



HIS MAJESTY SENDS GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT OF CHAD

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Mahamat Idriss Deby of the Republic of Chad on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes to the president and his country's people. — **ONA**



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C.R. No. 1/1457/19

OMAN CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S TARGETING OF SCHOOL IN GAZA

The bombing resulted in the martyrdom of more than 100 Palestinians and injury to dozens of unarmed civilians

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman condemned the brutal bombing of the Al-Tabi'in School by the Israeli occupation forces on Saturday, which was a shelter for displaced persons in the Al-Daraj neighbourhoods in Gaza Strip.

The bombing resulted in the martyrdom of more than 100 Palestinians and the injury to dozens of unarmed civilians in a new list added to the record of heinous crimes committed by the occupation forces against the Palestinian people. The Sultanate of Oman affirms that targeting schools and civilian facilities constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international legitimacy resolutions.

It renewed its call on the international community to take immediate action to stop these blatant attacks, work to protect innocent civilians, hold the Israe-



li occupation forces accountable for killings, and impose international sanctions on Israel.

The Sultanate of Oman also reiterated its firm and supportive position on the Palestinian cause and the right of the brotherly Palestinian people to defend themselves and establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the provisions of the Security Council resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Peace move welcomed

The foreign ministry has welcomed the joint statement made by the President of the United States of America, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and

the Emir of the State of Qatar, on the necessity of completing the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas for the release of hostages and detainees in Gaza.

The three parties urged to resume negotiations in Doha or Cairo on August 15, and appreciated the ongoing efforts to reach this agreement.

The ministry stressed the Sultanate of Oman's position on the importance of adhering to what has been agreed upon and implementing it without any delay, and called on all parties to resume the negotiations referred to in the statement, with the aim of achieving the desired results and alleviating the suffering of the brotherly Palestinian people.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Camp boosts space sciences knowledge

1 The activities of the 15th Family Astronomy Camp, organised by the OAS concluded at Al-Hajar Al-Gharbi Starlight Reserve in Jebel Shams. The camp aimed to enhance the public's understanding of astronomy and space sciences through lectures and workshops. These steps help in expanding the understanding of astronomy among all age groups. **>A3**

WORLD 61 killed in Brazil plane crash

2 In a tragic plane crash, all 61 people onboard were killed in Sao Paulo Friday afternoon, CNN reported citing a statement issued by airline Voepass. "The company regrets to inform that all 61 people on board flight 2283 died at the scene," Voepass said in a statement, revising the death toll down from an initial assessment of 62 dead. **>A6**

SPORTS Algeria's Khelif wins gold in boxing

3 Imane Khelif of Algeria triumphed over Yang Liu of China to secure the gold medal in women's boxing (66kg) at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 on Friday. Khelif, who previously competed at Tokyo 2020 as the first female boxer to represent Algeria at the Olympics, has since claimed gold medals at the 2022 Mediterranean Games and the 2023 Arab Games. **>A8**

WINTER PLANS

Oman Air adds Zurich, Malé, Moscow in new schedule



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Reinforcing its commitment for better travel experience, Oman Air, the country's national carrier will resume three seasonal routes during its winter schedule; Zurich (starting 5 October), Malé (starting 27 October) and Moscow (starting 29 October).

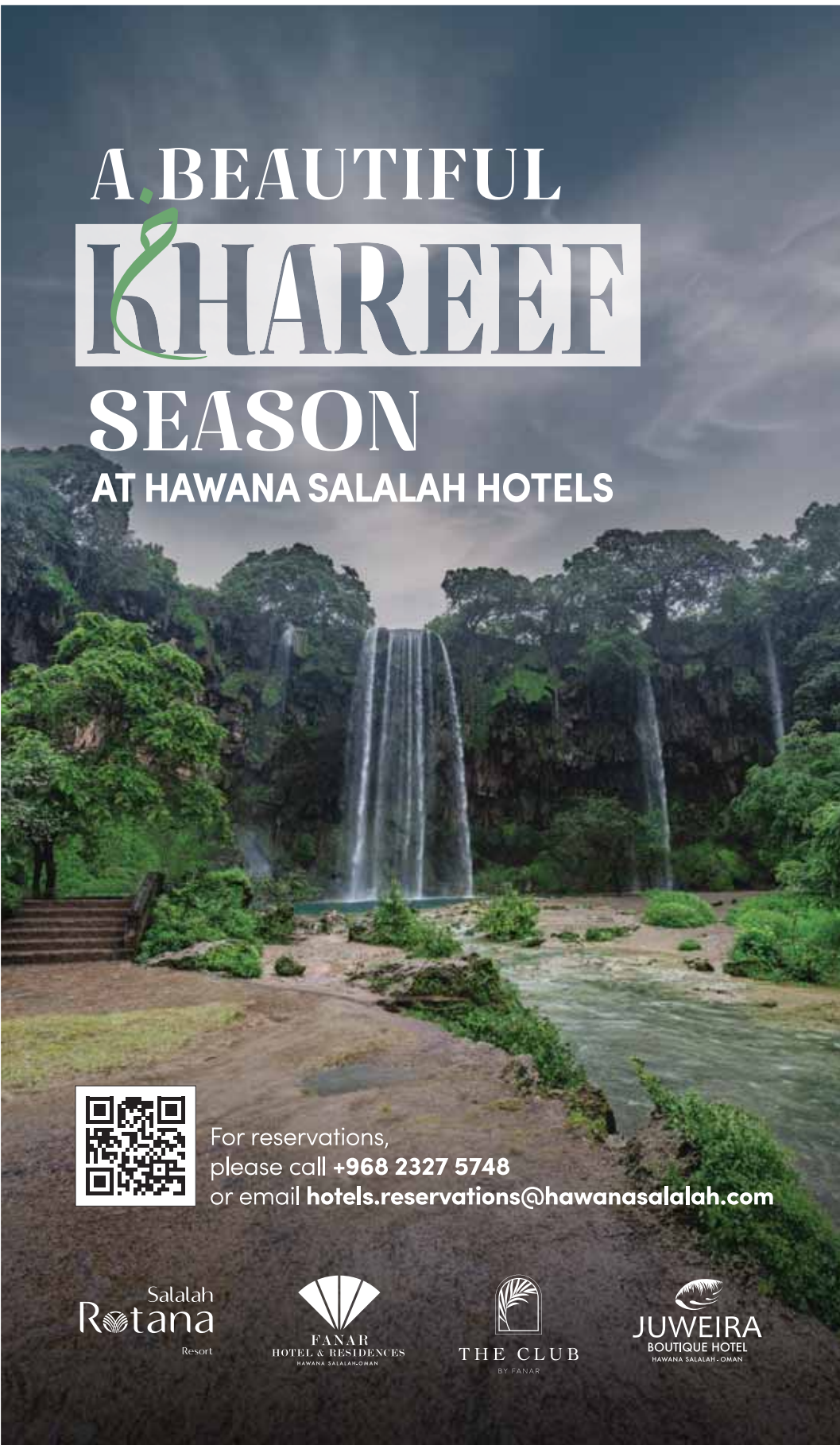
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time for travellers to start planning their winter getaway.

