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IN HONOUR OF HM THE SULTAN, UAE PRESIDENT HOSTS LUNCHEON

Abu Dhabi: In honour of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted a luncheon at the Beach Palace in Abu Dhabi yesterday. The luncheon was attended by members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty. It was also attended by some Emirati sheikhs and senior officials. — **ONA**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

HM receives message from King of Bahrain

1 His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received a written message from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain. During the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries were reviewed. **>A2**

OMAN

Jindal Shadeed to build Al Khuwair Square

2 This November, Oman's pride will reach soaring heights when the Sultanate unveils its tallest flagpole, standing majestically at a towering height of 126 metres to grace Oman's skyline. **>A6**

MARKET

Oman-UAE forum to promote cooperation

3 Oman-UAE Investment Forum yesterday discussed means of promoting the existing cooperation between Oman and the United Arab Emirates in various areas. **>B1**

GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of April 23, 2024

Deaths 34,183
Injured 77,143

HM AND SHEIKH MOHAMMED CALL FOR STABILITY, PEACE IN REGION



They gave orders to public and private sectors to develop and diversify trade, investment

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan bin Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), hailed the efforts being exerted by the authorities concerned in both countries to promote the bilateral cooperation in areas of economy and investment.

The two leaders also gave instructions to encourage the public and private sectors to develop and diversify trade and investment exchange, establish strategic partnerships that meet

aspirations of the two countries' peoples and enhance prospects of comprehensive cooperation towards the future.

This was stated in the joint communique issued following the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Arab Emirates. The text of the communique reads as follows:

"As an extension of the bonds of brotherhood and consolidation of the close historical ties between the United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman, and as

HIS MAJESTY GIVES AUDIENCE TO RULER OF DUBAI >A2

HIS MAJESTY VISITS SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE >A3

an embodiment of the relations of prosperous cooperation that bring together the two countries and their peoples, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik paid a state visit to the United Arab Emirates as per a generous invitation of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates on Monday and Tuesday, 13 and 13 Shawwal 1445 AH corresponding to 22 and 23 April 2024.

During the visit, discussions were held amidst a spirit of brotherhood and solidarity,

HM concludes UAE visit



ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik left Abu Dhabi on Tuesday after a two-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates led the farewell ceremony for His Majesty the Sultan.

Upon his departure, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik sent a cable of thanks to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere appreciation to Sheikh Mohammed for the warm welcome and hospitality. — **ONA**

which confirmed the outcomes of the state visit made by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the Sultanate of Oman in September 2022.

These outcomes launched a new chapter of cooperation and fruitful strategic partnership between the two countries in all spheres.

The two leaders touched on the regional and international de-

velopments of joint interest and exchanged viewpoints towards them. They also underlined enhancing coordination of their stances to serve the joint interests and strengthens pillars of stability and security in the region. They reaffirmed their stances calling for stability, security, prosperity and growth for all countries and peoples in the region and the world at large. **>A4**

HM'S VISIT

Oman, UAE sign three agreements for railway network project

ABU DHABI: The Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday signed agreements and memorandums of understanding in different fields.

The pacts, inked as of the state's visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the UAE, cover the areas of investment, renewable energy, railways and modern technology.

Three agreements were signed within the framework of the railway network project linking the

Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The first is a partnership agreement between shareholders—namely Etihad Rail, Oman Rail, and Mubadala, signalling the actual start of the project.

The second agreement deals with awarding civil contracts for a joint network that stems from an Omani-UAE alliance led by Trojan Construction Group and Galfar Engineering and Contracting.

The third agreement deals with

"awarding systems and integration contracts related the railway network" to an alliance between Siemens and HAC to supply trains with the latest techniques and technology.

In the field of modern technology, "jusoor" fund project was put on track, and so was direct investment in technology startups and SMEs (small and medium enterprises) operating in the technical sector.

In this context, Abu Dhabi De-

velopmental Holding Company (represented by Lunit) and Oman Investment Authority (represented by the ITHCA Group) pledged to provide \$180 million funding to Jusoor Fund in implementation of an MoU inked by the two parties in 2022.

In the field of investment, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and the UAE Ministry of Investment. **>A5**



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His Majesty the Sultan gives audience to Ruler of Dubai

The two sides reviewed the fraternal bonds binding Oman and the UAE

ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik gave an audience to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Dubai, at his residency in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

The two sides reviewed the fraternal bonds binding Oman and the UAE. They also discussed bilateral relations and means of promoting them in various spheres to serve interests of the Omani and Emirati peoples.

The audience was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Invest-

THEY ALSO DISCUSSED
BILATERAL TIES AND MEANS
OF PROMOTING THEM IN
VARIOUS SPHERES TO SERVE
INTERESTS OF THE OMANI
AND EMIRATI PEOPLES

ment Promotion and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to the UAE.

It was attended from the UAE side by Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Ahmed bin Said Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline, Dr. Anwar Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, Lt.Gen Talal Hamid Belhouli, Director-General of the Security Department in Dubai and Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Port World Group, Chairman of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation. -ONA



TENDER
ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
19/2024	Providing a package of text messages (SMS) for the Ministry's services	Monday 13/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Sunday 02/06/2024 10 a.m.
20/2024	Establishing the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Center	Monday 13/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Sunday 02/06/2024 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Wednesday 24/04/2024 at 08:00 a.m.: [/https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om](https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om)
- Bids shall be submitted online.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Sunday 02/06/2024.

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

labour_OMAN

CONVEYS GREETINGS

HM the Sultan receives written message from King of Bahrain

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from King Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The message was handed over to HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, when he received in his office on Tuesday Dr. Juma Ahmed Al Ka'abi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings of the King of Bahrain and best wishes of continuous health, wellbeing and a long life to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

He also conveyed Bahrain's Monarch's wishes of further progress and prosperity to the Omani people.

On his turn, HH Sayyid Asa'ad asked the ambassador to convey greetings of His Majesty the Sultan and best wishes of wellbeing, happiness and continuous success to the King of Bahrain and the people of Bahrain further development and growth.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the advanced, bilateral relations between the two countries and means of promoting them in various spheres, in addition to reviewing a range of matters of mutual interest.



The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and the Advisor at the office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. -ONA

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His Majesty visits Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi

Upon his arrival at the mosque, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Dr. Yousuf Al Obaidli, Director General of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre

ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Tuesday visited Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi as part of his state visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court (Head of the Mission of Honour).

Upon his arrival at the mosque, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Dr. Yousuf Al Obaidli, Director General of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre.

His Majesty the Sultan went on a tour of the mosque's halls and corridors. He took note of the edifice's role in promoting the culture of coexistence and openness inspired by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

On this occasion, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his admiration for the mosque's depiction of aesthetics and arts of Islamic architecture, architectural designs and the edifice's collections. He praised the role of the "Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre" in

portraying the tolerant nature of Islam and extending bridges of rapprochement with different cultures of the world.

At the end of his tour, His Majesty the Sultan signed the Senior Visitors Book at Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by during the visit by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Bilal bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to the UAE. -**ONA**



HM'S BEHEST

Sayyid Asa'ad bids adieu to ambassador of Kazakhstan

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, received in his office on Tuesday Najmedin Muhametali, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Sultanate of Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The ambassador expressed his thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the support extended to him from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people during his tour of duty.

He wished His Majesty the Sultan good health, happiness and a long life. He also wished the Sultanate of Oman further develop-



ment and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

In his turn, HH Sayyid Asa'ad expressed his appreciation to the ambassador for the efforts he exerted in enhancing relations between Oman and Kazakhstan, wishing him continu-

ous success.

HH Sayyid Asa'as also wished the people of Kazakhstan further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and the adviser at the office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. -**ONA**

LUXEMBURG

Oman participates in EU-GCC forum

LUXEMBURG: Oman, represented by the Foreign Ministry, took part in the High-Level Forum on Regional Security and Cooperation between the GCC and the European Union, in Luxembourg. Oman's delegation was chaired by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Af-

fairs. The forum discussed means of enhancing cooperation between the GCC countries and the EU countries. It also touched on the tragic conditions in the Gaza Strip and the necessity of a ceasefire. It stressed the importance of maintaining peace in the Middle East and establishing an independent Palestinian state. -**ONA**



Recall

Recall Date: 24/04/2024

Brand of Commodity	Year of Production	Number of Affected Commodities
GLE 450 4MATIC	2019-2023	178
GLS 450 4MATIC	2019-2023	48

Recall consequence

Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain GLE/GLS vehicles (167 platform) the software of the transmission control unit might not meet specifications. When a downshift operation of the transmission from 7th to 6th gear would not be fully completed during a slight braking maneuver of the vehicle, the engine might stall, if further specific boundary conditions exist in parallel (i.e. aborted shift operation, low transmission oil temperature, simultaneous recuperation by the 48V starter-alternator). In this case, the vehicle would lose its propulsion until it would come to a standstill and the engine would be restarted. This behavior does not affect the functionality of the vehicle's steering and braking systems.

Recall Action

As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company team will update the transmission control unit software on the affected vehicles. Zawawi Trading Company team will contact the customers affected by the recall to arrange a convenient time from 24.04.2024 on all working days between 08:00AM-5:00 PM to update the transmission control unit software.

To check the serial numbers of the affected commodities, please visit the website from Recalls & Warning: <http://recall.pacp.gov.om>

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Oman, UAE urge countries to exercise restraint to spare the risks of war



< FROM A1 On regional affairs, and within the context of the developments taking place in the region, the two sides called on the regional parties to exercise the utmost levels of restraint to spare the region and its people the risks of escalation and instability. They emphasised their position calling for adherence to international laws and resolving differences through diplomacy and dia-

logue. The two sides also renewed their calls on the United Nations and the UN Security Council to shoulder their responsibilities to consolidate international peace and security. On the bilateral economic and investment matter, the two leaders lauded the efforts being exerted by the authorities concerned in both countries to promote the bilateral cooperation in areas of economy and investment.

