



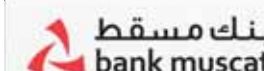
HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF SOMALIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of the Federal Republic of Somalia on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments to President Hassan, wishing him good health and happiness. His Majesty also wished the people of Somalia further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



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TRANSFER

HM issues two Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik yesterday issued two Royal decrees as follows:

Royal decree No. (32/2024) on the transfer of an employee to the Foreign Ministry.

Article (1) transfers Saleh Yahya Masoud Al Maskari from the Ministry of Defence to the Foreign Ministry, along with his existing financial allocations and job entitlements.

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

Royal Decree No. (33/2024) on the amendment of some provisions of Royal Decree No. 117/2010 on establishing courts of appeal.

Article (1) cancels the court of appeal in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi, stated in article (1) of the aforementioned Royal Decree No. 117/2010.

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

CANADA

HM sends greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Governor-General Mary Simon of Canada on her country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments to Governor-General Simon, wishing her good health and happiness. His Majesty also wished the people of Canada further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**

CAMPAIGN TO STIMULATE SUMMER TOURISM ACTIVITIES LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY IN OMAN



The campaign was launched through the MoHT's accounts on social media 'Experience Oman'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism (MoHT) launched its promotional campaign for heritage and tourism assets during the summer season under the theme 'Change the Atmosphere.'

The campaign will continue until the end of August in collaboration with the national travel operator (Visit Oman) and the

Omran Group. The campaign, which was launched through the MoHT's accounts on social media 'Experience Oman,' aims to stimulate local tourism during the summer season, introduce heritage and tourist sites, and enhance tourism activity throughout the year, benefiting tourism sector partners.

The campaign also promotes indoor places such as museums, shopping centres, and entertainment venues, as well as areas with moderate temperatures like Jabal Shams, Jabal Akhdar, the beaches of Al Sharqiyah South Governorate, and Al Wusta Governorate.

Adventure tours

Additionally, it highlights marine activities and experiences available in moderate temperature areas, and offers travel companies' packages for marine trips, adventure tours, accommodation deals, and entertainment centre promotions, among others.

Haitham bin Mohammed Al Ghassani, Director General of Tourism Promotion at the MoHT, emphasised that the slogan of the 'Change the Atmosphere' campaign goes beyond merely attracting visitors. It is based on the tourism planning that aligns with the aspirations of tourists and visitors, aiming to enhance the tourist routes and transform them into enjoyable and enriching experiences.

This is facilitated through the campaign's dedicated website, [www.livethevibe.om](#), which offers services and options for direct bookings. This makes it easier for visitors from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman to arrange their travel itineraries perfectly with just one click.

He further added that the users of the website can explore opportunities, offers, and make bookings according to the tourist destinations they wish to visit in the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**



Moderate weather of Jalan Bani Bu Ali ideal for summer tourism



MUSCAT: The coastal areas in the Wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate witness active tourism activities with the start of the summer season and the arrival of visitors from Oman and other countries.

These coastal areas are renowned for their moderate weather and lower temperatures.

Al Ashkharah Summer extravaganza will include many recreational, cultural, artistic and sports events. **See >A3**

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of June 30, 2024



Deaths
37,877

Injured
86,969

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

MDP Kicks off in Dhofar Governorate

1 Activities of a national Military Discipline Programme (MDP) kicked off in Dhofar on Sunday. At the outset, the participants were briefed about events and activities of the MDP, which runs until 24 July 2024. **>A2**



OMAN

Oman to highlight adventure tourism

2 In an effort to highlight Oman's coastline and its offerings for adventure tourism, the Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) launched the 'Oman Downwinder' initiative on Sunday. **>A4**

WORLD

Voting begins in French election

3 French President Emmanuel Macron, whose decision to call Sunday's snap election has caused much political consternation in France and beyond, has cast his vote along with his wife, Brigitte Macron, in Le Touquet. **>A6**

EMPOWERING WOMEN

RAM initiative to sharpen Omani women's leadership skills

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, the Royal Academy of Management (RAM) on Sunday started implementing the "Tasmu" initiative. The first of its kind groundbreaking programme is dedicated to enhancing the leadership capabilities of Omani women across public and private sectors, and civil society.

It aims to create a supportive environment for women to excel and lead, marking a significant stride towards empowering female leadership in the Sultanate of Oman.

Designed to elevate and harness the potential of Omani women and their pivotal role in advancing Oman's economy, the "Tasmu" initiative encompasses a variety of programmes, sessions, meetings, and field visits.

Structured around four key components, each element is designed to achieve the initiative's goals, notably empowering women leaders proficient in decision-making, team leadership, and strategic implementation, while adhering to contemporary international leadership practices. This initiative aims to promote their active participation in decision-making roles and leadership positions.



Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, the chief guest, emphasised the pivotal role of the "Tasmu" initiative in empowering Omani women's leadership capabilities. She highlighted the profound support and



recognition from His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, which reflects the nation's confidence in their abilities and the diverse leadership roles they now occupy. As a result, Omani women have emerged as exemplary leaders, significantly contributing to the development of our nation.



Dr. Laila underscored that these achievements are the outcome of collaborative efforts and robust institutional support within our nation. Aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, these efforts have notably enhanced the influence of Omani women both

locally and globally. They demonstrate Omani women's steadfast commitment to excellence and leadership across various sectors, underscoring Oman's continuous progress and its unwavering dedication to empowering women in leadership roles.

Furthermore, Dr. Laila highlighted that this initiative aims to significantly bolster the role of Omani women in national development. It focuses on equipping them for supervisory roles through knowledge enrichment and practical experiences, fostering their self-leadership abilities at personal and professional levels.

By cultivating a community of successful Omani women leaders, the initiative aims to elevate their presence in public administration, business management, and investment sectors. **>A5**

THE FORTIS HOSPITAL NETWORK ACROSS INDIA

28

HOSPITALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

4

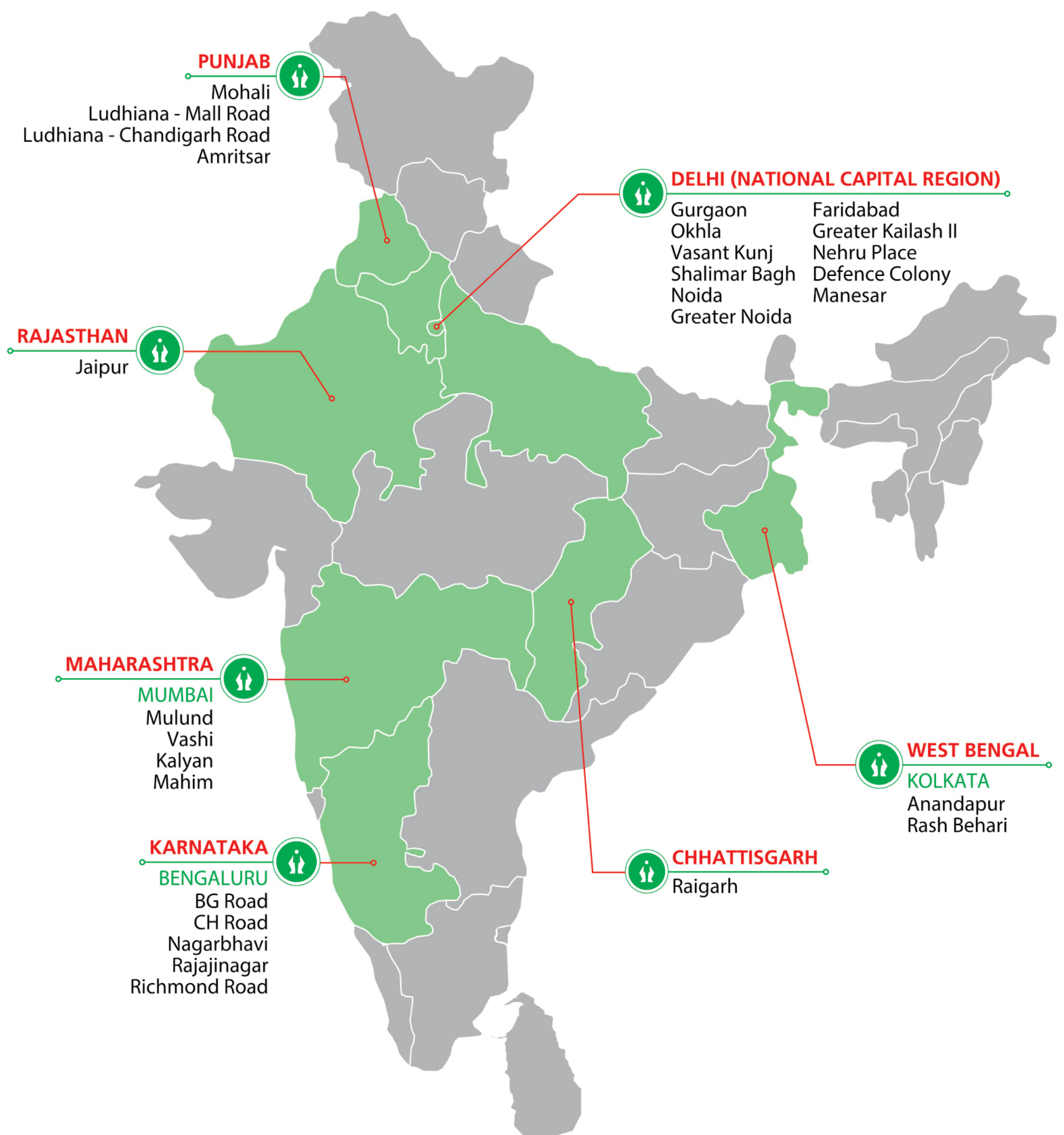
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OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:16pm
Asr.....	3:34pm
Maghrib.....	7:03pm
Isha.....	8:25pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:57am

TRAINING

Military Discipline Programme in Dhofar kicks off

SALALAH: The activities of a national Military Discipline Programme (MDP) kicked off in Dhofar Governorate on Sunday. Supervised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the MDP is being implemented through co-operation with military and security departments and government institutions.

At the outset of the ceremony, the participants were briefed about events and activities of the MDP, which runs until 24 July 2024. The participants will attend hands-on applications on the MDP's goals at infantry units and other military services.

The first week of the programme includes lectures on military discipline, communication skills, first



aid, teamwork, leadership styles, means of dealing with drugs and psychotropic substances, nutrition and its effects on physical fitness. Two workshops will be organized during the week: The first one seeks to inculcate values of citizenship and belonging and the second deals with AI and entrepreneurship. -ONA

VIOLATING LABOUR LAW

31 expats held for violating labour law

MUSCAT: More than 30 expats have been arrested by Royal Oman Police (ROP), for violating labour and residence laws in the Sultanate of Oman. According to ROP, North Al Sharqiyah Governorate Police Command arrested 31 people of Asian and African nationalities for violating the labour and residence laws. The legal procedures are being completed against them.



HAWANA SALALAH OMAN

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Salalah Beach Tourism Development - A subsidiary of Muriya Tourism Development (SOAG) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tender:

Tender No: 01/2024

Tender Title: Consultancy Services for Civil & Infrastructure Design for Amazi - Hawana Salalah Tender

Submission Closing Date: 21 July 2024

For details on the Tender Process as well as the Terms and Conditions
Please visit www.hawanasalalah.com/Tenders

MEETING

Oman and Russian museums to enhance cooperation

MOSCOW: A meeting was held yesterday between Oman Across Ages Museum and the State Hermitage Museum of the Russian Federation to explore means of enhancing areas of future cooperation.

The meeting touched on means of benefiting from expertise and capabilities and exchanging visits between the two museums.

Moreover, Al Yaqdhan Abdullah Al Harthy, Director General of Oman Across Ages Museum toured the facilities and halls of the State Hermitage Museum. He also viewed the museum's valuable exhibits.

The State Hermitage Museum is considered among the biggest museums in the world and contains over 3 million masterpieces. -ONA



CURATED TOURIST PACKAGES

Visit Oman digital platform offers good travel package

<FROM A1 This provides them with the opportunity to choose from a wide range of carefully curated tourist packages that cater to all travel styles and preferences.

