month, the country's top economic planner said it encourages the participation of these types of energy storage facilities in the mechanism aimed at alleviating strain on the power system during peak periods.
The number of energy storage power stations is expected to sustain rapid growth as policies targeting energy storage are gradually fine-tuned at local levels and independent energy storage business models are continuously optimised, said Wang Zeshen, an official with the CIAPS. -Xinhua

MARKET

MSX index ends higher



Oman Oil Marketing, up 5.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Musandam Power, down 9.94 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,774.43 points, up by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.16 per cent at 477.75 points. Oman Oil Marketing, up 5.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Musandam Power, down 9.94 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Shell Oman Marketing were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 631 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR7.18 million, with more than 14.02 million shares changing hands. Out of 47 traded securities, 14 advanced, 8 declined, and 25 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR87,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR74,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR13,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,815.95 points, down 0.18 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Ominvest, HSBC Bank Oman, and Bank Muscat were up by 2.38 per cent, 2.12 per cent, 1.25 per cent, and 0.73 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, United Finance, and Bank Nizwa were up by 3.97 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 1.04 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,174.85 points, up 0.48 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Refreshment, A'Saffa Foods, and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 2.92 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.00 per cent, and 1.82 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Maha Ceramics were up by 0.63 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.42 per cent before closing at 1,702.47 points. Prices of Oman Oil Marketing, Oman Education & Training, Al Suwadi Power, and Oman National Engineering were up by 5.00 per cent, 4.55 per cent, 3.57 per cent, and 0.93 per cent respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, and Oman Telecom were up by 1.04 per cent, and 0.20 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	5,047.59	4,774.43	4,774.43	4,768.22	6.21	0.13
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,847.57	7,792.53	7,815.95	7,830.13	-14.19	-0.18
Industry Index	6,174.85	6,130.66	6,174.85	6,145.30	29.56	0.48
Services Index	1,899.67	1,702.47	1,702.47	1,695.27	7.20	0.42
MSX Shariah Index	478.53	477.13	477.75	478.53	-0.78	-0.16
MSX TR INDEX	6,634.51	6,279.01	6,279.01	6,270.84	8.17	0.13
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,563.14	8,503.08	8,528.63	8,544.11	-15.48	-0.18
SERVICES TR IDX	2,080.08	1,871.56	1,871.56	1,863.64	7.92	0.42
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,596.28	6,549.07	6,596.28	6,564.70	31.57	0.48

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
14,025,126	7,182,925	631	23,960,514,501	14	8	25	47

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JULY 2

RIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	805,991	307,994	51	0.378	0.386	0.378	0.386	0.378	0.008	2.116	0.386	0.386	0.386	0.100	257,989,054
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	2,000	560	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.005	1.818	0.280	0.275	0.302	0.100	34,971,429
OM0000001132	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INV	25,000	2,725	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.001	0.928	0.109	0.107	0.110	0.100	16,350,000
OM0000002786	BANK MUSCAT	1,096,184	303,752	40	0.277	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.276	0.002	0.725	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	1,086,778,383
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	25,200	6,703	4	0.266	0.266	0.266	0.266	0.266	0.000	0.000	0.266	0.262	0.266	0.100	58,520,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	99,973	6,198	9	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.062	0.063	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	8,750	3,343	2	0.382	0.382	0.382	0.382	0.382	0.000	0.000	0.382	0.384	0.382	0.100	90,308,620
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	750,000	81,000	36	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.100	495,726,727
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	741,000	271,748	39	0.366	0.368	0.366	0.368	0.368	0.000	0.000	0.368	0.366	0.368	0.100	239,547,477
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	112,977	9,266	10	0.084	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.082	0.083	0.100	16,370,119
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	454,491	449,946	52	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.990	0.992	-0.002	-0.202	0.990	0.972	0.990	0.100	742,500,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	725	231	1	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.320	-0.002	-0.625	0.318	0.318	0.000	0.100	17,490,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	13,160	776	2	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.059	0.064	0.100	2,011,511
Total	13	4,135,451	1,444,242	248												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	378	397	1	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.000	0.050	5.000	1.050	1.000	1.050	0.100	64,338,750
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV	1,500	345	1	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.230	0.220	0.010	4.545	0.230	0.220	0.000	0.100	16,100,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	100	3	1	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.001	3.571	0.029	0.028	0.029	0.100	20,717,784
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	196,645	34,421	25	0.173	0.176	0.173	0.176	0.171	0.005	2.924	0.176	0.176	0.180	0.100	35,200,000
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	1,090	1,744	1	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.600	1.560	0.040	2.564	1.600	0.000	0.000	0.100	80,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	1,849,540	141,902	68	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.381	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	1,774,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	18,000	5,478	7	0.300	0.306	0.300	0.306	0.300	0.006	2.000	0.306	0.306	0.306	0.100	36,720,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	100,000	9,300	7	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.087	0.093	0.090	0.093	0.100	43,820,334
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	62,000	6,268	9	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.099	0.102	0.100	8,585,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	500	30	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	3,750,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	130,000	7,770	7	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.058	0.060	0.100	18,121,633
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	8,879	14,441	9	2.050	2.100	2.050	2.100	2.100	0.000	0.000	2.100	1.945	2.310	0.100	188,370,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	348,815	17,802	21	0.051	0.054	0.050	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.054	0.100	4,420,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,100,000	1,056,000	7	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.000	0.000	0.960	0.864	0.960	0.100	91,200,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	1,050	441	2	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.100	75,531,708
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	25,000	900	1	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.000	0.000	0.036	0.035	0.036	0.100	5,760,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,055,200	194,172	48	0.184	0.185	0.184	0.184	0.184	0.000	0.000	0.184	0.183	0.185	0.100	37,349,506
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	193,266	5,605	6	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.000	0.000	0.029	0.028	0.029	0.100	19,571,735
OM0000005903	PHOENIX POWER	15,350	982	3	0.067	0.067	0.063	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.064	0.068	0.100	97,994,298
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	3,000	276	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	15,389,490
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,622	1,009	3	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.093	0.095	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	640,905	202,270	72	0.316	0.318	0.310	0.312	0.312	0.000	0.000	0.312	0.312	0.320	0.100	240,302,400
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,027,000	97,564	42	0.096	0.096	0.094	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	120,000	11,538	5	0.096	0.099	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.093	0.098	0.100	90,684,335
OM0000005280	OMAN ARAB BANK	340,000	49,840	13	0.147	0.147	0.145	0.145	0.151	-0.006	-3.974	0.145	0.140	0.145	0.100	242,064,450
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	1,000	281	1	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.281	0.312	-0.031	-9.936	0.281	0.281	0.320	0.100	15,779,590
Total	26	7,047,740	1,860,579	362												