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Oman Air is also looking to increase frequencies on its most popular routes, for which the announcement will be made soon.

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OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:18pm
Asr.....3:42pm
Maghrib.....6:55pm
Isha.....8:12pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:14am

Oman Sail celebrates 16 years of global success and achievements

Oman Sail has consistently championed the Sultanate in the global sailing arena, boosted investment opportunities and the Omani economy, and focused on empowering Omani youth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail recently celebrated its 16th anniversary with an event at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The celebration was held under the patronage of Dr. Hashil bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, CEO of Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group).

Dr.Khamis bin Sulaiman Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, along with strategic partners, sponsors, and Oman Sail staff, all participated in the festivities, sharing in the success of Oman Sail over the past 16 years.

Founded as a national initiative aimed at reviving Oman's maritime heritage and promoting the Sultanate of Oman globally through the sport of sailing, Oman Sail has consistently championed the Sultanate in the global sailing arena, boosted investment opportunities and the Omani economy, and focused on empowering Omani youth.

These efforts have resulted in a series of impressive achievements, including winning international trophies, individual medals at youth and senior level, and hosting and organising continental and international events all across Oman to promote the nation's capabilities as a major global sporting venue.

Dr. Khamis bin Salim Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, expressed his delight at the accomplishments over the years.

He said: "Oman Sail has achieved numerous international successes and hosted major continental and international events, enhancing Oman's position as a



global sports venue and organiser.

"It has also promoted Oman's readiness to attract business and investments, and our activities and programs continue to make significant contributions to achieving 11 out of 12 national priorities outlined in Oman Vision 2040."

Since its inception, Oman Sail has focused on translating a clear vision for success through several core pillars: sailing sports, tourism, commercial activities, health, and the environment.

Each one emphasises developing team competencies and empowering people of all ages and abilities by encouraging them to practice sailing and develop personal skills and boost their employability.

As a result, Oman has become a preferred destination for many global sailing regattas and attracts some of the world's most prominent sailors to compete and train each year.

Dr. Al Jabri pointed out that these achievements and successes are clear proof of the efforts and high competency of the team.

Each event has a positive impact on the community and makes a significant contribution to the country's sustainable development goals.

Dr. Khamis bin Salim Al Jabri also highlighted Oman Sail's commitment to partnering with the private sector and sharing the benefits from these events.

A successful partnership enables Omani companies to expand their services to a broader international audience and capitalise on the networking and investment opportunities these events provide.

To date, these opportunities have included operating various infrastructure types, such as hotels, resorts, and ports, stimulating the aviation sector by increasing the number of arrivals to Oman, raising hotel occupancy rates, and boosting the transportation sector.

Additionally, events provide numerous small and medium enterprises the chance to showcase their products.

Throughout its journey, Oman Sail has also achieved exceptional successes which have contributed to the advancement of economic and social development.

By harnessing sports to nurture young talents, supporting social, economic, and sports development efforts in Oman, Oman Sail has promoted the marine leisure tourism industry, and established Oman's reputation on the international stage as a destination for sports tourism and inbound investment.

Dr.Al Jabri explained that Oman Sail implements a range of programs aimed at developing youth through sailing, enabling them to become champions by proudly representing Oman with distinction in regional and international competition.

Key achievements Sports Industry Awards In 2022, Oman Sail won the gold award for 'Best Sports Event Organiser in the Middle East' and the silver award for 'Best Sports Event' at the Middle East Sports Industry Awards.

This was followed in 2023 when Oman Sail's 'SailFree' programme for people with disabilities, supported by BP Oman and the Oman Paralympic Committee, won the gold award for 'Best Social Responsibility Initiative'.

SailFree Programme

The 'SailFree' sailing program is the first of its kind in the region and has achieved remarkable success since its launch in 2019.

This includes introducing over 500 people with disabilities to sailing and contributing to their diverse leadership and life skills development.

Subsequently, a group of sailors was selected to represent the national team in international and

continental competitions.

SailFree aims to contribute to achieving the national priorities outlined in Oman Vision 2040, focusing on education, learning, and scientific research leading to a knowledgeable society with competitive national capabilities, improving health and well-being, and enhancing national identity among participants.

Olympic Ambitions

Since its establishment, Oman Sail has aimed to qualify for the Olympic Games, and ultimately be able to raise the Omani flag with immense pride by winning a medal.

Oman Sail's sailors Musab bin Mohammed Al Hadi and Waleed bin Issa Al Kindi won the silver medal in the 49er event at the 2023 Asian Games in China, marking the first silver medal at the Asian Games in Oman's history and continuing Oman Sail's recent successes, which also includes winning five medals (two gold, two silver, and one bronze) at the Arab Games in Algeria in July 2023.

The ambition to qualify for the Olympic Games remains and Oman Sail will now focus its efforts on qualification for the LA28 Games.

Community programmes

Oman Sail has successfully attracted significant national interest in sailing by organising annual events to introduce the sport to the community.

Oman Sail has also trained large numbers of school students in sailing and significant emphasis has been placed on empowering women by providing equal training opportunities and establishing a national women's team to represent Oman in international competitions, the first of its kind in the region.

The organisation also hosts an annual sailing festival in governorates across Oman, aiming to



familiarise the community with Omani maritime heritage and encourage the community to discover the sport for its health benefits and to connect with a strong part of the national identity.

Environmental Sustainability

Oman Sail also takes great pride in its environmental conservation efforts at all continental and international events it hosts.

This includes using environmentally friendly materials for team uniforms and all race signage, both on land and sea.

Additionally, organised beach clean-up campaigns on the sidelines of these events and other campaigns in various governorates as a community initiative supports this strategic direction, which is a priority of Oman Vision 2040.

These efforts have raised community awareness about the importance of environmental conservation, helping to make it a part of their lifestyle and enhance Oman's regional and international role in this field.

Guinness World Records

Oman Sail has achieved two notable Guinness World Records for the nation.