The two leaders also gave instructions to encourage the public and private sectors to develop and diversify trade and investment exchange, establish strategic partnerships that meet aspirations of the two countries' peoples and enhance prospects of comprehensive cooperation towards the future. At the end of the visit, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik expressed his thanks and appre-

ciation to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the government and the UAE brotherly people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality. His Majesty wished the United Arab Emirates permanent progress and prosperity. In his turn, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President expressed his best wishes of further welfare and prosperity to the Sultanate of Oman and the Omani people." -ONA

OFFICIAL TALKS

New partnerships to spur growth of Oman, UAE economies: HM

ABU DHABI: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held an official session of talks at Qasr Al Watan (Palace of the Nation) in Abu Dhabi on Monday. At the outset of the session, His Majesty the Sultan delivered a speech reading as follows: "Our dear brother, Your Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies: We are delighted to be here in Abu Dhabi. We express our thanks and appreciation to the person of Your Highness, the government of the United Arab Emirates and the UAE people for the warm welcome and hospitality. "We also express our feeling of great satisfaction with the constructive, strategic partnership through which we launched a bright new chapter during Your Highness's visit to your second homeland, Oman, and the ensuing investment projects and close cooperation between the two brotherly countries in various fields. We have directed members of our government to keep up this trend of diligent action in collaboration with their counterparts on the Emirati side, and to accord top priority to vital areas of cooperation. "We would like to commend the two countries officials' commitment to tangibly realise our common vision by starting the implementation of joint investment projects in strategic sectors, notably in renewable energy and related industries, as well as the inauguration of the railway project to connect the Sultanate of Oman to the UAE railway network, elec-

trical interconnection project and other projects. "Allow me, Your Highness, to note down our support for the strategic partnership binding the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE. We look forward to a future of broader horizons of cooperation and progress in various political, security, social, cultural and scientific fields. We are certain that the outcome of this partnership will spur the growth of the economies of the two countries and realise the aspirations of their brotherly peoples. "This visit marked a historic opportunity to celebrate the process of benign relations between our two countries, an opportunity that will usher in a new phase of further progress and prosperity, as indicated by the shared vision that the two countries intend to realise in the next phase. "Your Highness, the bonds of good neighborliness and shared historic relations between Oman and the UAE evince satisfaction over the strong solidarity between our two brotherly peoples. Good neighbourliness and civilised conduct in particular constitute some of the blessings bestowed upon us all by the Almighty Allah. We hereby underline these bounties and advise all official concerned and popular bodies in the two countries to preserve them, to help realise our desired goals. We pray for assistance from Allah the Almighty. **Warm welcome** "My brother, Your Highness Sheikh Mohammed, we hereby reiterate our deep thanks to you for this generous invitation and the warm welcome we received, hop-



ing that such bonds will continue to be strengthened by constant mutual visits and constructive dialogue aimed at consolidating ties of cooperation between our two countries. Our sincere wishes to the brotherly people of the Emirates." Earlier, the UAE President delivered a speech reading as follows: "We are pleased that our meetings are renewed and we hope that this visit serves as an important milestone in the process of relations between our two countries. "Your Majesty, Sultan Haitham: Relations between the UAE and the Sultanate of Oman are deep-rooted in history. The two countries boast a special social and cultural fabric characterised by strong family bonds and ties of good neighbourliness, cooperation and integration. "May the Almighty Allah have mercy on Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos

bin Said, who laid down a fundamental base for building strong fraternal relations fortified with love and wisdom. I am confident that this social solidarity will constitute foundations for constant and exemplary relations that serve the interests of the two countries and achieve their peoples' aspirations for progress and prosperity. "Economic relations constitute a supportive channel for joint action. Praise be to Allah, these relations experienced constant growth over the past years and culminated in economic and strategic partnerships in many fields. We still look forward to exploring further economic opportunities and developing them in the interest of the two countries' peoples. "Your Majesty, Sultan Haitham: The system of joint GCC is still and will remain, God willing, a strong fortress in the face of regional and global challenges. The UAE believes in the principle of

collective action and solidarity in a manner that preserves the interests of the GCC states, enhances the bloc's regional and international role, meets the aspirations of its peoples for further progress and prosperity and supports peace and stability in the region and the world at large." The session reviewed the march of deep-rooted and fraternal relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE. It underscored the historical ties binding the two countries. During the session, the two leaders discussed areas of the existing cooperation and means of promoting them in various spheres in a way that serves interests of the two peoples and meets their aspirations. After the session of talks, His Majesty the Sultan signed the Senior Visitors Book at Qasr Al Watan (Palace of the Nation). The session was attended from

the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Bilal bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to the UAE. Meanwhile, it was attended from the UAE side by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court (Head of the Mission of Honour), Sheikh Khalid bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Heir Apparent of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi and National Security Adviser, Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Representative of the Ruler in Al Dhafra Region, Sheikh Soror bin Mohammed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, Advisor to the UAE President. -ONA

HM the Sultan returns home

The visit was made in response to an invitation by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Tuesday after a two-day state visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The visit was made in response to an invitation by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates. His Majesty the Sultan was received at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Co-operation Affairs and Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education, Sheikh Al Fadl bin Mohammed

Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiki, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Maj. Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nassir Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj. Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force. -ONA



MEETING WITH SHEIKH MOHAMMED

HM's visit to UAE reflects fraternal bonds: Foreign Minister

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister stressed that the historic visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and his meeting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President reflect the depth of the advanced ties binding the two countries and enrich the virtues of neighbourliness, firm ties and lasting amity between the

two countries' peoples. He told Oman News Agency (ONA): "This visit consolidates the foundations of fraternal relations, strengthens them politically, security-wise, culturally and socially, and develops them towards more promising partnership in many and varied economic and scientific fields. It affirms the common will to work together to build a future characterized by further

progress and prosperity for the two countries, their peoples, and for the region at large". The minister added, "We will work, with our brethren in the United Arab Emirates, to implement the directives of the leaderships of the two countries, in a manner that enhances various aspects and fields of this strategic partnership".



INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

Plan for feasibility studies in renewable energy field

<FROM A1 It aims to explore and exchange investment opportunities in economic and investment field. In the field of renewable energy, Omani enterprises affiliated to Oman Investment Authority (operating in the sectors of green minerals, renewable energy and electricity) signed a framework memorandum with their UAE counterparts. The two sides will begin to conduct feasibility studies to implement innovative projects in the respective areas. The signing ceremony was attended from the Omani side by Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al



Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of Oman to the UAE. It was attended from the UAE side by Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Suhail bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Mohammed Hassan Al Suwaidi, Minister of Investment and Mohammed Hadi Al Husaini, State Minister for Financial Affairs. -ONA

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الأمانة العامة للاحتفالات الوطنية

A tourney for designing logo

The Secretariat General of National Celebrations announces the launch of competition to design logo for Renewed Renaissance of Oman according to the following terms:

- The design should include the logo of Sultanate and phrase (Renewed Renaissance of Oman) 1446-2025.
- The logo should express for journey of Renewed Renaissance of Oman, distinctive, Unconventional and simple creatively designed.
- The competition is opened to all innovated Sultanate of Oman.
- A brief explanation of the design idea and what its elements stand for should be attached with the logo.
- The logo should not be quoted or similar to any other logos that have been designed for any entity, whether local or international.
- If required, the winner of the design must make the necessary modifications to the logo.
- The participant is entitled to participate in with a maximum of three designs.
- Designs must be delivered on A4 size paper with the name, address and phone number of the designer, and the design should be enclosed on USB memory, in AI, JPG format.
- The winning design property of the Secretariat General of National Celebrations and are not entitled to be claimed.
- The deadline for submitting designs is within one month from the date of the announcement
- The winning design will be rewarded 3000 OR.
- Design can send by email (hcnc7@hcnc.gov.om) or submitted by sealed envelope addressed to Secretariat General of National Celebrations, and must be written on the envelope the following: the tourney of designing logo Renewed Renaissance of Oman without mentioning the name of the designer or any indication thereof Designs must be delivered at the General Secretariat building in Madinat alalam.

Scan for location

Muscat Municipality to build Oman’s tallest flagpole in Al Khuwair

Al Khuwair Square is to be financed by Jindal Shadeed and is expected to be completed by November this year

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The fluttering of a national flag symbolises a nation’s unity and strength, evoking a profound sense of pride and patriotism among its citizens. This November, Oman’s pride will reach soaring heights when the Sultanate unveils its tallest flagpole, standing majestically at a towering height of 126 metres to grace Oman’s skyline.

Jindal Shadeed has joined hands with Muscat Municipality and Muscat Governorate on this ambitious and prestigious ‘Al Khuwair Square’ project.

The details were revealed on Tuesday where an official agreement was signed between Jindal Shadeed and Muscat Municipality at the Muscat Governorate headquarters in the presence of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat.

The deal was inked by Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Humaidi, Chairman of Muscat Municipality, and Harsha Shetty, CEO of Jindal Shadeed Iron and Steel in Oman, which has completely financed the project. The project spans an area of 18,000 square metres and includes a myriad of recreational amenities.

Alongside the flagpole, the square will feature lush green areas, palm trees, walking and cycling paths, an outdoor venue for arts and crafts exhibition, a skate park and designated areas for sports activities. The project will also provide public amenities and a parking lot with 107 spaces.

Al Humaidi said: “The Al Khuwair Square will be a sanctuary for leisure and outdoor sports enthusiasts, making it a stunning addition to the heart of the capital, Muscat.”

The Muscat Municipality chief “dismissed concerns of traffic congestion” and said: “The Ministries



District is busy in the first half and in the evening with the offices closed, it will not create traffic congestion. It is an open area and popular with residents and citizens and in the heart of the city. This will be the new centre of attraction in Muscat.”

The flagpole at Al Khuwair Square will be Oman’s tallest man-made structure, surpassing the height of a 40-story building.

It will be constructed from 135 tons of steel, and the Omani flag adorning the pole will measure 18m in length and 31.5m in width. It will be equipped with a warning light system for aircrafts.

Second tallest in GCC region
The Oman flagpole will be the second tallest in the GCC region with the tallest in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia measuring 171m, which is ranked third in the world.

With 126m, Oman’s structure will be one of the top-15 flagpoles in the world and will be slightly taller than the Abu Dhabi flagpole of 123m, which is of the same height as of Dubai and Sharjah. The world’s tallest flagpole stands at a height of 210.952m in Cairo.

In his remarks, Al Busaidi lauded the collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors in realising this initiative. He hoped that the flagpole will be ready and the Oman flag would be atop during the country’s 54th National Day celebrations of the Glorious Renaissance this November.

Muscat Municipality chief Al Humaidi said, “What sets this project apart is its exemplary model of cooperation and partnership between the public and private sectors, aligned towards serving the objectives of Oman’s Vision 2040. The Al Khuwair Square project,

exemplifies the fruitful collaboration between the Muscat Governorate, represented by Muscat Municipality, and Jindal Shadeed Iron and Steel, a leading iron and steel producer in the region and globally. It serves as a pioneering model for synergising efforts in initiatives with multifaceted impacts.”

Jindal Shadeed CEO Shetty said, “We take pride in partnering with the Muscat Governorate to realise this groundbreaking project and erect Oman’s tallest flagpole, inspiring future generations to perpetually strive for progress and success. As an Omani company established 15 years ago, Jindal Shadeed has emerged as one of the region’s largest iron and steel producers, spearheading green industrialisation initiatives in Oman and beyond.

“With this remarkable journey, we present this architectural marvel as a gift to the people and government of Oman, who have tirelessly supported our collective success. On behalf of Venkatesh Jindal, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Jindal Group in Oman, I congratulate Oman on this pioneering stride towards progress and prosperity.”