Shabib bin Mohammed Al Maamari, managing director of Visit Oman, stated: "The platform connects local companies operating in various fields of travel, tourism, and hospitality with international markets, digitally distributing products to specialised companies in the travel sector."

He highlighted that the Visit Oman digital booking platform provides a comprehensive travel marketplace, allowing visitors to explore and book offers from over 100 partners and 80 hotels, as well as offering more than 100 tours across all governorates."

Al Maamari affirmed that this diversity in options reflects the breadth and vitality of tourism products, necessitating easy and efficient access and provision through an integrated digital platform. He emphasised Visit Oman's commitment to continuing to empower small and medium-sized enterprises by digitally distributing and selling their products.

Mohammed Al-Ghufaili, Chief Operations Officer at Omran Group, stated: "We at Omran Group are pleased to collaborate with the Ministry of Heritage

and Tourism and the national travel operator (Visit Oman) to launch the 'Change the Atmosphere' campaign. This campaign embodies our continuous commitment to supporting efforts to develop the tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman."

Al Ghufaili added that the campaign serves as a significant platform to showcase the richness and diversity of tourism in the Sultanate of Oman to visitors and tourists.

This encourages them to seek unforgettable tourism experiences by exploring natural sites, engaging in various adventures and experiences, and delving into heritage and historical locations.



Tender Announcement

Financial Services Authority announces the following tender :-

Tender name	Tender Number	Description	Release the RFP	Last date for Purchase of RFP	Last date of Submitting the proposal	Tender fees in OMR
Updating Insurance Legislation in light of the new FRS and automating solvency margin computation as per the risk based capital approach	FSA 005/ 2024/	Upgrade the current regulations governing the regulatory reports of the insurance companies and automating reporting process	30 June 2024	4 July 2024 03:00 PM	18 July 2024 01:00 PM	125 /- OMR Non Refundable

- Specialized companies interested in participating in the above tender must deposit the tender fee into bank account, and submit payment receipt of the tender along with a copy of the commercial registration certificate and the contact details of the authorized person to the Services & Public Relations Department e-mail : Admin@fsa.gov.om. hence, we shall provide you with Tender document by e-mail.
- All participating companies must provide a bank guarantee, issued by locally registered bank not less than 2 % of the tender value addressed to FSA , the bond shall be valid for 90 days from the submission of the proposal.
- All bids shall be submitted in tender box at financial affairs department.
- FSA is not obliged to accept the lowest bid or any other bid without any justifiable reasons.

Bank account information :-

Name of beneficiary : Financial Services Authority

Account no : 0423019706330018

Bank : Bank Muscat- Corporate Branch- CBD

SWIFT code : BMUSOMRXXXX

Please attach a copy of the deposit receipt

For inquiries, please contact :-

E-mail : Admin@fsa.gov.om

Telephone Number : 24823133 , 24823299, 24823268

Timing : 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Workdays : Sunday to Thursday.



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RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Oman and Somalia hold talks



MUSCAT: An official session of talks was held in Muscat on Sunday between the Sultanate of Oman and the Federal Republic of Somalia in the field of endowments and religious affairs.

The meeting was chaired by the two countries' ministers of endowments and religious affairs.

During the session, the two sides underlined the depth of historic ties and the level of integration between the two countries. They also discussed means of transferring expertise on managing endowments and religious affairs.

They also stressed their commitment to joint work, strengthening bilateral relations in a way that serves the interests of the two brotherly countries, promoting peace and peaceful coexistence between nations, and holding periodic meetings to transfer knowledge, experiences and follow-up. -ONA

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COMMENTARY

It is summer holiday and children are bored



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

It is summer, schools are closed and children have nothing else to do and some are so bored they just behave badly.

This weekend, I was shocked to see a 12-year old boy rolling a cigarette in his mouth. Behind him, two of his friends were helping each other to light another one. They did not have a care in the world. It shocked me not only because of their tender age but they did not bother to conceal their bad behaviour. They were standing in a busy car park and challenged adults who looked at their way by blowing smoke to their direction.

The sad thing is that although adults know exactly what they are doing, children find such bad habit romantic. I am not attempting to blame parents for not instilling good behaviour on their children. Sometimes, children behave perfectly at home only to run riot once they are alone outside their homes. Smoking is just one of them.

I saw a gang of five kids kicking a lamp post and when they got bored with it, they went on to overturn a rubbish bin on the road. They also broke somebody's window while playing football. One of



my neighbours said he had a solution.

"We need to buy them computers with intelligent programmes so they can learn something new," he said, "you keep them out of mischief that way."

I thought you cannot really hole them up in their rooms all day. They need some space of their own but of course, there are risks when they are out unsupervised. It is not really healthy for them to stay indoors all the time to interact with a phosphorous screen with nobody to talk to. Computers are great but they don't teach kids to handle physical problems like talking your way out of a fight. It is important that they venture outside the protecting walls of their houses but you don't want them to run wild when they are on their own.

If they don't cause problems, then they are in danger of falling in bad hands. Young children have become the targets of criminals who don't think twice to abuse them. They are easily coerced to get engaged in illegal trade of banned substances.

Our kids are not even safe at schools, too. Criminals do hang around waiting for them to include them in a ring with a promise of making them quick money.

Perhaps it is time to redefine the role of parents. I am not sure how you do that. However, modern pressures make us so busy that we fail to notice problems in our children. How do you prepare your children not to fall in bad ways? It is difficult to raise children the way we were raised. Those days, it was acceptable to slap them but now it is against the law. We were taught to respect our elders but children these days are encouraged to challenge them so they can learn something. One thing for sure, they need a little more privacy and to be trusted to a certain degree.

I don't know about you but it is increasingly confusing for me. Perhaps it is best to follow instincts and hope you are doing the right thing for your kids. I guess the true test of how successful you have been as a parent would only be known many years later.

South Al Sharqiyah tourism gets a boost during summer

During this season, relentless efforts are exerted to enhance the natural capabilities of tourist attractions



JALAN BANI BU ALI: The coastal areas in the Wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate witness active tourism activities with the start of the summer season and the arrival of visitors from Oman and other countries.

These coastal areas are renowned for their moderate weather and lower temperatures.

During this season, relentless efforts are exerted to enhance the natural capabilities of tourist attractions. Many projects are also being implemented, and several

events will be held.

Sheikh Mohammed Humaid Al Ghabashi, Wali of Jalan Bani Bu Ali said that activities of "Al Ashkharah Summer Extravaganza" (Ajwaa Al-Ashkharah) will be held, in its 2nd edition, during the period from 10 July till 31 July 2024 (21 days) at Al Ashkharah Public Park.

Al Ghabashi added that Al Ashkharah Summer extravaganza will include many recreational, cultural, artistic and sports events and programmes.

He also pointed out that a Heritage Village event will be held on the sidelines of the extravaganza, as well as a corner for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that will see the participation of 40 entrepreneurs.

Moreover, it is worth noting that there are 146 hotel/resort establishments in the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah that offer as many as 1634 hotel rooms.

-ONA



FROM A1 Equal employment opportunities for women

This alignment with international standards underscores Oman's commitment to advancing gender equality and promoting equal opportunities in leadership positions.

In his turn, Dr. Ali Qasim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management emphasised that Omani women play a crucial role in advancing Oman's developmental agenda, holding numerous leadership positions across various sectors.

By launching "Tasmu," the Royal Academy of Management reinforces its commitment to supporting and empowering Omani women leaders through active participation in national leadership programmes, ensuring they are well-prepared to meet future challenges and seize growth and innovation opportunities. This initiative aligns with the strategic objectives of Oman Vision 2040, which prioritises the empowerment of women across all sectors.

Dr. Ali added that the initiative aims to elevate and harness the competencies of Omani women to meet international standards, promoting their active participation in decision-making roles and leadership positions. It also intends to showcase the societal impact of women leaders by highlighting success stories and fostering the exchange of experiences.

He added, "We aim to adopt a more strategic perspective,



moving beyond the specifics of individual programmes to understand their role within a broader development framework. This framework embraces a new concept of development, recently advanced by international standards, which merges sustainable and human capital development under the banner of 'Sustainable Human Development.' This concept emphasizes expanding individuals' choices by unlocking their full potential in ways that ensure enduring economic and social sustainability, benefiting the present while safeguarding the future."

He further clarified that this new phase of development is characterised by inclusiveness, ensuring that no one is left behind. It aims to encompass all groups—women and men, rural and urban communities alike—striving for equality and justice for everyone.

This inclusive approach has been consistently championed by HM Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in various forums and on numerous occasions, and is exemplified by many initiatives, including "Tasmu".

"The new phase of development policies we are looking forward to, which this initiative aims to promote and support, is one that values women in a comprehensive, inclusive, and equitable manner, empowering them as active partners in the creation of government policies and decision-making," Dr. Ali added.

The "Tasmu" initiative includes an extensive media training programme aimed at refining participants' personal presentation skills, mastering communication across various media platforms, and enhancing public speaking abilities. It also focuses on establishing a robust digital presence and developing sustainable financial strategies to effectively manage resources, including budgeting for investment projects, engaging stakeholders, and mitigating economic and financial risks.

Additionally, the initiative includes a leadership bootcamp to cultivate self-leadership skills and guide participants in making insightful decisions about their future leadership roles. Graduation is set for October 17, coinciding with Omani Women's Day.



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Oman Downwinder to highlight coastal adventure tourism

The first edition of Oman Downwinder, featuring participants engaging in kite surfing over a 500km stretch of coastline, will kick off from Duqm on July 2

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's coastline, stretching 3,165 kilometres of pure marine magic, has long been a magnet for travellers worldwide. The coastline features an array of enchanting beaches, some bustling with activity and others tucked away behind craggy cliffs, offering a unique charm that seamlessly blends into Oman's stunning landscape.

In an effort to highlight Oman's coastline and its offerings for adventure tourism, the Oman Tourism Development Company (Oman Group) launched the 'Oman Downwinder' initiative on Sunday.

This initiative is part of Oman's ongoing efforts to achieve tourism diversification and its commitment to enhancing the adventure and experience sector.

The first edition of Oman Downwinder, featuring participants engaging in kite surfing over a 500km stretch of coastline, will kick off from the beaches of Duqm in Al Wusta Governorate on July 2.

The 12 participants, including a former world kite surfing champion, a physically challenged surfer, and five Omani surfers, will journey north along the coastline, concluding at Ras Al Jinz Reserve in South Sharqiyah Governorate on July 8.

The launch ceremony, held at the W Muscat Hotel, was attended by Dr. Hashil Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Omran Group, Dr. Khamis Salem Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, and several officials from various entities.

Speaking on the initiative, Al Mahrouqi said, "The Sultanate of Oman is endowed with abundant and diverse natural assets, making it a leading destination for offering unique tourism products and experiences. Organising these



events reflects our belief in the pivotal role that various sports events play in promoting and highlighting our tourism potential to the world, contributing to the growth of the tourism sector and establishing Oman's position on the international tourism map."

Al Mahrouqi emphasised that the initiative aligns with Oman's strategic directions aimed at achieving tourism diversification and enhancing the adventure and experiences sector by leveraging unique and diverse natural potentials.

He added, "This event represents a significant opportunity to enhance Oman's position as a prominent global destination for hosting sports events and adventure activities."

Marcelo Antunes Ferreira, CEO of Sea and Beach Projects S.P.C,



noted that the Oman kite surfing races represent an exceptional experience that will attract many professional and amateur athletes, given the global expansion of this sport.

"The event will highlight many of Oman's tourist attractions through accompanying media coverage," he said.

Among the Omani surfers taking part are Barakat Al Kindi, Azzan Al Sinani, and Majid Jamal Al Kharusi. Notable international participants include Dutch professional Ruben Lenten, who won the Red Bull race in 2005, British surfing champion Hannah Whiteley, surfing coach Mitu Monteiro, and Fernando Fernandez, and an innovative athlete in inclusive sports for people with disabilities.

The event, organised in cooperation with Oman Sail, the national travel operator Visit Oman, and the Oman Adventure Center, is expected to play a significant role in enhancing local content through the participation of several local institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Participants will encounter towering cliffs and vibrant waters, creating the perfect setting for kite surfing. The surfers will experience the thrill of the wild sea amid the rhythmic music of the waves.