In 2021, a new record was set for the largest beach clean-up campaign, which involved representatives from 73 different nations at the Youth Sailing World Championships in Musannah.

In 2023, another record was achieved when volunteers collected over 32,316 plastic bottles to form the phrase 'Project Earthlings has launched from Oman!' to create the largest sentence formed from empty plastic bottles.

These achievements are a key part of the United Nations' #CleanSeas campaign, of which Oman is a signatory, to reduce plastic use and promote community awareness about environmental conservation.

Visit of Sayyid Theyazin

In February 2021, His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports, and Youth, visited Oman Sail headquarters to learn about the institution's scope of work and its national contributions across various levels.

During the visit, he met with the Olympic team, young sailors, and 'SailFree' team for people with disabilities.

Sports Investment Laboratory

Oman Sail has played a pivotal role in developing a unified central strategy for hosting global sports events for Oman to achieve economic and social returns and stimulate vital local sectors.

This work is based on spending efficiency and coordination with a variety of government and private sector entities, such as the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, and sports federations.

This strategy was implemented by applying the outputs of the 'Sports Investment Laboratory' devised by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth, and supported by the Implementation Support and Follow-up Unit for Oman Vision 2024 and the National Program for Export Development (Nazdaher).

Establishment of the Oman Events Centre

Based on the outputs of the Sports Investment Laboratory, the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth launched a joint cooperation program in collaboration with Oman Sail to establish the Oman Events Centre. The Oman Events Centre's work focuses on four pillars: studying regional and international championships, preparing competition files, developing an annual calendar, and local marketing by promoting, organising, and supporting the private sector.

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NEARING GRADUATION

Commerce ministry launches programme to upgrade skills of university students



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion is preparing to launch a new training programme aimed at university students who are nearing graduation.

The programme is designed to equip students with the necessary skills in developing industrial product standards, empowering them with research and study skills, as well as forming and managing technical teams in this field.

The programme aims to familiarise students with international best practices in developing standards and managing industrial establishments.

It also provides insight into regional and international stand-

ardisation organisations and their role in developing the industrial sector.

Additionally, trainees will be able to draft standards for industrial products and understand the basics of determining technical specifications that ensure user safety and environmental protection.

Raise awareness

Nadia bint Mohammed Al-Siyabi, a chemical expert at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, stated that this initiative is part of the Ministry's efforts to leverage the capabilities of graduating students and prepare them for the labour market. It also aims to raise their awareness of the importance of standards.

She explained that the programme will cover several key areas, including basic concepts of standards, the role of regional and international standards organisations, and the relationship between the World Trade Organization (WTO) and standards.

Al-Siyabi emphasised that the programme will also include field visits to local factories to observe production lines and the application of standards.

She noted that the draft standards prepared by the students during the program will be incorporated into the plans for developing Omani standards, with the students' names included upon their issuance.

Certificates of participation will also be awarded to the students.

Al-Siyabi concluded by stressing the importance of the program in preparing students for the labour market, highlighting that students are considered strategic economic assets for any country, especially in societies that rely on trade and investment.

Necessary knowledge, skills

She noted that equipping students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and experiences, as well as international best practices in standardisation, before graduation contributes to opening job opportunities for them and encourages them to participate in the development and adoption of international standards and environmentally and socially friendly solutions.



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International recognition for 4 Omani SMEs

This global recognition is a testament to the companies’ commitment to implementing international quality standards

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Four SMEs, among those contracted by Oman Broad-band Company, have received international recognition from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification). This achievement comes as part of the “Ta’heel” programme supervised by the company with the aim of supporting small and medium enterprises and promoting entrepreneurship in the Sultanate of Oman. The four companies: “Al-Iz-dihar Technology Solutions”, “Sahul Naqsi Trading and Contracting Joint Stock Company”, “Reef Telecommunications and Electrical Services Trading”, and “Al-Maqar Trading and Contracting”, received the ISO certificate

in recognition of their commitment to international quality standards. This international recognition is a testament to the companies’ commitment to implementing international quality standards that focus on customer satisfaction and continuous improvement, which enhances efficiency and reliability in business operations. The companies were evaluated according to a comprehensive criteria including leadership, risk management, document management, in addition to operations, auditing, and performance. Eng. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Broad-band Company, stressed that the “Ta’heel” programme is part of a series of initiatives implemented by the company to support entrepreneurship, based on its belief in the importance of the role played

by companies in achieving social responsibility, noting that obtaining the ISO 9001:2015 certificate will contribute to enhancing the operational efficiency of companies, improving their reputation in the market, and stimulating the business environment by aligning operations with international standards and identifying improvement opportunities to reduce costs and increase productivity. For his part, Eng. Moatasem bin Abdulnabi Al Balushi, General Manager of Corporate Performance at the company, explained that the “Ta’heel” initiative to support small and medium enterprises came as a reflection of the directives of the Oman Investment Authority to companies, on the necessity of enhancing local added value programmes represented by “Qimam Program”, and the efforts made to empower entrepreneurs and develop national competencies and their products; to be compatible with international standards, as this cooperation aims to enhance the competitiveness of local products and services locally and internationally, in line with Oman Vision 2040 to build a diversified and sustainable economy.



JEBEL SHAMS

Astronomy Camp boosts people’s knowledge of space sciences



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The activities of the 15th Family Astronomy Camp, organised by the Omani Astronomical Society (OAS) concluded at Al-Hajar Al-Gharbi Starlight Reserve in Jebel Shams. The camp aimed to enhance the public’s understanding of astronomy and space sciences through educational lectures and workshops. These steps help in expanding the understanding of astronomy among all age groups through interactive activities; in addition to highlighting the Starlight Reserve as a major site for scientific and environmental tourism. The association targeted all segments of society through this camp; as it is a unique opportunity for families,



students and astronomy lovers to enjoy an immersive experience under the clear skies of Jebel Shams. The 14th Family Astronomy Camp witnessed the participation of about 400 people, which reflects the great and continuous interest in this unique event. It is worth noting that the camp includes a variety of astronomical and educational activities that aim to enhance astronomical awareness among the public and enrich their knowledge of astronomy.