Construction on the Al Khuwair Square project has already commenced following the completion of all necessary engineering studies and grant of requisite permits. The project is scheduled for an official inauguration during the National Day celebrations in November.

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Fourth Arabic Language symposium concludes

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Fourth Arabic Language Symposium under the slogan: “Teaching and Learning the Arabic Language: Insights and Practical Experiences” concluded on Tuesday.

The three-days symposium is organised by the Ministry of Education, with the participation of a number of experts and specialists in teaching and learning the Arabic language from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman at the Movenpick Hotel, Muscat.

The final day of the symposium covered the last two topics of the symposium, namely: literary texts (analysing and teaching) through four working papers, and Practical experiments and applications in teaching and learning the Arabic language through four working papers.

The second day of the symposium included the presentation of six papers distributed on to two sessions. The first session covered the second topic of the symposium which is Learning Theories and Results of Educational Studies in Language Empowerment. The session included three papers, the first of which is titled “Theories of Language Acquisition and their Applications in Teaching Linguistic Skill” and was presented by Dr. Abdullah Al Hashmi.

The second paper was titled “Developing the Arabic Language Curricula in light of the Learning Modern Theories” and was presented by Dr. Hajer Herathi.

The third paper was entitled “Effects of Comprehension and Adaptation in Linguistically Empowering the Learner (Cognitive Development as a Model)” and was presented by Dr. Badar Al Sinani.

A discussion session followed on the topic of Digital Transformation Positivity and Challenges in Teaching and Learning the Arabic Language (Solutions and Suggestions) and hosted Dr. Zainab Al Shidhani, Dr. Fatimal Al Bosaidi, and Dr. Waleed Ahmed.

The second session covered the third main topic of the symposium which is Teaching and Learning of Arabic Language in light of Modern Educational Trends.

The session included the presentation of three papers, the first of which is titled “Implementing Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning Arabic Language” and was presented by Dr. Hind Al Thunaiyan.

The second paper in the session was titled “Reality of Inclusion of Future Skills in Arabic Language Curricula and its Teaching Practices” and was presented by Dr. Hashil Al Gafri.



MEETING



Al Maawali holds talks with Algerian official

MUSCAT: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology received in his office on Tuesday Ibrahim Boughali, President of the People’s National Assembly of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of cooperation in the transport, communications and information technology sectors.

The two sides also touched on

a set of topics of mutual interest that serve the two countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology, Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Transport and a number of officials at the Ministry. — ONA



UN REPORT

Oman rout Bahrain to clinch silver in football at GCC Youth Games

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman U17 boys claimed a silver medal in the football competition of the inaugural GCC Youth Games on Monday night.

They finished runners-up in the four-nation event after a thumping 4-1 win over Bahrain in Abu Dhabi.

Hosts UAE, who won all their games, claimed the gold as they defeated Kuwait 2-0 at the Al Nahyan Stadium at Al Wahda Club, Abu Dhabi.

It was a good comeback for Anwar Al Habsi’s boys after they had lost narrowly 1-0 to Kuwait. Following the loss to the UAE, Kuwait had to settle for bronze.

Oman had begun their campaign in style with a 2-1 win over the UAE but the loss to Kuwait put paid to their chances for a gold. UAE edged Oman on goal-difference for the top spot.

With the silver medal, Oman’s overall tally rose to 40, which included six medals (3 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze) won by the Paralympic athletes.

So far, Oman athletes have won medals in chess (4), sailing (7), taekwondo (11) athletics (11) and football (1) for 34 medals in general sports.

Following Oman’s silver in football, Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) secretary general



Taha Al Kishry expressed pride and satisfaction at the athletes’ performances.

He said, “We are delighted with the achievements of our players so far. The medals reflect the skills and talent of our players and we hope to nurture them as future stars.”

Oman has sent a large delegation of 22 athletes to compete in 15 sports disciplines at the inaugural GCC Youth Games.



ALL TOURIST OR BUSINESS TRAVELLERS



Sri Lanka introduces new e-Visa scheme

Times News Service

COLOMBO: With effect from 17th April 2024, all tourist or business travellers to Sri Lanka must have an e-Visa for entering Sri Lanka by applying at the official website <https://www.srilankaevisa.lk>

The visitors should register at the official website and apply online. When applying for an e-Visa through third parties, payments should be made only through official website <https://www.srilankaevisa.lk>

Therefore, it is the applicant's responsibility to always ensure that the payments are made by accessing the official e-Visa website, in order to avoid repayments or scamming by third parties.

The previous visa scheme, Electronic Travel Authority (ETA), has been discontinued from 16th April 2024.

On the basis of reciprocity, citizens of Singapore, Maldives, Seychelles and Czech Republic are exempted from the requirement of obtaining tourist standard 6-months e-Visa to visit Sri Lanka.

Travellers of certain nationalities cannot avail e-Visa and should apply for a visit visa at the nearest Sri Lankan Mission or at the Department of Immigration

The previous visa scheme, Electronic Travel Authority (ETA), has been discontinued from 16th April 2024

and Emigration. All passengers should carry printed copy of the e-Visa approval issued by the Sri Lanka Department of Immigration and Emigration, passport with at least six months validity from the date of entry and return ticket or proof of onward travel from Sri Lanka. Passengers from certain countries need to submit yellow fever vaccination certificate to comply with international health regulations.

All tourist/business travelers should carry printed copy of the e-Visa approval issued by the Sri Lanka Department of Immigration and Emigration, passport with at least six months validity from the date of entry and return ticket or proof of onward travel from Sri Lanka. Passengers from certain countries need to submit yellow fever vaccination certificate to comply with international health regulations.

More information on Sri Lankan e-Visa can be found at <https://www.srilankaevisa.lk/information>

Gaza death toll from Israel's deadly aggression tops 34,000

Sources added that at least 77,143 others have also been injured in the onslaught. At least 32 people were killed and 59 others were injured in Israeli attacks that took place in the last 24 hours, they added

GAZA: The Palestinian death toll from Israel's deadly offensive against the Gaza Strip since October 7th, 2023, has now soared to 34,183, according to medical sources.

Sources added that at least 77,143 others have also been injured in the onslaught.

At least 32 people were killed and 59 others were injured in Israeli attacks that took place in the last 24 hours, they added.

The sources said that many victims are still trapped under rubble and on the roads as rescuers are still unable to reach them.

UN rights chief 'horrified' by mass grave reports at Gaza hospitals

Meanwhile, the UN rights chief Volker Turk said on Tuesday that he was "horrified" by the destruction of Nasser and Al Shifa medical facilities in Gaza and reports of mass graves containing hundreds of bodies there, according to a spokesperson.

Palestinian authorities reported finding bodies in mass graves at a



hospital in Khan Younis this week after it was abandoned by Israeli troops.

Al Shifa site

Bodies were also reported at the Al Shifa site following an Israeli special forces operation.

"We feel the need to raise the alarm because clearly there have been multiple bodies discovered," said Ravina Shamdasani, the spokesperson for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"Some of them had their hands tied, which of course indicates serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and these need to be subjected to further investigations."

Turk, addressing a U.N. briefing via Shamdasani, also decried Israeli strikes on Gaza in recent days, which he said had killed mostly women and children.

He also repeated a warning against a full-scale incursion on Rafah, saying this could lead to "further atrocity crimes".

Jordan condemns heinous Israeli crimes of war in Gaza

Meanwhile, Jordan on Tuesday condemned heinous Israeli crimes of war in the blockaded Gaza Strip following the recent discovery of hundreds of bodies of Palestinians buried in mass graves by Israeli forces at a hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

The ministry's spokesperson, Sufian Al-Qudah, expressed his country's strong denunciation and outrage over these acts, which he described as flagrant violations of international and humanitarian law, amounting to war crimes.

Al-Qudah emphasised the need for the international community to fulfill its responsibilities to address Israeli crimes, hold the perpetrators accountable, halt the

raging war on Gaza, tackle the ensuing unprecedented humanitarian disaster, ensure the protection of civilians, and facilitate the sustained delivery of humanitarian aid in sufficient quantities across the blockaded Strip.

A mass grave with 310 bodies has been unearthed at the courtyard of Nasser Hospital in Khan Younes following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the area earlier this month. Rescue teams said that some of bodies found had been decapitated, and had their skin and organs removed.

The Israeli aggression has also resulted in the forceful displacement of nearly two million people from all over the Gaza Strip, with the vast majority of the displaced forced into the densely crowded southern city of Rafah near the border with Egypt - in what has become Palestine's largest mass exodus since the 1948 Nakba.

— Wafa

RWANDA PLAN



UK Parliament passes migrant deportation bill

LONDON: The British Parliament approved a controversial plan to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda on Monday night after a marathon tussle between the upper and lower houses.

The bill cleared its final hurdle when the House of Lords - which had repeatedly sent back the legislation - agreed not to make any further changes.

Lawmakers in the House of Commons had already rejected two amendments made in the House of Lords last week.

Hours before the vote, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said that deportation flights would start in the coming months.

"We are ready, plans are in place and these flights will go, come what may," Sunak said at a press conference.

The bill is a response by Sunak's government to a ruling by the UK's Supreme Court that deporting asylum seekers to the East African country would be in violation of international law.

It would oblige the courts to consider Rwanda as a safe third country and give powers to UK lawmakers to ignore parts of international law as well as human rights law.

The idea to send migrants to Rwanda was first introduced by former Prime Minister Boris Johnson in 2022, but legal objections have prevented any flights



from going ahead.

The Conservatives have repeatedly pledged a reduction in migrant numbers, increasingly making it one of their flagship policies. But they are expected to suffer a resounding defeat at the next general election that could take place this year, after 14 years in power.

The plan to deport asylum seekers, who are fleeing conflict, poverty and increasingly extreme weather, is expected to cost the country £540 million (\$665 million) to send just the first 300 people to Rwanda.

It has been called a cruel "gimmick" by the charity Care4Calais. The government has said it will stop asylum seekers from wanting to come to the UK, although it's not clear how effective this will be. Some 120,000 people crossed the English Channel

since 2018, arriving illegally. Dozens have died.

Nevertheless, Sunak said on Monday that the government had chartered commercial jets and put an airfield on standby for the first flights which could take place in 10 to 12 weeks' time.

UN rights experts have warned that airline companies that are involved in the project could themselves end up being charged with complicity in violating international law.

The Council of Europe has called on the UK to abandon the plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda, calling it an "infringement of judicial independence."

"The United Kingdom government should refrain from removing people under the Rwanda policy and reverse the Bill's effective infringement of judicial independence," said the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O'Flaherty.

Two top UN officials also denounced London's plans, saying they could set a "perilous precedent."