TWO POWER TRANSMISSION TOWERS

China's largest ultra-high voltage cross-river power transmission project starts operation

NANJING: China's largest ultra-high voltage (UHV) power transmission project across the Yangtze River, the longest river in the country, was completed and put into operation Sunday.

The 500-kV power transmission project, spanning 2,550 meters across the Yangtze, stretches from the city of Taizhou to Wuxi in east China's Jiangsu Province, with a total length of 178 km and a total investment of over 1.5 billion yuan (about \$207.6 million), according to the State Grid Jiangsu Electric Power Co., Ltd.

The project includes two power transmission towers measuring 385 metres high each, the tallest of their kind in the world.

It is estimated that the maximum annual power transmission of the project can exceed 26 billion kWh, which is equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of a medium-sized Chinese city.

It is expected to increase Jiang-



su's cross-river power transmission capacity by 30 percent, greatly promoting the consumption of clean energy like offshore wind power in the Yangtze River Delta and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by about 10 million tonnes every year.

"We have overcome a series of technical difficulties and set many industry records.

The overall project and the equipment were 100 percent Chinese-made," said project manager Chen Bing. -Xinhua

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM

Musk says Twitter will limit how many tweets users can read

WASHINGTON: Twitter is limiting how many tweets per day various accounts can read, to discourage "extreme levels" of data scraping and system manipulation, Executive Chair Elon Musk said in a post on the social media platform on Saturday.

Verified accounts were initially limited to reading 6,000 posts a day, Musk said, adding that unverified accounts will be limited to 600 posts a day with new unverified accounts limited to 300, Reuters reported.

The temporary reading limitation was later increased to 10,000 posts per day for verified users, 1,000 posts per day for unverified and 500 posts per day for new unverified users, Musk said in a separate post without providing further details.

Previously, Twitter had announced it will require users to have an account on the social media platform to view tweets, a move that Musk on Friday called a "temporary emergency measure." Musk had said that hundreds of organisations or more were scraping Twitter data "extremely aggressively", impacting user experience.

Musk had earlier expressed displeasure with artificial intelligence firms like OpenAI, the owner of ChatGPT, for using



Twitter's data to train their large language models.

Twitter was down for thousands of users on Saturday morning, according to outage tracking website DOWNDETECTOR.COM.

Nearly 7,500 users across the social media platform reported issues with accessing the app during the peak of the outage at around 11:17 AM ET.

The social media platform had previously taken a number of steps to win back advertisers who left Twitter under Musk's ownership and to boost subscription revenue by making verification checkmarks a part of the Twitter Blue programme. -BNA

DATA

Arnold Schwarzenegger says 'Terminator' predicted the rise of AI

THE ACTOR CELEBRATED THE “BRILLIANCE OF WRITING” IN THE 1984 SCI-FI FLICK — WHICH HE STARRED IN AS A CYBORG ASSASSIN — GIVEN THAT “AT THAT TIME WE (HAD) SCRATCHED THE SURFACE OF AI, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. THINK ABOUT THAT.”

While AI is currently at the centre of a huge debate in Hollywood, veteran star Arnold Schwarzenegger claimed ‘The Terminator’ franchise, which launched his career in 1984, predicted the future of artificial intelligence.

Speaking at An Evening with Arnold Schwarzenegger in Los Angeles on Wednesday, the actor, 75, praised the franchise’s writer and director James Cameron, People reported. “Today, everyone is frightened of it, of where this is gonna go,” Schwarzenegger said of current concerns around AI.

“And in this movie, in Terminator, we talk about the machines becoming self-aware and they take over,” he added.

The actor celebrated the “brilliance of writing” in the 1984 sci-fi flick — which he starred in as a cyborg assassin — given that “at that time we (had) scratched the surface of AI, artificial intelligence. Think about that.”