FOR POSITIVE RESULTS

OGA appoints Richard Michelmores as new national team coach

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Golf Association (OGA) has appointed Richard Michelmores as the new national team coach and director of game development. This came in a press conference held by the Omani Federation at the Olympic Committee building, as part of the Federation’s efforts to enhance the level of the national team and achieve positive results in regional and international forums. During the conference, Faiz bin Mohammed Riaz, Vice President of the Oman Golf Association, said: “Golf in the Sultanate of Oman has

witnessed great development in all aspects. We have various programmes for juniors and school students and we seek to spread the game among girls. We take this opportunity to welcome the national team players who have been keen to adhere to their passion and committed to their responsibilities to reach this stage. We are very proud of their achievements over the past years.” He added: “We introduce our new coach, Richard Michelmores, who has a distinguished career and a proven track record in developing talent and enhancing teamwork. Richard brings a wealth of experience and a fresh vision for

our national teams, and we are confident that under his leadership our players will achieve new levels of brilliance.” For his part, coach Richard Michelmores said: “We will work on developing a plan for the future of golf in the Sultanate of Oman and developing the national teams. Every step takes us towards the big goal with the combined efforts of everyone. We have many goals that we seek to achieve during the next stage. The national team is the model that inspires young people to practice golf. We aspire to provide great energy and enthusiasm to promote golf in the Sultanate of Oman.”







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DARBAT HUTS:

A successful Omani youth-led tourism initiative



The brainchild of a group of Omani youth, the project has introduced a novel concept of private, comfortable seating areas that seamlessly blend with the natural surroundings

Times News Service

MUSCAT: DARBAT HUTS in Dhofar Governorate has emerged as a standout tourism project in the Sultanate of Oman, transforming the serene beauty of Wadi Darbat into an even more enchanting destination. The brainchild of a group of Omani youth, the project has introduced a novel concept of private, comfortable seating areas that seamlessly blend with the natural surroundings.

A response to visitor needs

Recognising a gap in the visitor experience, the project aimed to provide families and individuals with secluded spaces to enjoy the enchanting Wadi Darbat. The initial three huts have expanded to nine this season, offering diverse designs and enhanced amenities.

Emphasis on sustainability and innovation

The project's commitment to sustainability is evident in its careful consideration of the environment. The huts are designed to minimise

impact, and the project owners emphasize continuous improvement in each season, ensuring that the structures complement the natural beauty of the location.

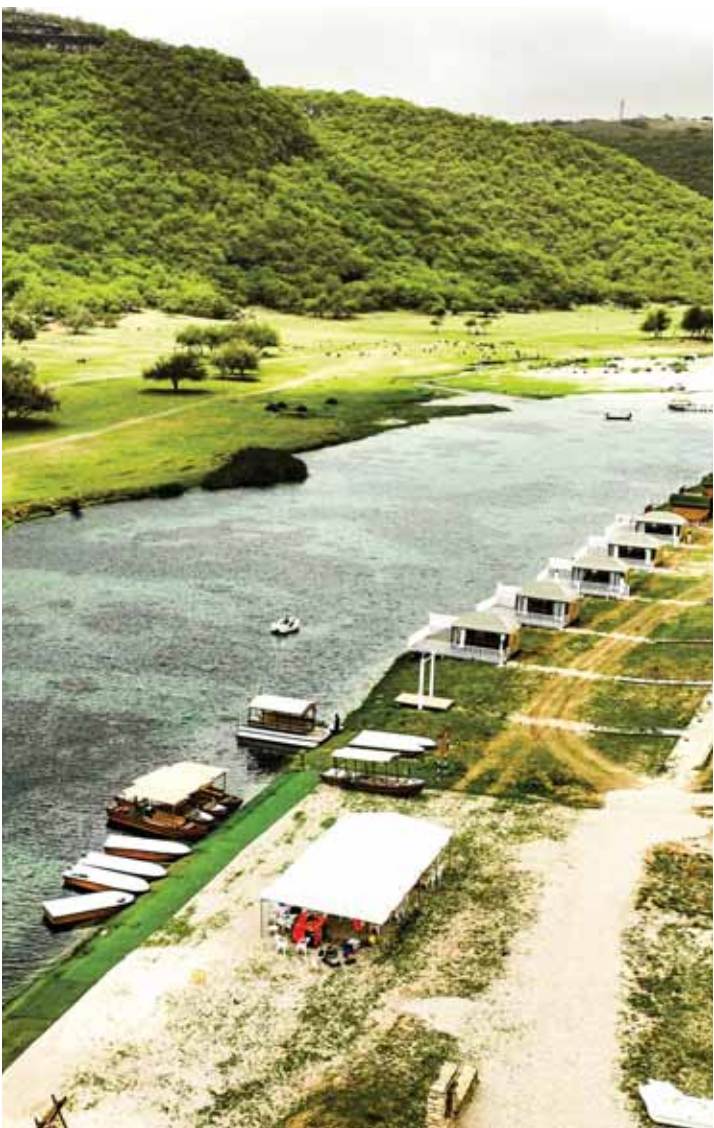
Economic impact and potential

DARBAT HUTS has not only enhanced the visitor experience but also created economic opportunities for young Omanis. The success of the project has inspired plans for similar ventures in other parts of the country.

Visitor testimonials

Visitors from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar have praised the project, highlighting its positive impact on the overall tourism experience in Dhofar. The ease of booking and the reasonable prices have contributed to its popularity.

In conclusion, DARBAT HUTS stands as a testament to the entrepreneurial spirit of Omani youth and their ability to create innovative tourism experiences. The project's success underscores the potential for sustainable tourism development in Oman.



Open data stimulates progress in various fields and helps gain trust

In light of the rapid digital transformation, open data has become one of the vital factors for enhancing transparency and stimulating innovation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Open data represents the backbone of the digital revolution. It is the fuel that feeds artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to achieve their goals, and represents a powerful tool that enables institutions and individuals to innovate new solutions, make informed decisions, and find promising investment opportunities. Open data also contributes to



strengthening the relationship between the government and citizens, establishes the principles of transparency and trust, and stimulates progress in various fields.