Filippo Grandi of the UNHCR refugee agency and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk urged the UK to "take practical measures to address irregular flows of refugees and migrants, based on international cooperation and respect for international human rights law." — dw

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SPORTS

Oman’s bowler Bilal Khan reaches historic milestone

The 37-year-old is quickest to reach 100 T20I wickets among all Associate nations and the third joint fastest in the world

MUSCAT: He is fondly known as ‘Billy Gun’. And why not. He is the most potent weapon in Oman’s pace arsenal. Armed with precision and power, he rarely veers off target when he’s on his game. With his toe-crushers, inswinging yorkers, and menacing bouncers, he is now ranked among the elite in the T20I cricket world. Meet Oman’s pace spearhead, Bilal Khan, who recently achieved a proud milestone for himself and Oman Cricket. The 37-year-old belies his age, with his speed and skills, and became the first and only bowler from the 96 ICC Associate nations to reach the historic 100 wickets mark in the T20 internationals. Bilal joins an illustrious list of bowlers from across the world as he also became the third joint fastest bowler in the world to achieve the milestone in T20Is. Bilal’s historic record was achieved on April 15 during the recently concluded ACC Men’s Premier Cup at the Oman Cricket Academy ground. Bilal’s 100 wickets came in his 72nd match to share the record as the third fastest in the world alongside Ireland’s Mark Adair, who did it in 2023. The exclusive club of quickest bowlers to reach 100 T20I wickets is led by Afghanistan’s spinner Rashid Khan, who reached in just 53 matches while Sri Lanka’s Wanindu Hasaranga is second, completing his century of wickets in 63 games. While the top-two in the 100-wicket club are spinners, both Bilal and Adair, are pacers.



The Oman speedster is a crafty left-armner who may not have express pace but his reverse-swinging yorkers during the death overs can rip through any team’s batting lineup. Among the top-ten fastest bowlers to achieve this record are Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka, 76), Ish Sodhi (New Zealand, 78), Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh, 81), Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh, 84), Tim Southee (New Zealand, 84), Shadab Khan (Pakistan, 87),

Mitchell Santner (New Zealand, 90) and Adil Rashid (England, 100). Following the conclusion of the ACC Premier Cup, where Oman lost the final to the UAE, Bilal has garnered a total of 106 wickets in 75 matches. Having made his Oman T20I debut in 2015, the Peshawar-born Bilal also holds the record of picking maximum wickets at one ground with 42 of his victims accounted at the Oman Cricket Academy

ground in Al Amerat. In his remarks after becoming the fastest and only Associate bowler to reach 100 wickets in T20Is, Bilal said: “First of all, I would like to thank God that I could reach this milestone. I really worked hard and in the past few games of the ACC Men’s Premier Cup was determined and focussed to reach the mark. “I and satisfied and very happy as I am the first and only Associate bowler to reach this mark. It is a

big thing for me.” The soft-spoken bowler said the key for his success has been “spending hours and hours in the gym and training hard.” He said: “There is no other way than hard work to succeed and I have been honest with my trainer and physiotherapist. They have helped me a lot in keeping me fit.” Asked about his most memorable spell in his T20I career, Bilal doesn’t even bat an eyelid to talk about the match that powered

Oman to the ICC T20 World Cup. He said: “It was in 2019 in Dubai during the 2019 T20 World Cup Qualifier and we were playing against Hong Kong in an elimination match. It was a do-or-die situation, and I picked four wickets as we qualified for the T20 World Cup. I still remember the date, October 30, and the memories are so vivid. “We batted first and made 134/7 and then restricted Hong Kong to 122/9. My figures were 4-0-23-4 and I had picked two wickets in an over. I had also dismissed the opening batter off the second ball of the match and then got the last to fall wicket in the penultimate over of the match.” Bilal expressed his gratitude and thanks to Oman head coach Duleep Mendis, his bowling coaches over the years, Aavishkar Salvi of India and Champaka Ramanayake of Sri Lanka. He said: “Duleep Mendis Sir trusts me a lot and that gives me lot of confidence. I have learnt a lot from Salvi Sir, who worked with me for 3-4 years and now Champaka Sir. I would like to thank Mazhar Saleem Khan, who is like a father and brother. I also owe my success to the strong support of all Oman Cricket board members, the chairman, and Madhubhai (Madhu Jesrani, OC secretary).” Besides the T20Is, Bilal has also landed few opportunities to play franchise cricket and has impressed there too. He recently finished as the top wicket-taker for Chattogram Challengers, with 15 wickets, in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL). He has also had stints at ILT20 and the Afghanistan Premier League in the past.

The latest achievement is yet another feather in the cap of Bilal’s cricket career, who also had the distinction of finishing as the highest wicket-taker in the ICC World Cricket League (WCL) Division 2 (2019-2023) with 76 wickets in 35 matches. Bilal’s journey embodies perseverance, dedication, and the unwavering spirit of cricketing excellence, bringing pride and acclaim to Oman Cricket.

IPL: MUMBAI INDIANS SUFFER DRUBBING

Sandeep’s five-for, Jaiswal’s ton lead Rajasthan Royals to victory

JAIPUR: A five-star performance from Sandeep Sharma (5/18) and a determined and authoritative century from Yashasvi Jaiswal (104* off 60) powered Rajasthan Royals (RR) to a nine-wicket win over Mumbai Indians in IPL 2024 at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Monday. The match also saw Royals’ Yuzvendra Chahal become the first player in the history of IPL to take 200 wickets, Wily Sandeep impressed with his variations and bowled a brilliant spell, including three wickets in the final over, to restrict MI to 179/9. Boult too played a vital role with the crucial wickets of Rohit Sharma and Nehal Wadhers (49 off 24). Jaiswal and Jos Buttler (35 off 25) then came out firing on all cylinders and set the tone with a 74-run opening stand. Jaiswal took over the mantle after Buttler’s departure and scored a brilliant ton. He was ably supported by captain Sanju Samson (38* off 28) as the duo stitched an unbeaten 109-run stand off 65 balls. Jaiswal fittingly finished it off in style with a four. Chasing 180, Rajasthan Royals got off to a solid start, smashing 61/0 in the powerplay. Play was then interrupted due to rain. And it seemed to help MI gather their thoughts. They pulled things back post the break as Pi-yush Chawla broke the 74-run opening stand by cleaning up Jos Buttler (35 off 25). Jaiswal then released the pressure with a six and a four and then reached his first fifty of the season off 31 balls. Soon after, he received a lifeline as Nehal Wadhra dropped him at long off, off Chawla. Jaiswal and Samson upped the ante, hitting three sixes and in the process, Samson received a



lifeline as he was dropped at long on off Hardik Pandya in the 13th over. Jaiswal and Samson brought up the 50-run stand and made MI pay dearly. Jaiswal upped the tempo, smashing a six off Chawla and then hitting Bumrah for a six and a four to put RR in the driver’s seat with 29 needed off 30. It was a cruise from then on as Jaiswal brought up his century off 59 balls and RR chased down the target with balls to eight spare. Earlier, Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya, who was playing his 100th IPL match for MI, won the toss and elected to bat. RR were up and running in style as they dismissed the MI

top-order inside the first four overs. Trent Boult dismissed Rohit Sharma in the first over. Rohit went for a big heave across the line but ended up top-edging it high in the air. Sanju Samson settled under it and did well to pouch a tricky catch. Samson was in action soon in the next over as an excellent review saw Ishan Kishan walk back after he nicked one to the keeper off Sandeep Sharma. Sandeep struck another crucial blow as he sent back Suryakumar Yadav who miscued his flick to long on. Mohammad Nabi then broke the shackles in the last over of the powerplay, cracking a couple of fours and a six to take MI to

45/3 at the end of the sixth over. Nabi, though, didn’t last long as Yuzvendra Chahal had him caught and bowled as he reached the special milestone of 200 wickets, becoming the first bowler to reach the landmark in the IPL. MI were in desperate need of a partnership. Tilak Varma and Nehal Wadhra provided it as they stabilised things and brought up MI’s 100 in the 13th over and their 50-partnership off 36 balls. The pair then changed gears and smashed a couple of sixes and a four off Avesh Khan to take 19 runs off the 14th over. It included a stunning 86 m one-handed six from Wadhra. 11 runs followed in the next over. Varma then brought up his fifty in style with a powerful six off Chahal. He was given out LBW next ball but he decided to review it, and replays showed it was missing leg. Wadhra continued the momentum in the over, cracking two more sixes to make it 20 off the over. Boult came back and finally broke the 99-run stand as he had Wadhra caught at short third man off a slower one. Wadhra departed for a well-made 49 off 24. RR bounced back in the final three overs, conceding just 18 runs and picking up four wickets. Avesh trapped Hardik Pandya LBW in the penultimate over, while Sandeep picked up three wickets in the last over, dismissing Varma (65 off 45), Gerald Coetzee (0 off 1) and Tim David (3 off 5) to cap off a brilliant night and register his maiden fifer in the IPL. **Brief scores:** Mumbai Indians 179/9 (Tilak Varma 65, Nehal Wadhra 49; Sandeep Sharma 5-18, Trent Boult 2/32) lost to Rajasthan Royals 183/1 in 18.4 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 104*, Sanju Samson 38*). - Agencies

IPL 2024

Chahal becomes first bowler to take 200 wickets in IPL



JAIPUR: Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has become the first bowler in the history of IPL to reach the mark of 200 wickets. Chahal got to the milestone when he dismissed Mohammad Nabi of Mumbai Indians (MI) in Jaipur on Monday. After Mumbai elected to bat, Chahal was introduced into the attack in the eighth over of the innings and struck with his third ball. It was a gently floated leg-break that caught the leading edge of Nabi’s bat for a simple return catch to the bowler. Chahal, who went past Dwayne Bravo as the highest wicket-taker in IPL history last season, created the record in his 153rd match. It was, however, an expensive evening for Chahal where he picked 1 for 48 off his four overs. “I never even thought about it [becoming the highest wicket-taker] when I started playing the IPL,” Chahal had said last year after toppling Bravo. “I was with Mumbai Indians for three years [when I started], but my journey actually started from 2014. There have been a lot of ups and downs, and I’ve enjoyed a lot too. I’ve learnt from my downs, and what I’m today is because of my downfalls and [support from] my close ones.” Chahal was first signed up

by Mumbai Indians in 2011 but only made his IPL debut in 2013. That was the only game he played for the Mumbai franchise in the IPL, going wicketless across four overs against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at Eden Gardens. He was then acquired by Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in 2014, and that’s where his IPL career really took off. Chahal played 113 matches for RCB from 2014 to 2021, and picked up 139 wickets at an average of 22.03 and an impressive economy rate of 7.58. He still remains the highest wicket-taker for RCB in the IPL. However, he was not retained by RCB ahead of the IPL 2022 mega auction and was picked by Royals. Chahal has represented the Royals since 2022. He bagged 27 wickets at an economy of 7.75 for them during their run to the IPL final that year, including his only five-for in the IPL so far - 5 for 40 against KKR. Three of those wickets were part of a hat-trick - he got Shreyas Iyer, Shivam Mavi and Pat Cummins in what was a four-wicket over, with Venkatesh Iyer dismissed earlier. Chahal has 13 wickets so far in IPL 2024, and sits at the top of the list along with Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel. (With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2024 reaching \$88.68, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.84 from the price of Monday, which was \$86.84. - ONA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) lost 1.6 point, comprising a decline by 0.03 per cent to close at 4696.30 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4697.87 points.