In her remarks to Times of Oman, Hannah Whiteley said, "This is my second visit and in the past I had a wonderful experience in Oman."

A professional kite surfing world champion now involved with content creation and promoting surfing globally, she added, "In 2017, it was a good setting for surfing and I am now looking forward to exploring more this time. The Downwinder will be a nice effort to promote some good spots in Oman for surfing as a lot of people travel for kite surfing."

Hannah expressed her enthusiasm for the event, and said, "The number of participants is good and it will be nice to have a group of kite surfers doing activities together. I hope this event can be organised annually to promote Oman as a destination."

NDC



Annual strategic exercise ‘Decision Making-11’ starts

MUSCAT: Activities of the annual strategic exercise “Decision Making-11” began at the National Defence College on Sunday. The exercise is carried out by the NDC 11th batch from various military, security and civil units.

The exercise aims to enhance the participants’ decision making on the strategic level, analyzing the main strategic topics within simulated national, regional and international events. “Decision Making-11” also tar-

gets striking a balance in utilising the country’s resources to achieve national interests, establishing harmony in utilising tools of global powers and developing strategic thinking.

-ONA

VARIOUS EVENTS PLANNED

Dhofar ready for Khareef season

SALALAH: The Directorate General of Culture, Sports and Youth in Dhofar Governorate is fully geared up to implement its various programmes targeting different age groups during the Khareef season this year.

Through these activities, the Directorate seeks to attract a large number of tourists in cooperation and partnership with various sectors in the governorate.

Regarding the Directorate’s readiness to launch its programmes during the Dhofar Khareef season 2024, the Director General of the Directorate General of Culture, Sports and Youth in Dhofar Governorate, said that the team has been working in the past period to prepare various facilities to host the various events.

He added that the events programme prepared by the Directorate aims to attract the largest number of visitors to the Dhofar Khareef season this year, targeting more than 300,000 visitors from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

He explained that the focus during the preparation of this year’s programme is on diversity and inclusiveness in cul-



tural, sports and youth activities through its objectives, which are represented in cultural sports projects, hosting approximately 100 activities for governmental, private and civil institutions, and equipping 28 facilities, in addition to 20 sports facilities and halls in various wilayats with the aim of activating various sectors in the wilayats of the governorate.

He added that this year’s programme includes 20 cultural events distributed among workshops, specialised programmes,

art exhibitions, and the Dhofar Theatre Festival, in addition to cultural events that will be implemented in various wilayats with the aim of nurturing and developing creative talents, refining their talents, highlighting their artistic capabilities, and strengthening the partnership among community institutions.

In the sports and youth sector, he said that the sector will witness this year 34 sports programmes and various women’s activities, including sports, competitions

and specific courses that will be implemented in the directorate’s facilities and sports centres in the various states of the governorate, pointing out that there are many initiatives that will be implemented in the sports sector including e 13 various sporting events, notably the football tournament for the public and private sectors, the hockey tournament for youth clubs, the chess tournament and the beach games tournament, in addition to the sports caravan.

- ONA

AL WUSTA GOVERNORATE

Sand removal operation

HAIMA: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, represented by the Roads Department in Al Wusta Governorate, is taking measures to upgrade its readiness to optimise benefits from Khareef Dhofar 2024 season.

Bakhit Salim Al Awa’id, Director of the Roads Department in Al Wusta Governorate, said that his department engaged in

removing sand layers from the roads leading to the Dhofar Governorate like Adam-Thumrait road, Sinaw-Duqm-Hasik road, Al Ashkharah-Mahout road and Mahout-Al Zamaim road. He said that the department awarded a tender for the management of road links in Haima in the first quarter of 2024 to help construct the remaining parts of the Adam-Thumrait dual road. - ONA

Pre Qualification Notice for Outdoor Billboard Advertising Vide Digital Media

Oman Flour Mills SAOG (OFM) invites specialize companies to participate in the pre-qualification process to invest in digital infrastructure at Oman Flour Mills locations based at Muscat on a revenue sharing basis as per the requirements below.

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 - b. Strategy and Planning
 - c. Advertising and Promotions
 - d. Quality of proposed Screens, Equipment & Infrastructure
- Eligibility Criteria for Commercial Bidding:**
 - a. Registration Grade: First or Excellent
 - b. Oman Chamber Certificate
 - c. Company Registration Certificate (CR)
 - d. VAT Certificate & Tax Card Certificate
 - e. Company's Profile
 - f. Financial stability
- Brief Scope of Services:**

Oman Flour Mills has identified two strategic locations in Muscat for generating income through digital outdoor advertisements: the Feed Mill at Darst Entry and the Silo at Sultan Qaboos Port.

The selected bidder will be responsible for the supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of the digital infrastructure, including screens and technology, aligning with campaign objectives. The selected bidders must develop a devoted customer following using data analytics for targeted advertising and propose innovative revenue techniques. Technical specifications and comprehensive details of the infrastructure, including hardware, connectivity, and maintenance, must be shared. Additionally, the selected bidder will manage the content management system, handle scheduling and ad material, ensure compliance with regulations, and provide free advertisement slots for OFM's brand visibility.

Technical information related to Civil Jobs while setting up of Infrastructure: - Our Silos have expansion joints sealant offer every 3 slots. Before construction physical site visit to be done to plan the actual placement of digital equipment. The execution agency to appoint a 3rd party inspection agency & a report to be submitted to OFM with Method statement approved by 3rd party.
- Companies who are meeting our standard criteria mentioned above are required to submit their documents to tender@omafourmills.com no later than 13 July 2024.**
- Only the shortlisted companies will be invited to purchase the tender documents.**

EMPOWERING WOMEN

CEDAW holds 1st meeting of 2024



MUSCAT: The Committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on Sunday held its first meeting for 2024. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Laila Ahmed Al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, and Chairperson of the committee. Al Najjar affirmed that the

Sultanate of Oman accords great care to empowering women in various fields.

Moreover, the committee highlighted the efforts exerted regarding the fourth national report of CEDAW. It also touched on the concluding comments and recommendations, as well as the preliminary procedures that are undertaken regarding the national report. -ONA

CABLE

HM sends greetings to President of Rwanda

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda on his country’s National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Kagame and the people of his country. -ONA

CABLE

HM greets President of Burundi on National Day

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent cable of greetings to President Evariste Ndayishimiye of the Republic of Burundi on his country’s National Day

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes to President Ndayishimiye and the people of his country. - ONA

50TH ANNIVERSARY

Seoul book fair

SEOUL: Oman concluded its participation in Seoul International Book Fair 2024, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Omani- Korean diplomatic relations. -ONA

INDIAN SCHOOL AL MAABELA
Post Box No 134, Postal Code 122,
Al Maabela, Sultanate of Oman, **GSM: +968- 78904848**

TENDER NOTICE

S.#	Description
1	Annual Maintenance contract for AC & MEP maintenance at School
2	Printing of Certificates & Report Cards & whole related Printed works.
3	Supply of stationery materials.
4	Supply of Sports items.
5	Supply and installation of 2 TON ACs - 20 numbers.
6	Supply and installation of 75" BENQ Interactive smart boards - 95 numbers.
7	AMC Contract for Pest Control at School.
8	AMC Contract for Janitorial Service at School.

Competitive tenders are invited from the establishments specialized in each area. The collection of tender documents from School will commence from **01/07/2024 after a payment of R.O. 10/- for each job.**
Last date of tender submission is on or before **11/07/2024 before 1:00pm.**
The completed tender in all aspects should be dropped in the box kept in school office.
A tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope without mentioning the identity of the bidding party, addressed to: **The Chairperson, Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Al Maabela**
Note: Respective tenders shall clearly mention the "Name of service quoted for" by the bidding party.
The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

TENDER NOTICE

**Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**

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

Tender no.	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
419/2024/MAFWR/HQ-27	Consultancy services for provision of technical support for drilling ten (10) exploratory wells and aquifer testing program for the agricultural investment lands in the governorate of north sharqi	Sunday 23/6/2024	Sunday 14/7/2024	Thursday 1/8/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with first and second grades	Omani riyals for local companies (25/-) (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
421/2024/MAFWR/HQ-28	Supply of Sensitive Papers to Evaluate Spraying Efficiency 2025	Sunday 23/6/2024	Sunday 14/7/2024	Thursday 1/8/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with excellent, first, second, third and fourth grades	Omani riyals for local companies (25/-) (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs
423/2024/MAFWR/HQ-29	Supply materials, equipment for rehabilitating of a rainfall enhancement system and connection two stations (Rustaq and Nakhel) by microwave communication system	Monday 24/6/2024	Monday 15/7/2024	Monday 5/8/2024	Specialized companies registered with The General Secretariat of the Tender Board with excellent, first, second, third and fourth grades	Omani riyals for local companies (25/-) (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

- above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration for local companies, and for International company that not have head quarters in the Sultanate of Oman should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender) and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **+968 24402200 or etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om.**

TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

11 dead in New Delhi due to heavy rain

NEW DELHI: The death toll from the abrupt heavy rains in the New Delhi, India, has now reached 11, with hundreds more affected by the downpour.

Record-breaking rainfall
New Delhi experienced record-breaking rainfall last week, with precipitation levels in a single day surpassing the city's entire

month's average.
The Indian capital recorded over 228mm of rainfall on Friday, the highest for a single day in June since 1936.
The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert in the capital, with heavy rains predicted for Sunday and Monday.

— ONA





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France’s Macron, Le Pen cast their ballots amid relatively high turnout

The French Interior Ministry has said the turnout at midday stood at 25.9%, higher than at the same time in the 2022 legislative election

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron, whose decision to call Sunday's snap election has caused much political consternation in France and beyond, has cast his vote along with his wife, Brigitte Macron, in Le Touquet in northern France.

Earlier in the day, Marine Le Pen, the leader of the National Rally (RN), which is favoured to take most of the votes in the poll, also cast her ballot in her party's stronghold in northern France.

The French Interior Ministry has said the turnout at midday stood at 25.9%, higher than at the same time in the 2022 legislative election, by when just 18.43% of eligible voters had cast their ballots.

The vote is taking place during the traditional first week of summer vacation in France. This is probably one explanation for why absentee ballot requests were at least five times higher than in the 2022 elections.
France's public finances are



likely to suffer whatever bloc wins the snap election, according to France's AFP news agency.

The agency has summarised each contending bloc's spending promises, which it says are short on detail and often ignore mathematical realities.

If the National Rally (RN) wins, it wants to cut value added (VAT) sales tax on energy, partly financing the move, which it plans to initiate as early as July, by contributing €2 billion less to the EU budget, even though the bloc's 2021-2027 budget has already been voted through.

The savings would anyway not compensate for the loss in public revenue, which the bloc says

would mean €7 billion less for the public coffers for the rest of this year and €12 billion in a full year.

The party also, however, wants to raise a levy on exceptional profits from power producers and make shipowners pay normal corporate tax rather than the current tonnage tax.

Other costly future plans are to index pensions to inflation, reduce the retirement age to 60 for people who started work at 20 or before, exempt some workers under the age of 30 from income tax and raise teachers' and nurses' wages.

The RN would also get rid of a 2023 increase in the retirement age to 64 from 62, replacing it with a more progressive system that re-

mains to be specified.

The New Popular Front (NFP) alliance says it intends to raise pay for civil servants by 10%, provide free school lunches, supplies and transport and raise housing subsidies by 10%.

A tax on superprofits

It says that it can finance this by introducing a tax on superprofits and reinstating a wealth tax on financial assets, each of which moves will raise €15 billion, according to the bloc.

The group also wants to freeze prices of basic food items and energy while raising the minimum wage by 14% with subsidies for small firms that cannot cope with

the hike. Other costly planned measures are hiring more teachers and health care workers and providing subsidies for home insulation, which the bloc wants to finance by closing tax loopholes, making income tax much more progressive and allowing families to inherit a maximum of €12 million.

The NFP would also scrap the 2023 increase in the retirement age and wants to eventually reduce it to 60. Unlike the RN, it does not plan to reduce the budget deficit in line with France's commitments to EU partners and rejects the EU's fiscal rules.

Macron's party has said it is committed to cutting the budget

deficit to the EU ceiling of 3% of GDP by 2027, but the possibility of achieving this has been called into doubt by institutions from the national auditor to the International Monetary Fund.