Digital transformation Hassan bin Fida Hussein Al Lawati, Head of the National Program for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies, explained to the Oman News Agency that in light of the rapid digital transformation, open data has become one of the vital factors for enhancing transparency, stimulating innovation,

and improving public services, in addition to its role in raising the Sultanate of Oman's ranking in the indicators of digital transformation and government readiness for artificial intelligence. He said: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology seeks, within the National Open Data Initiative, to motivate government agencies to start publishing their data and enhancing its availability in various sectors and fields. He added that in order to achieve this; The Open Data Policy was is-

sued in June 2020, which defines the basic standards for open data and unifies the approach to making available and publishing open data produced and collected in the units of the state's administrative apparatus, as they are all obligated to make their data available for public use for research and commercial purposes. He pointed out that the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology is currently working on a project to establish a unified platform for open data, and it is expected to be launched experimentally at the



end of this year, as it will provide a huge amount of open data in various fields and sectors. Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Alawi, Director of the Department of Development of the Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies Programme, said, "Forming open data teams in government institutions is a fundamental pillar for achieving the goals of the initiative; as 18 open data teams have been formed in government institutions, and they are making integrated efforts to ensure harmony with the National Digital Transformation Initiative and the Open Data Policy." He added that the Ministry holds ongoing workshops between these teams; with the aim of introducing the principles of the open data publishing policy, defining the

criteria for evaluating government agencies in the field of publishing open data, and the correct practices for classifying and publishing data. The Director of the Department of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies Development Programme confirmed that the Ministry is evaluating the response of government institutions on this issue. It recently issued a report covering 56 government institutions, showing that 35 of them took the initiative to publish their data in accordance with the approved standards and policies. He pointed out that the Ministry had addressed 28 government entities until the second quarter of this year to urge them to adhere to and implement the open data policy, and 11 of them responded.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CONGRESS

Forum discusses community investment in AI age

SALALAH: The 5th edition of the International Social Responsibility Congress (ISRC), hosted by the Sultanate of Oman for the first time in Dhofar Governorate, discussed "community investment in the age of artificial intelligence (AI)" and the "governance of community practices". The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid

Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. The event saw the participation of international ambassadors in social responsibility and specialists from the Sultanate of Oman and abroad. Hatim Hamad Al Ta'ee, Supervisor General of the Congress, underscored the effective role of AI technologies in developing innovative ideas that contribute

to community investment programmes and initiatives. He pointed out that the use of AI technologies in the social responsibility sector began to yield fruit within a quest to enhance community protection and work towards the realization of development aspirations. For his part, Salah Ali Abdulrahman, President of the International

Congress for Social Responsibility, announced that the Regional Network for Social Responsibility espoused initiatives to "enhance the use of artificial intelligence in serving social responsibility practices and applications". He also announced the establishment of an "Artificial Intelligence Technology Centre in the Field of Social Responsibility".

The centre serves as one of the most important channels that provides smart transition services in the field of responsible practices in the Arab region. Khaled Hanafi, Social Responsibility International Ambassador and Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Chambers, laid emphasis on the importance of utilizing methods that are compatible with

the developments taking place. Nayef Hamad Fadhil, Head of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry Branch in Governorate of Dhofar, stressed the keenness of the OCCI to keep pace with ongoing developments, notably through accurate assessment of the situation and the endorsement of a balanced future outlook at local and international levels. — OMA

GOVERNORATE OF AL DAKHLIYAH

Investment opportunities worth OMR61.4mn offered



NIZWA: The Department of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah received 1,410 applications for registration of new commercial registrations during the first half of the current year 755 transactions of certificates of origin. Hilal bin Bader Al Rashidi, Director of the Department of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah said that 11 investment opportunities with a value of OMR61.4 million in the various fields of commerce, industry and food security, have been offered in the various wilayats of the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah. He said that these investment projects included the construc-



tion of a factory for power connectors, heating, ventilation and air conditioning plants, meat processing units, ceramic factories, barricades factories, condensed milk factories, dairy products and juice factory and dates packing factory among others.

He said that the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah accommodates many industrial cities that could host various investment projects. He said that the applications for industrial licences processed amounted to 110 licences during the first half of the year, the foreign investment registrations amounted to 87 and the total registrations amounted to 674. He said that Nizwa Industrial City and Sumail Industrial City recorded an increase in the number of localised projects which amounted to 173 projects in Nizwa Industrial City with investment value of OMR473 million while Sumail Industrial City attracted 160 projects with investment value of OMR160 million.

— OMA



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SI No.	Bidding No.	Bidding description	Document fee	Deadline for obtaining bidding docs.	Deadline for inquires submission	Deadline for submission
1	PRE-24-226	Organizing events for the Muscat Festival (2024-2025) Implementing and managing the consumer exhibition in Al Naseem Park and Al Amerat.	30 Rials	01/09/2024	10/09/2024	22/09/2024
2	PRE-24-227	Organizing events for the Muscat Festival (2024-2025) International Circus, Al Naseem and Al Amerat parks	30 Rials	01/09/2024	10/09/2024	22/09/2024
3	PRE-24-228	Organizing events for the Muscat Festival 2024-2025 Heritage Village - Al Naseem and Al Amerat Park	30 Rials	01/09/2024	10/09/2024	22/09/2024
4	PRE-24-229	Organizing events for the Muscat Festival 2024-2025 Outdoor cinema - Al Naseem Park, Al Qurm and Al Amerat	30 Rials	01/09/2024	10/09/2024	22/09/2024

Registered companies with Muscat Municipality which are Specialized in above bid are invited to participate as per the following procedures:

- Company registration with Muscat Municipality have to be valid as per note number one below, to be able to get the bid document.
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- To receive the Bidding document, the Copy of bank receipt must be submitted to the Quantity Surveying and Contracts Department in Muscat Municipality, Darsait, first floor, attaching the following information: (name and bidding number, representative's name, office phone number, mobile phone number, email approved by the bidder, registration number commercial).
- The tender document will be provided to the company via email.
- 10:00 PM** on the above mentioned dates, is the last timing for obtaining Bidding Documents. Any bid's document request received after the specified time will not be considered.
- Submitted offers must be accompanied with a bond mentioned in the tender document valid for a period not less than (90) days issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat Municipality. Bidding that do not meet the required bond **will not be accepted**. Documents must be enclosed in a plain closed envelope (without any company information) and drop in the box located First Floor , QS Department , in Muscat Municipality, Head Office, Darsait.

NOTES:

- Companies which are not registered in Muscat Municipality or their registration has been expired shall register through the municipality's website (**www.mm.gov.om**). For technical support, please contact Muscat Municipality through this email (**crm@mm.gov.om**).
- If the bidders have any inquiries regarding the scope of the work, they have to sent their inquiries through the following e-mail (**SQ.QS@mm.gov.om**)
- 10:00 AM** on the above submission mentioned dates, is the last timing for receiving bids. Offers submitted after the above mentioned date & time shall not be accepted for any reason.
- Muscat Municipality has the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason.

Website: www.mm.gov.om

Israeli strike on Gaza school kills over 100

The school, which was housing displaced families, was hit by Israeli warplanes while residents were performing the dawn prayers. Local sources report that the airstrike occurred during the early hours of the morning, targeting the school as its occupants gathered for their morning prayers

GAZA: In a devastating early morning attack, over 100 civilians have been killed and dozens more injured following an Israeli airstrike on the At-Tab'e'en School in the Daraj neighbourhood of Gaza City. The school, which was housing displaced families, was hit by Israeli warplanes while residents were performing the dawn prayers. Local sources report that the airstrike occurred during the early hours of the morning, targeting the school as its occupants gathered for their morning prayers. Thousands of victims remain trapped under rubble, inaccessible to emergency and civil defense teams due to Israeli attacks.