Oman's GDP at constant prices rises by 1.3% to reach OMR38bn

This increase is attributed to the rise in oil activities by 0.4 per cent to OMR12.4 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to OMR12.3 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022

MUSCAT: The gross domestic product (GDP) at constant prices of the Sultanate of Oman at the end of the fourth quarter of 2023 increased by 1.3 per cent to reach (at market price) OMR38.3 billion, compared to the end of the fourth quarter of 2022, during which the GDP at constant prices reached OMR37.8 billion, according to preliminary data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

This increase is attributed to the rise in oil activities by 0.4 per



cent percent to OMR12.4 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to OMR12.3 billion by the end of the fourth quarter of 2022, where the contribution of oil activities reached 33 per

cent. Crude oil activities recorded OMR10.6 billion, and natural gas activities increased by 3.1 per cent to OMR1.8 billion.

Non-oil activities rose by 2.4 per cent to OMR27.3 billion by the end

of the fourth quarter of 2023, compared to OMR26.7 billion at the end of the fourth quarter of 2022.

The total industrial activities recorded OMR8.1 billion compared to OMR8.1 billion by the end of the

fourth quarter of 2022, while agriculture, forestry and fishing activities recorded OMR830 million, and service activities recorded OMR18.4 billion.

The contribution of the con-

struction activities amounted to 9 per cent, compared to 8 per cent for wholesale and retail trade, 9 per cent for public administration and defense, and 41 per cent for other non-oil activities. -ONA

TRADE EVENT



Thai Trade show to unveil authentic products next month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The fifth Thai Trade Exhibition in Oman is set to showcase authentic Thai products and services to both traders and customers in Oman.

Scheduled from May 7 to 11 at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) in Muscat, this premier trade event will host nearly 100 exhibitors from Thailand, offering diverse products and services at attractive prices. Open to both traders and general visitors, the exhibition presents a special opportunity for attendees to discover and enjoy a truly unique shopping experience.

At the exhibition, visitors can explore a wide array of high-quality products spanning beauty and wellness, fashion and accessories, lifestyle and home goods, as well as food and beverages, along with various miscellaneous items. Beauty and wellness offerings encompass oud oil, cosmetics, spa essentials, and wellness products. Fashion and accessory selections feature clothing, footwear, bags, and accessories. Lifestyle and home products include home decorative items. Likewise, the food and beverage segment includes dried fruits, ready-to-eat snacks, food ingredients, and beverages. Additionally, hospitals and healthcare service providers are part of this premier trade show this year.

Organized by Vega Intertrade & Exhibition and co-organised by the Federation of Thai Industries, the Thai Trade Exhibition Oman 2024 receives support from the Oman International Exhibition Centre, Thonburi Hospital, MedPark Hospital, BPK 9 International Hospital, IntraOud& Agarwood, St Agarwood Trat,

Oud EBA, Jintana Bra, Neo Corporate Public Company Ltd, and Hatai Gems & Jewellery.

The exhibition offers a platform for buyers from the Sultanate and the wider Middle East region to connect with Thai exporters, wholesalers, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), all under one roof. Business-to-business meetings will also be facilitated to bolster the trading community of both countries.

In addition, attendees of the premier exhibition can relish a distinctive shopping experience, taste various food and skin care. Besides, Omani participants will be able to establish fruitful relationships with Thai businesses from a range of industries.

The Thai trade exhibition is part of a series of trade shows across various GCC countries since 2016, showcasing high-quality Thai products and services with the aim of forging trade partnerships in the Middle East. The event will run from 10 am to 1 pm and from 4 pm to 10 pm, except on Friday when it will be open from 4 pm to 10 pm.

Registration is complimentary for all buyers and visitors, with free parking available at the venue.

The Thai Trade Exhibition is a series of trade fairs that have been taking place in various GCC countries since 2016. It features quality Thai products and services and aims to find trade partners in the Middle East. Organised by Vega Intertrade & Exhibition along with several public and private partners, Thai Trade Exhibition is a business platform where Thai businesses and entrepreneurs from all sectors converge to tap into the lucrative Middle East market.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Oman-UAE Investment Forum discusses means of boosting bilateral cooperation

ABU DHABI: Oman-UAE Investment Forum yesterday discussed means of promoting the existing cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in various areas.

The event was held at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi, within the context of the His Majesty the Sultan's current state visit to the UAE.

Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority said that continuous growth in the volume of trade and investment exchange between the two countries over the past years reflects the strength of the existing economic partnership between them and its promising prospects. He pointed out that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries reached about OMR5.4 billion by the end of 2023.

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the number of companies registered in the Sultanate of Oman with Emirati participation during the 2023 amounted to 1,308 companies, while the value of the Emirati contribution to the total invested capital according to commercial records amounted to about OMR272 million. He added that about 112 companies are active in the industrial cities of the Sultanate of Oman with a percentage of Emirati share-



holding, including 37 companies whose invested capital exceeds OMR1 million.

Meanwhile, Suhail bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure stressed the importance of the achievements made by the joint company "Hafeet Rail", pointing

out that the company has demonstrated, since its establishment, high levels of competence and commitment to achieving connectivity between the two countries through a safe and sustainable joint railway network, in line with the strategic and historical ties that bind the two countries.

He also underlined the importance of the railway network in facilitating trade at the local and regional levels, opening new horizons in the infrastructure, transportation and logistics sectors, diversifying the national economy and achieving sustainable development in the two countries.

During the forum, a number of presentations were given by Invest Oman hall, Oman Investment Authority and Oman Hydrogen Company 'Hydrom'.

The forum also unveiled the new brand identity of Hafeet Rail (formerly Oman and Etihad Rail), which is the joint company of Etihad Rail, Oman Rail and Mubadala. The new brand identity stems from Jebel Hafeet, a mountain that extends between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. -ONA

ARAB MONETARY FUND

AMF sees growth potential in Takaful market

ABU DHABI: The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has reported that the Takaful sector, a Sharia-compliant form of insurance, remains a small player within Islamic finance, accounting for less than 2 per cent of the total market. Despite this, the global Takaful market surpassed \$30 billion in 2023.

In a recent report launched during a Takaful insurance training course, the AMF predicts continued annual growth of 5-8 per cent for the Takaful sector in the coming years. This is considered strong growth compared to general insurance markets.

The AMF attributes this positive outlook to rising consumer awareness of Islamic finance, supportive government policies in



many countries, and ongoing technological advancements.

However, the report also acknowledges the challenges facing

the Takaful industry. Internal hurdles include difficulty in pricing risks, the potential for adverse selection due to limited information,

and the need for a standardised framework for governance and risk management.

External challenges arise from economic slowdowns caused by monetary tightening policies. This puts pressure on the entire insurance sector, including Takaful, due to factors like increased claims from business losses, lower investment returns, and limited Sharia-compliant investment options.

The AMF emphasises the need for regulatory and supervisory authorities in Arab countries to actively support the Takaful sector. This includes providing effective oversight, identifying key legal and technical challenges, and fostering a conducive business environment. -WAM

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Galfar Engineering, up 9.35 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Insurance, down 8.33 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,696.30 points, down by 0.03 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.70 per cent at 445.68 points. Galfar Engineering, up 9.35 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Insurance, down 8.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 1057 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.4 million, with more than 13.69 million shares changing hands. Out of 53 traded securities, 11 advanced, 18 declined, and 24 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR35,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR18,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR17,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,601.10 points, down 0.31 per cent. Prices of Ominvest were up by 0.74 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Insurance, Al Madina Investments, Al Sharqia Investment, Global Financial Investments, Al Madina Takaful

were down by 8.33 per cent, 7.27 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 1.39 per cent, 1.21 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,769.58 points, up 1.09 per cent. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Oman Cables Industry, Al Maha Ceramics, Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 9.35 per cent, 7.72 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 0.82 per cent, 0.37 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Gulf International Chemicals, Al Hassan Engineering, Muscat Thread Mill, Voltamp Energy were down by 6.00 per cent, 5.56 per cent, 4.35 per cent, 1.00 per cent, 0.38 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.34 per cent before closing at 1,835.03 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Muscat Desalination, Sembcorp Salalah, Al Suwadi Power, Ooredoo were up by 3.88 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.24 per cent, 0.33 per cent respectively.

Prices of Dhofar Generating, Al Jazeera Services, Renaissance Services, Abraj Energy, Oman Telecom were down by 1.25 per cent, 0.83 per cent, 0.55 per cent, 0.32 per cent, 0.19 per cent respectively. — United Securities

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RAHUL DAS
Genesis unveiled the redesigned GV80 and GV80 Coupe at an exclusive event held at the Seoul Wave Art Centre on Monday, 22 April 2024.

These models embody the brand's fusion of tradition and innovation as well as its commitment to innovation, design, and unmatched hospitality.

Genesis proudly showcased the new models in its homeland to several regional representatives and correspondents, proving a monumental step towards bridging Korean automotive rendering to the Middle East audience. The launch saw a fully immersive experience, offering more than just a showcase but rather a vision into the Korean hospitality, known as 'Son-nim', which is fully embedded into the Genesis pillars and offerings.

The GV80, Genesis' inaugural SUV that blends luxury aesthetics with cutting-edge technology, has achieved impressive sales figures of over 170,000 units in the global luxury SUV market since its debut in January 2020.

The enhanced GV80 brings the first model change in over three years, featuring the distinct signature of the base model with a comprehensive interior redesign. The model promises an elevated in-car experience with new convenience features for comfort and safety.

The brand-new luxury GV80 Coupe embodies Genesis' design philosophy of "Athletic Elegance."

Garnering worldwide attention since the reveal of the GV80 Coupe Concept in April, the GV80 Coupe effortlessly maximizes practicality and sportiness with a distinctive design package, encompassing a dynamic exterior and a sporty, high-tech interior, complemented by a 3.5-litre gasoline turbo 48V electric supercharger (e-S/C) engine.

Omar Al-Zubaidi, CEO of Genesis Motors Middle East and Africa, comments "We are thrilled to announce the launch of our redesigned GV80 and the first coupe SUV, the GV80 Coupe. Coupled with our unwavering dedication to providing exceptional driving experiences, these new releases hold particular significance for our valued customers in the Middle East. The region's perceptive tastes and appreciation for luxury and performance inspire us to deliver vehicles that not only meet but exceed expectations."

"We are confident that our latest coupe model and the newly designed GV80 will resonate deeply with drivers in the Middle Eastern region, embodying the essence of sophistication, style, and unparalleled craftsmanship that Genesis is renowned for," he concludes.