The party has also pledged to cut power bills by 15% from 2025 and to link pension hikes to increases in inflation.

Raise public sector wages

In addition, it says that it will raise public sector wages, without, however, indicating by how much.

The party says it will introduce no broad tax hikes and will increase the amount parents can gift children tax-free.

The election was called by President Emmanuel Macron after his party suffered a resounding defeat at the hands of the far-right National Rally (RN) in European Parliament elections early in June.

Polls suggest that the National Rally has a chance at winning a parliamentary majority, which would put France under the control of far-right forces for the first time since the Nazi era.

The election is also being contested by a new leftist alliance, the New Popular Front (NPF), recently established to contest the elections.

The Ensemble (Together) grouping led by Macron's Renaissance party was trailing in third place in preelection surveys, ahead of the conservative Republicans (LR).

Macron has a presidential mandate until 2027 and has said he won't step down before the end of his term, even if he has to contend with a prime minister who holds radically different ideas from his own. — dw

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

India issues advisory to nationals in Lebanon

NEW DELHI: The Indian Embassy in Lebanon has issued an advisory for Indian nationals to stay in touch with the embassy amid the recent situation as a 'matter of precaution' so that they can swiftly contact at the shortest possible time.

Addressing a weekly briefing on Friday, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "The embassy in Beirut has issued an advisory. The advisory is not a travelling advisory, restricting Indians from travelling to Beirut. It is an advisory for Indian nationals who are based in Lebanon so that they stay in touch with the embassy."

"There is an evolving situation here and as a matter of precaution, this particular advisory has been issued so that the embassy is enabled if there is a requirement to get in touch with Indian nationals, they can do so at the shortest possible time," he added.

Further, an MEA spokesperson also said many Indians reside and work in Lebanon, and the Indian Embassy in Lebanon is in regular contact with them so that prompt assistance can be provided if needed.

"Many Indians live and work there, according to my information, there are 2000-3000 Indians in Lebanon and our embassy is in continuous touch with them. We didn't issue a travel advisory, we just said to keep in touch with the embassy so that if there is any problem, so that we can take prompt action," said MEA.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) reported that earlier on Thursday, Israel Air Force (IAF) aircraft attacked in the Sakmar region of Lebanon, where they eliminated



an active UAV/drone launch unit of the Hezbollah air unit that had carried out launches into Israel earlier.

In addition, IAF fighter jets attacked military buildings of the terrorist organisation Hezbollah in the areas of Hula and Aitaroun in southern Lebanon.

At the same time, the IDF forces fired artillery into the areas of Wadi Hamoula and near Naqoura, both in southern Lebanon. In addition, on June 26, the terrorist infrastructure of the Hezbollah organisation was attacked in the areas of Odaisseh and Al-Khiam in Lebanon.

Tensions between Israel and Lebanon have risen sharply since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel and the ensuing military campaign by Israel in Gaza. Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah has been firing missiles, mortars and drones into Israel, and Israel has returned that fire, CNN reported.

Tens of thousands of people on both sides of the mountainous border have fled as concerns intensify about the possible outbreak of another full-fledged war. — ANI

NIGERIA

Series of blasts kill at least 18 people

BORNO: Nigerian emergency services said a series of blasts in Borno state in northeastern Nigeria killed at least 18 and wounded several others on Saturday.

In one of the three attacks, a woman with a baby strapped to her back detonated explosives at a wedding in the town of Gwoza near Cameroon, AFP news agency reported citing authorities.

A second blast took place at a hospital in the same town, and still another attack was carried out later in the day at the funeral for victims of the wedding blast, authorities said.

"So far, 18 deaths comprising children, men, females and pregnant women. The degree of injuries ranges from abdominal

ruptures, skull fractures, and limb fractures" said Barkindo Saidu, head of the Borno State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in a statement.

Authorities said 19 more were severely injured, and others had less serious injuries.

The town of Gwoza had been captured by Boko Haram militants in 2014. It was taken back by the Nigerian military with the help of forces from Chad, but has been attacked several times since then.

Borno state has been at the center of the crisis, with Boko Haram and its splinter group, IS West Africa Province (ISWAP) having been most active in the region.



Boko Haram has raided many towns and kidnapped or killed thousands and displaced about two million in the northeastern

region. Although their power has been curtailed by the military, they continue to launch attacks on civilians. — dw

UK ELECTIONS 2024

Rishi Sunak's party faces mounting challenge

LONDON: The Conservative Party, which has been in power in the United Kingdom for around 15 years, faces a mounting task while heading into the general elections under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's leadership, with most polls predicting the return of a Labour government in the country for the first time since 2010.

A record number of candidates - more than 4,000 - are campaigning for the July 4 general election across the country.

Polling suggests the vote will result in a Labour majority after more than a decade of Conservative rule under five leaders, including current PM Rishi Sunak and David Cameron, now foreign secretary, Al Jazeera reported.

But there is an intensifying atmosphere of division as the hard-



right party Reform, led by populist leader Nigel Farage, appears on track to improve on its performance in the 2019 elections, when it was known as the Brexit Party.

Economic stagnation, a housing crisis, the cost of living, im-

migration and foreign policy concerns are among the major issues in the elections.

The past 15 years have seen the worst income growth in the UK for generations, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

"It has been slow growth for es-

entially everyone - rich and poor, old and young. This means that even while income inequality has been stable, progress on reducing absolute poverty has been painfully slow," Tom Waters, an associate director of the IFS, said in late May. In recent years, Britons have also been battling a cost-of-living crisis as prices surge and salaries stagnate.

The Conservative and Labour parties have set out differing routes to fix the economy.

Labour leader Keir Starmer has announced plans to reform the National Health Service, home-building system, energy sector and other key industries. His party has also promised 7.4 billion pounds (USD 9.4 billion) in tax rises to invest in these sectors.

— ANI

OFFICIAL VISIT



India’s Jaishankar meets Qatar PM, reviews relations

DOHA: India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, in Doha and the two held talks on strengthening bilateral ties across various sectors and addressing key regional challenges.

During his day-long official visit, Jaishankar conveyed warm greetings and wishes from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to The Amir, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and Prime Minister Al Thani.

He underscored the robust nature of the India-Qatar relationship, emphasising cooperation in political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

“We reviewed our bilateral relationship focusing on political, trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people to people ties,” said Jaishankar in a post on X.

The discussions also delved into regional and global issues of mutual concern. Jaishankar expressed appreciation for the insights shared by Prime Minister Al Thani on the Gaza situation, reflecting the depth of dialogue between the two nations on pressing international matters.

“Exchanged views on regional and global issues. Appreciate his sharing insights on the Gaza situation,” Jaishankar’s post also said.

Looking forward, Jaishankar expressed optimism for further enhancing India-Qatar relations and continuing a constructive dialogue on areas of mutual in-



terest.

“Look forward to the further enhancement of India-Qatar relations and continued dialogue on issues of mutual interest,” he added.

“India and Qatar share historic and friendly relations marked by regular exchange of high-level visits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Qatar on 14-15 February 2024 and held discussions with Qatar’s Emir H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,” the MEA said in a release earlier.

Jaishankar’s visit to the Gulf nation will enable both sides to review various aspects of bilateral relations including political, trade, investment, energy, security, cultural, and people-to-people as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest. — ANI

Mobile school in Gaza bringing education amidst destruction

Israel’s onslaught has completely destroyed approximately 110 schools and universities, and partially damaged 321 more, according to official figures



GAZA: In the midst of harsh conditions wrought by nine months of continuous Israeli aggression on Gaza, volunteer teacher Noor Nassar, 24, strives to restore children’s right to education, a right stripped away by the relentless Israeli war since October 7 last year.

The war has destroyed schools and educational facilities, exacerbating already dire living conditions.

Nassar, forced to leave her home in Rafah in southern Gaza due to Israeli invasion, sought refuge in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza. There, she found herself tasked with the mission of providing education to displaced children.

With unwavering determination, Nassar navigates refugee camps and devastated areas with her mobile school, carried in a large canvas bag. She integrates educational and recreational activities to create interactive environments, easing the tensions exacerbated by war and its aftermath.

Israel’s onslaught has completely destroyed approximately 110 schools and universities, and partially damaged 321 more, according to official figures. Over the past nine months, all children have been deprived of their right to education due to the war, with thousands forced onto the streets to support their families or seek basic necessities like food and water.

Upon reaching a displacement camp in central Gaza, Nassar began setting up her classroom by unpacking a small whiteboard from her canvas bag inside a tent. Above the board hangs a sign with two sentences: “School on the Road” and “As long as there is hope, we will live it.”

School on the road

Nassar initiates her teaching process with physical activities designed to stimulate the children’s minds and alleviate stress. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Nassar explains that her initiative, dubbed “School on the Road,” aims to “resist occupation through educating children.”

“The occupation destroyed schools and educational buildings in an attempt to keep children and students ignorant,” she asserts. “Today, through this initiative, we resist this goal and instill a love for learning in children.”

Nassar faced numerous challenges in implementing her initiative, including children’s reluctance to return to education after engaging in income-generating activities to support their families. “When I asked a child to join the class, he said he preferred to collect money; studying won’t help me in these circumstances,” she recalls.

This sentiment reflects the concerns of parents who have lost

primary breadwinners due to killings, arrests, or injuries. Nassar attempted to overcome this challenge through awareness campaigns targeting both children and their families, emphasizing the importance of returning to education.

After some time, Nassar succeeded in persuading children to leave their street jobs and attend her classes. “Through awareness campaigns, I turned children and families from reluctance to a keen desire to learn,” she notes.

Nassar explains that the idea of establishing a mobile school was aimed at reassuring parents about their children’s education amidst displacement. “The presence of a school near the children’s place of displacement or residence provides reassurance to parents, especially amid the ongoing Israeli shelling and tension in Gaza,” she says.

She travels with the mobile school to displacement camps and areas where destroyed homes are being rebuilt. Nassar’s mobile school targets children aged 6-11, with plans to expand educational points and reach older age groups.

Ten-year-old Fawaz Al-Ghalayini, who joined the mobile school, tells Anadolu, “I needed this to refresh my memory and regain knowledge after being absent from school for 9 months.” He expresses hopes of returning to his home in

the northern Gaza Strip.

Similarly, Mohammad Shihab, a displaced child from Gaza City, expresses joy at joining the mobile school. “We needed this break in education,” he says, hoping for the continued operation of the school.

On June 4, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) stated that children in Gaza are enduring an endless nightmare of bombing, forced displacement, food and water shortages, and lack of access to education.

Since October 7th, 2023, Israel has waged a devastating war on Gaza, resulting in approximately 124,000 deaths and injuries, predominantly among children and women, and over 10,000 missing amid massive destruction and famine claiming dozens of children’s lives.

Israel continues this war, disregarding UN Security Council resolutions calling for an immediate halt, International Court of Justice orders to end the invasion of Rafah, and measures to prevent genocide and improve the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Tel Aviv also challenges ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan’s request to issue arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Galant for “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity” in Gaza. — WAPA

WAR-BATTERED

Sudanese white-collar workers struggle to live on side jobs

KHARTOUM: The ongoing war in Sudan has shattered technology, health, education, and other public or private services employing numerous skilful professionals.

Sudan has been embroiled in a deadly conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces since mid-April 2023, which has claimed more than 16,650 lives, according to the Sudan situation report updated by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in late June.

The war also paralyzed the entire national economy and left many firms bankrupt and public institutions closed, these professionals had to enter the highly volatile market of manual labor or become self-employed.

In the Karari locality of Omdurman city, north of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, a large shelter area for those fleeing war, former info-tech worker Bakri Merghani now sells clothing and accessories.

Before the war, the 41-year-old man served for a prestigious accounting IT company with a large salary in Khartoum.

“Soon the war broke out, my company had completely stopped, and I had to flee to northern Omdurman, where I opened a small clothing store,” he told Xinhua, adding the business was bad.

“In many days there are no customers, and sometimes in an entire week, we sell things for about 5,000 Sudanese pounds (about \$2.77 in the parallel market),” Merghani said.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the war raised the unemployment rate in Sudan from 32.14 percent in 2022 to 47.2 percent in 2024, while a study by the American Food Policy Institute predicted Sudan to lose 5 million jobs due to the war.