“Now over the course of decades, it has become a reality. So it’s not any more fantasy or futuristic. It is here today. And so this is the extraordinary writing of Jim Cameron,” Schwarzenegger continued in the on-stage conversation, which was to promote his limited edition TASCHEN photo book.

Last month, during his cover story interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Schwarzenegger also opened up about working with Cameron on the films and how the filmmaker actually convinced him to say his now iconic line, “I’ll be back.”

“Cameron and I were debating how to say the line because I was not comfortable with saying ‘I’ll.’ I said, ‘I think it’s stronger to say, ‘I will be back,’” the actor recalled. He said the director then responded, “Are you the scriptwriter now? It’s just one word. Don’t tell me how to write. I don’t tell you how to act.”... “I said, ‘You tell me how to act every fucking minute! What are you talking about?’!”

Schwarzenegger reprised his iconic role of T-800 “Model 101” in ‘Terminator: Dark Fate’, which was released in 2019.

Will there be more ‘Terminator’ films?

The actor in a conversation with The Hollywood Reporter revealed, “The franchise is not done. I’m done. I got the message loud and clear that the world wants to move on with a different theme when it comes to The Terminator.” -ANI



SPORTS

Djokovic ‘hungry for more Slams’

The defending champion and second seed arrives at Wimbledon with an aim to achieve a record 24th major title

LONDON: The 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic has arrived at Wimbledon 2023 and the second seeded Serbian is determined to achieve more and add to the seven trophies he has earned.

The Wimbledon 2023 is set to begin from Monday and will conclude on July 16 at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London.

Defending champion Djokovic, at the age of 36, has made his intentions clear - playing for the records books.

The Serbian legend has Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles as well as a 24th major in his sights as he closes in on a first calendar Grand Slam in 54 years.

Djokovic won his 23rd Grand Slam earlier last month at Roland Garros. A 24th would help him tie the record with Margaret Court.

"I still feel hungry for success, for more Slams, more achievements in tennis.

"As long as there's that drive, I know that I'm able to compete at the highest level. If that goes down, then I guess I'll have to face probably different circumstances and have a different approach. So far there's still the drive," Djokovic said at his pre-tournament press



conference on Saturday.

"Of course, a lot of people are coming up to me and congratulating me [on Roland Garros], reminding me of the historic success, which is nice of course, it's very flattering.

"But at the same time, my mind is directed towards Wimbledon, what's the next Slam, what's the next task. That's the life of a professional tennis player. I think that kind of mentality is necessary for the maintenance of that intensity. If you really want to have a chance and have a go at more Slam titles, you need to maintain that concentration and devotion," Djokovic said.

Djokovic is hoping to tie Roger Federer's record of eight Wimble-

don titles this week, having won the past four editions of the grass court event.

The World No. 2, who won his maiden title at the tournament in 2011, has not lost a match on Centre Court since 2013 when he was defeated in the final by Andy Murray.

The second seed is pleased with how he has established himself as the dominant force on the surface in recent years.

"For several years I did struggle to really take my game on the grass courts to the next level because naturally for me it feels better to slide, and the grass is really not a forgiving surface when it comes to sliding, extreme sliding motions

on the court. I had to learn how to move, how to walk, how to play, how to read the bounces," Djokovic said.

"Grass court is the rarest surface we have in the sport, which is contrary to what you had maybe 40, 50, 60 years ago where you played three out of four Slams played on grass. Nowadays that's not the case. It does take time - more than any other surface - to really get used to it. But I think in the past 10 years of my career, I've adapted very quickly to the surface. I think the results here are a testament to that," said the 23-time Grand Slam champion.

"Carlos is a very nice guy who is carrying himself very I think

maturely for a 20-year-old. He already has plenty of accolades to his name, making history of the game so young," Djokovic said when asked about Alcaraz. "I think he's great for the game as a player who brings a lot of intensity, energy on the court, and also being very humble and having a nice personality off the courts.

Djokovic will begin his campaign against Pedro Cachin with World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz in the other half of the draw. Djokovic, who overcame the 20-year-old Spaniard in the semifinals in Paris, is aware of the Spaniard's threat but remains focused on himself.

"For me, I don't need to have Carlos or anybody else really to

find that extra drive and motivation when I enter Slams because I know that I have to win seven matches to win a title. So whoever I get to face across the net, it doesn't make a difference for me. I need to do what I need to do. Most of my attention is focused on my body and my mind, my game, trying to I guess bring it to the optimal state where I'm performing my best every match," he added.

The first dangerous obstacle in Djokovic's path possibly would come in the fourth round against former semifinalist and No. 17 seed Hubert Hurkacz or Italian No. 14 seed Lorenzo Musetti.

Nick Kyrgios, the man Djokovic beat in last year's title decider at Wimbledon, is also in the Serb's quarter of the draw but the No. 30 seed must first get past a tricky opener against Belgian wildcard David Goffin.

Fourth-seeded Casper Ruud and eight-seeded Jannik Sinner share the third quarter of the draw and lie ahead as potential semi-final opponents for Djokovic.