Arab countries, Arab Parliament condemn Israel's killing
Several Arab countries today condemned the deadly Israeli massacre early this morning targeting the At-Tab'e'en School in Gaza City, which led to the killing of 100 civilians. The Saudi Foreign Ministry affirmed in a statement the need to stop the mass massacres committed against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which is witnessing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe due to the continued violations of international law and international humanitarian law by the Israeli occupation. Qatar condemned the Israeli's deliberate attack on the school sheltering displaced persons east of Gaza City, describing it as a horrific massacre, a brutal crime against unarmed civilians and a blatant violation of the basic principles of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council Resolution 2601. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry said this attack is a clear evidence

of the Israeli government's disregard for the provisions of international law and international humanitarian law. The Arab Parliament also strongly condemned the Israeli's massacres against the school, describing it as a terrorist and inhumane act. The Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) Saturday condemned, in the strongest terms, the horrific massacre that targeted the Al-Tab'e'en school in the Daraj neighborhood of Gaza City. In a press statement, the OIC considered this crime an extension of the brutal massacres and genocide committed by the occupation for more than ten months in the Gaza Strip, in flagrant violation of international law, the orders of the International Court of Justice and relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The organisation held the occupation forces fully responsible for these ongoing crimes, renewing its call to hold Israel, the occupy-

ing power, accountable for all war crimes and crimes against humanity it commits in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including the occupied city of Jerusalem. The OIC also called on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to oblige Israel, the occupying power, to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, impose an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in the Strip and provide international protection for the Palestinian people. Meanwhile, the United Nations has announced that at least 60,000 Palestinians have been displaced to the western areas of the Gaza Strip following a recent evacuation order issued by the Israeli occupation military. Florencia Soto from the UN Secretary-General's spokesperson office provided an update on the humanitarian situation in Gaza during a press conference, according to Anadolu Agency. Soto stated that estimates suggest over 80% of Gaza has been under Israeli evacuation orders since October of last year. — **WAF**

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BRAZIL

No survivors in plane crash with 61 people on board

SAO PAULO: A plane with 61 people on board crashed in the municipality of Vinhedo in Brazil's Sao Paulo state on Friday. The airline confirmed that there were no survivors. "The company regrets to inform that all 61 people on board flight 2283 died at the site," said airline Voepass in a statement — 57 passengers and four crew members. "At this time, Voepass is prioritizing provision of unrestricted assistance to the victims' families and effectively collaborating with authorities to determine the causes of the accident." Voepass had initially said that 62 people had been on board — 58 passengers and four crew members — but later corrected that figure to 61. Local firefighters confirmed that the plane fell in Vinhedo, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) northwest of the city of Sao Paulo. TV GloboNews showed footage of a large area on fire and smoke coming out of an apparent plane fuselage. The ATR-72 plane was en route from Cascavel, in the state of Parana, to Guarulhos, in Sao Paulo. "There is still no confirmation of how the accident hap-

pened or the current situation of the people on board," Voepass said on Instagram. The plane, a twin-engine turboprop, took off "without any flight restrictions, with all its systems operational," the Voepass statement said. ATR, a Franco-Italian aircraft maker and Airbus subsidiary, said its experts were working to help investigators. **Lula calls for a minute's silence, 3 days of mourning nationwide** At an event in the southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina, President Lula da Silva asked the crowd to stand and observe a minute of silence. Lula said that it appeared that all passengers and crew aboard had died without elaborating as to how he obtained the information. "A plane has just crashed in the town of Vinhedo, in Sao Paulo, with 58 passengers and four crew members and it seems that everyone has died," said Lula da Silva, referring to the earlier casualty figure. The Brazilian president later declared a three-day nationwide state of mourning. — **DW**

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BANGLADESH

Muhammad Yunus has work cut out to boost economy, jobs

DHAKA: Bangladesh was thrust into the global spotlight this week after large-scale, violent unrest forced the country's long-time premier, Sheikh Hasina, to quit and flee to neighbouring India. The mass protests began as a student movement against quotas in government jobs but then escalated into a broader anti-government uprising. The quota scheme reserved over half of well-paid and secure government jobs for specific groups. Many protesters saw it as discriminatory and unfair, particularly at a time when Bangladesh is facing economic stress. "There weren't many jobs being created in the private sector as well," Ahsan H. Mansur, an economist and director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, told DW. "The unemployment issue is the root cause of the student movement," he added. During Hasina's 15-year rule, Bangladesh made some economic progress, building big-ticket projects such as highways, rail lines and ports, as well as expanding the electric grid. The country's garment industry also became one of the world's most competitive. But the \$450-billion (€412-billion) economy has struggled since the COVID-19 pandemic. Shrinking foreign exchange reserves even pushed the government to seek a multibillion-dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund. Even though the South Asian country's gross domestic product is currently growing at over 5% annually, it has struggled to create enough, decent-paying jobs for its vast youth population. Nearly half of Bangladesh's 170 million people are aged under 30. While this is generally seen as a demographic dividend, it could turn into a "demographic curse" if these people can't find productive employment, said Mansur. Joblessness among people aged 15 to 24 in the country was a high 15.7% in 2023, according to the International Labour Organisation. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of young



new graduates are entering the labor market every year. "But they are not employable, given the extremely poor quality of education and the lack of required skills," said Mansur, pointing out that the youth "felt deprived, cheated upon and that they will never get employed." Against this backdrop, one of the big tasks facing the interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, which was sworn in on Thursday, will be to facilitate job growth. But that's not the only challenge. Bangladesh has seen persistently high inflation in recent years, with the rate hovering at nearly 10% in 2023. Rising food and commodity prices, in particular, have been a major concern for many Bangladeshis. "People have been frustrated and the income distribution and inequality was getting very bad in the country," said Mansur. Fahmida Khatun, head of research at the Center for Policy Dialogue think tank in Dhaka, told DW that the economic situation in Bangladesh has been deteriorating for the past couple of years. She pointed to high inflationary pressure worldwide since the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of Russia's war against Ukraine. "But over the past two years, almost all countries have managed to bring their inflation down, except Bangladesh," she said. Khatun blamed the situation on the central bank's inability to take appropriate measures to tackle the problem. "They were stuck up on policies which are not beneficial for the country, but rather only for a certain group of people," she said, accusing Hasina and her Awami League party of compromising the independence of all the country's regulatory bodies. Khatun called on the new government to implement reforms to ensure these bodies' independence. **Can Yunus push through structural reforms?** In response to the turmoil that ensued after Hasina's dramatic exit, many shops and factories shut their doors this week. That included factories in the textile sector, which is crucial to Bangladesh's economy. The country earns over \$46 billion annually by exporting clothes abroad, with most of them destined for Europe and the US. More than 4 million workers, mostly women, are employed across some 4,000 factories, which supply many of the world's top brands, including Levi's, Zara and H&M. "From an economic perspective, getting factories up and running again will be a priority," Gareth Leather and Shilan Shah, economists at London-based Capital Economics, said in a research note this week. They warned that garment makers could shift their operations elsewhere if authorities failed to get a grip over the situation. — **DW**