Tariq Shuaib, 56, a government employee before the war, now runs



a herbal medicine shop.

“After the war broke out, we were looted, lost our jobs, and became without an income source,” Shuaib told Xinhua, while preparing herbal solutions and other ingredients.

“Life under war is very difficult and there is no money,” said the bread-earner of a family of five, noting that his remedies have served as a popular alternative to many patients who failed to get their prescribed drugs due to “scarcity and high prices.”

Nevertheless, the war also revealed the bright side of humanity as Sudanese abroad donated to vulnerable families and initiatives mushroomed at home to provide urgent food aid to these households in a time of hardship.

Mohamed Abdul-Baqi, a teacher in his 59, said “such a social solidarity has greatly reduced the impact of the suffering.”

Sudanese state revenues dropped by more than 80 percent



due to the war, Sudan’s Finance Minister Jibril Ibrahim said in February.

Citing an unnamed official from Sudan’s trade military, Al Jazeera news network reported in April that the war stopped the operation of at least 1,000 economic establishments in Sudan, mostly in the fields of industry, trade, food, and medicine, either due to material damages, looting, or burning.



The Sudanese pound, meanwhile, has continued to decline against foreign currencies, where the exchange rate of 1 dollar currently stands at 1,800 Sudanese pounds compared to about 600 pounds before the war.

Meanwhile, according to IMF’s data, the inflation rate in Sudan jumped to 256.17 percent, an increase of 117.4 percent. The Sudanese government has not yet issued any reports on the inflation rate due to the war.

In recent months, international humanitarian organisations have warned against increasing famine risks in Sudan due to the prolonged conflict. On Thursday, the United Nations said the risk of famine threatens residents and people uprooted from no less than 14 areas across Sudan.

— Xinhua

SPORTS

My greatest achievement: Rohit

The India captain was thrilled to be able to give departing coach Rahul Dravid a major trophy

BRIDGETOWN: India skipper Rohit Sharma placed the ICC Men's T20 World Cup win on Saturday as the greatest time of his career, the greatest achievement. "This has to be the greatest time, I can say that," Rohit said at the press conference after the match at Kensington Oval in Barbados. "It's only because how desperately I wanted to win this. So, all the runs, all the runs that I've scored in all these years, I think it does matter, but I'm not big on stats and all of that. "I think winning games for India, winning trophies for India, which is what I look forward to all the time. And having this now right beside me probably has to be, I don't know, honestly, I don't know if it's the greatest or what but it is definitely one of the greatest, I can say that." Rohit spoke of the desperation again when asked to describe his mental state when he sunk onto the ground and celebrated the win. "I wanted this badly," he said. "It's very hard to put it in words because that moment, I don't want to say what I was thinking and what was going in my mind, but it was a very emotional moment personally for me. "I wish I could capture that moment myself but not really, you can't do that but I will always remember that. Yeah, those are the moments you wait for and then you don't plan these things, it just happens because you're so desperate for certain things in life and I was very desperate for this in my life. So happy that we eventually crossed the line this time." Rohit brought the trophy to the



press conference. He has been close to a World Cup many times since winning his first back in 2007. He lost out on being selected in 2011 at the last moment, and had then been a critical part of India's five knockout appearances in six World Cups. The last defeat, at the end of an unbeaten run at home, left him the most heartbroken. In the absence of a clear transition plan, Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid agreed to give it another shot. Rohit had high praise for Dravid. "More than any one of us, I think he deserved that trophy," Rohit said. "What he has done for Indian cricket for the past 20-25 years, I

think this was the only thing that was missing in his cabinet. I am very happy from all of us on behalf of the entire team that we could actually do this for him. You saw how proud he was and how excited he was. "He's done so much for Indian cricket when he played. Over the last three years, he has worked hard with this team. He has had to suppress his instincts on many an occasion because it is not that easy for the boys to match his wavelength. So Rahul *bhai* suppressed himself. He learnt what the boys wanted. He prioritised that. Rahul *bhai* did that for the whole team. He tried to understand what the boys wanted, and

Rohit joins Kohli in retiring from T20Is

BRIDGETOWN: Rohit Sharma has joined Virat Kohli in retiring from T20 internationals after India won the World Cup by beating South Africa in a thrilling final in Barbados. He confirmed that he would continue to play ODIs and Tests. "This was my last [T20I] game as well," Rohit said at the press conference after the final. "No better time to say goodbye to this format. I've loved every moment of this. I started my India career playing this format. This is what I wanted, I wanted to win the cup. "I wanted this badly. Very hard to put in words. It was a very emotional moment for me. I was very desperate for this title in my life. Happy that we eventually crossed the line." Rohit leaves the format as its highest scorer - 4,231 runs in 159 matches - and also holds the record for the most centuries



(five) in T20 internationals. He's won two T20 World Cup titles: the inaugural one as a player in 2007 and now as captain in 2024. Rohit and Kohli's retirement from the T20I format was not entirely unexpected. Both players had not played any T20Is

after India's semi-final defeat in the 2022 T20 World Cup semi-final, and only resumed playing T20Is in January this year - with the focus on the 2024 T20 World Cup. Rohit finished the tournament as the second-highest run-scorer - 257 at a strike rate of 156.70.

INDIA ALL-ROUNDER

Jadeja quits T20Is

BRIDGETOWN: Ravindra Jadeja has become the third senior cricketer to retire from T20 internationals at the end of India's triumphant run at the T20 World Cup 2024. Following the announcements from Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, Jadeja "bid farewell" to the format through a post on his Instagram account. "With a heart full of gratitude, I bid farewell to T20 internationals," Jadeja wrote a day after India's win over South Africa in a thrilling World Cup final in Bridgetown. "Like a steadfast horse galloping with pride, I've always given my best for my country and will continue to do so in other formats. "Winning the T20 World Cup was a dream come true, a pinnacle of my T20 international career. Thank you for the memories, the cheers, and the unwavering support."



Jadeja retires after 74 T20I appearances, including every match in India's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign. Overall, Jadeja has 54 wickets in the format at an economy of 7.13 and 515 runs at a strike rate of 127.16. Jadeja, 35 is a much-decorated player in the IPL, where he has won four titles, three with Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and one, in the inaugural season in 2008, with Rajasthan Royals (RR). - Agencies

INDIA'S OUTGOING COACH

Dravid: These boys will win lot of trophies

BRIDGETOWN: India's outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid believes it will not take the team this long for their next title after India ended their 11-year wait for an ICC trophy on Saturday. "We have fantastic talent in Indian cricket right now," Dravid said after his boys beat South Africa in the final. "The energy and confidence the players have is at another level. We were aiming for an ICC trophy for a long time and I am sure the team will carry this confidence forward and will win a lot of trophies in the next four, five, six years because the ability and talent this bunch has... they lack nothing. "There was a moment when we were feeling that we were working really hard and playing good cricket as well but we were not able to cross that hurdle. But after



today I am very hopeful that these boys will take it forward and win a lot of trophies." Dravid took over from Ravi Shastri in November 2021. His initial term was for two years, which was then extended till T20 World Cup 2024. Under him, last year, India made it to the finals of the World Test Championship

and the ODI World Cup, but the trophy eluded them. Until Saturday, the last ICC title they had won was the Champions Trophy in 2013. When asked about India's preparation for the T20 World Cup, Dravid said, "Honestly, this is a journey of two years. This is not a journey from just this T20 World

Cup. When I think about the construction of this team, the kind of skills we wanted, the players we wanted, those discussions started in September [November] 2021. "So it's two years of work. This is not a work of just this World Cup. I think it culminated in this World Cup. The disappointment in Australia [at the 2022 T20 World Cup] and then the one-day World Cup - there's so much that has gone into it. "This feels like a journey of not just one month, it feels like a journey of two years. What we've tried to build, what we have tried to create, it feels like it has all come together here on a beautiful afternoon in Barbados." Dravid lauded his players and their fighting spirit, which was on display during the final as they won by seven runs in a thriller. - Agencies

SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN

Defeat 'gut-wrenching' and 'good for it to sting': Markram

BRIDGETOWN: Aiden Markram vowed that South Africa's near-miss in the T20 World Cup final will "fire us up" for future tournaments, but admitted that their failure to win their first major title after needing 30 runs from the final five overs was "gut-wrenching" and "pretty tough to deal with". This was South Africa's first men's World Cup final in either white-ball format and they looked nailed on to chase 176 after the 15th over of their innings, which saw Axar Patel concede 22. But India's bowlers conceded a single boundary - via Kagiso Rabada's outside edge - in the final 30 balls to pull off a seven-run win and leave South Africa to dwell on what might have been. Asked to put his emotions into words, Markram said: "I don't think I can say them yet, to be honest. It's tough. This group is a great bunch of people. In my opinion, they deserve really good things to go their way. "I had a really good feeling



about this competition before we came here and as the competition went on, that feeling got stronger and stronger. It's pretty tough to deal with now, but it's sport at the end of the day: someone's going to win, someone's going to lose. And we'll try to use it to fire us up for future events." The core of South Africa's side are aged 28 to 34, with Marco Jansen and Tristan Stubbs the only younger players picked for the final. Some of them will have moved on by the time of the next

T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka in early 2026, with Quinton de Kock's retirement expected imminently, but Markram believes the rest will use this defeat to spur them on. "It's a great group of guys that's been together for quite a long time now," he said. "To get to our first final, like I mentioned a few days ago, it's something we can be proud of [but] still, in our eyes, not good enough. You're not satisfied with making a final... it'll take a bit of time for us to reflect back on all

the good things that we've done, but obviously for the time being, it just hurts a lot." Markram said he was "proud" of how his team performed throughout the competition, winning eight games out of eight to reach the final: "In hindsight, things will still feel really good about this competition. Just for the time being, it stings a bit, but it's good for it to sting. It gives you that little bit of fire in the belly for the next time that you're here." He also said that by reaching their first final, South Africa have become "one step closer" and that when they finally win one, there will be "a snowball effect of quite a few to come... It's tournament cricket, it's tough cricket. It's not easy to win trophies and you've got to take your hats off to a team like India for lifting the trophy. A lot of hard work goes into it. "It's just gut-wrenching. That's really what it is. Each player has been on a different individual journey to get to this first final. Ultimately, you become really

tight as a group and you want good things to happen to this group because you know they're great people. "When you get really close like that, especially the nature of how the game went, obviously adds to the emotions. It's one of those things but, we can channel it moving forward. I think for the next couple of days you let it be, you let yourself feel the way you want to feel and then really start reflecting in a positive manner." Markram also singled Heinrich Klaasen out for praise, after his innings of 52 off 27 balls took South Africa into their position of strength with five overs remaining. "It was special," Markram said. "We've seen him do it many, many times around the world. "To deliver it on a stage like this is a really special effort. It's going to be tough for him [but] when we reflect back, there's going to be lots of things to be happy about and I'm sure that knock would have made it really tough to put in a performance like that." (With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

Pennington, Smith earn first England Test call-ups

LONDON: Nottinghamshire fast bowler Dillon Pennington and Surrey wicketkeeper Jamie Smith have earned their first Test call-ups as part of England's squad to play West Indies from July 10-30. Uncapped Surrey fast bowler Gus Atkinson, who was on the Test tour of India earlier this year but did not play, is also included. Shoaib Bashir has been picked as England's spinner instead of Somerset team-mate Jack Leach. The first Test begins on 10 July at Lord's and will be James Anderson's final Test before his international retirement. **England squad for first two Tests:** Ben Stokes (capt), James Anderson (first Test only), Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Dillon Pennington, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes.

VS WEST INDIES

PRIORITY BANKING SERVICE

Dhofar Islamic launched Al Riadah priority banking services in compliance to Sharia principles. Designed to provide exclusive benefits and personalised financial solutions, the account also provides a dedicated relationship manager and priority processing of transactions.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,687.26 points, down by 0.01% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.69% at 461.33 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.88%, was the top gainer while Oman REIT Fund, down 4.00%, was the top loser.

