



HM THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Samia Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania on her country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Samia. His Majesty also wished the people of Tanzania further development and growth. — **ONA**



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RIYADH



Sayyid Theyazin to take part in World Economic Forum in Saudi Arabia

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth heads to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the World Economic Forum, hosted by Riyadh on 28-29 April 2024, under the theme Global Collaboration, Growth and Energy for Development.

The forum is the first-of-its-kind, with the presence and participation of heads of states, international figures, policy makers and experts of various international and academic organisations.

During the event, His High-

ness Sayyid Theyazin is accompanied by an official delegation that includes Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Abdulsalman Mohammed Al Mursidi, Chairman of the Oman Investment Authority, Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, and His Highness Sayyid Faisal bin Turki bin Mahmoud Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman, accredited to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mohsin bin Hamad bin Saif Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals. - **ONA**

CREDIT GRANTED BY BANKS IN OMAN EXCEEDS OMR30BN

Credit granted to private sector recorded a growth of 3.9 percent to reach OMR25.8 billion at the end of February, CBO data reveals

MUSCAT: The total credit balance granted by the banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 2.7 percent to reach OMR30.6 billion at the end of February 2024.

Data issued by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) indicate that the credit granted to the private sector recorded a growth of 3.9 percent to reach OMR25.8 billion at the end of February 2024.

Data on the distribution indicate that non-financial companies accounted for the largest share of the credit granted to the private



sector at 45.7 percent, followed by the individual sector at 45.3 percent. The remaining credit granted was distributed among the financial companies sector at 5.3 percent while other sectors received credit of 3.7 percent.

The CBO data further reveal that total deposits in the banking sector registered a growth of 13.3

percent to reach OMR30.1 billion at the end of last February. Within this total, private sector deposits in the banking system witnessed an increase of 14.8 percent to reach OMR20.1 billion.

When looking at the distribution of the total deposit base of the private sector among the various sectors, the CBO data showed

that the individual sector held the largest share and amounted to about 48.4 percent, followed by the non-financial companies sector and the financial companies sector with a share of 32.3 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively, while the remaining 2.8 percent was distributed among other sectors. - **ONA**

GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of April 27, 2024

Deaths
34,388

Injured
77,437

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

OHRC to probe North Al Sharqiyah deaths

1 The Omani Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has established a fact-finding committee to investigate the deaths of several individuals, including children, in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate as a result of exceptional weather conditions in the country. The committee will submit its report within one month. **>A2**

OMAN

Rains forecast over parts of Oman

2 Cloud activity has been recorded over the Al Hajar mountain range with chances of scattered rains of varying intensity. The General Directorate of Meteorology added: "Cloud formation activity is expected to continue in the coming days, in addition to chances of scattered rain on Dhofar coast." **>A2**

OMAN

Oman's Hussain bags swimming gold

3 Oman's talented swimmer Hussain Tariq brought glory for the Sultanate when he won the only gold of the day on Saturday in the 400m individual medley race at the ongoing first GCC Youth Games. There was further success for Oman as the paddlers clinched a bronze in the girls' doubles category. **>A6**



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32°
MUSCAT

DAMASK ROSES

Pink carpet of roses welcomes tourists at Al Jabal Al Akhdar

Times News Service

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR: Nestled amidst the majestic Al Hajar Mountains, Al Ayn village in Al Jabal Al Akhdar fills the air with the delicate scent of Damask roses (Rosa Damascena), leaving the visitors enveloped in a fragrant embrace, each breath a harmonious melody of floral notes.

Acres of terrace farms adorned with pink roses create a picturesque setting at an altitude of nearly 2,700metres above sea level as visitors embark on a sensory journey through Oman's rich heritage of rose water production.

Tour guide Mahir Al Balushi guided the tourists from dusicD2 Naseem Resort to the centuries old Al Ayn village.

The essence of Oman's heritage and warmth was evident while meeting the rose farm owner, Qais Al Amri.

Al Amri's warm smile reflected the hospitality synonymous with Omani culture, as he shared insights into the traditional art of rose picking and distillation.

Amri then guided the tourists through narrow alleys and after



crossing a small wadi running with cool water following the recent rains, to the lush green and pink farm of Damask rose or Ward Al Jabal as it is locally known.

The Damask roses bloom in abundance, painting the landscape with shades of pink.

Amidst the shadow of the Al Hajar mountains, the tourists witnessed the meticulous process

of rose picking, typically undertaken in the early morning hours during the season, which spans from mid-March to mid-May.

Al Amri, a custodian of this ancient tradition, emphasised the importance of passing down this craft through generations, preserving Oman's cultural heritage.

After the exploration of the rose farms, Al Amri graciously

invited people to his distillation plant, located a short drive away.

Here, amidst the sweet perfume of roses, one could observe the intricate process of rose water production. Traditional mud ovens, known as Al Dehjan, played a central role, as rose petals were carefully distilled to extract the fragrant rose water - a practice dating back centuries.

Many of them including Al Amri still practice the traditional techniques of extracting rose water from the harvest blossoms, a practice that dates back to ancient times. But he also has a modern system to cope up with the demands of rose water.

In the traditional manner, a gas-fuelled ground fire first steams the rose petals. As the steam rises, cold water is added into the round dish tops, which causes the steam inside the compartments to condensate. The condensation drips down an inverted cone into a steel bowl, which is how the rosewater is produced. This system is a simple gradual distillation technique that creates smoky brown distilled rosewater.

"Rose farming and then ex-

tracting rose water is a tradition steeped in the villages here for centuries. Families have passed on the art of rose picking and then extracting rose water and rose oil to the younger generations," said Al Amri, who has a few farms across Al Jabal Al Akhdar. Besides Al Ayn, rose farms are located in Al Aqar, Saiq and Al Shuraiga villages.

Al Amri said: "Rose oil is another famous produce of the region and the rose oil distilled within Oman is largely extracted from flowers that grow here. It requires upto thousands of petals to create a single drop, this fragrant oil remains one of the most widely used oil in perfumeries. It is also used in a variety of other ways including as a fragrance, in cosmetics, and aromatherapy."

Asked about the number of rose plants in Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Amri said: "There are nearly 14,000 plants and I am the owner of nearly 1,200 of those plants. The amount of rose water produced is estimated at 30,000 litres during the season. Nearly each two kilograms of harvest yields just three quarters of a litre of traditional rose water." **>A4**



OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:09pm
Asr.....	3:35pm
Maghrib.....	6:39pm
Isha.....	7:54pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:14am



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WEATHER

OMANI-AMERICAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

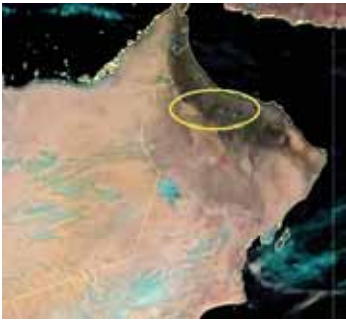
Rains forecast over parts of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Cloud activity has been recorded over the Al Hajar mountain range with chances of expansion and scattered rains of varying intensity.

The General Directorate of Meteorology added: "Local formation activity is expected to continue during the coming days, in addition to chances of scattered rain on the coast of Dhofar Governorate."

In General the weather forecast of is as follows: Convective clouds development with chance of isolated rain expected during afternoon over parts of Al Hajar Mountains.



Low clouds or fog patches over parts of South Al Sharqiyah, North Al Sharqiyah, and parts of Oman Sea coastal areas are expected.

There are also chances of dust storms in deserts and open areas.

Sheikh Khalifa holds meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Campbell

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Washington held a reception on the sidelines of the second Omani-American Strategic Dialogue, which was chaired from the Omani side by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, and from the American side by US Deputy Secretary of State Derek Campbell. The function was attended by a number of officials from both the countries.

On the sidelines of the strategic dialogue in Washington, Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy held meet-



ings with US Deputy Secretary of State Dirk Campbell and a number of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the White House.

Bilateral relations and regional issues were discussed, most notably the Palestinian issue, and the Omani position demanding an immediate end to the Israeli



aggression on the Gaza Strip, intensifying efforts to bring in humanitarian aid, and working to establish an independent Palestinian state.



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
21/2024	Providing a maintenance service for the General Office building of the Ministry of Labor at Airport Heights	Thursday 16/05/2024 2:00 p.m.	Thursday 06/06/2024 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Sunday 28/04/2024 at 08:00 a.m. /<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Thursday 06/06/2024.

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



EXCEPTIONAL WEATHER

OHRC forms panel to probe North Al Sharqiyah deaths

MUSCAT: The Omani Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has established a fact-finding panel to investigate the deaths of several individuals, including children, in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate as a result of recent exceptional weather conditions experienced in the country.

The committee is tasked with submitting its report within one month from its formation date.

OHRC's decision to form this team aligns with the terms of reference outlined in its system, as stipulated by Royal Decree No. (57/2022).

These terms aim to protect human rights and freedom in the Sultanate of Oman in accordance with the Basic Law of the State, relevant laws, and international charters and agreements ratified by Oman.