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SPORTS

Spain beat France 5-3, clinch first Olympic football gold in 32 years

Spain came back from an early deficit to lead 3-1, and then scored two goals in extra time to win the nation's first football gold in 32 years

PARIS: In one of the most enthralling, eye-catching, and end-to-end Olympic football finals ever, Spain overcame hosts France 5-3 after extra time at the Olympic Games Paris 2024. Calling the highest-scoring Olympic final in history a thriller does not do it justice. Spain came back from an early deficit to lead 3-1, conceded their lead in stoppage time, and then scored two stunning goals in extra time to win the nation's first football gold in 32 years.



This special team showcased their quality, their vulnerabilities, but most importantly, their mental fortitude to reset after 90 minutes and take control of the match--and their own destiny. "These matches are always difficult. You have a very strong team like France, who can sit back and defend very well, but we were able

to break them. I'm very happy because our players sacrificed a lot to be here, and they deserve to win the gold medal," head coach Santi Denia said after the final, as quoted by Olympics.com. Spain have had plenty to celebrate in the world of football: their men were crowned champions of Europe less than a month before

capturing gold, while the women are the reigning World Cup winners. Among this Olympic generation are two double champions, both of whom led the charge in the gold medal match. Alex Baena and Fermin Lopez were celebrating Spain's fourth European title in Berlin less than a month ago, and in Paris, they

added a combined three goals and an assist in the final to collect more silverware this summer. Spain are also reigning champions in both the men's and women's Nations League, as well as the Under-19 European Championships for both teams. Add to that a first Olympic gold since their home Games at Barcelona 1992, and

this really is a golden summer for Spain. France looked to be on their way when they opened the scoring early on, but if there's anything to know about this Spain squad, it's that they do not back down. Friday's final was the second time they have conceded first and gone on to win at Paris 2024, having come back to beat Morocco 2-1 in the semi-final just four days earlier. It's a testament to their mentality and desire to fight until the end, a special trait in such a young side. For all their youth, Spain had some experienced support in the stands. Luis de la Fuente, head coach of the men's senior side, was there to offer them encouragement before and after the match, while basketball legend Pau Gasol witnessed a Spanish victory at last after some hard luck in other sports at Paris 2024. That shortcoming in Olympic team sports has been a trend for Spain, and it's a curse they finally broke at the Parc des Princes. The men's football triumph is the first time Spain has won an Olympic team final in 28 years, having lost a staggering 10 consecutive finals in that timeframe, as per Olympics.com.

PARIS OLYMPICS



Canada, U.S. clinch relay titles as Paulino grabs 400m glory

PARIS: Andre de Grasse anchored Canada to victory in the men's 4x100m relay final while Sha'Carri Richardson led the United States to the women's 4x100m title at the Paris Olympics on Friday. De Grasse held off a challenge from South Africa's Akani Simbine in the final leg as he combined with Aaron Brown, Jerome Blake and Brendon Rodney to claim Canada's first track gold of these Games in 37.50 seconds. South Africa took silver in 37.57 and Britain bronze in 37.61. "It feels pretty amazing," De Grasse said. "To be out with these guys, my brothers, I've been with them since the beginning of time, so it's amazing. We talked about

this moment for years." The United States' poor recent record in this event continued as they were disqualified for a changeover outside the box. Earlier, Richardson ran a scintillating final leg as the U.S. came from behind to win the women's 4x100m relay. Richardson, who took the baton with her team in fourth place, completed her split in 10.09 seconds to cross the finish line in 41.78 seconds. Great Britain took silver, 0.07 seconds further back and Germany claimed bronze, 0.19 seconds behind the U.S.. The U.S. foursome also included Melissa Jefferson, Twanisha Terry and Gabrielle Thomas.

"The moment we realised we won was a phenomenal feeling for all of us," Richardson said. "I just remember trusting my third leg, trusting Gabby [Thomas] and knowing that she's going to put this thing in my hand no matter what, and to leave my best on the track." There were six other athletics gold medals decided in an action-filled night session at Stade de France on Friday. The Dominican Republic's Marileidy Paulino set a new Olympic record to take gold in the women's 400m, crossing the line in 48.17 seconds. Her time eclipsed Marie-Jose Perec's previous mark of 48.25 that had stood since 1996.

ROLAND GARROS

China's Wu Yu, Algeria's Imane Khelif win gold in boxing

PARIS: The penultimate day of boxing at Roland Garros saw four gold medals awarded on Friday, as China's Wu Yu, Algeria's Imane Khelif, and the Uzbekistan duo of Asadkhuja Muydinkhujaev and Lazizbek Mullojonov all won gold. In the women's 50kg final, China's Wu Yu defeated Buse Naz Cakiroglu of Türkiye via split decision 4-1 to win China's second gold medal in boxing. In the opening round, Wu used her superior speed to enter the rangy Cakiroglu's guard and deliver from inside. While both women exchanged on the inside, it was the final 30 seconds of unanswered shots that swung the round for Wu on four of the five scorecards. The second round carried on from the first with both women trading blows in and out of the clinch, but it was Wu who landed the most consequential of the punches to again win on four of the scorecards. The awkward clinches caused the referee to deduct points for blows to the back of the head and one sharp shot to Cakiroglu's buttocks, yet the Chinese maintained her superiority throughout the round and wrapped up the win by scoring big on the inside. Cakiroglu came out hard in the third, advancing towards the Chinese with little impact, other than creating awkward clinches that at



one point almost caused the pair to fall out of the ring. "Winning this medal has always felt like my mission. When a new weight category was introduced, I felt like my chance had come. I didn't have opportunities like this before, so I cherished every day of training, pushing myself through every challenge without complaining, because not everyone gets this kind of opportunity," Wu said, reflecting on her journey following her win. Supported by a passionate Algerian fanbase, Khelif walked out to massive cheers, while Yang was greeted with a far more hostile reaction on her walk with the Algerian fans desperate for gold. Wary of the Algerian's superior power, Yang started the fight

sitting on the outside, looking to use her superior boxing skill and speed to open Khelif. However, Khelif was prepared to wait for Yang to throw first before fighting ugly on the inside and catching Yang on entry. Khelif's superior power began to pay its dues. Despite landing fewer punches than Yang, every time Yang was caught by Khelif's right, it sent her marching back a few paces. In the third, down unanimously, Yang tried to be more aggressive but could not overcome Khelif's iron-like right which continued to send her off balance a few steps and look poor aesthetically in the judges' eyes and scorecards. Following the match, Yang reflected on her future in the sport.