The GV80: Refined and robust exterior of the SUV

The redesigned GV80 adds luxurious details to the existing model, elevating the experience for drivers and passengers of the GV80.

The GV80's front includes a newly designed Two-Line Crest Grille and the signature Two-Line headlamps. The Crest Grille refines the model's elegance with smoother corner lines, and the sleek design of the Two-Line headlamps, made possible with MLA (Micro Lens Array) technology, underscores Genesis' commitment to the harmonization of state-of-the-art technology and



design excellence.

The GV80's robust and athletic SUV persona is accentuated with design elements such as larger air intakes and a wide skid plate on the front bumper, while the Guilloché-patterned emblem adds an elegant finishing touch to the luxury SUV image.

Along the exterior, a new chrome trim extends seamlessly through the sides, exuding a powerful presence from the front to rear bumper.

Two reinvented wheel designs contribute to the GV80's solid and refined character. The 20-inch design creates a multi-spoke look by intersecting two different spokes with distinct finishings, and the 22-inch option reinterprets the Two-Line design.

At the rear, the muffler tips hidden in the bumper elevate the GV80's sophistication. Key elements of the Genesis design language add to the model's futuristic image with distinctive V-shape chrome trim inspired by the iconic Crest Grille. The lower part of the bumper imparts a sense of stability with its bold body-coloured line.

The GV80 offers 11 exterior colours with the new addition of glossy and matte Storr Green.

The GV80: Elegant interior with high-tech sensibility in the beauty of white space

The interior of the GV80 is designed to elevate customers' daily lives by offering an in-car luxury experience.

The interior brings to life Genesis' design ethos of the uniquely

Korean concept of the Beauty of White Space, incorporating cutting-edge technology to create a sophisticated ambience. A 27-inch-wide OLED display integrates the cluster and the AVN (Audio, Video, Navigation) screen, exemplifying the harmony in the combination of a high-tech device with luxurious details with its horizontal layout.

Seamless design extends to the centre fascia, and the touch-based HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) system thoughtfully offers drivers with ease of control.

The redesigned crystal-like Shift By Wire (SBW) ensures a comfortable grip and adds a sense of luxury

Quality materials and design enhancements add to the GV80's overall elegance, with elements comprising of horn covers with the new Genesis emblem, two-tone-colored steering wheels, an elevated pedal design, and crash pads and a centre console featuring Nappa leather and real wood.

Furthermore, Genesis has accommodated consumer needs with a redesigned wireless smartphone charging tray that enables more convenient charging and provides improved visibility of the phone, an enlarged console cup holder, and a knob-type volume/tune adjustment button.

The GV80 comes in a choice of five interior colours, including three new additions: Earth Brown, Bordeaux Brown, and Glacier White.



The GV80 Coupe: Practicality and sportiness meet to define athletic elegance

The highly anticipated unveiling of the GV80 Coupe adds a new facet to the Genesis brand, emphasizing a fusion of pragmatism and sportiness to accommodate any driving lifestyle.

The GV80 Coupe combines the practicality of an SUV, inheriting the design and performance of the base model, with the dynamism of a coupe. The introduction of the GV80 Coupe reaffirms Genesis' unwavering commitment to delivering cars with exceptional performance and emotional appeal.

The exterior creates a high-performance image, boasting an elegant yet daring silhouette, featuring the MLA-powered LED headlamps and double-layered Crest Grille like the redesigned GV80.

The front design is further accentuated with an expanded air intake, Active Air Flap, and four air vents, which improve engine cooling while also contributing to the coupe SUV's bold appeal.

When viewed from the side, the arch-shaped Parabolic Line spanning the body and the low, sloping roofline strike a perfect harmony, completing the strong and dynamic exterior design. Adding to its sporty profile, the GV80 Coupe grabs attention with Coupe-exclusive 20- and 22-inch wheels with distinctive spokes.

At the rear, the GV80 Coupe features a unique design with LED surface-emitting rear combination lamps and a wide integrated auxiliary brake light on the tailgate. A centrally descending rear spoiler adds a sporty touch.

The GV80 Coupe is available in a range of 12 exterior colour options, including the exclusive Bering Blue.

The GV80 Coupe: Coupe-specific sporty design package and ample space

The interior of the GV80 Coupe captures a sporty sensibility with a design unique to a coupe.

The two-tone D-cut steering wheel reinforces its driving dy-

namics and maintains an elegant interior image. Unique carbon garnish patterns and seats with the coupe-exclusive patterns and stitching further contribute to the refined design.

To minimize the risk of slipping during operation and to maximize high-performance sensibility, metal accents were added on the brake and accelerator pedals.

Additionally, the GV80 Coupe has optimised the layout of the engine room and chassis and incorporated rear seat reclining functionality to provide a spacious interior. An optimised trunk package and a foldable luggage shelf offer ample space and storage capacity. The GV80 Coupe allows customers to personalize unique interior spaces, offering a selection of six coupe-specific interior packages.

Outstanding power performance with the 3.5 Turbo 48V electric supercharger

The GV80 is equipped with two powertrain options: a gasoline 2.5 turbo engine, which delivers a robust 304 horsepower and 43.0 kgf-m of torque, and a gasoline 3.5 turbo engine, which produces a maximum output of 380 horsepower and 54.0 kgf-m of torque. The GV80 Coupe offers two engine choices, including the gasoline 3.5 turbo 48V electric supercharger (e-S/C), which features a robust 415 horsepower and 56.0 kgf-m.

This innovative engine compresses air twice – once through the motor in the low engine (rpm) range and again through the 3.5T e-S/C – to advance the maximum torque and improving acceleration response at low and medium speeds.

The GV80 and GV80 Coupe both include advanced driving technologies to provide drivers and passengers with driving stability and a smooth riding experience in any driving environment. Preview Electronic Control Suspension (Pre-view ECS) optimises control of the suspension by anticipating road conditions, and

the second-generation Engine Mounting Control Unit (EMCU) detects road surfaces to reduce driving vibrations.

Genesis has achieved best-in-class tranquillity, boasting quiet serenity by incorporating noise-absorbing tires, materials, and improving the soundproofing of the tailgate. In the GV80 Coupe, drivers can replicate the sound of a large-displacement sports coupe's exhaust with Active Sound Design and allow brake pedal responsiveness customisation with the Flex Brake feature.

Genesis has introduced additional functions exclusively for the 3.5T e-S/C model, including Sports+ driving mode, Launch Control, and a cluster that displays oil temperature, torque, and turbo pressure, engaging drivers with a more agile and dynamic experience in the car.

Improved customer safety and convenience features

Genesis has given the newly released GV80 and GV80 Coupe various cutting-edge technologies to offer improved convenience and safety features, enriching the driving experience from departure to arrival.

Independently controlled temperature mode bestows maximum comfort for air-conditioning and airflow from four separate areas, including the driver's seat, passenger seat, and the second and third rows.

The cars come with an array of convenience features, including Fingerprint Authentication System, UV-C disinfection trays, heated armrests, front and rear touch-based handle sensors, and a fragrance system that disperses pleasing scents throughout the car's interior. Other notable additions include a 14.6-inch rear-seat display for streaming services and a Bang & Olufsen sound system.

Furthermore, in line with Genesis' utmost priority for safety, both the GV80 and GV80 Coupe come with 10 airbags, including a front-centre airbag, and powerful monoblock brake calipers.

New convenience features enhance the driving experience to ensure a smooth and comfortable journey. A Digital Centre Mirror (DCM) displays the rearview camera feed. Hands-On Detection (HOD) allows easy deactivation of ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems) with a simple touch on the steering wheel.

The upgraded ADAS system is a combination of features that assist the driver, including Lane Following Assist 2 (LFA 2), Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist 2 (FCA 2), Blind-Spot Collision-Avoidance Assist (BCA), Rear Cross-Traffic Collision-Avoidance Assist (RCCA), Remote Smart Parking Assist 2 (RSPA 2), Smart Cruise Control (SCC), Front/Side/Rear Parking Distance Warning (PDW-F/S/R), and Front/Side/Rear Parking Collision-Avoidance Assist (PCA-F/S/R). This system autonomously assesses the driving environment and proactively responds to prevent accidents, ensuring that customers can always enjoy safe and comfortable driving.

The new Genesis GV80 and GV80 Coupe models is available in Oman with the OTE Group. All the models comes with five years unlimited kilometres warranty.

Inter seal 20th Serie A title



Francesco Acerbi and Marcus Thuram on target as Inter beat AC Milan to claim top honours with five games remaining

MILAN: Inter Milan sealed their 20th Italian title by beating arch-rivals and nearest challengers AC Milan 2-1 in a historic Derby della Madonnina on Monday, *BBC Sport* reported..

Francesco Acerbi was unmarked to head in Benjamin Pavard's flick-on from a corner to give Inter the lead.

Marcus Thuram latched onto a long ball and was given too much time to cut in before smashing their second into the bottom corner at the San Siro.

England's Fikayo Tomori headed in from close range to give Milan brief hope.

There were three red cards in injury time as tempers boiled over.



Milan's Theo Hernandez and Inter's Denzel Dumfries were sent off for their part in a brawl and the hosts ended with nine men as captain Davide Calabria was sent off for violent conduct.

Inter players and coaches ran on to the pitch to celebrate at the final

whistle at the ground both sides share, although Milan were the home side for this fixture.

The second-placed Rossoneri are now 17 points behind Inter with five games to go.

Inter could have won by more with Lautaro Martinez missing a sitter and Hakan Calhanoglu's drive being tipped over by Mike Maignan. This was the first time the Serie A title has ever been won in the 116 years of the Milan derby.

"I feel like crying because we worked so hard, we deserve this joy," said captain Martinez, who has scored 25 goals in all competitions this season.

"It's been wonderful but we have to keep going because we've already won a lot of trophies and we want to win many more."

Inter Milan's 20th Italian crown takes them above AC Milan's 19 Serie A titles and only below Juventus.

But this was only their second title since 2010, last winning under Antonio Conte in 2021.

Simone Inzaghi has brought the good times back to the Nerazzurri, cruising to the Scudetto with five games to spare on the back of a 27-game unbeaten run in the league.

They have scored 79 goals, 15 clear of anybody else, and conceded only 18, eight fewer than any other side.

Inter have now won the last six derbies, equalling the record runs of Milan from 1911-1913 and 1946-1948. - *Agencies*

SERIE A



Cannavaro appointed new Udinese manager

MILAN: Former Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro was on Monday appointed manager of Udinese until the end of the season.

Cannavaro, who lifted the 2006 World Cup as Italy captain, has replaced Gabriele Cioffi who was sacked after a 1-0 defeat by fellow strugglers Verona.

That loss left Udinese 17th in Serie A - one place above the relegation zone - and level on 28 points with 18th-placed Frosinone.

Cannavaro has signed a deal which runs until the end of June.