The state's legislation aims to monitor and address human rights violations and abuses, provide assistance in resolving them,



receive and study complaints related to human rights, and offer advice to relevant authorities.

OHRC also contributes to the preparation of reports addressing these issues.

Previously, OHRC issued a statement urging authorities to

take all necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in accordance with applicable laws and agreements. It emphasised the importance of prioritising child welfare and preserving the fundamental right to life, upon which all human rights are built.

Investment Opportunity Samail Industrial City

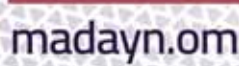


The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Mada'yn" is pleased to announce the following investment opportunity in Samail Industrial City:

Opportunity Number	Project Name	Deadline for Documents Purchase	Field Visit Date	Proposal Submission Deadline	Fee (RO)
1/2024	Equipping, Managing, and Operating the Medical Fitness Examination Centre in Samail Industrial City	16/05/2024	19/05/2024	06/06/2024	100

Equipping and operating the medical fitness examination center aims to provide an examination service for physical fitness for expatriate workers and provide the highest levels of quality in the aspect of health benefits, which are provided to all employees who work within Samail Industrial City; in addition, the center serves local residents living near the Industrial city. The center's distinguished location enables its visitors to reach it easily due to its proximity to the gate and the highway. It is worth noting that the center extends over an area of 1100.71 square meters and includes many facilities, such as laboratories, clinics, cold rooms, X-ray rooms, and a number of other offices. The total area of land used is 3719.75 square meters.

Contact Details:
1- majid.alabrawi@madayn.om / 98813370
2- nassersaid.alrahbi@madayn.om / 71146080



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FOOD SAFETY WEEK

Event to raise awareness on food safety

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The activities of Food Safety Week will be focusing on the importance of food in human life, and disseminating knowledge to various segments of society about the correct methods for handling, transporting, preparing and preserving food, and how to read the food product data label properly.

The event will continue for a period of five days.

The Assistant Director General of the Al Dhahirah Municipality in Al Nadab, said that Food Safety Week is an actual translation of the efforts undertaken by the municipality in the field of food safety and quality, and its concern for the importance of protecting the health of the consumer by creating high quality food products that comply with the highest standards and specifications.

Community partnership
Stressing the need to focus on the awareness aspect among various segments of society, and activating the role of community partnership in this regard by holding various events, programmes and activities aimed primarily at raising the level of food awareness.



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Dialogue sessions to focus on trade, investment plans

The event, which will be organised at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, aims to raise awareness and exchange views on the economic gardening



Mymouna bint Sulaiman Al Adwi, Director of the Office of Oman Business Forum.

She said that the economic gardening could contribute to the efforts of economic diversification in the Sultanate of Oman through empowerment of the local companies that have the potentials to expand and provide job opportunities.

The second session will discuss the strategies of economic greening that have proved to be supportive to the growth of second phase local companies.

The second phase companies, re-defined as the firms that have already between 10 and 99 employees and with an annual revenue between \$1 and \$50 million, are all set for expansion and growth and play a key role in local economies.

Trade dialogues sessions focus on the efforts aimed to boost the sustainable economic practices in Oman.

The annual sessions will discuss issues related to trade and investment opportunities among others.

-With ONA inputs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Business Forum, in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, will organise the second trade dialogues on Tuesday for supporting Omani companies in the second phase.

The event, which will be organised at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, aims to raise awareness and exchange views on the economic gardening.

A number of representatives of the government sector and the private sector will take part in the event.

Mymouna bint Sulaiman Al Adwi, Director of the Office of Oman Business Forum and in

ON TUESDAY

Transport ministry to mark First Logistics Day

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology will celebrate on Tuesday, the First Logistics Day and the opening of the second session of Oman Ports Conference, in cooperation with Oman Logistics Association.

The opening ceremony will be held under the patronage of Sayyid Harib bin Thuwaini, Assistant Secretary General of the Council of Ministers for Conferences.

The opening programme will see the screening of a documentary on the logistics system in the Sultanate of Oman, which will focus on the features of the development of the logistics sector.

The ceremony will includes the announcement of a number of initiatives in the logistics sector for the current year and the launch of phase three of the workshops on attraction of investments to the logistics sector along with the announcement of the winners of the award of the best practices in the logistics sector.

The conference, titled "Oman on the Logistics Services Indicator" deals with two pillars on the



logistics link in light of the priorities of 2024 and on Oman competitiveness on the logistic services indicator. The conference will

also see a number of working parties to be delivered by a number of experts concerned with the sector. - With ONA inputs

GROWTH THROUGH TOURISM

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) would like to invite competent and experienced companies to participate in the following Tender:

Tender No.	13/2024
Tender Title	Provision of Corporate Medical and Life Insurance for OMRAN Group Employees
Tender Submission Closing Date	15 May 2024
Tender Process Details	Please visit: www.omran.om/tenders/



omran.om/tenders/

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DUSITD2 NASEEM RESORT

< FROM A1 Pink carpet of roses welcomes tourists at Al Jabal Al Akhdar

An organic relationship

Al Amri's partnership with dusitD2 Naseem Resort exemplifies a commitment to community development, as the hotel sources local produce for its kitchen, supporting the livelihoods of farmers in Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

dusitD2 Naseem Resort General Manager Jagdeep Thakral emphasised the importance of such collaborations in enhancing the local community's participation in tourism activities.

Thakral said, "We have been in the forefront of community welfare as we accord top priority to local community development. We procure the local produce for our kitchen from the farms of Al Jabal Al Akhdar. During the annual rose harvest season, we wanted our guests to have an organic and immersive experience of visiting the rose farms including a hiking experience."

He added: "And what better way than to engage a local rose farmer and distiller to take our guests around his farms and distillery. We have got an encouraging response since we started from the beginning of this month. Moreover, Qais Al Amri has rose-infused products and rose water for sale at his small factory where guests are keen to purchase as they are sure about the quality of the product."

Thakral said: "Such projects where we join hands with local SMEs augment the local community's gains from the tourism movement activity."

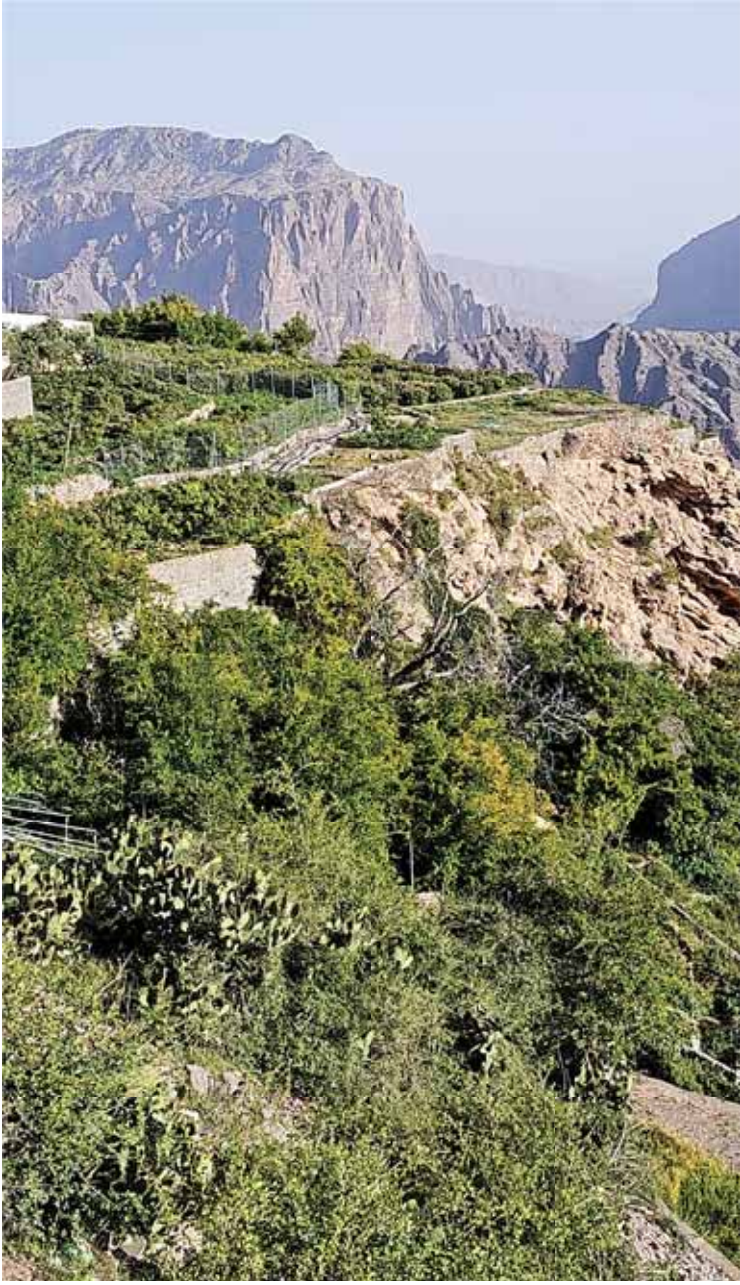
The Damask rose of Oman, renowned for its unique scent of

musk, offers a sensory experience like no other. Besides exploring the rose farms, visitors can partake in hiking trails and climbing routes, immersing themselves in the breathtaking beauty of Al Jabal Al Akhdar. From hidden wadis to terraced fruit orchards, the region captivates with its natural splendour.