After capturing a maiden grass-court title in Queens last week, world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz will be looking to carry that confidence on the surface into Wimbledon, where he reached the fourth round 12 months ago. Making his third appearance at the All England Club, the 20-year-old Spaniard begins his campaign against French veteran Jeremy Chardy. The first seed in his path is Chilean Nicolas Jarry, seeded 25th, who could face Alcaraz in the third round.

Possible fourth-round opponents for Alcaraz are Queens finalist Alex de Minaur or No. 19 seed Alexander Zverev before a potential quarter-final meeting with Stuttgart champion and No. 10 seed Frances Tiafoe or Danish No. 6 seed Holger Rune.

No. 3 seed Daniil Medvedev or No. 5 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas could loom ahead for Alcaraz in the semifinals. -ANI

WIMBLEDON

Murray believes he can beat the best



LONDON: Two-time champion Andy Murray believes that he can beat the world's best when he takes to the court at Wimbledon 2023 and said that he is "one of best grass court players in the world."

The 36-year-old who won Wimbledon in 2013 and 2016, won two ATP Challenger Tour titles last month and is optimistic of making a deep run on home soil.

"I want to go out there and perform at a level that I'm happy with. I do feel like I'm in a really, really good position to do that. I have the experience at this tournament, playing on the big courts here," Murray told ATP.com.

"There's only one player in the draw that has more experience of playing here than me, which is Novak. I need to use that to my advantage and use my experience to my advantage and take confidence from that.

"I do believe I'm one of the best grass-court players in the world, and I'm physically feeling really good. I prepared well, so there's no reason why I can't have a good tournament," he added.

However, last month, the 36-year-old has shown good indications on grass, winning Challenger tournaments in Surbiton and Nottingham.

Making his 15th appearance at Wimbledon, Murray is determined to give it everything he has, starting against British

wild card Ryan Peniston on Tuesday.

"It's always been the most important tournament for me in the year. Regardless of how I was feeling coming in, I would always do my best to be ready for this one, even if there were some physical issues, niggles, what have you. I'd always give my best. But obviously as you get towards the latter stage of your career, you want to make the most of these opportunities because you don't know how many more times they'll be here," Murray said.

Murray holds a 60-12 record at Wimbledon and is the only player in the draw to have beaten Novak Djokovic at the major. The 46-time tour-level titlist is thrilled to be competing at the event once again.

"I feel very comfortable in these surroundings. I love coming to play the tournament here. When I walk out onto Centre Court to play, obviously I'm very nervous, but incredibly excited to get the chance to perform here again on one of, if not the most special court, in our sport," Murray said.

"I always really look forward to it. I'm feeling already, a couple days out from the tournament, a bit nervous and stuff, which is always a really positive sign to me when I feel that way. Hopefully that bodes well for the event," the 36-year-old said. -ANI

HEALTH CONCERNS AHEAD OF WIMBLEDON

Pretty sure it's going to be fine: Swiatek

LONDON: A day after pulling out before her semifinal match in Bad Homburg Open, Iga Swiatek set aside concerns over her health and is all set for Wimbledon 2023, beginning on Monday.

She had a difficult night in Bad Homburg, Germany, last week, where she withdrew from the semifinals with a GI illness.

"I had a stomach ache. But I don't know if there was something wrong or not. Later in the day, I felt OK, so I'm pretty sure it's going to be fine," Swiatek told WTA.com on Saturday.

Swiatek, who begins her Wimbledon campaign on Monday against Zhu Lin, said she's finding her groove on the grass court faster this year, which she attributes to a more optimistic attitude.

"I feel like this time [is] the first year where I could just focus on practising, actually learning a lot. So hopefully I'm going to be able to use that in my matches," Swiatek said.

Swiatek stated that the transition from French Open to Wimbledon might be difficult due to the short period between events.

"For sure, I believe the best players, they can play on all surfaces. I want to kind of become that kind of player who can play well on grass as well and feel comfortable there," Swiatek said.

"I'm doing my best to just work on my skills. Last year, I feel like



we've done a pretty good job with my coach in terms of my touch and getting back slices and also playing slice sometimes," she added.

Swiatek hopes to become the first player since Serena Williams in 2015 to win both Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

A year ago Swiatek arrived as French Open champion, too, but also with a 35-match win streak that was the longest in the women's game in some 25 years. She was bundled out in the third round (streak snapped at 37) but has changed her prep this year, playing

a small grass-court event between Paris and London.

The 22-year-old Pole has No. 7 seed Coco Gauff and No. 11 seed Daria Kasatkina as possible quarter-final rivals, while No. 4 seed Jessica Pegula and No. 5 seed Caroline Garcia could face Swiatek in the semis.

The bottom half of the draw, headlined by reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka, is stacked.

Besides Sabalenka, it also includes last year's Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, run-

ner-up Ons Jabeur, two-time winner and recent Birmingham champion Petra Kvitova, Roland Garros finalist Karolina Muchova and former Paris champions Barbora Krejickova and Jelena Ostapenko.

Sabalenka begins her journey against Hungarian Panna Udvardy and could take on her Roland Garros conqueror Muchova in the fourth round. Jabeur could get a rematch with No. 3 seed Rybakina in the quarterfinals, with the winner of that clash possibly earning a last-four showdown with Sabalenka. -ANI

WORLD CUP WINNER

Cesc Fabregas announces his retirement

LONDON: Former Arsenal, Barcelona and Chelsea midfielder Cesc Fabregas has announced his immediate retirement from football on Sunday.