Nama Water expands and upgrades Oman's wastewater infrastructure

The company recently implemented sewerage projects in Seeb with an aim to boost efficiency of the entire water and sewage system in the governorate



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nama Water Services is ramping up wastewater infrastructure across the Sultanate of Oman. This includes expanding sewer networks and upgrading treatment plant capacity. These efforts aim to boost the efficiency of the entire water and sewage system in the governorates served by Nama Water Services.

The company recently implemented sewerage projects in Wilayat of Al Seeb. The projects include expanding the main treatment plant and increasing its capacity from 62,000 to 82,000 cubic metres each day. Additionally, new connections are being built to link 87 government, residential, and commercial buildings to the sewage system, bringing in an estimated 21,400 cubic metres daily. The project also includes treated wastewater connections for 63 facilities, providing them with a combined capacity of over 24,560 cubic meters per day.

Eng. Ahmed bin Mubarak al Araiimi, Acting Water and Wastewater Operations and Maintenance General Manager, said: "Projects of Nama Water Services in Wilayat Al Seeb, Governorate of Muscat, reflect the company's dedication to sustainable water and wastewater management. The company implements best global practices and



innovative solutions to ensure residents have access to reliable sanitation services. This commitment keeps pace with the growing community's needs and aspirations."

"The projects being implemented in Seeb contribute to strengthening the sewerage infrastructure in the Wilayat in light of the increasing population and urban growth. These projects aim to tackle several key challenges: reducing pollution from outdated systems, preventing the spread of disease, and protecting vital groundwater sources. The plan includes establishing new sewage networks, treated water transmis-

sion lines, and expanding treatment plants. Treated wastewater will become a valuable resource, supplementing groundwater and supporting irrigation, industry, and other sectors." Eng. Al Araiimi added.

For his part, Engineer Qais bin Saleh Al Farsi, Director of the Seeb Sewage Treatment Plant, explained that a multi-stage project has bolstered the wilayat's sewerage system. New networks and sewage treatment plants now serve parts of Al Khoudh and Muscat International Airport. The Oman Botanic Garden has also been connected. To handle the increased

capacity, the main treatment plant has been upgraded, to increase the processing of sewage water daily (from 62,000 to 82,000 cubic metres). Additionally, 63 facilities in Seeb now have access to treated water, thanks to the construction of six pumping stations, 14 kilometres of main transmission lines, and 36 kilometres of distribution networks. The project also boasts a 16.5-kilometre treated water network within the Wilayat.

He further elaborated that Wilayat A'Seeb boasts the most extensive sewage network in Muscat Governorate, stretching over 490 kilometres. This network



efficiently channels wastewater from over 30,000 properties in Al Mawalih, Al Khoudh, Al Maab-ela, and Seeb's coastal areas to a state-of-the-art treatment plant.

Opened nine years ago, the plant has a daily capacity of 62,000 cubic metres and currently treats around 60,000 cubic metres of wastewater daily.

AGREEMENT



Oman signs air services pact with Tunisia

TUNIS: Represented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the Sultanate of Oman yesterday signed in Tunis an air services agreement with the Republic of Tunisia. The agreement was signed by Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, Chairman of the CAA.

The agreement updates an agreement signed in 1985 by the governments of the two countries to regulate air services between their regions and beyond them. The updated agreement, based on principles of open skies, allows the respective airlines to operate any number of direct flights.

The 23 articles pact regulates operational and technical aspects in a manner that serves the common interests of the two countries. It introduces a special

The updated agreement, based on principles of open skies, allows the respective airlines to operate any number of direct flights

appendix that outlines the schedule of air routes.

It is worth noting that the Sultanate of Oman has so far concluded bilateral agreements in the field of air transport with as many as 124 countries around the world. -ONA

FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

FSA emphasises importance of data protection through cyber insurance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Ahmed Ali Al Maamar, Executive Vice President of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) emphasised that private and public institutions and individuals are encountering real and enormous risk and challenge in maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of data and data protection and security.

Thus, the role of insurance sector comes to hedge from such threats and losses resulting therefrom through new product which is cyber insurance or electronic insurance.

Al Maamari said that in the Cyber Insurance Workshop organised by the FSA which targeted private and public sector institutions with the aim of introducing cyber insurance and its role in enhancing the efficiency of the institutions' security.

The workshop further highlighted the importance of the key requirements and needs which would assist in building an integrated insurance system in the Sultanate of Oman to provide insurance coverage for such threats.

The workshop was organised within an awareness campaign launched by the FSA on cyber insurance in the second quarter of this year.

Al Maamari pointed out in the opening speech that cyber insurance represents a response to the needs of private and public institutions and individuals to limit the damage caused by cyber attacks and data and privacy breaches.

He said increased awareness of cyber security and the huge damage resulting from cyber risks



make the cyber insurance an inevitable necessity which would contribute to increased growth and demand.

Cyber insurance product is a financial product that enables the enterprises to cover the costs of recovery from breaches and similar incidents.

Al Maamari confirmed that there were questions raised by business sector on the role of cyber insurance in hedging from cyber risks as to whether the insurers would provide fair compensation for the damage of cyber attacks and how to assess the damage soundly.

Also, businesses wanted to know what insurers need with regard to the legislative infrastructure in the country and the electronic system in the private sector to ensure providing appropriate insurance product that contribute to protecting the economy, the businesses and individuals from such complex and revolving risks.

He also said how would the insurers provide adequate solutions at reasonable cost for small and mediums enterprises as the SMEs are mostly unable to tackle such risks in addition to lack of awareness of such risks and other questions that help in building

integrated cyber risk systems which require cooperation of the regulators, insurances, businesses and individuals to shape common awareness and understanding of such risks and hedging methods in case of occurrence as well as creating legislative, technological and technical infrastructure and human expertise to deal therewith.

The workshop included two sessions presented by specialists the first on "Enhancing Defenses and Strategies to Respond to Cyber Threats" and the second on "Opportunities and challenges of Cyber Insurance and Digital Risk Management."

It is noteworthy that the cyber security workshop was organised to build cooperation ties between the various sectors and institutions and enhance the joint efforts to encounter cyber challenges in the insurance and banking sectors and other government sectors related to information and data technology beside security institutions concerned with information and cyber security.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.88%, was the top gainer while Oman REIT Fund, down 4.00%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,687.26 points, down by 0.01% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.69% at 461.33 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.88%, was the top gainer while Oman REIT Fund, down 4.00%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Cables Industry were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 985 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.88 million, with more than 13.34 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded securities, 23 advanced, 16 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for RO 122K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 97K, followed by domestic investors for RO 25K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,684.90 points, down 0.19%. Prices of Takaful Oman, National Finance, Muscat Finance, Global Financial Investments, Oman

Arab Bank were up by 8.33%, 2.67%, 2.04%, 1.41%, 1.37% respectively. Prices of Al Shargia Investment, Bank Nizwa, Ominvest, National Bank Oman, Sohar International Bank were down by 2.53%, 1.91%, 1.39%, 0.78%, 0.75% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,066.29 points, up 1.66%. Prices of Dhofar Beverages, A'Saffa Foods, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Cables Industry, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 9.63%, 6.02%, 4.61%, 4.17%, 3.24% respectively. Prices of Raysut Cement, Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering were down by 1.37%, 1.11%, 0.60% respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.28% before closing at 1,820.39 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Shell Oman Marketing, Oman Oil Marketing, Dhofar Generating, Oman Telecom were up by 9.88%, 9.88%, 9.38%, 4.29%, 1.50% respectively. Prices of Oman National Engineering, Sembcorp Salalah, Ooredoo, Renaissance Services, Abraj Energy were down by 2.54%, 1.91%, 1.02%, 0.83%, 0.67% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,722.67	4,687.26	4,687.26	4,687.86	-0.60	-0.01
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,744.76	7,684.90	7,684.90	7,699.87	-14.97	-0.19
Industry Index	6,066.29	5,924.71	6,066.29	5,967.53	98.77	1.66
Services Index	1,825.15	1,797.40	1,820.39	1,797.40	22.99	1.28
MSX Shariah Index	461.33	455.64	461.33	458.18	3.15	0.69
MSX TRI INDEX	6,560.27	6,511.08	6,511.08	6,511.91	-0.83	-0.01
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,798.85	8,730.84	8,730.84	8,747.85	-17.01	-0.19
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,999.06	6,854.71	6,999.06	6,885.11	113.95	1.66
SERVICES TR IDX	2,116.62	2,084.45	2,111.10	2,084.45	26.66	1.28
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
13,340,011	2,881,850	985	24,280,532,656	23	16	12	51

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 30

SEC. NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. RD.	DIFF %	LAST PD.	LAST BD.	LAST OFF.	PRE. VALUE	MARKET CAP.
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	11,222	9,954	11	0.835	0.913	0.835	0.912	0.830	0.082	9.880	0.912	0.912	0.912	86,640,000
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	112,000	48,863	13	0.430	0.440	0.430	0.440	0.415	0.025	6,024	0.440	0.374	0.440	52,800,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	47,200	13,374	9	0.282	0.295	0.282	0.295	0.282	0.013	4,610	0.295	0.285	0.295	38,844,898
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	79,500	14,947	15	0.185	0.191	0.185	0.191	0.185	0.006	3,243	0.191	0.185	0.191	42,020,000
OM0000003926	OMAN TELECOM	32,647	32,831	32	1.007	1.015	1.007	1.015	1.000	0.015	1,500	1.015	1.015	1.015	761,250,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	119,650	8,615	9	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.001	1,408	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.075	14,400,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	377,985	27,118	46	0.071	0.073	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.001	1,408	0.072	0.070	0.072	48,591,895
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	778,775	57,365	46	0.072	0.075	0.072	0.073	0.072	0.001	1,388	0.073	0.073	0.074	52,151,663
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	385	1	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.385	0.380	0.005	1,316	0.385	0.385	0.400	127,385,993
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	215,828	17,401	16	0.081	0.082	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.001	1,250	0.081	0.081	0.088	9,871,575
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	547,966	138,398	58	0.251	0.253	0.251	0.251	0.250	0.001	0,400	0.251	0.251	0.256	1,184,105,683
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	11,441	915	3	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0,000	0.080	0.078	0.080	14,000,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,620,285	228,784	139	0.141	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.000	0,000	0.141	0.141	0.140	610,617,973
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	325,149	96,534	52	0.298	0.298	0.296	0.296	0.298	-0.002	0,671	0.296	0.296	0.307	217,979,200
OM0000005398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,865,508	388,876	62	0.134	0.135	0.133	0.133	0.134	-0.001	0,746	0.133	0.133	0.133	741,773,754
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	390,010	99,310	31	0.255	0.260	0.253	0.253	0.255	-0.002	0,784	0.253	0.253	0.255	41,364,428
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	70,575	25,467	25	0.373	0.373	0.358	0.358	0.361	-0.003	0,831	0.358	0.358	0.364	84,634,780
OM0000003969	OOREDOO	29,516	8,791	28	0.298	0.300	0.291	0.291	0.294	-0.003	1,020	0.293	0.293	0.293	188,434,771
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	54,062	19,261	12	0.360	0.360	0.355	0.355	0.360	-0.005	1,389	0.355	0.355	0.355	237,269,726
OM0000004735	SEBMCORP SALALAH	65,7141	69,511	43	0.106	0.110	0.102	0.103	0.105	-0.002	1,905	0.103	0.103	0.103	98,320,911
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	10,000	770	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.079	-0.002	2,532	0.077	0.078	0.079	6,930,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	751	86	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.118	-0.003	2,542	0.115	0.116	0.000	17,250,000
Total	22	8,448,211	1,314,627	656											