Thakral said: "Besides the rose farm visits, we also organise hiking trails and climbing routes that visitors can use to explore the mountain and soak up the breathtaking beauty. Visitors will find numerous hidden wadis and terraced farms where apricots, pomegranates, olives, walnuts, and roses flourish in the cooler high-altitude temperatures. Such a stunning panoramic mountain view is a treat to watch, and we are happy that visitors, who often are families at our resort, love these experiences."

Besides the roses in the season, Al Jabal Al Akhdar is also famed for its fruit orchards, in particular, pomegranates, which are ready for plucking in November-December as we see the trees bearing flowers now laid out in a terrace style along the slope of the mountain, watered with natural springs and Aflaj irrigation system.

So, if one loves nature and is keen to enjoy the fragrance of rose, it is time to head to Al Jabal Al Akhdar before the rose season concludes for an unforgettable experience for all senses. So, venture forth and immerse yourself in the fragrant embrace of Oman's Rose Season before it fades away.



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

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

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

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

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SPORTS

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

Bairstow's ton leads Punjab to record T20 run-chase



KOLKATA: Jonny Bairstow's stunning unbeaten 108 from 48 balls led Punjab Kings to the highest successful T20 run-chase on Friday.

Hosts Kolkata Knight Riders posted 261/6 in the IPL match but the Kings reached their target with eight balls to spare and eight wickets remaining at Eden Gardens.

The previous record was South Africa's chase of 259 against West Indies last year.

England's Bairstow was dropped for Punjab's previous two games and responded with a brutal display of striking that included eight fours and nine sixes.

His 45-ball century was the quickest by an Englishman in the IPL, beating his own 52-ball effort from 2019.

"We knew that we had to go ballistic after how they batted. We had to take risks and thankfully they came off," said Bairstow.

"I've never been faced with a target like that before. So we knew the powerplay would be important, and if anything is close to being in your area you've got to make the most of it."

He had been previously struggling for form, with a high score of 42 across his six innings.

Prabhsimran Singh opened with Bairstow as an impact substitute and smashed 54 from 20

balls in an opening stand of 93 in six overs.

Shashank Singh's 68 not out from 28 balls - including eight sixes - also helped Punjab power to victory.

Kolkata spinner Sunil Narine's 1-24 from four overs was a remarkable effort in the context of the score, making him the only bowler to concede at a rate under 10 runs per over in the innings.

Narine earlier helped set up Kolkata's 261 with a 32-ball 71 at the top of the order, while England's Phil Salt continued his fine form with 75 from 37 balls.

It was an innings to forget for England and Punjab all-rounder Sam Curran, who was dispatched for 60 runs from his four overs.

Six of the top seven highest team totals in IPL history have been scored in this year's tournament, and this fixture was the third to surpass 500 aggregate runs in a match.

Kolkata remain second in the table despite defeat while Punjab are struggling in eighth.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 261/6 (Phil Salt 75 (37), Sunil Narine 71 (32); Arshdeep Singh 2/45) lost to Punjab Kings 262/2 in 18.4 overs (Jonny Bairstow 108* (48), Shashank Singh 68 (28), Prabhsimran Singh 54 (20); Sunil Narine 1-24).

TODAY'S MATCHES	
Gujarat Titans	vs
Royal Challengers Bengaluru	Ahmedabad, 2pm
Chennai Super Kings	vs
Sunrisers Hyderabad	Chennai, 6pm

DC defeat MI at home to climb to fifth place

Fraser-McGurk's 27-ball 84 and Rasikh Salam's 3 for 34 guide Delhi to a thrilling victory

DELHI: In another run fest in IPL 2024, Jake Fraser-McGurk's 84 off 27 balls proved to be the difference as Delhi Capitals (DC) beat Mumbai Indians (MI) by ten runs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi on Saturday.

Apart from Fraser-McGurk, Shai Hope and Tristan Stubbs also played crucial knocks for DC as they posted 257/4 after being sent in.

In reply, MI lost three wickets in the powerplay - the big ones of Rohit Sharma, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav - but Tilak Varma (63) and Hardik Pandya (46) kept their hopes alive.

Rasikh Salam, however, turned the game by dismissing Hardik and Nehal Wadhwa in the same over. While Tilak and Tim David fought till the end, MI eventually fell short.

The win took DC to fifth place on the points table with ten points from as many games. MI stayed rooted to ninth with six points from nine matches.

Rasikh was the pick for the home side, he came on as an impact sub and picked up 3/34 in this high-scoring affair while Mukesh also returned with a three-wicket haul (3/59).

Khaleel provided the Capitals with their first wicket as he dismissed Rohit Sharma for 8. Mukesh joined the party in style and scalped the wicket of Kishan for 20. Khaleel bagged his second wicket as he dismissed Suryakumar Yadav for 26. After losing three wickets in quick succession, Hardik and Tilak started their innings with caution mixed with aggression. Hardik slammed Kuldeep Yadav for 19 runs in the 9th over of the game, hammering three boundaries and a six.

Rasikh provided Delhi Capitals with the much-needed breakthrough as he dismissed Pandya for 46. Tilak Verma along with David kept the momentum going for MI. Tilak brought up his half-century in style in 25 balls. After getting hit for one boundary and two sixes, Mukesh made a terrific comeback and dismissed David for 37.

In the last over Mumbai lost



leg-spinner Piyush Chawla in the fourth over. McGurk and Porel completed their 100-run partnership in just 6.4 overs.

Mumbai took the first wicket in the eighth over as Chawla dismissed Fraser-McGurk for 84 in just 27 balls which was laced with 11 boundaries and six maximums with a strike rate of 311.11.

Porel was next to go after scoring 36 runs in 27 balls with the help of three fours and a six.

Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant and Hope put on a partnership of 53 before Hope was sent back for a cameo of 41 from just 17 balls which included five sixes. Stubbs and Pant put on 35 before Pant was dismissed on 29.

Stubbs played an unbeaten knock of 48 runs with the help of six fours and two sixes. For the visitors, one wicket each was snapped by Luke Wood, Jasprit Bumrah, Piyush Chawla, and Mohammad Nabi.

Brief scores: Delhi Capitals 257/4 (Jake Fraser-McGurk 84, Tristan Stubbs 48*, Shai Hope 41; Mohammad Nabi 1-20) beat Mumbai Indians 247/9 (Tilak Varma 63, Hardik Pandya 46; Rasikh Dar Salam 3-34, Mukesh Kumar 3-59, Khaleel Ahmed 2-45). - Agencies





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NAMA WATER CONDUCTS ACCREDITATION TESTING

Nama Water Services revealed the details of the signed agreement with Fuji Clean Company and Green Technology Company. The focus of the collaboration is the accreditation of domestic sewage treatment units. **> B2**

OQ SHOWCASES PLANS AT OPES

OQ Group, represented by its Exploration and Production arm 'OQEP' showcased its innovations, energy mix and plans to build a sustainable future. OQ participated in Oman Petroleum & Energy Show, the prestigious event that embraces the entire oil, gas, and energy industry, as a principal sponsor. **> B2**

Muscat Stock Exchange trading value rises to OMR36.9 million

Purchases by local investment institutions and funds during the week accounted for about 77 percent of the total trading value, compared to sales of 75.8 percent of the total trading in the previous week



at OMR4 million. Sohar International Bank came saw trades worth OMR3.5 million, while Ooredoo ranked next with trades amounting to OMR2.5 million, and these companies accounted for about 63 percent of the total trading value witnessed by the stock exchange during the week.

The increase in demand for the shares of these companies came as local investment companies and funds moved to strengthen their portfolios, focusing on the shares of a number of leading companies after the appearance of the financial results for the first quarter, which showed growth in profits and improvement in performance.

Purchases by local investment institutions and funds during the week accounted for about 77 percent of the total trading value, compared to sales of 75.8 percent of the total trading in the previous week. Local individual investors also showed interest in purchasing during the past week amid positive expectations for the performance of most public joint-stock companies listed on the stock exchange.

The prices of 38 securities declined last week, most notably the Oman Free Finance Bonds, which

MUSCAT: The value of trading on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) increased during the week to OMR36.9 million, compared to about OMR19.4 million in the previous week, benefiting from investors' interest in the shares of a number of leading companies listed in the banking and communications sectors, in addition to the increase in trading in the bond and sukuk market.

Statistical data issued by the MSX indicated an increase in trading in Omantel shares, which witnessed trades worth OMR6.8 million, representing 18.4 percent of the total trading value. Bank Muscat witnessed trades worth OMR6.2 million, and Al Nahda Services ranked next with trades

fell by 30 percent and closed at 70 baisas. the Oman Flour Mills stock fell by 10 percent and closed at 450 baisas, while Gulf Hotels Oman stock fell by 10 percent as well and closed at OMR3.83.

The recorded declines led to a decline in the market capitalisation of securities listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange at the end of last week to OMR24.13 billion, recording weekly losses of OMR25.9 million.