The 36-year-old calls time on a career during which he won the World Cup with Spain, the Premier League twice at Chelsea and La Liga with Barcelona.

"It is with great sadness that the time has come for me to hang up my playing boots," Fabregas posted on Instagram.

He ends his career one year into a two-year contract with Italian club Como in Serie B.

Fabregas says he will now move into the dugout by coaching Como's reserve and youth teams.



"It's not all sadness, though, as I'm now going to cross the white line and start coaching the B and Primavera teams of Como 1907," he added. "A club and a project I couldn't be more excited about.

"This charming football team won my heart from the first minute and came to me at the perfect time in my career.

"So after 20 incredible years full of sacrifice, dedication and joy, it's time to say thank you and goodbye to the beautiful game. I loved every minute."

Fabregas joined Barca's La Masia academy aged 10 in 1997.

Having progressed through the La Liga giants' youth set-up, he played 212 Premier League matches and won the FA Cup with Arsenal between 2004 and 2011 before moving back to Barcelona.

Following three years at the Nou Camp, he returned to the Premier League in 2014 with Chelsea, where

he played just under 200 games.

He made 68 appearances in three and a half years with Monaco but his playing time was limited by injuries, before he moved to Como.

Fabregas won 110 caps for Spain and also won the European Championship twice, in 2008 and 2012, either side of lifting the country's first World Cup in South Africa.

"From my first days at Barca, Arsenal, Barca again, Chelsea, Monaco and Como, I will treasure them all," he continued.

"From lifting the World Cup, the Euros, to winning everything in England and Spain and nearly all the European trophies, it has been a journey that I'll never forget."

OTE celebrates debut of premium SUV brand GWM TANK 500 in Oman

Latest offering from GWM stable comes with impressive power, intelligent off-road capabilities, and exceptional comfort and safety

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman accorded a rousing welcome on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, to a new global automotive sensation – the TANK 500 – an off-road luxury SUV from Great Wall Motor (GWM).

The launch was celebrated at a gala event organised by OTE Group, exclusive distributors of GWM’s entire range of SUVs and pick-up trucks in Oman. Joining the celebrations were leading personalities from the Omani corporate sector, existing and prospective customers, and media representatives.

OTE Group, one of Oman’s biggest automotive distributors, was represented by Sheikh Salim Saad Suhail Bahwan, Director, and Prakash Vedula, Assistant General Manager – GWM Oman. In attendance from GWM GCC were Sunny Bhat, General Manager – Sales and Marketing, Alex Guo – Marketing Director, Gautam Arun – Product Director, and Victor Shen – Sales Manager.

Taking centre stage, however, was the TANK 500 – a new premium off-road SUV making its highly anticipated entry into Oman as part of a wider rollout across the Gulf region. Developed on the TANK platform, this latest offering from GWM – China’s largest SUV and pickup manufacturer – comes with impressive power, intelligent off-road capabilities, and exceptional comfort and safety.

As the flagship brand of the GWM family, the TANK 500 has benefited from comprehensive upgrades in engine, system and performance – all aimed at delivering a luxurious SUV motoring experience even amid the challenging terrains of the Middle East. The TANK 500 is equipped with



a high-performance powertrain and four-wheel drive system designed to offer unmatched stability and safety for the passengers. A muscular 3.0L twin-turbo engine delivers 348 hp of power with 500 nm torque. Paired with a 9-speed automatic transmission system, it enables a quick response during acceleration and overtaking. In addition, this model offers

specialized off-road configurations according to customer needs, including electronically controlled mechanical differential lock, off-road Creep Mode and so on. These configurations can provide a more practical and safer driving experience for customers under harsh driving conditions. For example, if a tyre slips when driving over a pothole, the driver can quickly get

out of trouble by using an electronically controlled button to activate the differential lock. Imposing in stature, the TANK 500 is an extraordinary 4,886 mm long, 1,934 mm wide, and 1,905 mm tall and carries a wheelbase of 2,850 mm – stats that attest to its segment-leading presence. Both variants – Signature and Prestige – come loaded with top-notch

features, including Automatic LED headlamps, LED tail lights, 20-inch alloy wheels and power-retractable side steps.

Plush materials and innovative convenience features take luxury in the TANK 500’s interior to a new level. In addition to Nappa leather upholstery, the SUV features a 14.6-inch High-Definition Central Control Infotainment unit that makes motoring a pleasure-filled experience as well. A panoramic sunroof (with the Prestige) along with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay connectivity, add to the model’s luxurious interior setting.

A standout feature of the all-new TANK 500 is its all-encompassing emphasis on safety. Thus, in addition to its intelligent driving assistance system, the TANK 500 comes with an active safety system based on advanced sensors and intelligent algorithms that can monitor road conditions in real-time to provide accurate driving advice with comprehensive security.

Standard across both trims are a total of six airbags each, in addition to a host of safety features that place the TANK 500 in a distinctive category for passenger care. The list includes Adaptive Cruise Control, Intelligent Cruise Assist, In-

telligent Turning, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Centered Keeping, Blind Spot Warning, Driver Fatigue Detection, 360-degree View, Reversing Radar, Forward Collision Warning, Automotive Emergency Brake, and Children’s Safety Lock. Exclusive to the Prestige variant is an Integrated Automatic Parking Assist, Cross Traffic Alert, and Reverse Side Braking, among other features.