Parallel Market

OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	28,540	7,329	10	0.260	0.278	0.255	0.278	0.253	0.025	9,881	0.278	0.278	0.255	44,480,000
OM0000001251	DHOFAR BEVERAGES	1,000	205	1	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.187	0.018	9,628	0.205	0.000	0.205	4,100,000
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	3,250	2,844	1	0.875	0.875	0.875	0.875	0.880	0.075	9,975	0.875	0.000	0.875	53,615,625
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	200,000	10,084	7	0.050	0.052	0.050	0.052	0.048	0.004	8,333	0.052	0.051	0.052	13,000,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	400	29	2	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.073	0.070	0.003	4,286	0.073	0.069	0.073	16,223,520
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	308,000	884,990	18	2.874	2.956	2.795	2.995	2.875	0.120	4,174	2.995	2.995	2.995	288,653,500
OM0000002948	NATIONAL FINANCE	2,000	306	1	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.004	2,967	0.154	0.154	0.154	88,550,459
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	195,500	9,701	12	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.001	2,041	0.050	0.050	0.050	15,357,316
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	108,923	16,080	16	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.148	0.146	0.002	1,370	0.148	0.146	0.148	247,072,680
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,400	315	1	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.222	0.003	1,351	0.225	0.223	0.225	10,297,305
OM0000003000	ALMAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	20,709	22,438	8	1.080	1.080	1.080	1.080	1.086	0.004	0,368	1.090	1.090	1.090	75,210,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	55,000	17,710	6	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.322	0.321	0.001	0,312	0.322	0.290	0.322	64,282,663
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	10,077	9,650	10	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.000	0,000	0.080	0.080	0.081	17,186,580
OM0000001902	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	25,545	1,431	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0,000	0.056	0.055	0.056	4,700,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	1,600	160	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0,000	0.100	0.000	0.100	1,639,411
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	21,640	3,255	3	0.152	0.152	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0,000	0.150	0.150	0.150	352,448,620
OM0000003681	VOLTAMP ENERGY	29,043	8,635	13	0.295	0.310	0.294	0.310	0.310	0.000	0,000	0.310	0.295	0.310	25,234,853
OM0000004609	SHARQIYA DESALINATION	26,000	3,510	4	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0,000	0.135	0.135	0.135	13,203,292
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,260,329	75,709	51	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0,000	0.060	0.060	0.066	100,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	11,282	801	3	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0,000	0.071	0.071	0.076	11,044,075
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	558,432	91,677	29	0.166	0.166	0.163	0.165	0.166	-0.001	0,602	0.165	0.165	0.165	33,492,764
OM0000008868	CEPE	38,000	4,513	3	0.118	0.119	0.118	0.119	0.120	-0.001	0,833	0.119	0.119	0.120	60,464,322
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	9,050	1,620	1	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.181	-0.002	1,105	0.179	0.175	0.199	9,845,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	586,243	60,851	44	0.107	0.107	0.103	0.103	0.105	-0.002	1,905	0.103	0.103	0.103	230,408,162
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	299,310	21,833	19	0.074	0.074	0.072	0.072	0.075	-0.003	4,000	0.072	0.070	0.075	35,340,220
Total	25	3,898,273	1,254,676	297											

SHARIA PRINCIPLES

Dhofar Islamic launches Al Riadah priority banking



lounge access at more than 1,000 worldwide airports.

Customers can apply for an exclusive Mastercard World card which provides complimentary travel insurance, a 24X7 concierge service and one of the best rewards

programs, where each customer can earn points on their spends as cashback rewards.

Al Riadah priority banking customers enjoy a range of financing solutions at competitive prices, such as personal finance, auto fi-

nance for a period of up to 10 years, and housingfinance for a period of up to 25 years, in addition to financing all types of travel, Hajj and Umrah expenses, a flexible repayment period of up to 3 years, and financing education expenses for up to 10 years can also be obtained.

Al Riadah customers can also open savings and current accounts in an easy and quick way and benefit from competitive profit rates on deposits, in addition to calculating profit on a daily basis to be paid at the end of each month for the Al-Amin Investment Account.

Ziyad Ahmed Al Maimani, Head of Priority Banking at Dhofar Islamic, said: "Leading Al Riadah Priority Banking Services is an extension of Dhofar Islamic's commitment to providing exceptional banking services to customers and building lasting and deep relationships with them. We seek to provide an unparalleled banking experience that exceeds expectations by combining between personal financial solutions, priority services, exclusive privileges, as well as wealth management services."

EURO 2024

Brands make big business with team jerseys

BRUSSELS: Soccer is a massive money machine, generating billions and billions in profits. And the moneymaking starts with team jerseys, a lucrative source of income. Major brands are willing to spend a pretty penny to increase their brand recognition, improve their image and win over new customers.

Sports companies like Adidas and Nike spend hundreds of millions of euros each year for the right to provide players with their jerseys. In exchange, company logos appear on the shirts. The brands hope this will allow them to sell more of their other sports products.

Adidas vs. Nike

"Jerseys are thought of as the main article that fans outfit themselves with. That's why they play the biggest role in the marketing campaigns of clubs and national teams," said sports marketing consultant Peter Rohlmann. And no other national team has jersey sponsoring contracts as big as Germany, he told DW.

German sporting goods company Adidas has sponsored the German Football Association (DFB) for more than 70 years. But Nike was recently willing to dig far deeper into its pockets than Adidas to pay for the honor, so from 2027, the US competitor's logo will emblazon the German national team's jerseys.

It's unclear just how much Nike paid to get the contract, with the DFB's website stating that both sides wished to keep that informa-



tion confidential. But DFB Managing Director Andreas Rettig said Nike made an offer the association couldn't refuse.

Media outlets like the German business daily Handelsblatt reported that Adidas had been paying the DFB €50 million (\$53.6 million), and that Nike offered twice that amount.



LIFESTYLE

**MEANINGFUL
SOCIAL
INTERACTIONS
ENHANCE
EMOTIONAL
WELL-BEING AND
REDUCE
LONELINESS**



A recent study from Stanford University, published in Social Psychological and Personality Science, reveals that meaningful social interactions enhance emotional well-being and reduce loneliness.

The research, led by Mahnaz Roshanaei, tracked university students over three years, focusing on their social interactions and well-being.

Roshanaei highlights that substantive conversations significantly improve affective well-being, lower stress levels, and reduce loneliness.

The study found that in-person conversations, especially during rest periods, are more beneficial than digital communication methods.

Roshanaei suggests these insights could inform strategies to promote healthier social interactions, emphasizing the importance of genuine connections in an increasingly isolating world.

-ONA

Germany storm into quarters



Musiala and Havertz were on target as hosts beat Denmark 2-0 in a last-16 match of Euro 2024

DORTMUND: Jamal Musiala and Kai Havertz scored as Euro 2024 hosts Germany reached the quarter-finals by beating Denmark in a game that was interrupted by a spectacular storm on Saturday night.

The last-16 tussle at Borussia Dortmund's Westfalenstadion was suspended for around 20 minutes towards the end of the first half, as lightning lit up the sky and the



pitch was soaked by hail and heavy rain.

But the game was also notable for calls by the video assistant referee (VAR), with Nico Schlott-

terbeck having had an early header ruled out by VAR, while Denmark were denied in the second half when Joachim Andersen's strike was chalked off as team-mate

Thomas Delaney was flagged just offside.

Germany were celebrating another VAR call in their favour moments after the Danes' disallowed goal when referee Michael Oliver was called to the pitchside monitor and awarded a penalty for handball by the luckless Andersen.

Havertz put a cool spot-kick out of Kasper Schmeichel's reach to delight the passionate home fans.

The forward should have scored a second soon after when he clipped a shot over Schmeichel only to see it go wide, but Germany had their decisive second with just over 20 minutes remaining.

This time it was young star Musiala who got the goal as he raced through on the left and slotted into the far corner.

From then on the home fans were on their feet, roaring their side on for more goals, hoping they would really lay down a marker to suggest they might go all the way.

No more were forthcoming, but the Germany fans cheered their side passionately at the final whistle in celebration of this convincing win.

They will next play the winner of Sunday's game between Spain, who have looked one of the best sides so far, and surprise package Georgia. The quarter-final is scheduled for Friday.

This was a game and result that may live long in the memory of German fans. Their team produced a display that, at times, showed why they are becoming strong contenders to lift the European Championship trophy on home soil.

Germany are now the highest-scoring team in the tournament with 10 goals, and they should probably have boosted that tally even further here.

Havertz saw an early header saved and then had a good chance in the closing stages when he was

denied by Schmeichel, who also saved from Florian Wirtz late on.

The epic storm that caused the delay in play will not be soon forgotten, and it was the sort of night where not only the weather was tempestuous. The VAR calls put Germany and their fans through a rollercoaster of emotions, but they were ultimately lifted by another excellent display by Musiala.

Germany were aggrieved when Schlotterbeck saw his early header ruled out for what appeared to be obstruction, bringing back memories of the goal they had disallowed in the first half of the Switzerland draw in their final group game.

However, the big video assistant referee calls went firmly in Germany's favour in the second half, with Denmark denied an equaliser when Delaney was offside by a toe, and then the penalty decision that led to the breakthrough as David Raum's cross touched Andersen's outstretched arm. - Agencies

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Marseille appoint De Zerbi as boss



PARIS: Marseille have appointed Roberto de Zerbi as the French club's new manager.

De Zerbi left Brighton at the end of last season after two years in the Premier League.

The Italian has signed a three-year deal and succeeds Jean-Louis Gasset, who retired at the end of the campaign.

"I had a very strong desire to join the club," De Zerbi said, adding he wanted to "help the club regain the position that Marseille deserves".

"He shares our vision for the future of the club," owner Frank McCourt said.

Former Shakhtar Donetsk coach De Zerbi joined the Seagulls

in September 2022 on a four-year contract.

He guided the club to sixth in his first season - their highest top-flight finish - and secured European qualification for the first time in their history.

They finished 11th in the league last campaign and reached the last 16 of the Europa League, before it was "mutually agreed" that he would stand down.

Former Montpellier and Bordeaux boss Gasset, 70, succeeded Gennaro Gattuso on an interim basis in February and led the club to an eighth-place finish in Ligue 1, their lowest placing since 2016. - Agencies

EURO 2024

Swiss delight as holders Italy exit

BERLIN: Holders Italy made a limp exit from Euro 2024 as a sparkling display from Switzerland saw them win 2-0 on Saturday and set up a potential quarter-final meeting with England.

The Swiss dominated from the start and took a deserved lead when the impressive Ruben Vargas crossed for Remo Freuler, who took a touch before hammering a low shot past Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Vargas, who plays his club football in Germany for Augsburg, made it 2-0 just 27 seconds into the second half when he picked up Michel Aebischer's pass near the left-hand corner of the Italy area and expertly bent the ball into the far top corner of the net.

Italy did not manage a shot on target until the 73rd minute and their best effort before then came when Switzerland defender Fabian Schar headed Nicolo Fagioli's cross against his own post, with Yann Sommer stranded.

Although Gianluca Scamacca also hit the woodwork from close range before the end, the Azzurri never seriously threatened a fightback and their forgettable campaign in Germany simply fizzled out.

While they head home, Swit-



zerland, roared on in Berlin by their boisterous and frequently bouncing supporters, head for Dusseldorf where they will play the winners of England's tie with Slovakia on Saturday.

The Swiss were only denied a statement win over hosts Germany by an injury-time equaliser in their final group game, and this was a reminder of all of their qualities.

Murat Yakin's side had the greater intensity early on and matched it with incisive passing, especially from the flanks.

They frequently found a way of getting behind the Italy defence,

but Dan Ndoye could not connect with Granit Xhaka's beautifully weighted ball into the box and Breel Embolo fired too close to Donnarumma when Vargas played him through.

Freuler's opener was fully deserved - adding to his two assists in the tournament - and while they were denied a second just before the break, when Fabian Rieder saw his free-kick pushed on to the post, Vargas quickly ensured they had breathing space.

Switzerland's energy did not drop in the closing stages and their organisation saw them run out comfortable winners.

This is the second Euros in a row where they have reached the last eight - losing on penalties to Spain last time - and they will be awkward opponents for whoever they face next.

Italy's combustible manager Luciano Spalletti has mounted a stirring defence against his critics during this tournament but even he will struggle to find any positives from this feeble display.

Spalletti made six changes from the side that toiled against Croatia and, not for the first time at this tournament, changed his formation too. It had little effect, and his side went out with a whimper. - Agencies

CONMEBOL COPA AMERICA

Canada qualify for knockouts, Argentina beat Peru to top group

ORLANDO: Canada qualified for the knockout stages of the Copa America for the first time after a nervy 0-0 draw against 10-man Chile in Orlando on Saturday.

Chile, the two-time Copa America winners, needed to beat Canada to progress to the last eight.

But their task was made more difficult in the 28th minute when Toulouse defender Gabriel Suazo was shown a second yellow card for bringing down Richie Laryea.