During the week, prices of 20 securities rose, most notably Al Hassan Engineering, Galfar Engineering and Contracting, Oman Educational and Training Investments, Al Jazeera Services, and Al Jazeera Steel Products, which came at the forefront of the five companies with the highest increase in terms of the percentage of share appreciation.

Galfar Engineering and Contracting's stock received investor attention after announcing that the Omani-Emirati alliance led by Trojan Construction Group and Galfar Engineering and Contracting won the project to design and construct the railway line between Sohar and Abu Dhabi with a total value of OMR521 million.

MSX shows resilience amid regional declines

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market concluded the week nearly unchanged, with a marginal decline of 0.07 percent, according to an analyst.

"This contrasts with other regional markets, which all ended the week in the red. Geopolitical tensions and cautious investors' sentiment ahead of first-quarter earnings reports contributed to the subdued market activity," said Joseph Dahrieh, Managing Principal at Tickmill.

The financial sector exerted the most significant drag on market performance, registering a 1.03 percent loss. This downturn follows a prior week of gains fuelled by improved first-quarter profits among some financial institutions, particularly in banking.

Conversely, the industry



index saw an increase, rising by 0.64 percent. Leading the gains was Galfar Engineering and Contracting. Jazeera Steel Products and Oman Cement also reported gains of 6.27 percent and 2.22 percent, respectively.

The services sector also experienced growth, improving by 0.28 percent. This was led by the telecommunications industry, with Oman Telecom and Ooredoo advancing by

0.57 percent and 1.68 percent, respectively. Renaissance Services also posted a notable increase of 3.73 percent, contributing to the sector's positive performance.

"In another significant development, the announcement of \$35.12 billion in investment deals between the UAE and Oman marks a substantial boost for the Omani economy," Joseph Dahrieh.

"These investments, spanning sectors such as renewable energy, green metals, and technology, are expected to drive growth, enhance infrastructural development, and attract further international interest in Oman's stock market," he added.

"This influx of capital is anticipated to bolster investor confidence and economic stability in the region," he further said.

During the week, Julphar shares rose by 21.6 percent and closed at 163 baisas after witnessing the execution of 800 deals worth OMR2.4 million Omani riyals.

Al Hassan Engineering shares recorded the best increase, reaching 46.6 percent and closing at 22 baisas. Oman Educational and Training Investments shares rose to 467 baisas, rising by 9.8 percent.

Al Jazeera Services shares rose by 7.5 percent and closed at 258 baisas, and Al Jazeera Steel Products shares rose by 6.2 percent. percent and closed at 288 baisas.

At the level of indicators, the industrial sector index recorded the best rise, rising by 36 points, benefiting from the rise in the shares of Galfar Engineering and Contracting, Al Jazeera Steel Products, Al

Maha Ceramics, and Oman Cement. The services sector index rose by 5 points, and the Sharia index recorded a slight increase of less than one point, while the main index fell by 3 points closed at 4713 points. The financial sector index recorded a decline of 78.8 points, affected by the decline in bank stocks and a number of investment companies. - **UNA**

DIGITAL ADVANCEMENT

National Bank of Oman introduces Samsung Wallet in Oman

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to digital advancement, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) and NBO Muzn Islamic Banking have introduced Samsung Wallet, an innovative digital payment solution, for all their customers to elevate their digital banking journey. In collaboration with Samsung Gulf Electronics, this initiative redefines the payment experience by providing customers with an innovative platform that not only facilitates seamless mobile payment services but also enables users to conduct secure, contactless transactions across a diverse array of online, on-site, and in-store outlets worldwide.

Beginning on 28th April 2024, all NBO and Muzn customers will have the opportunity to activate Samsung Wallet through the Samsung Pay app.

Tariq Atiq, General Manager – Chief Retail & Digital Banking Officer at NBO, expressed enthusiasm about this new launch, stating, "In line with the country's vision and NBO's strategy to digitise products and services, we are excited to introduce Samsung Wallet to our valued customers. With this cutting-edge digital payment solution, our customers can enjoy smooth and secure transactions using their Samsung devices, which are quick and contactless, adding convenience to their daily lives. This launch reaffirms NBO's position as a leader in digital banking innovation, and we are confident that Samsung Wallet will greatly benefit our customers by providing them with an intuitive and efficient payment method. We aim to provide exceptional services that meet our customers' needs seamlessly."

Fadi Abu Shamat, Head of the Mobile eXperience Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics, said, "Fostering a dynamic leap in our next-gen payment solutions, our collaboration with NBO marks a pivotal stride for Samsung Wallet in Oman.

"Our commitment to innovation and customer-centric values is underscored as we empower users with intuitive features while safeguarding their personal and financial data through Samsung Knox.



This venture exemplifies our dedication to crafting a vibrant digital landscape for all."

Samsung Wallet enables customers to instantly add their debit, credit, and prepaid cards from NBO or Muzn to the Samsung

Wallet application by following a few simple steps. Whether customers are making purchases locally or internationally, they can complete transactions securely with just one click, ensuring a hassle-free payment experience.

Customers can authenticate each transaction using facial or fingerprint recognition, a PIN code, or a One-Time Password. Upon utilising this service, every user will receive a distinct PIN, encrypted and securely stored in

a certified chip that is compliant with industry standards. This approach ensures the safe storage of payment information on the device, offering users a dependable and secure method to store card numbers.

This innovative payment method eliminates worries associated with traditional payment methods, providing users with a faster, more secure, and efficient way to make purchases. It boasts robust hardware and leverages Samsung's Knox-based security technology to store sensitive information within the device, including fingerprint recognition and encryption, ensuring the protection of users' vital data.

Samsung Wallet is a swift, user-friendly, and secure platform designed to streamline digital payment transactions. As it evolves, it will integrate innovative functionalities allowing users to conveniently store and access vital documents like ID cards, electronic keys, and boarding passes with a simple swipe. This expansion reflects Samsung's commitment to enhancing its "Samsung Portfolio," which is poised to continuously expand in line with the company's strategic collaboration with prominent partners and developers within the industry.

To access the Samsung Wallet service, customers can effortlessly initiate the process by downloading the dedicated Samsung Wallet application from the Samsung Galaxy Store onto their mobile phones. Upon installation, they simply need to log in to their Samsung account to establish a personalised PIN and fingerprint for added security.

They can then seamlessly add their cards by either scanning them or inputting the relevant information manually.

This partnership underscores NBO's commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction. By leveraging the latest digital payment technologies, NBO continues to enhance its services, offering customers unparalleled convenience and security in their banking transactions.

For more information on how to activate your Samsung Wallet and enjoy easy payments, NBO and Muzn customers are encouraged to visit www.nbo.om and www.muzn.om or contact our customer service at 24770000 or via the user-friendly NBO or NBO Muzn Islamic Muzn App.

MARKET

Nama Water conducts accreditation testing through a major pilot project

This accreditation process paves the way for Nama Water to introduce a decentralised sewage system utilising mini-grids and stations equipped with advanced tertiary treatment technology

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Nama Water Services revealed the details of the signed agreement with Fuji Clean Company and Green Technology Company. The focus of the collaboration is the accreditation of domestic sewage treatment units. This accreditation process paves the way for Nama Water to introduce a decentralised sewage system utilising mini-grids and stations equipped with advanced tertiary treatment technology.

This agreement establishes a pilot project for accreditation testing of select sewage treatment units. The project aims to verify their performance and ensure that treated water consistently meets the Sultanate of Oman's standard specifications for effluent quality.

Eng. Ibrahim Mohammed Al Harthy, Chief Planning and Asset Management Officer at Nama Water Services noted: "This agreement aligns with Nama's Water Services 'Home Sewage Units Project,' which establishes decentralised wastewater treatment systems. These mini-grids or stations, serving multiple homes or remote areas, utilise advanced tertiary treatment processes. This initiative expands sewage services and supports Nama Water Services' strategic plans for network growth. It reflects the Company's commitment to expedite sewage service delivery throughout Oman, encompassing both urban and rural areas."

The initiative addresses the challenge of wastewater treatment in geographically difficult areas, leveraging cutting-edge technology to efficiently treat wastewater in locations where conventional sewer network construction is challenging.



"Nama Water Services intends to implement a pilot project to evaluate the performance of a decentralised wastewater treatment technology through a rigorous accreditation process. This project will utilise contact filtration technology manufactured and supplied by Fuji Clean, a Japanese company. The technology will undergo comprehensive testing encompassing all technical aspects to ensure the treated effluent meets the Sultanate of Oman's established quality standards," Al Harthy said.

Commenting on the pilot project mentioned in the agreement, Eng. Said Humaid Al Asmi, Senior Research and Development Engineer at Nama Water Services, said: "A pilot-scale decentralised wastewater treatment station will be deployed to simulate real-world conditions. This station will have a capacity of five cubic metres and utilise fixed-bed bioreactor technology developed by Fuji Clean, a Japanese company. The primary objective of this project is to assess the treated effluent's compli-

ance with Omani regulations and Nama Water Services' standards for high-quality wastewater treatment. To ensure the technology's suitability, a comprehensive evaluation will be conducted, including Quality testing of the system, including the materials used in its construction, the equipment, and the materials used in the processing operation, and a review of the asset lifecycle from all technical aspects. This analysis will verify adherence to industry standards and ensure meeting the project's specific requirements. This analysis will consider the Omani geographical and climatic conditions, and ensure the devices and materials possess the necessary durability to meet the company's expected lifespan."