He will be in charge when Udinese finish their match against Roma by playing the remaining 18 minutes on Thursday.

The original game was suspended with the score at 1-1 after

Roma player Evan Ndiaka collapsed on the pitch.

The Ivory Coast defender was later released from hospital, with Roma saying the 24-year-old had experienced chest pains on the pitch but did not have a heart attack.

Cannavaro was one of the finest centre-backs of his generation, winning the Ballon d'Or in 2006 and played for the likes of Parma, Juventus, Inter Milan and Real Madrid.

He retired from playing in 2011 and went into coaching in Asia.

Cannavaro managed clubs in China and Saudi Arabia, while also spending six weeks in charge of the Chinese national team in 2019 before a stint as boss of Ben-

- *Agencies*

EL CLASICO

Barca could take legal action over Yamal's 'phantom goal'

BARCELONA: Barcelona president Joan Laporta says he will not rule out taking legal action over Lamine Yamal's 'phantom goal' against Real Madrid.

Teenager Yamal thought he had put Barcelona 3-2 ahead at the Bernabeu but Real keeper Andriy Lunin, who was behind the goal-line, clawed the ball away.

The visitors were adamant the ball had crossed the line but the referee ruled it had not and with no goalline technology in La Liga, the video assistant referee (VAR) could not prove it, *BBC Sport* reported

Barca went on to lose the match 3-2 after Jude Bellingham scored the winner in the first minute of added time.

Laporta says the club will request the audio and video footage from the Technical Refereeing Committee at the Spanish FA to determine whether the goal should have stood.

"If, once this documentation has been analysed, the club understands that an error was made in the revision of the incident, we will take all available measures to reverse the situation, without discounting, obviously, any necessary legal action," said Laporta.



Screen grab of Lamine Yamal's effort with the Real Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin trying to stop it from going over the goalline

He added that if their analysis confirms it was a legal goal, the club "do not discount requesting that the game be replayed, just as has happened in another game in Europe due to a VAR error".

A Belgian Pro League match from earlier this season between Anderlecht and Genk was ordered to be replayed in full because of a

VAR mistake. However, the Belgian Court of Arbitration for Sport overturned that decision.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp called for his side's Premier League match against Tottenham to be replayed after Luis Diaz's goal was wrongly disallowed earlier this season.

"We understand the difficulty faced by officials, but it is for that reason that such tools exist (like VAR) to help the competition be fairer and not the other way around," said Laporta.

Barcelona boss Xavi said it is "a disgrace" that goalline technology is in use in other countries, like the Premier League in England, but is not available in La Liga with goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen saying it is "shameful for football".

Andres Christensen had scored the opener for Barcelona but a Vinicius Jr penalty levelled before half-time. Fermin Lopez made it 2-1 to Barca before Lucas Vazquez equalised. Real Madrid are top of La Liga, 11 points clear of Barcelona in second. - *Agencies*

2024 LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

Djokovic, Bellingham among winners at Laureus awards

MADRID: Novak Djokovic, Aitana Bonmati, Jude Bellingham and Simone Biles were among the big winners in Madrid on Monday, as Spain was at the centre of world sport with an unrivalled collection of sport's greatest talents celebrating the 2024 Laureus World Sports Awards.

On an unforgettable evening at the historic Palacio de Cibeles in the heart of Madrid, with media from across the world in attendance, Djokovic was named Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for a record-equalling fifth time.

This was the 25th staging of an event that has risen to the top of the sporting calendar - attended by some of the best athletes on the planet together with past sporting giants, plus influential figures

from the world of fashion, film and entertainment. It was hosted by Hollywood star Andy Garcia.

Tom Brady, the seven-time Super Bowl champion, presented Djokovic with his Sportsman of the Year Award; Usain Bolt, the greatest sprinter of all time, presented the Sportswoman of the Year Award to Bonmati; and last year's winner of the Breakthrough of the Year Award, Carlos Alcaraz, handed the Laureus for that category to Jude Bellingham. Aitana Bonmati took to the stage twice - and made history both times: firstly, to pick up Laureus Sportswoman of the Year and in doing so become the first footballer to win the prestigious Award; and again to represent the Spain team which won the FIFA Women's World



Cup in Australia and New Zealand - in the same city where that side returned to celebrate last summer.

The world champions were named the Laureus World Team of the Year and the first all-women's



team to win the Award.

Bellingham, too, was on familiar territory. The English midfielder won the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award - the first footballer to do so - after an

electrifying start to his time with Real Madrid.

Biles was honoured with the Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award after a sensational return to gymnastics following a two-year hiatus.

Newly crowned Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Djokovic previously won the award in 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2019.

Djokovic said: "I am incredibly honoured to have won my fifth Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. I think back to 2012, when I won it for the first time as a 24-year-old. I am very proud to be here 12 years later, reflecting on a year that brought me and my fans a lot of excitement and success."

He added: "The Laureus Awards are so special because they represent

recognition from the 69 world-class athletes who make up the Laureus World Sports Academy. To earn the votes of my sporting heroes is what makes these Awards so coveted in all of sport."

Full Laureus awards list: Sportsman of the Year: Novak Djokovic
Sportswoman of the Year: Aitana Bonmati
Team of the Year: Spain women's football team
Breakthrough of the Year: Jude Bellingham
Comeback of the Year: Simone Biles (gymnastics)
Sportsperson of the Year with a disability: Diede de Groot (tennis)
Action sportsperson of the Year: Arisa Trew (skateboarding)
Sport for Good award: Fundacion Rafa Nadal. - *Agencies*

Bank Muscat & Muscat Finance drive financial innovation using bank’s API banking services

This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant step forward by the two entities in streamlining financial operations and unlocking new possibilities for corporate banking in the financial sector

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in Oman, signed an agreement with Muscat Finance Company, a leading financial services company listed in Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), to integrate the state-of-the-art Application Programming Interface (API) banking services of Bank Muscat with the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system of Muscat Finance.

This groundbreaking initiative marks a significant step forward by the two entities in streamlining financial operations and unlocking new possibilities for corporate banking in the financial sector. This collaboration demonstrates the commitment to empowering the entire financial ecosystem with the tools to drive innovation and improve customer service.

Through this agreement, Muscat Finance gains direct access through Bank Muscat’s API to the critical banking functions within the in-house existing (ERP) system of Muscat Finance. The API banking services enable seamless initiation and authorization of



payments, real-time transaction monitoring, and automated reconciliation processes, boosting efficiency and accuracy. In the meanwhile, the secure and flexible API infrastructure eliminates manual data entry and redundant tasks, freeing up valuable resources for strategic initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, General Manager- Corporate Banking said: “We are happy to partner with Muscat Finance in their digital transformation journey. Our API banking services empower businesses to take control of their finances like never before, unlocking efficiencies and fostering innovation. With API Banking, not only the businesses gain operational efficiency, but customers also experience faster, more convenient

services. We are confident that this collaboration will be a model for future advancements in corporate banking.”

Rashad Al Shaikh, Chief Executive Officer Muscat Finance SAOG said: “This collaboration integrating our ERP with Bank Muscat’s API platform has transformed the way we manage our finances. The seamless integration, real-time access to data, and automation capabilities are expected to significantly improve our operational efficiency and expected to free up valuable resources that are required in post transaction reconciliation, in addition to reducing our carbon footprint through a reduced usage of paper and energy efficiency. Also, API Banking is expected to allow Muscat Finance to serve customers 24/7.”

CEO of the Company further said that Muscat Finance is embarking on a transformation and digitization journey focusing on process enhancements that positively impacts customer experience. “The move of the Head Office to a new state of the art building has allowed us to remodel the way we do business and enhance the customer touch points further through a unique drive through service and an around the clock kiosk service machine.

“We are excited to explore further possibilities with this cutting-edge technology which is supporting us in providing enhanced customer service. We are looking forward to enhancing the company’s capabilities further and enhance its collaboration with the leading bank in Oman,” he added.

The API banking solution provides Muscat Finance with the agility and scalability to adapt to the ever-evolving financial landscape. By embracing API banking services, Muscat Finance is future-proofed to leverage innovative financial services and applications as they emerge.

In the same context, Bank Muscat’s API Banking is an adaptable platform, accommodating the evolving business needs of the corporate and government entities. The bank’s current catalogue of APIs includes account information, payment services and web payment services APIs and these APIs address key needs of corporate and government entities. In the coming days, more APIs will be added in catalogue underscoring Bank Muscat’s emphasis on con-

tinuous improvement and innovation. The system operates within the established security protocols, ensuring data integrity and safeguarding financial transactions.

As the trusted banking partner in Oman, Bank Muscat is committed to supporting corporates to make a mark in digitalization to create a successful business environment.

Bank Muscat provides a complete range of products, services and technology driven digital offerings catering to government entities, corporates, and SMEs in Host-to-Host integration through Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP)& API banking services, payment’s solutions, account services, collections & receivables, liquidity solutions, Point of Sales terminals and more.

COLLABORATION

National Finance and Dar Al Atta’a join forces to empower women through beekeeping and cultivation initiatives

MUSCAT: In alignment with its dedication to enhancing the well-being of communities throughout the Sultanate of Oman, National Finance, the country’s leading finance company, has joined forces with renowned charitable organisation Dar Al Atta’a.

This collaboration seeks to empower Omani women hailing from the Governorates of Musandam, Al Dhahirah, Al Dakhiliyah, Al Sharqiyah North, Al Sharqiyah South, and Dhofar through a distinctive initiative centered on beekeeping and honey cultivation.

The initiative comprises two primary components. Firstly, it involves the education of 50 participants in the art of beekeeping. Secondly, a series of workshops will be conducted, engaging 35 participants in the crafting of handmade cosmetics derived from honey. These products will then be distributed across various Governorates.

Through these concerted efforts, National Finance, in collaboration with Dar Al Atta’a, endeavours to bolster Omani women, particularly those from economically constrained backgrounds, enabling them to pursue lucrative self-employment opportunities in beekeeping. Subsequently, they will be equipped to produce natural beauty commodities that are experiencing burgeoning demand within the nation.

Commenting on the collaboration, Tariq bin Suleiman Al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer, National Finance, said, “As a trusted Partner for Growth for all, National Finance is deeply committed to fostering societal progress by providing meaningful opportunities to those less privileged. These ef-



forts not only impart new skills but also facilitate the establishment of small-scale, locally-driven enterprises. Women are the backbone of Omani society, and this initiative transcends mere acknowledgment of their contributions, actively empowering them towards independence and self-sufficiency, thereby enhancing the fabric of the communities to which they belong.”

Echoing the statement, Maryam BintIssa Al Zadjali, Chairperson and Founder of Dar Al Atta’a, stated, “We extend our gratitude to National Finance for its continuous support and effective role in the success of the initiative. The launch of the second phase of the cosmetics products created from honey is an extension of what has been achieved through the initiative to diversify products derived from honey. We appreciate the joint efforts with National Finance and wish success to all beneficiaries.”