Despite their numerical advantage, Canada lacked creativity in attack and instead focused on keeping a clean sheet after Argentina ended any hopes that they could finish as Group A winners.

"We could have made life so much easier on ourselves by finding a way to finish it off, but we knew Argentina scored at the beginning of the second half, so the key was to not give anything away," said Canada's coach Jesse Marsch.



"I tried to encourage them to stay stable and balanced. It's not just the goalkeeper and the defenders - the entire team has been

very organised tactically, and disciplined."

Marsch added that his side were "very difficult to play against" and



he's been "incredibly impressed" with his players' progress.

The result means Canada, who are competing in their first ever

Copa America, have qualified for the knockout stages at the first time of asking.

Chile, back-to-back winners of

the tournament in 2015 and 2016, failed to qualify for the last eight for the first time in 24 years.

Argentina finish group winners

Meanwhile, Argentina made it three wins from three in the group phase with a 2-0 win against Peru.

A double from Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez meant the World Cup holders finished five points ahead of Canada at the top of their group.

Martinez's first goal came two minutes into the second half as he scored for the third game in a row.

The 26-year-old got his second three minutes from time after midfielder Leandro Paredes had missed a penalty to wrap up the win.

Lionel Messi missed the victory with a thigh injury, but is expected to be fit for Friday's quarter-final clash against the runners-up of Group B. - Agencies

IN-PICTURES



2024 Canadian Multiculturalism Day Festival held in Toronto
Dancers perform on stage during the 2024 Canadian Multiculturalism Day Festival at Yonge-Dundas Square in Toronto, Canada. [Xinhua](#)



Pet fair held in California, US
A visitor holds lizards at the LA pet fair in Pomona, Los Angeles County, California, the United States. [Xinhua](#)



15th anniversary of Confucius Institute of University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin
A student demonstrates traditional Chinese costume during the 15th anniversary of the Confucius Institute of the University of Abomey-Calavi at Chinese Cultural Centre in Cotonou, Benin. [Xinhua](#)



Holiday in Rome
Fireworks are seen above Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome, Italy. [Xinhua](#)



Direct flights resume between Xi'an and Budapest
An aircraft from Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, arrives at Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport in Budapest, Hungary. With the resumption of the direct link between Xi'an and Budapest, the Hungarian capital now has seven direct air routes with China. [Xinhua](#)



Scenery of Ny-Alesund in Norway
Reindeer eat grass in Ny-Alesund, Svalbard, Norway. As the world's northernmost permanent settlement, Ny-Alesund has four months of continuous daylight and four months of lasting darkness each year. From late April to late August, the sun never sets, treating visitors to the spectacle of the "midnight sun." [Xinhua](#)

ROUND-UP

Tyreplus emphasises importance of vehicle safety checks during summer

With the extreme heat placing additional stress on engine & tyres, it is crucial to ensure they are in optimal condition to prevent accidents and ensure safe driving

MUSCAT: As temperatures soar this summer, Tyreplus, a division of MHD ACERE, urges all motorists in Oman to prioritise the safety of their vehicles by conducting thorough vehicle checks.



With the extreme heat placing additional stress on engine & tyres, it is crucial to ensure they are in optimal condition to prevent accidents and ensure safe driving. Since its inception in 2002, Tyreplus has expanded to over 1600 franchises across 26 countries. In Oman, the brand boasts 9 branches strategically located throughout the country to serve customers effectively. These branches include four outlets in Muscat (Wadi Kabir, Al Khuwair, Azaiba, and Mabela), as well as locations in Barka, Sohar, Nizwa, Khat Al Batinah, and Salalah. At Tyreplus, we are dedicated to providing a One-Stop Solution for Car Care. We understand the importance of stringent safety measures, especially during the hot summer months when the risk of vehicle-related issues increases.

Safety tips for your vehicle
To help ensure the safety of all drivers on the road this summer, Tyreplus recommends the following maintenance tips:

Engine oil change: Regularly changing your engine oil is vital to keep your engine running smoothly. Fresh oil reduces friction, minimizes wear, and prevents overheating, ensuring your engine performs efficiently.

Air filter check: A clean air filter is essential for optimal engine performance and fuel efficiency. Inspect and replace your air filter if it is dirty or clogged to maintain proper airflow to the engine.

Coolant level check: The summer heat can cause your engine to overheat. Checking and topping up your coolant levels will help regulate engine temperature and prevent overheating.

Brake fluid check: Ensure your brake fluid is at the correct level and free of contaminants. Proper brake fluid levels are crucial for effective braking performance and overall safety.

Battery check: The extreme temperatures can affect your vehicle's battery life. Inspect your battery for signs of wear, corrosion, or weak charge, and replace it if necessary to avoid unexpected breakdowns.

Visual check of tyre condition, including spare tyre: Inspect your tyres for any signs of damage, such as cracks, bulges, or excessive wear. Ensure your spare tyre is also in good condition and properly inflated.

Check of brake pads and brake discs: Your brakes are the single most important safety feature on your car. Don't put yourself or your family at risk this summer by riding around on worn down or faulty brakes. Examine your brake pads and discs for wear and tear.

Worn-out brake components can significantly reduce braking efficiency, posing a safety risk. Tyreplus invites all motorists to visit our outlets for a thorough vehicle check. With our comprehensive 10-point checklist, our skilled technicians are ready to assist you in maintaining the safety and performance of your vehicle. Drive with confidence this summer, knowing that your vehicle is in top condition. Mohsin Hani Bahrani, CEO MHD ACERE, remarked, "As temperatures rise this summer, ensuring the safety of your vehicle is more important than ever. At Tyreplus, we are committed to providing top-notch car care and emphasising the importance of thorough checks to prevent accidents and ensure safe driving. With our extensive network of branches across Oman, we are dedicated to delivering exceptional service and maintaining the highest safety standards, especially during these hot summer months."

COMPACT SUV PROFILE

STATE-OF-THE-ART

Hyundai Motor unveils first official teaser images of its new A-segment sub-compact EV: INSTER



DUBAI: Hyundai Motor Company unveiled the first official teaser images of its new A-segment sub-compact EV: INSTER. INSTER is derived from "intimate" and "innovative", with the name of Hyundai's new sub-compact EV also reflecting the evolution from the Korea-only, petrol-powered CASPER, introduced in 2021. INSTER will set new standards in terms of driving range, technology, and safety features, redefining what buyers can expect from a vehicle in this class. The images reveal a robust yet compact SUV profile with signature LED daytime running lights, plus pixel-graphic turn signals and tail lamps that define the new sub-compact EV's design. Hyundai is also outlining INSTER's projected maximum range of 355 km (WLTP) on a single charge. INSTER will make its global debut at the Busan International Mobility Show later this month.

Mövenpick Hotel & Apartments Ghala: A premier destination for memorable meetings

MUSCAT: Mövenpick Hotel & Apartments Ghala Muscat has emerged as Muscat's premier destination for hosting unforgettable events. This centrally located haven boasts state-of-the-art event and meeting venues, capable of accommodating up to 530 guests. Designed to leave lasting impressions, its sleek contemporary aesthetics and impeccable service elevate every occasion, ensuring both corporate gatherings and celebratory events are marked by unforgettable moments. Ideal for upscale weddings and grand celebrations, the property offers a diverse array of event spaces to accommodate every need – from intimate gatherings to large-scale galas. The centerpiece is the breath-taking 630sqm pillar-free Al Falaj Ballroom, with its sophisticated décor and advanced audio-visual facilities. This elegant space boasts the distinction of being the first in Muscat to feature a unique video wall, seamlessly blending modernity with its royal ambiance. Designed with unmatched flexibility, the Al Falaj Ballroom can be seamlessly customised to reflect to clients' desired set-up, theme, and colour scheme. A dedicated events team is at hand to orchestrate every detail to bring the wedding couple's dream celebration to life. For the ultimate comfort and convenience, the ballroom offers a dedicated Bride Room, perfect for pre-event preparations along with ample basement parking for guests. Wedding packages also include customised catering, bespoke decoration and floral services, and arrangements for live music and other entertainment options, with special room rates ensuring a comfortable and joyous stay for the entire wedding party. Corporate event attendees will find the property equally impressive. Three versatile meeting rooms, bathed in natural daylight and equipped with advanced multimedia facilities, can be booked individually or combined to accommodate specific requirements. These well-equipped spaces are ideal for presentations, brainstorming sessions, or board meetings. The facilities also boast a flexible business centre with a boardroom style set up with a striking blue lifestyle couch for more casual discussions. Highlighting the hotel's extensive services and facilities for both corporate and individual clients, Frank Wagner, Director of Food and Beverages, said, "At Mövenpick Hotel & Apartments Ghala Muscat, we pride ourselves on delivering exceptional service. Our dedicated team is committed to ensuring that every detail is meticulously planned and executed, making every event seamless and memorable." "Our culinary offerings for meetings and events are curated to appeal to diverse requirements and tastes. Our exceptional culinary team ensures that all taste buds are satisfied to the standards that you expect at a Mövenpick Hotel. A point proven by our team's participation in the prestigious Horeca Oman competition this year, where they won several laurels in various categories," he added.



GREEN SPORTS PROGRAMME

Bank Muscat participates in celebration of Batha Al Oud Team lighting project's inauguration in Suwaiq



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat participated in the celebration of the Batha Al Oud Team lighting project opening in Suwaiq, North Batinah Governorate, as part of the Green Sports programme, which aims to support local sports teams. The celebration was held under the patronage of Sheikh Khalid bin Sultan Al Derei Al Jabri, member of the Shura Council and Representative of the Willayat of Sohar. The event was attended by Said bin Ahmed Al Salmi, Regional Manager of Meethaq Branches, Khalid bin Khamis Al Jabri, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Batha Al Oud Team, along with other invitees and team members. During the ceremony, Said bin Ahmed Al Salmi remarked: "We are delighted with the inauguration of the Batha Al Oud Team play yard lighting project, which is highly significant for the team members. The play yard is now equipped to host social, sports, and cultural events, benefiting

both youth and the community at large. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the team members for this success and wish them the very best." Said Al Salmi added: "Bank Muscat aims to support Omani national teams by establishing projects in specific areas to enhance the country's sports infrastructure and expand green spaces. "It is a source of pride that the Green Sports programme has continued to thrive since its inception in 2012, as evidenced by the keen competition among local teams to participate." On this occasion, Khalid Bin Khamis Al Jabri, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Batha Al Oud Team, expressed his gratitude to Bank Muscat for this unique initiative. He highlighted that the initiative supports youth talents and provides sports teams with well-equipped playgrounds, enabling them to develop their skills and showcase their potential.



mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

 OmanOasis

 OmanOasisOfficial

 OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY



Ultra-hydrating



Revitalizing



Energizing



Electrolytes

 800 71 222

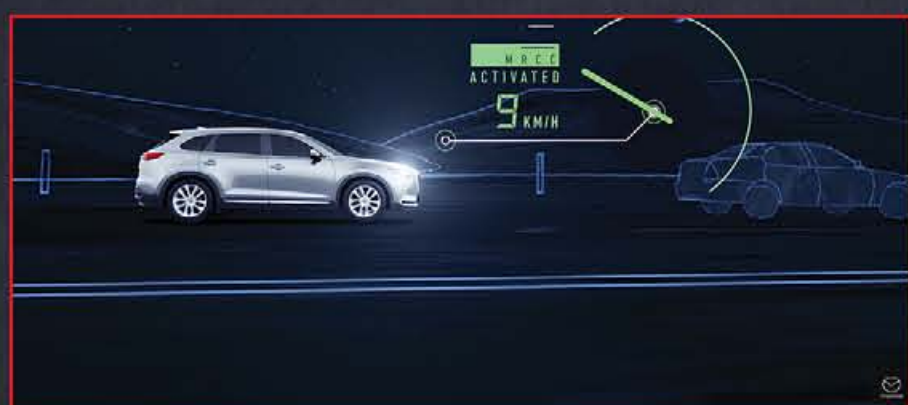
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MAZDA CX-5

CITY-SMART & ADVENTURE-READY SUV



Mazda Radar Cruise Control (MRCC) With Stop & Go Function



Smart City Brake Support (SCBS)



Handsfree Power Back Door



Bose Acoustic