"The implementation of the pilot project is scheduled to commence in April 2024. Upon arrival in the Sultanate, the treatment station will be deployed at the Al Ansab facility to begin operations. The trial period will range from 3 to 6 months, allowing for comprehensive testing



and evaluation of the technology. Successful completion will qualify Fuji Clean Company to participate in future tenders issued by Nama Water Services Company. This initiative aims to improve sewage treatment quality and reduce operational costs," Al Asmi elaborated.

Ensuring the quality of project equipment and the safety of its installation, Nama Water Services prioritises rigorous testing procedures. All technologies and devices undergo thorough evaluation before deployment to confirm compatibility with approved company specifications. Recently, the team met with Fuji Clean engineers to discuss the technical aspects of their wastewater treatment technology. The meeting also explored the technology's implementation in various countries, including Australia, the United States, and several Asian nations. The aim of the pilot project is to fully confirm the suitability of this technology for use in the Sultanate of Oman

Dr. Buthaina Mahfoudh Al Wahabi, Head of the Research, Studies, and Innovation Department at

Nama Water Services highlighted the project's potential environmental and economic advantages in the context of wastewater management strategies, saying: "There are two primary approaches: centralised and decentralised. Centralised systems, while effective, can be costly to establish and maintain, particularly in low-density areas. Conversely, decentralised treatment, which focuses on on-site processing, sees a rise in interest. Decentralised systems offer operational simplicity, cost-efficiency due to minimised collection infrastructure, adaptable treatment options, reduced sludge generation, and optimal local re-use of treated water. This strategy aligns perfectly with sustainable development principles, promoting economic efficiency, environmental protection, and energy conservation."

Nama Water Services entered into a landmark agreement with Fuji Clean, a global leader in wastewater treatment systems, and local partner Green Technologies Company. The agreement focuses on the implementation of household sewage treatment units and the development of innovative treatment technologies. The signing ceremony was distinguished by the presence of His Excellency Iwata kazuchika, State Minister at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, alongside esteemed officials from the Oman Investment Authority, the Public Services Regulatory Authority, Nama Holding Group, and the Japanese Embassy in Oman.

BRIEFS

India's forex reserves decline to \$640.33bn



NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves declined for the second week, after having risen for the seventh straight week to hit an all-time high of \$648.562 billion. As per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's foreign exchange kitty declined by \$2.828 billion to \$640.334 billion in the April 19 week. India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the biggest component of the forex reserves, declined by \$3.793 billion to \$560.860 billion, the central bank's weekly statistical data showed.

Google prepares to launch stylus and keyboard



WASHINGTON: Launched last June with a unique selling point of a Charging Speaker Dock included in the package, Google is gearing up for a significant change in its Pixel Tablet lineup. As per GSM Arena, the tech giant is now rumoured to discontinue this bundle offer with its Pixel Tablet starting May 10. The decision to discontinue the inclusion of the Charging Speaker Dock suggests Google's acknowledgement of consumer preferences. While the concept of a dual-purpose device - functioning as both a tablet and a smart speaker when docked - seemed innovative, it appears to have failed to resonate strongly with the market.

IndiGo orders for 30 Airbus A350-900 aircraft

NEW DELHI: IndiGo has placed an order for 30 A350-900 aircraft, a decision that will enable the airline to connect Indian metros to destinations around the world. Powered by Rolls Royce's Trent XWB engine, these aircraft promise unparalleled mission capability and efficiency, offering IndiGo unprecedented options as it enters the next phase of its growth. — Agencies

OMAN PETROLEUM & ENERGY SHOW

OQ showcases its plans to build a sustainable future

MUSCAT: OQ Group, the global integrated energy company, represented by its Exploration and Production arm 'OQEP' showcased its innovations, energy mix and plans to build a sustainable future. OQ participated in Oman Petroleum & Energy Show (OPES), the prestigious event that embraces the entire oil, gas, and energy industry, as a principal sponsor.

OPES 2024 had together more than 200 expert speakers to shed light on global initiatives that will impact the oil and gas industry. Participants from over 24 countries and more than 900 delegates attended the conference and exhibition.

The event was held under the patronage of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

After the inauguration, the OQ booth was visited by the Guest of Honour, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Auli, the Minister of Energy and Minerals, as well as by a number of delegates and visitors, where the group highlighted its outstanding achievements and its roadmap for a sustainable future which manifested in three clear pathways to reduce carbon footprint and to diversify revenue by promoting energy efficiency, clean energy, and low carbon molecules.

OQEP also demonstrated how its initiatives are designed to help Oman build a hydrogen-centric economy, in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the national agenda to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.



Commenting on OQ participation, Ahmed Al Azkawi, Chief Executive Upstream of OQEP, said: "As a meeting place for energy companies and expertise from around the globe, OPES presents us with an opportunity to project OQ as an integrated energy group focused on building a clean and sustainable future. In our participation, we have gone beyond production and revenues, highlighting the need to engage all stakeholders towards building a sustainable future in line with Oman Vision 2040 and carbon neutrality 2050 objectives. OQ is leaving no stone unturned to apply best industry

practices in order to reduce carbon emissions produced by its existing and future projects. We are pleased to report that we have been able to reduce these emissions to as low as 6 kg CO₂ e/boe in some of our facilities. Moreover, we recently made the final investment decision for MARSA LNG project that will achieve less than 3 kg of carbon dioxide for every oil equivalent barrel which is one of the lowest GHG intensity plants in the world."

"As part of our sustainability efforts, OQ introduced digital platforms to measure, monitor, and control our emissions. Through

our OPES participation, OQ highlighted the importance of maximizing the value of current resources and oil and gas reserves as the company strives to build a cleaner and sustainable future," CEU of OQEP concluded.

At the booth, OQ Exploration and Production featured some of its ongoing sustainable practices, including various decarbonisation measures.

The OQ booth also gave an overview of OQEP joint ventures portfolio powering its various projects, including gas development. The booth also put the spotlight on its global network of partners and



investors.

In another exciting milestone, OQEP, in line with OQ Group's efforts to promote ICV and support SMEs in the oil concession areas, signed an agreement with one of the local community contractors for the maintenance and supply of equipment for oil and gas fields in Block 60 and Block 48.

OQ Group also brought into focus its digitisation strategy which has enabled it to boost the quality, efficiency, and overall yield of oil and gas exploration and production operations across the value chain.

The deployment of data collec-

tion and analysis has led to better margins. Digitalisation has enabled OQ to deploy new and innovative upstream technology and optimise overall exploration and production efforts.

Various sessions at OPES featured top OQEP officials who participated in important discussions and shared ideas on the role of Oil and Gas in the evolving landscape of the future energy mix.

Ahmed Al Azkawi, CEU of OQEP, was a key participant in the Executive Plenary Session on "Transforming the Energy Industry to Deliver Affordable, Sustainable, and Clean Energy".

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ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

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BE Mechanical, HVAC engineer, MEP coordinator, 13+ experience in design, project, procurement, execution with valid D/L. Ready to join immediately. Contact: 91690765

Quantity Surveyor, BSc (QS) having 10 yrs of experience including 5 yrs in Oman with D/L. Contact: 94613304

Indian Senior project engineer HVAC, mechanical 13 yrs experience in MEP construction. Contact: 97135658

Mechanical engineer with 3 yrs work experience in Maruti Suzuki with Oman D/L searching for job. Contact: 78980261

Civil Engineer having 5 yrs experience in GCC have valid visa and D/L Autocad civil work. Contact: 79985583

Quantity Surveyor (BSC Qs & G.dip Civil) with 6 yrs of experience looking for a suitable position. Currently residing in Oman. Having valid D/L. Contact: +968 91132424

Civil Project Manager with 25 yrs of experience in contracting, consultant, client representative. Looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79081315. Email: riyas05@hotmail.com

IT

Digital designer, proficient in graphic designing & UI/UX designing with 1 yr of frontend development experience. Contact: +968 79538081. Email: sunwin60@gmail.com

Expert IT professional with over 7 yrs of experience seeking a full-time position in IT system administration or desktop support engineering. Call/WhatsApp: +968 7899 8239

Electronics and instrumentation engineer & frontend developer with (1 year) experience. requires job Contact:77210067 Email: surendharsr07@gmail.com

LOGISTIC

Indian male with 8 yrs of logistics, freight forwarding, and procurement experience, with Omani D/L. Contact / WA: +968 9744 2565. Email: husain_khizar@yahoo.com

22 yrs old Indian male with B.Com (Hons) and valid Oman D/L seeks logistics/supply chain roles. Presntly in Oman & ready for opportunities. Contact: 91121694. Email: issacantony2002@gmail.com