“OTE Group, together with Great Wall Motor, is delighted to bring this stunning new SUV to the Omani market. The TANK 500, with its intelligence features and powerful engine, is proven to deliver exceptional performance both in urban and off-road settings. Together, with the superior levels of luxury and comfort that it offers, this superb offering from GWM will resonate well with SUV lovers in Oman,” said Prakash Vedula, Assistant General Manager – GWM Oman.

OTE Group is the exclusive dealer for the diverse product lineup of vehicles from GWM in the Sultanate of Oman. Backed by a nationwide service network, OTE Group offers excellent sales and after-sales service support on par with global standards.

RECOGNITION

Citibank honours Bank Muscat for excellence in US dollar transfers



MUSCAT: In continuation of its excellence in banking services, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, won recently the Straight-through-processing (STP) award from the New York-headquartered multinational banking giant, Citibank, for its outstanding performance in US dollar-denominated fund transfers in both Commercial payments and Treasury payments. The award was based on an evaluation of the quality and accuracy of SWIFT payment messages routed through Citibank, which was above 97 per cent. This prestigious award is given to leading financial institutions around the world that apply the highest levels of efficiency in executing money transfers and financial transactions with minimal manual intervention, which reflects on enhancing efficiency and avoiding any delay in executing

payments. Bank Muscat has been continuously winning this kind of accolades from various global financial institutions. Speaking on the occasion, Zuwaina Abdullah Al Sharji, Assistant General Manager – Central Operations & Change Management, Bank Muscat, said: “It is a matter of pride to win this award once again. The award highlights the bank’s commitment to the highest standards of quality in meeting the stringent criteria for fund transfer. “The bank’s exceptional quality in the delivery of commercial payments and transfers, facilitated by a state-of-the-art in-house payment architecture, which helps to consistently maintain high SWIFT standards for automated processing throughout the payment chain, was also acknowledged.” Citibank representatives commended the operational teams

involved in processing dollar payments at Bank Muscat for the error-free rate, which was maintained consistently throughout the year. The bank is focused on maintaining its leadership in offering cutting-edge products and services, including electronic payment and online services with an emphasis on introducing multiple channels and new products that cater to different sectors. Bank Muscat’s performance has been consistently lauded by the international financial and banking community for decades, with the bank winning similar awards from Wells Fargo, Standard Chartered and JP Morgan in the past. It has also won a number of awards from prestigious international publications like Global Finance, Euromoney, The Banker and EMEA Finance for its different lines of business in the recent past.

SUSTAINABILITY



Nurturing community at Al Mouj Muscat’s with new urban farm

MUSCAT: An urban farm at Al Mouj Muscat is a first for Oman and the latest initiative from the premier lifestyle destination to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability, whilst encouraging a strong sense of community among its 8,000 residents. Located at Linear Park within the oceanfront integrated tourism complex, the Urban Farm provides a richly fertile space where residents can come together to grow their produce and learn about sustainable agriculture. The 250 sq meter farm is proving extremely popular with people of all ages and so far, more than 30 volunteers have embraced the opportunity to garden outdoors and collectively plant, grow and harvest a variety of vegetables, fruit and herbs. The hands-on, eco-friendly concept is both sociable and educational as it provides an environ-

ment where people can connect over a mutual appreciation and love of nature whilst sharing their skills and knowledge. The produce is enjoyed by the volunteers who have the pleasure of taking home nutritious produce, promoting good health and well-being. Nasser bin Masoud Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, commented: “The addition of the urban farm is a wholesome addition to our community, and we are grateful for the tremendous support we have received from all of our volunteers. “By engaging our residents and fostering a sense of ownership and pride, it helps to create a stronger, healthier, and more connected community, values which sit at the core of Al Mouj. “What is also central to our guiding principles and philosophy is the importance of environmental stewardship. By providing opportunities to incorporate

nature into daily life, we are supporting our aims of pioneering sustainability. Currently, the urban farm is growing a variety of produce including tomatoes, potatoes, spinach, eggplants, sweet potatoes, aubergines and herbs and over the winter months when stronger harvests are likely, any surplus will be given away freely to the wider Al Mouj community. Al Mouj Muscat was the Sultanate’s first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC), a joint venture between Majid Al Futtaim Properties, Omran and Tannia that today people from 85 nationalities call home. In addition to its world-class oceanfront retail and dining experiences, visitors are attracted to a 400-berth marina from which sea tour operators run leisure trips off the coast of Oman, an award-winning World 100 championship golf course and luxury hotels.

ROUND-UP

Al Salamah - New generation ‘plug on’ DBs launched in Oman

The DBs launched by Talent Electric Services (TES), a leading manufacturer and supplier of low and medium-voltage panels in Oman in collaboration with Schneider Electric are expected to create a major impact in the Oman market with its high-quality electro-safety features at affordable prices

MUSCAT: Oman can now boast of its own new generation ‘plug on’ consumer electrical distribution board aptly branded ‘Al Salamah’ – implying ‘safety’.