Operating under its Imtidad social responsibility initiative, National Finance has been pivotal

in numerous initiatives aimed at promoting social welfare, encompassing youth and women’s empowerment, cultural enrichment, educational advancement, and environmental stewardship. Through Imtidad, the company strives to effect positive change within the communities it serves, addressing welfare concerns in collaboration with charitable organizations and governmental entities, thereby enriching the lives of the Omani peoples in a substantive manner.

The enduring partnership between National Finance and Dar Al Atta’a has yielded impactful transformations in the lives of many marginalized communities across the nation, through the myriad of initiatives they have actioned together. This synergy underscores the company’s resolute commitment to fostering sustained socioeconomic progress. Moreover, the company actively champions initiatives aimed at empowering the underprivileged, a central tenet of its sustainability ethos.

ARAB OPEN UNIVERSITY

AOU celebrates graduation of 12th batch of its students

MUSCAT: The Arab Open University - Sultanate of Oman- celebrated the graduation of the 12th batch which comprised 485 graduates of diploma, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees. The celebration was under the patronage of Prof. Mahad bin Said Al Baawain, Minister of Labour.

The celebration began with presenting a short film reflected experience of the student at the Arab Open University, explaining the key skills possessed by the student and emphasising the importance of the practical application of the knowledge acquired throughout their academic journey.

Speaking on the occasion, AOU Rector in Oman, Prof.Mohammed bin Hamdan al Badi, expressed pride in the achievements of the university since its inception in 2008, highlighting the significant contribution of over 4,000 graduates to the labour market in various fields including Business Administration, English, Computing, Education, and Law. He also noted the introduction of new programmes, enhancing the university’s educational offerings. The speech underscored the university’s role in fostering scientific research and innovation as part of its mission to develop a knowledge-based society. This is achieved through hosting academic conferences and increasing research activities, which align with the university’s continuous effort to enhance its services and contribute to sustainable development as outlined in Oman Vision 2040.

Degree certificates to the graduates in Master of Education in Educational Leadership, Master of Education in Instructional Technology, Master of Business Administration, and Bachelor and Diploma in Information Technology & Computing were distributed.



Afterwards, Prof. Mohamed Al-Zakari, AOU President in the Arab world, delivered his speech in which he congratulated the graduates and praised the noticeable role of the AOU in spreading the message of science and knowledge, pointing to the admirable achievements of the graduates.

The second part of the ceremony was the graduation of the Bachelor of Business Administration. Then, Ishraq Isaa Al Fulaiti expressed profound pride and gratitude, reflecting on the transformative educational journey at the Arab Open University, acknowledging the academic, personal, and professional support from the university staff, her peers, and her family, and she emphasized the graduates’ readiness to contribute to their com-

munities and the broader goals of Oman Vision 2040 under the wise leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

In the last part of the ceremony, the diploma in business administration was graduated, and the bachelor’s and diploma in English language and literature were graduated. The ceremony concluded with the awarding of a souvenir to the patron of the ceremony.

It is worth mentioning that the Arab Open University in the Sultanate of Oman strives in its mission to provide high-quality education to all segments of society, equipping them with job market skills through an attractive, technologically advanced educational environment and a flexible educational model that transcends temporal and spatial barriers.

ROUND-UP

Geely’s exciting offers on all its models with unbeatable EMI prices

In addition to the attractive EMI prices, Geely is offering a range of added benefits to enhance the ownership experience

MUSCAT: Geely Oman announced exclusive offers on its lineup of vehicles, making it an ideal time to purchase your next car. From the sleek Coolray to the luxurious Azkarra, Geely has something for everyone.

From February 27 to April 26, 2024, customers can drive home the Coolray, a stylish and compact SUV designed to captivate with its modern aesthetics and advanced features. Equipped with a powerful yet fuel-efficient engine, cutting-edge technology, and a spacious interior, the Coolray offers an exhilarating driving experience for urban adventurers with an incredibly low EMI starting from just OMR86.

Looking for a more spacious option? The Emgrand, a versatile sedan combining elegance with



practicality, is perfect for city commuting and long journeys alike. With its sleek design, spacious cabin, and impressive fuel efficiency, the Emgrand is available at an EMI starting from OMR68.

For those seeking a premium family SUV, the Okavango offers a harmonious blend of luxury, comfort, and performance. With ample seating capacity, advanced safety features, and versatile cargo space, the Okavango is designed to accommodate the needs of modern families with style and sophistication. Opt for the Okavango, with an EMI

starting from OMR104 and enjoy free insurance on all variants.

If you aspire to set new standards in luxury and refinement, the Azkarra is a premium SUV that exudes sophistication and elegance. Featuring state-of-the-art technology, premium materials, and exceptional craftsmanship, the Azkarra provides a first-class driving experience for discerning individuals who demand nothing but the best. You can bring it home with an EMI starting from OMR106.

But that's not all. In addition to

the attractive EMI prices, Geely is offering a range of added benefits to enhance the ownership experience. Customers purchasing the Azkarra Signature 2WD will receive free servicing for 3 years or 30,000 kms, whichever comes earlier. For those opting for the Azkarra Platinum 4WD, enjoy complimentary service for 5 years or 50,000 kms, whichever comes earlier. All variants of the Azkarra come with free registration for 1 year, making it an irresistible offer.

Furthermore, all Geely models come with a manufacturer war-

ranty of 5 years or 150,000 kms, whichever comes earlier. As an added bonus, customers will also receive free AAA roadside assistance for 3 years, providing peace of mind on the road.

And that's not all - Geely is also introducing a Walk in & Win promotion, offering customers the chance to win exciting prizes. From a set of Apple AirPods to fuel cards and Lulu vouchers, there are plenty of rewards up for grabs.

"We are thrilled to offer our customers these exclusive offers on our popular models," said a spokes-

person for Geely Oman. "With unbeatable EMI prices, complimentary servicing, and exciting prizes to be won, there has never been a better time to own a Geely vehicle. We look forward to welcoming customers to our showrooms and helping them find the perfect car for their needs."

Don't miss out on these fantastic offers from Geely. Visit your nearest showroom today and drive home in your dream car at an unbeatable price. In Oman, Geely vehicles are brought to you by Towell Auto Centre.

PROMOTION

Enjoy 5 years peace of mind in Ford Territory with ‘Season of Generosity’ benefits

MUSCAT: Ford’s popular Territory SUV is now available with Ford Oman’s Season of Generosity benefits. Customers buying a new Ford Territory can look forward to 5 years peace of mind ownership experiences with 5 Years / 100,000km Service, 5 Years / 100,000km Manufacturer’s Warranty, 5 Years/100,000km Roadside Assistance and 1 Year Registration. The campaign is valid up to 9th May 2024. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.)

The Ford Territory stands out with its impressive exterior design highlighted with an integrated grille and signature light – balanced with lower graphics, with full LED lighting, which drives the focal point higher and communicates purpose, stability, and capability. The headlamps show off a unique design, with daytime running LED lights incorporated with a strong horizontal grille bar, which adds to the eye-catching appearance. The form also has function, with the headlamps lowered towards the ground for expanded lighting areas that also creates a more powerful front look. The bold grille bar is manufactured with high quality materials that help to reflect Ford’s global design DNA on the car.

The Territory has a very welcoming interior too. The horizontal coast-to-coast design evokes a connecting space in an embracing gesture, creating openness and spaciousness. Comfort and function are maximized through Premium Leather seats, with a 10-way adjustable ergonomic driver’s seat.

For those who carry a lot on the go, the Territory is also equipped with more than 20 spacious stor-



age compartments – as well as an extensible trunk with a 448-litre volume – allowing passengers to flexibly use storage spaces throughout the car.

Powering the Territory is an EcoBoost 1.8L engine, delivering 320Nm torque using moderate fuel and impressive power up to 190 hp. The vehicle is equipped with Seven-Speed automatic transmission providing smooth, responsive gear shifting.

To increase the joy of driving, the Territory SUV is equipped with four driving modes – Eco, Normal, Sport, and Mountain – to provide customers the ability to tailor their driving experience across a range of situations, whether driving in crowded urban areas or across the open high-

way on long-distance journeys.

The Ford Territory is equipped with a suite of driver-assist technologies that offer maximum safety and enhance customers’ driving experiences. The vehicle enables customers to drive with confidence by offering an impressive array of safety features available in Ford Co-Pilot.

In addition, the Ford Territory also includes safety technologies such as: Lane Departure Warning (LDW) and Lane Keeping Aid (LKS), Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), and Passive Anti-Theft System to ensure absolute safety for drivers and passengers.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

SUCCESS STORIES OF SMES

Bank Nizwa fortifies its support for SMEs with customised solutions, premium services and enhanced accessibility

MUSCAT: In alignment with the Sultanate of Oman’s robust endeavours to promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Bank Nizwa, the leading Islamic bank in the country, reaffirms its status as the preferred banking partner for SMEs, offering an array of comprehensive benefits to its valued customers.

Through tailored financial solutions and personalised services designed specifically to address the varied requirements of businesses, Bank Nizwa aims to provide SMEs with an elevated level of flexibility in their financial operations. This commitment underscores the bank’s dedication to providing unparalleled Sharia-compliant solutions to SMEs, thus driving their success at every stage of their operations.

Commenting on the bank’s customer-centric approach, Mohamed Al Ghassani, Deputy General Manager – Retail Banking, Bank Nizwa, “At Bank Nizwa it is our endeavour to empower SMEs to realise their full potential. Leveraging our extensive expertise in Islamic finance, we have crafted a suite of solutions that will set them up for success throughout their entrepreneurial journeys.

“In tandem with our array of services, our dedicated team of seasoned professionals at every branch is poised to deliver personalised assistance and expert guidance. This approach ensures that each SME receives the attention and support required to navigate the intricacies of the modern business landscape with confidence and agility, propelling them toward enduring success.”



With a keen focus on enhancing convenience, Bank Nizwa ensures that SME owners can effortlessly initiate account openings at any of its branches across the Sultanate of Oman. Additionally, keeping with its digitalization efforts, Bank Nizwa’s Internet Banking platform caters to the evolving digital preferences of SME owners, providing an efficient means to manage their accounts, transactions, and financial operations remotely.

In line with the bank’s commitment to supporting day-to-day operations, SMEs also receive up to 5 complimentary cheque books and benefit from 5 free transactions

per month. This not only ensures smooth and hassle-free financial transactions but also focuses on enhancing overall satisfaction. Furthermore, Bank Nizwa offers SMEs the convenience of a complimentary corporate debit card, making daily transactions even more seamless.

Rooted in Sharia-compliant financial principles, and guided with a resolute focus on delivering excellence, Bank Nizwa continues to empower SMEs with the essential tools and resources for success, thus contributing tangibly to the socio-economic advancement of the nation.





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