MANAGER

Facility, MEP manager 6 yrs in Oman and 4 yrs UAE experience. Contact: 9170 1152

MBA, Sri Lankan male with 14 yrs experience in sales marketing & operations in Oman. Seeking a suitable placement. Contact: 79790296. Email: upekavish@gmail.com

MEDICAL

Fresher female pharmacist, Data-flow & prometric pass, seeks job in Muscat. Contact: 79748726

Indian female MBA (health care management) seeking suitable placement. Presently in Oman. Contact: 92884044. Email: jisnacd@gmail.com

PROCURMENT/ PURCHASE

MBA post graduate having more than 7 yrs of experience as expeditor with valid Omani D/L. available for immediate joining. Contact: 78999758. Email: ayazafar@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Indian male (B.B.A) having 11 yrs exp in restaurant & hotel management with valid Oman D/L. Contact: 79508972

MECHANICAL/ TECHNICAL

Indian male 23 with 3 yrs experience in automobile technician. Contact: 78028420

MISCELLANEOUS

Indian male 32, valid D/L. Looking for any part time or full time job. Contact: 93079335. Email: adarshsoman2@gmail.com

SALES/MARKETING

Indian male MBA 18 yrs experience in Sales and Accounts, looking for suitable placement in senior positions (Employment On Contract Base). Currently working in Oman with valid D/L & valid visa. Contact: 91127809

Sales & Marketing Manager MBA Indian, having 25 yrs experience in Oman for consumer durable and an excellent contact with the major retailers in the country is looking for a suitable placement. Contact: 71134042.

Indian male (with D/L) having 4 yrs Oman experience in (sales & administration) Contact: +968 77459910. Email: muhammedwasique@gmail.com

Indian male 33 yrs, MBA with 10 yrs of exp in sales & operations working in Oman, with valid D/L looking for suitable placement Contact: +968 94612244. Email: vipinpvns@gmail.com

Indian male more than 3 yrs experience in indoor & outdoor sale in showroom & D/L available. Contact 79899350. Email: oman30940@gmail.com

Female, well qualified with 10+ years experience in local market, looking for a marketing job. Valid D/L. NOC available. Contact :96042006

Egyptian Bachelor of English literature Omani D/L available Experience in sales, marketing and purchasing. Location Salalah with availability of moving to another city. Contact +968 92923847

Indian(M) 35, 8 yrs exp in marketing with Oman D/L. Contact: 77113215

Indian graduate 7 yrs experience in sales with D/L. Contact: 98613373. Email: syedismailnoor@gmail.com

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CRUCIATE LIGAMENT RUPTURE: ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

If the knee joint is overstretched or twisted too much during sport, the cruciate ligament often tears. How is the injury treated, how long are you sidelined for and can you return?



What is the function of the cruciate ligament?

There is an anterior and a posterior cruciate ligament in both knees. They connect the femur to the tibia and stabilize the knee joint forwards and backwards, as well as during rotational movements. In addition to the cruciate ligaments, there are the medial and lateral collateral ligaments and the menisci [crescent-shaped cartilage discs between the lower and upper thigh bones]. All ligaments together limit the extension of the knee so that it is not overstretched under normal circumstances. They also restrict the rotation of the knee joint and are supported by the joint capsule, tendons and surrounding muscles. The better the stabilizing muscles are developed, the lower the risk of suffering a cruciate ligament rupture.

How does a cruciate ligament rupture occur?

If the cruciate ligaments are overloaded by a sudden twisting movement, hyperextension or bending the knee to the side, they can tear partially or completely. The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is affected ten times more frequently than the posterior cruciate ligament because it is longer and thinner. Most cruciate ligament tears are so-called non-contact injuries. This means that they occur without external influence or direct contact with the opponent, for example during a foul in football. Landing on one leg, abrupt stops and sudden changes of direction are the most common causes of a rupture. The patient usually feels a stabbing pain in the knee. It usually swells in the hours following the injury because the tear causes fluid to collect in the joint. Stuttgart's Serhou Guirassy landing after a headerStuttgart's Serhou Guirassy landing after a header Landing on one leg can often lead to a ligament injuryImage: nordphoto GmbH/Kokenge/picture alliance

What are the consequences?

The knee can usually no longer be moved well due to pain and swelling, and can only be bent slightly. Pain occurs when weight is placed on it. In addition, the knee joint is unstable due to the lack of function of the ligaments – it slips like a drawer when walking. In many cases, the cruciate ligament is not the only structure in the knee that has been damaged. The outer and inner ligaments, menisci and bones can also be affected. In rare cases, however, a cruciate ligament may tear without the patient realising it. Such cruciate ligament ruptures often only become apparent later due to damage to the menisci or cartilage in the knee.

How are cruciate ligament ruptures treated?

A torn cruciate ligament is treated either surgically or conservatively. During surgery, also known as cruciate ligament plastic surgery, the torn parts of the cruciate ligament are removed and replaced with a transplant made from the body's own tendon material. However, there are also transplants made from donor material or synthetic material. The operation is usually not performed until weeks or even months after the injury until the swelling has subsided and the knee can move well again.

Doctors operate on a knee- Doctors operate on a knee

For minimally invasive ligament knee surgeries, only small incisions are requiredImage: Sven Hoppe/dpa/picture alliance In conservative treatment, the knee is initially immobilised for several weeks and stabilized with a splint. If the ends of the torn cruciate ligament are still in close contact with each other, in rare cases the cruciate ligament can even grow back together on its own. However, this does not usually work with the anterior cruciate ligament. The chances are greater with the posterior cruciate ligament, which is shorter and more compact. Conservative treatment

always includes targeted training of the muscles around the knee. They should stabilize the knee and thus take over the function of the missing cruciate ligament.

What are the long-term consequences of a cruciate ligament rupture?

Cruciate ligament ruptures can subsequently lead to altered statics in the knee joint, and thus to incorrect loading. This applies to both operated and untreated cruciate ligament ruptures, although the risk is higher in untreated cases. The load on the menisci and joint cartilage increases, which can lead to tears in the meniscus as well as osteoarthritis, the irreversible degradation of the cartilage surfaces in the knee joint that protect the joint. In the worst case scenario, an artificial knee joint will eventually be necessary.

Why do women have a higher risk of suffering a cruciate ligament rupture? Anatomically, genetically and hormonally, women have less favourable conditions for ligament health. Because they have a wider pelvis, women tend to have a knock-kneed posture, which favours a cruciate ligament rupture if the knee is subjected to the corresponding force. The female musculature is generally weaker than the male musculature, meaning that the stabilizing function is also less strong.

Hormones also play a role: in the second half of the menstrual cycle, the sex hormone progesterone softens the ligaments in the female body and the risk of cruciate ligaments increases. Overall, the risk for women is around twice as high as for men.

Carolin Simon suffers an injury while in action for GermanyCarolin Simon suffers an injury while in action for Germany

ACL injuries are a regular occurrence in women's footballImage: Heiko Becker/HMB Media picture alliance

How long are you out for with a cruciate ligament rupture?

This depends on the severity of the other injuries to the knee joint and the type of sport you play. In the case of a pure cruciate ligament rupture without involvement of other ligaments, bones or menisci, it usually takes six to nine months before you are able to compete again. Normally, there is nothing to stop you returning to sport after a healed cruciate ligament rupture.

With appropriate physiotherapy, you can train on a bicycle ergometer or go swimming about six weeks after the operation. Sports that do not involve sudden changes of direction and high force exerted by jumping and landing, such as running, swimming and cycling, can be resumed after six months. In team sports such as football and basketball, as well as tennis and alpine skiing, it usually takes two to three months longer to make a comeback. The psychological component also plays a major role as it takes time for patients to trust their healed knee again.

Can you play competitive sport without cruciate ligaments?

This is certainly possible in swimming, running, cycling or other sports with less stress on the knees, but is not recommended for sports with high knee stress. Former footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic played with a torn cruciate ligament for six months in 2022, and although he won the Italian championship with AC Milan, he was barely able to train and only played a few minutes at a time. He underwent surgery at the end of the season.

Former Germany goalkeeper Toni Schumacher suffered a torn cruciate ligament at the age of 18 before his professional career, but Schumacher decided against an operation. He played his entire career (1973 to 1996) with a 'wobbly knee', but paid for this decision with severe consequential damage and pain, which significantly reduced his quality of life after his career. -nw

SPORTS

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL



Brazil great Marta to retire from international duty

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil legend Marta on Friday said that she will retire from international football this year.

The 38-year-old striker is Brazil's all-time record goalscorer in international football, with 123 goals in 196 appearances.

Marta could make her sixth appearance at an Olympic Games if she is selected for Brazil's squad this summer in Paris.

"If I go to the Olympics, I will enjoy every moment, because, regardless of whether I go to the Olympics or not, this is my last year with the national team," she told CNN in Brazil.

"There will be no more Marta from 2025 in the national team as an athlete."

She won Olympic silver at Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008, losing to the United States on both occasions.

Marta is the all-time leading

goal-scorer in World Cups, men's and women's, scoring 17 times in 23 appearances across six editions of the tournament.