The DBs launched by Talent Electric Services (TES), a leading manufacturer and supplier of low and medium-voltage panels in Oman in collaboration with Schneider Electric are expected

to create a major impact in the Oman market with its high-quality electro-safety features at affordable prices thereby setting a new benchmark in a dynamically evolving power segment in Oman.

The DBs are manufactured locally in TES’s state-of-the-art factory in Samail Industrial City with the assembly components designed and developed in-house exclusively

for Schneider’s specially designed ‘plug-on’ breakers. The DBs will be made available through authorised stockists that make up Talent’s extensive distribution network across Oman. The ‘plug on’ model is an impactful, user-friendly improvisation from the traditional ‘bolt on’ model and is designed for easier operational convenience without compromising on safety features.

The DBs are available in flush and surface mounting types ranging from 4 ways to 16 ways for single and three-phase specifications. Al Salamah has been receiving enthusiastic responses and acceptance, both at the trade and consumer level and is expected to set the trend in the electrical market, especially for the infrastructure projects in Oman in the days ahead.

“Talent has been a channel partner for Schneider since 2014 and the launch of Al Salamah is another milestone to be proud of in our partnership. More such innovative collaborations are in the pipeline,” said RajkumarKampurath, Managing Director of TES.



ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES

Win up to OMR4,000 with BankDhofar new Al Riadah Referral Scheme

MUSCAT: Reaffirming its commitment to providing the best banking experience to its customers, BankDhofar announced the launch of the Al Riadah Referral Scheme. The new scheme offers customers attractive incentives giving them chances to win up to OMR4,000 by referring their friends and family members to join Al Riadah Priority Banking Services.

Elaborating on that, Hind Abdul Malik Al Sabbagh, AGM & Head of Priority Banking at BankDhofar, said: “At BankDhofar, we continue our commitment to provide exceptional banking experience to our customers. With the launch of the referral scheme, we aim to reward our existing customers who share their experience with their family and friends and refer them to BankDhofar Priority Banking Services. We look forward to welcoming new customers who will enjoy unparalleled banking experience.”

Al Riadah referral Scheme, which is valid until the end of March 2024, is open for existing customers of Al Riadah Priority Banking. Customers will get the chance to win OMR 50 per successful referral and up to OMR 1,000 for 20 valid referrals per quarter. Eligibility criteria for referrals include a salary credit of OMR 3,000, a savings deposit of OMR 30,000, or a fixed deposit of OMR 250,000. The reward amount will be credited quarterly.

Al Riadah Priority Banking provides a unique range of banking products and services that are tailored to suit the unique lifestyle of priority customers, ranging from personalized cheque book, exclusive Al Riadah cards, including; Visa Infinite Debit Card, Visa Signature Debit Card, Visa Infinite Credit Card, Visa Signature Credit Cards and MasterCard Platinum Credit Card.

Customers can enjoy exceptional times at restaurants, and shops, procurement protection, extended warranty, access to airport lounges around the world, travel insurance for cardholders and their families, and other exclusive services. BankDhofar also has tailor-made financing solutions to meet the needs of its priority banking customers with low insurance fees and simple and fast procedures.



Refer a friend,
get up to OMR 4000*



*Terms & conditions apply

The Bank also provides deposit accounts at competitive interest rates and low insurance fees.

With the Rewards Programme, an exclusive and comprehensive loyalty programme, credit card holders may enjoy a variety of privileges and benefits. Reward points can be viewed through BankDhofar’s flagship Mobile Banking Application. The app enables cus-

tomers to conduct their banking transactions at their convenience 24/7.

The award-winning App offers a wide range of exclusive services, including credit card top-ups for secured payment during travel, instant transfer to any bank in the Sultanate, mobile top-up for all telecom providers in the Sultanate and instant international money

transfer service with Western Union, among other services.

BankDhofar has dedicated Al Riadah offices in most BankDhofar branches and established specialised Al Riadah centres that provide a private and unique experience in Muscat (Muscat Grand Mall, Mall of Muscat, and Royal Opera House), Batinah - North (Sohar), and Dhofar (Salalah).

‘WITH YOU IN KHAREEF’



Al Maha Petroleum Company announces promotional offers for Khareef Salalah

MUSCAT: Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company announces promotional offers for KhareefSalalah ‘With You in Khareef’ from July 1 till August 31.

For participation and entry in the draw, the customer must fill up fuel worth OMR 5 at the nearest Al Maha petrol station.

The draw prizes include; MG RX5 and MG5 cars, four round trips from Muscat to Salalah for a family of 4 with airline tickets, 5-star hotel accommodation and 3-day car rental; in addition to 10 Samsung phones and 100 free fuel cards worth OMR25 each.

All the customer has to do is scan the QR code available at Al-Maha fuel stations, and enter the required details; phone number and the tax invoice number mentioned on the fuel receipt.

Each OMR 5 purchase counts as one chance to enter the draw. The flights’ raffle draw will be held on August 5 and other prizes will be held on September 10.

The Khareef season is an ideal destination for family holidays, and with the offers presented by Al Maha Petroleum Products, we are happy to share these festivities with everyone and win great prizes.

Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company owns more than 240 fuel stations spread throughout the Sultanate. They provide the latest car maintenance services, convenience stores and so much more.





pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

✓ Ultra-hydrating

✓ Revitalizing

✓ Energizing

✓ Electrolytes



800 71 222

9275 5522

© OmanOasis

© OmanOasisOfficial

© OmanOasisWater

CR No. 1392452



شانجان أوتو
CHANGAN AUTO
قيادة نحو أفق أوسع Driving Forward With You

Choose your favourite Changan model today!

Easy to own with low monthly installments.



2023MY

CS85 COUPE

2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 8-speed AT

EMI
OMR **140***
for 6 years



CS75 PLUS

2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp, 8-speed AT

EMI
OMR **135***
for 6 years



CS35 PLUS

1.4L Turbo Engine, 156 hp, 7-speed DCT

EMI
OMR **109***
for 6 years



EADO PLUS

1.4L Turbo Engine, 155 hp, 7-speed DCT

EMI
OMR **94***
for 6 years



EADO

1.6L Turbo Engine, 126 hp, CVT

EMI
OMR **77***
for 6 years

KNOW MORE

*Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment, for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. To know more, please visit the Changan Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles
and Equipment LLC

Showroom Locations :

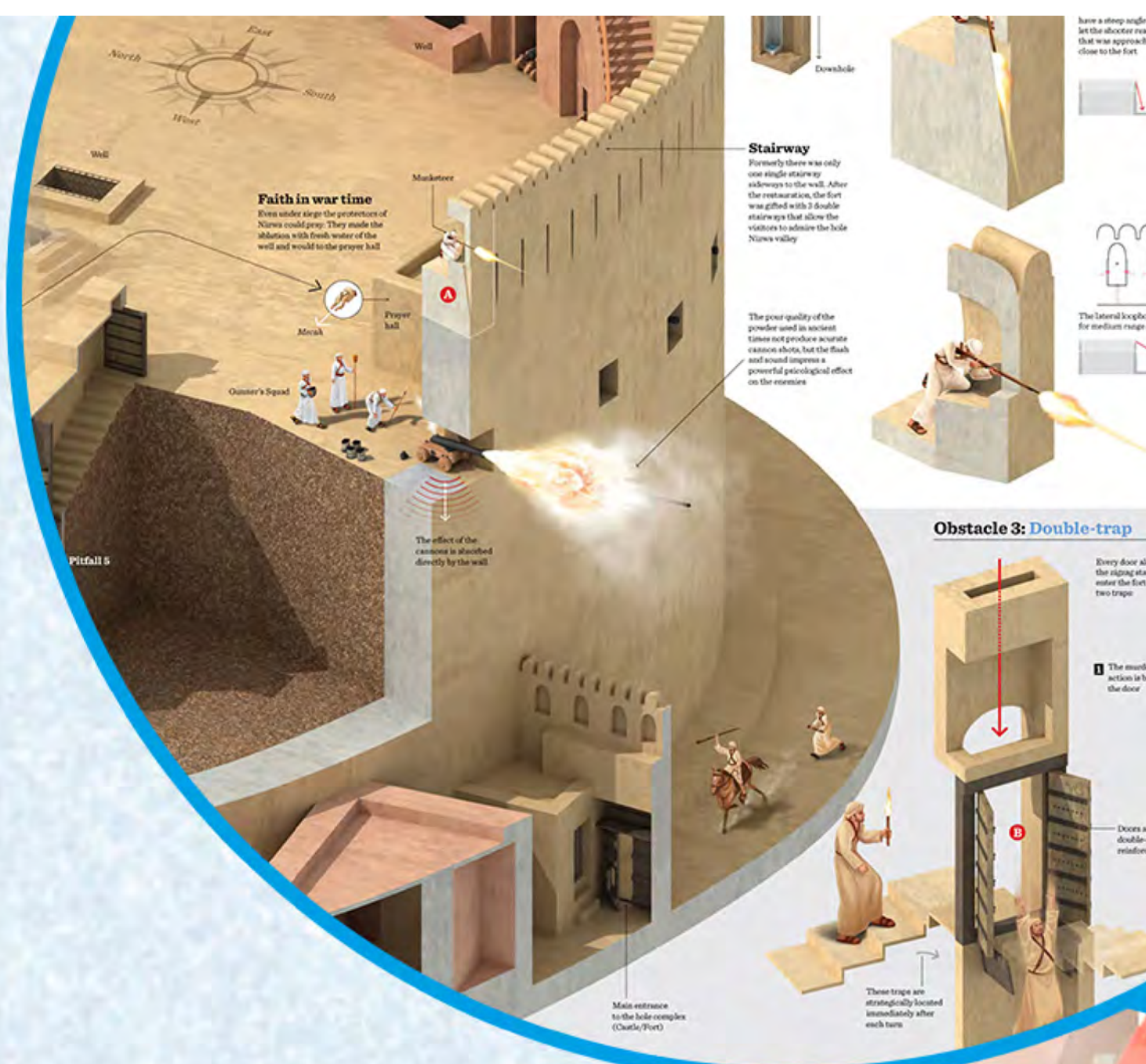
AI Qurum 9464 1010, Al Mawaleh 9788 8180, Sohar 9535 1200
C.R. No: 1232361

www.changanoman.com
changanoman

800 50800



novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

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

CALL US:
90139993

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group