She came closest to World Cup glory in 2007 when Brazil finished runners-up to Germany.

After Brazil failed to reach the knockout stage at last summer's World Cup, she said "there is no more World Cup for Marta".

Marta, who has played club football for Orlando Pride since 2017, said she feels comfortable passing the baton to Brazil's next generation of footballers.

"We have a really qualified team with really talented girls who, as the years go by, you will see what I'm talking about," she said.

"Because of this I feel very comfortable saying: 'Listen, I'm passing on to you, I'm going to pass on the baton and you continue to carry on this legacy.'"

- Agencies

Teen Guler scores as Real close in on title

Turkish youngster on target on his first La Liga start as Real Madrid edge past Real Sociedad 1-0

MADRID: Arda Guler scored on his first La Liga start as Real Madrid closed in on the title with a 1-0 victory at Real Sociedad.

The highly-rated 19-year-old Turkey midfielder struck with Madrid's first attempt on goal midway through the first half, turning in a cross.

Carlo Ancelotti had made a raft of changes after last weekend's win in El Clasico, and it was Real Sociedad who started strongly.

But they couldn't turn dominance into goals as the hosts were frustrated.

Takefusa Kubo thought he had immediately cancelled out Guler's opener but his strike was ruled out for offside.

The second half was scrappier but Real Madrid did what they needed to do to move 14 points clear at the top, before second-placed Barcelona host Valencia on Monday.

With five games remaining, Real Madrid need four more points to cement the title.

Dubbed 'the Turkish Messi', Guler joined Real Madrid from Fenerbahce last July.

- Agencies



PREMIER LEAGUE

Liverpool agree Slot deal with Feyenoord

LONDON: Arne Slot is set to become Liverpool's next manager after a compensation deal worth up to £9.4m was agreed with Feyenoord on Friday.

The Dutchman is poised to succeed Jurgen Klopp, who announced in January he would leave Anfield at the end of the 2023-24 season.

The Reds will now take steps to agree a contract with the 45-year-old before he is officially appointed, *BBC Sport* reported.

Liverpool have agreed to pay Feyenoord £7.7m (9m euros) plus a possible £1.7m (2m euros) in add-ons.

Slot led Feyenoord to the 2022-23 Eredivisie title, while this season they have won the Dutch Cup and are set to finish second in their league.

It is believed that the attacking style of Slot's teams, his personality and his ability to develop players are key factors in making him Liverpool's choice for the job.

Slot took over as Feyenoord manager in 2021 and confirmed his interest in managing in the Premier League when he was



linked with Tottenham in 2023.

Former Liverpool midfielder Xabi Alonso, who guided Bayer Leverkusen to their first Bundesliga title this season, was linked with the position at Anfield.

But the 42-year-old Spaniard ended speculation in March when he announced he would remain with Leverkusen for the time being.

Sporting Lisbon's Ruben Amorim was also reported to have been a contender to take over from

Klopp, who has been in charge of the Reds since October 2015.

Klopp, who had no role in the process to recruit his replacement, said at a news conference on Friday there is much to admire about the way Slot's teams approach the game.

"I like the way his team plays football. All the things I hear about him as a guy say he's a good guy," Klopp said.

"I like that a lot - good guy, good coach and looking forward to the

club if he is the solution. I'm more than happy, it sounds all really good."

Asked about the job Slot would be taking on if appointed, Klopp added: "Best job in the world, best club in the world. Now it looks like [Slot is] helped by [Liverpool] not finishing on a high so there's space for improvement."

A former midfielder, Slot spent his entire playing career in the Netherlands, making more than 100 appearances for both FC Zwolle and NAC Breda.

After retiring from playing, he began his coaching career as a youth coach at PEC Zwolle before moving to SC Cambuur to become an assistant manager.

He moved to AZ Alkmaar in 2017 and stepped up to become manager two years later. In his first season in charge, they were second, level on points with leaders Ajax, when the Covid-19 pandemic brought the season to a premature end.

He was sacked in December 2020 when it was claimed that he had been negotiating with Feyenoord.

- Agencies

ENGLISH FOOTBALL

Leicester promoted to Premier League

LONDON: Leicester City have been promoted to the Premier League after Leeds United were thumped by Queens Park Rangers on Friday.

The 4-0 defeat at Loftus Road means Daniel Farke's side stay four points behind Championship leaders Leicester with only one game left.

The Foxes remain on track to amass 100 points on their way back to the top flight following their relegation last season.

Leicester can now claim the Championship title on Monday with victory at Preston if third-placed Ipswich fail to beat Hull City on Saturday.

Ipswich can join Leicester in the Premier League next season if they pick up five points from their remaining three matches.

Leicester City were flying in their campaign to return to the Premier League earlier this season but, after a serious loss of form late on, they have recovered to vault over the finishing line.



Tuesday's 5-0 hammering of Southampton made it back-to-back wins for a side that had looked to be stumbling towards automatic promotion. In mid-February, the title and rise back to the top flight seemed inevitable - Leicester were 12 points clear at the summit and had a 14-point cushion to third spot.

- Agencies

FORMULA ONE

Hulkenberg to join Sauber from Haas

LONDON: Nico Hulkenberg will join the Sauber team for the 2025 season before their transformation into the factory Audi team in 2026, *BBC Sport* reported.

The 36-year-old German is the first driver to sign for Audi as they build up to their debut season in Formula 1. Their other prime target is Ferrari's Carlos Sainz.

Andreas Seidl, chief executive officer of Sauber and the Audi F1 project, said: "With his speed, experience and commitment to teamwork, Nico will be an important part of the transformation of our team."

Hulkenberg, who previously worked with Seidl when he won Le Mans for Porsche in 2015, said: "The prospect of competing for Audi is something very special. When a German manufacturer enters F1 with such determination, it is a unique opportunity. To represent the factory team of such a car brand with a power unit made in Germany is a great honour for me."

Hulkenberg's decision leaves a vacancy at the US-based Haas team, where he currently drives



alongside Dane Kevin Magnussen.

A leading candidate for that seat in 2025 is Briton Oliver Bearman, who races in Formula 2 and impressed at this year's Saudi Arabian Grand Prix when he substituted for Sainz, who was undergoing an operation for appendicitis.

Hulkenberg made his debut in F1 in 2010 and has raced for the Williams, Force India, Sauber and Renault teams. He was dropped by Renault at the end of 2019 and did a handful of substitute appearances from 2020-22 for the Racing Point/Aston Martin team before returning to F1 full-time with Haas for 2023.

- Agencies

MADRID OPEN

Alcaraz begins title defence in style

MADRID: Carlos Alcaraz started his Madrid Open title defence with a comfortable victory over Alexander Shevchenko.

World No.3 Alcaraz, 20, eased to a 6-2, 6-1 win against Kazakhstan's Shevchenko on Friday.

The Wimbledon champion dominated throughout in a statement performance, with 23-year-old Shevchenko unable to match his pace and flair.

It was a welcome return to the clay for Spaniard Alcaraz after a right forearm injury caused him to withdraw from last week's Barcelona Open, although he was wearing a compression sleeve on his arm during the match.

After the victory, Alcaraz said he was not experiencing any discomfort in the arm but was not "feeling 100%" with his forehand.

"I'm thinking about it, it's not going to leave my mind," he said of the injury.

"Coming into this week, I've been doing good things in practice, hitting harder, but I'm not feeling comfortable playing my forehand 100%."

"But I think playing at this lev-



el, I'm really happy to do it. I still think I can be competitive."

Alcaraz will next face Brazil's Thiago Seyboth Wild in the third round.

Elsewhere in the men's draw, Britain's Jack Draper suffered a 6-1, 7-5 defeat by Poland's Hubert Hurkacz.

Seventh seed Andrey Rublev made his way into the third round

with a straight-set win over Facundo Bagnis, fourth seed Alexander Zverev beat Borna Coric 6-2, 6-3, while Denmark's Holger Rune also progressed with victory over Mariano Navone.

In the women's draw, Britain's Katie Boulter lost 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 to American wildcard Robin Montgomery.

Meanwhile, two-time Grand

Slam champion Aryna Sabalenka earned a hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over Poland's Magda Linette, setting up a third-round meeting with Montgomery.

Kazakhstan's former Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina, fresh from beating Iga Swiatek on the way to last week's Stuttgart title, was a 6-4, 6-3 winner against Italian Lucia Bronzetti.

- Agencies

IN PICTURES



Greece hands over Olympic Flame to Paris 2024 Games organisers
Picture shows a general view of the handover ceremony of the Olympic Flame for the Paris 2024 Summer Games at Panathenaic stadium in Athens, Greece. *Xinhua*



A view of Ipanema Beach in Rio de Janeiro
Lifeguards are pictured at a rescue station on the Ipanema Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *Xinhua*



Full moon seen over Mount Perun in Croatia
Photo taken on April 23, 2024 shows a full moon over Mount Perun in Split, Croatia. *Xinhua*



Scenery of wild bluebells in Hallerbos, Belgium
This picture shows wild bluebells in Hallerbos, also known as "Blue Forest", near Halle, Belgium. *Xinhua*



The cast of 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' attend its premiere
Bollywood actors Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Fardeen Khan, Richa Chadha, Aditi Rao Hydari and other cast members pose for a picture at the premiere of their upcoming web series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar', in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



Highlight of Vancouver Fashion Week
A model presents the Fall/Winter 2024 collection of Jul Oliva during Vancouver Fashion Week in Vancouver, Canada. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

Elevating Customer Experience: Sohar International introduces Samsung Wallet

This mobile payment solution empowers Sohar International and Sohar Islamic customers to perform secure and contactless payments using their Samsung phones or watches seamlessly via POS machines as well as use their Samsung Wallet account to conduct online payments with ease and convenience

MUSCAT: Affirming its position as a leading digital bank in Oman, Sohar International, the fastest-growing bank in Oman partners up with Samsung to proudly introduce Samsung Wallet.

This mobile payment solution empowers Sohar International and Sohar Islamic customers to perform secure and contactless payments using their Samsung phones or watches seamlessly via POS machines as well as use their Samsung Wallet account to conduct online payments with ease and convenience.

“As we unveil our partnership with Samsung Wallet with the launch of Samsung Wallet, we mark a significant milestone in the evolution of digital banking in

Oman,” stated Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International. “This collaboration epitomises our commitment to harnessing cutting-edge technology, enhancing security, and providing innovative payment solutions to our customers. Introducing Samsung Wallet to our suite of digital solutions underscores our dedication to setting the standard for digital excellence in our nation.”

The bank encourages customers to take full advantage of linking their Sohar International and Sohar Islamic cards to Samsung Wallet for a streamlined payment process across multiple devices.

To get started, customers can download the Samsung Wallet



App from the Galaxy Store, log in with their Samsung account, and set up their PIN and fingerprint for security.

After these steps, they simply select ‘add card’ to scan or manually input their Sohar International or Sohar Islamic credit or debit card number.

Commenting on the partnership, Sajeel Bashiruddin, Chief Digital Officer at Sohar Interna-

tional, said: “Today marks a pivotal moment in our commitment to enhancing customer experiences. With the introduction of Samsung Wallet, Sohar International is spearheading a new era of seamless and secure digital transactions, empowering individuals to navigate their financial journeys with confidence and convenience. This strategic move underscores our dedication to delivering cut-

ting-edge financial solutions that anticipate and meet the needs of our customers. By embracing our partnership with Samsung Wallet, we are not just adapting to change – we’re shaping the future of banking experiences.”

“Our partnership with Sohar International is a critical step for us as we continue expanding our next-generation payment solutions to consumers in the region. Samsung Wallet not only offers user-friendly features but also prioritizes the security of customers’ personal and financial information. With the help of Samsung Knox, consumers can have peace of mind through advanced security measures such as monitoring and preventing unauthorized access or tampering of the device. This collaboration demonstrates our unwavering commitment to innovation and customer-centric values, as we work towards creating a more vibrant digital landscape for all,” said Fadi Abu Shamat, Head of the Mobile eXperience Division at Samsung Gulf Electronics.

Samsung Wallet is set to expand its functionalities, including the ability to store important documents like IDs, electronic keys, and boarding passes conveniently. Samsung’s continued partnerships with trusted entities and developers promise ongoing enhancements to the wallet’s capabilities. In terms of security, Samsung Wallet utilises robust hardware and Samsung’s Knox-

based security technology to protect sensitive information stored on devices, such as through fingerprint recognition and encryption. It safeguards user data by substituting sensitive information with unique identifiers, adding an additional layer of security against both digital and physical breaches.

With the vision to become a world-class Omani services company that helps customers, community and people to prosper and grow, Sohar International operates with a purpose to help people ‘win’ by delivering responsive banking for their ever-changing world, complementing their growth and prosperity with international standard service delivery. The Bank seeks to redefine banking in Oman through transformational developments centered on the principles of More Velocity, making everything simple and fast; More Value, ensuring relevance and connectivity to customers’ world; and More Vision, liberating stakeholders through talented leadership.

Samsung inspires the world and shapes the future with transformative ideas and technologies. The company is redefining the worlds of TVs, smartphones, wearable devices, tablets, digital appliances, network systems, and memory, system LSI, foundry and LED solutions. For the latest news, please visit the Samsung Newsroom at news.samsung.com.

NEW BENCHMARK FOR SUV AFICIONADOS

Changan Oman launches all-new CS75 Plus 2024 model

MUSCAT: Changan Oman has launched the all-new CS75 Plus 2024 model, showcasing its dedication to sportiness, luxurious comfort, and advanced safety. This latest entry into the Changan lineup sets a new benchmark for SUV aficionados, merging innovative technology with upscale luxury and leading-edge safety attributes.

Boasting a robust 2.0-litre turbo engine, the CS75 PLUS delivers 224 hp and 360 Nm of torque, paired with an optimised 8-speed automatic transmission for a blend of vigorous performance and exceptional fuel efficiency, recording an outstanding 13.7 Km/L in accordance with GSO standards.

The new model boasts extraordinary dimensions of 4700 mm in length, 1865mm in width, and 1710 mm in height, providing a spacious and comfortable interior. With a substantial wheelbase of 2710 mm, it ensures a stable and smooth ride, complemented by a fuel tank capacity of 58 litres for extended journeys without frequent stops for refuelling.

The extraordinary car combines elegance and functionality in its exterior design, appealing to SUV enthusiasts. It features 19” dual-colour alloy wheels that add a touch of sophistication and sportiness to its overall appearance. The SUV is equipped with rain-sensing boneless wipers that automatically adjust their speed according to the intensity of the rain, ensuring clear visibility at all times.

A key highlight is the panoramic sunroof that comes with an auto-close feature during rain and anti-pinch technology, offering passengers a view of the sky while providing safety and convenience. Additionally, the rear of the vehicle includes a wiper, enhancing rear visibility in adverse weather conditions.

For ease of access, the CS75 PLUS is fitted with a power tailgate, allowing for effortless opening and closing of the boot space.



The front of the vehicle boasts LED headlamps with an adaptive function, which adjusts the light beam according to driving conditions, paired with LED daytime running lights (DRL) for improved visibility and safety.

The outside rear-view mirrors (ORVMs) come with a power fold and memory function, which automatically folds the mirrors when the car is locked and recalls the driver’s last used position, adding an extra layer of convenience and

protection. These meticulously thought-out exterior features underscore Changan’s commitment to providing superior comfort, convenience, and safety to its drivers and passengers

The Changan CS75 Plus’ interior is crafted for ultimate comfort and control, featuring electric power steering with Comfort, Normal, and Sport modes, alongside auto AC with dual temperature control and rear vents for climate comfort. It’s equipped with a smart key, push-button start, and remote engine start for convenience. The vehicle includes an electronic gear shift and drive mode selection, offering precise control. The cabin boasts genuine leather, a manual tilt and telescopic steering wheel with multifunction controls, and all four power windows equipped with anti-pinch technology for safety. Leather seats enhance the

luxury feel, with a 6-way power driver and 4-way power passenger seat for ergonomic comfort, complemented by driver seat memory for personalized seating positions.

Prioritising safety with an extensive safety suite, Changan CS75 Plus 2024 features an electric parking brake, comprehensive airbag system including driver, passenger, and front side airbags with an air curtain for collision protection. Its stability is ensured by ABS, EBD, TCS, BA, ESC, HHC, HDC, and Auto Hold with dynamic braking. Convenience is enhanced with speed-sensing auto door locks, and front and rear parking sensors, complemented by a 360-degree panoramic imaging system. Advanced driver assistance technologies include blind spot detection, lane departure warning, rear vehicle approach alert, lane change alert, and for-

ward collision warning. Additionally, it offers fully automatic parking and integrated adaptive cruise control for ease of parking and safe cruising, alongside automatic emergency braking to mitigate collisions, demonstrating Changan’s dedication to a safe driving experience.

Uplifting the in-car entertainment and audio experience to new heights with its state-of-the-art infotainment system, Changan CS75 Plus 2024 features a 12” high-resolution TFT centre screen, supporting both English and Arabic languages, ensuring seamless navigation and user interaction across the GCC. Voice control functionality, integrated dashcam, and a wireless charger add layers of convenience and safety. The dashboard is adorned with an HD full LCD instrument panel that offers crystal-clear display of all vehicle metrics. A heads-up display projects critical driving information directly into the driver’s line of sight, allowing for focused driving. The audio experience is enriched with an 8-speaker Sony audio system, providing exceptional sound quality. Compatibility with Micro SD and three USB ports ensures that passengers can enjoy a wide range of multimedia content throughout their journey.

About AGAE

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment has set up a spacious and state-of-the-art showroom in Al Qurum, Al Mawallah, Al Sohar, Ibri and Salalah and apart from that Sales centres in Nizwa, Barka and Ibra. The Main service centre is in Azaiba, Muscat plus customer gets service across Oman i.e in 10 key branch locations which are specified above. For more information, call Changan Oman Toll free number 80050800, WhatsApp on 94641010 or visit our showroom in Al Qurum. You can also visit and register at www.changanoman.com to book test drives and call back.



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