PADDLER

Ma Long becomes most decorated Olympian in China's history

PARIS: On the podium, paddler Ma Long lifted his gold medal and gazed at it intently. "I've never really looked at a gold medal closely before," he said. "But this is my last Olympics. Holding it now, it feels heavy - I've heard it contains iron from the Eiffel Tower." This weighty piece of hardware marks the 35-year-old's sixth Olympic gold, cementing his status as the most decorated Olympian in China's history. Ma's fourth Olympic journey began on July 14, when the Chinese table tennis team set off for Paris. Dressed in pristine white, with a crisp new haircut, Ma declared, "I'm eager to bring home the team championship with my teammates." That wish became reality on August 9, as Ma, alongside Wang Chuqin and Fan Zhendong, swept Sweden 3-0 to secure China's fifth consecutive Olympic men's team title in table tennis. After the medal ceremony, as the Swedish and bronze medalists French teams gathered for a group photo with the champions, Ma stood proudly in the center. "This is a moment worth savoring," he remarked.



GOLD MEDALIST After clinching the men's doubles victory over the Swedish pair, Ma celebrated with a daring intricate move - a 360-degree arm spin. The first match saw Ma and Wang Chuqin pitted against Sweden's Anton Kallberg and Kristian Karlsson. To everyone's surprise, China was almost overturned. The dynamic duo started strong, jumping to a 7-2 lead, only to be over-

taken 9-7 and eventually losing the first game 11-8. But Ma and Wang regained their rhythm in the second game, launching a 6-0 run. Wang's net skimming return sealed an 11-4 win, leveling the score. In the third game, the Chinese pair dominated once again, but the Swedes fought back in the fourth, with Ma faltering on a critical point, allowing Sweden to take the game 11-6.

The deciding game was a tense affair, with Ma and Wang pushing their lead to 10-4, only for the Swedes to claw back three match points. But Ma ended the suspense with a thunderous forehand smash, sealing the victory 3-2 for China. In a burst of exhilaration, Ma twirled, his arm sweeping through the air as the crowd roared. "That was completely spontaneous," he explained. "After

the shot, I just spun around." The subsequent two singles matches were equally nerve-racking, with both newly-crowned men's singles Olympic champion Fan Zhendong and Wang battling through five-game thrillers against Truls Moregard and Karlsson, respectively. "Even though we were well-prepared, a single misstep could have changed the entire course of the match. The Swedish team deserves our utmost respect," Ma said, generously praising their opponents. "With two of the world's best teammates by my side, I'm deeply grateful. This gold medal is the perfect conclusion to my Olympic journey, but you might still see me on the international stage in the future," the veteran added. While Ma bids farewell to the Olympics, his career is not over just yet. For Ma, the proudest moment of this Olympic journey was not just winning gold - it was being the flag bearer. "At every Olympics, there might be dozens of champions, but there are only one or two flag bearers. And this time, I carried the flag on the Seine River," he reflected. On July 26, as the Paris Olym-

pics officially opened, Ma and artistic swimmer Feng Yu proudly held aloft the Chinese flag, shining on the Seine. In a uniquely Parisian twist, athletes did not march into a stadium but sailed down the river in a grand parade. Ma waved the flag vigorously, showcasing the spirit of the Chinese team. Looking back on that moment, Ma admitted his nervousness. "I was worried. What if I dropped the flag? It was raining, and I had to keep waving, so I was quite tense." On July 24, the Chinese delegation announced its two flag bearers, with Ma being one of them. The choice was in recognition of his long-standing Olympic dedication, having competed in London, Rio, Tokyo, and now Paris. Ma was in the midst of training at the South Paris Arena when he received the news. "I felt incredibly honoured," he said, attributing this recognition not just to himself, but to the legacy and tradition of China's table tennis champions. "As the flag bearer, I represented not just myself but the entire Chinese TT team. We're here to continue our legacy in Paris and to share the spirit of Chinese sports with the world," he said.

SQU, SOHAR PORT INK PACT

Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) has partnered with Sohar Port and Freezone (Sohar) through a newly signed agreement aimed at strengthening collaboration in research and development.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Total production and imports of natural gas in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 5.3 percent to 27.58 billion cubic metres by the end of June 2024 compared to 26.19 billion cubic metres during the same period in 2023.

Net profits of Oman’s listed firms jump 19.5% to OMR256.2 million

The banks praised the economic growth seen by Oman and the government’s commitment in achieving financial balance, improving business environment and supporting SMEs

MUSCAT: The net profits of the banks listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) have increased their profits, benefiting from economic activity, growth in trade volume and increased demand for financing and loans granted by banks to economic activities and individuals.

The net profits of these banks rose to OMR256.2 million in the first half of this year compared to OMR214.4 million in the same period last year, recording a growth of 19.5 percent.

In their reports to shareholders, the banks praised the economic growth witnessed by the Sultanate of Oman, the government’s commitment to achieving financial balance, improving the business environment and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The efforts made to achieve economic diversification, and the need for the banking sector to maintain comfortable ratios of capital and liquidity in light of the quality of assets and the expansion of credit granted to the private sector with the aim of stimulating economic activity.

In the first half of this year, banks focused on enhancing their digital transformation projects, providing many facilities in this regard to encourage customers to conduct



their transactions electronically, which contributed to the increase in the number of customers registered for online banking services.

The first half of this year also witnessed a significant increase in commercial transactions via point-of-sale devices. Banks also moved to open more branches to increase their spread, reduce customer waiting periods, and improve services. Some banks also launched a remote payment service, which is a new technology that allows merchants and business owners to accept card payments directly on their phones and smart devices.

Bank Muscat topped the banks in terms of profits achieved after its net profits rose in the first half of this year at OMR112.1 million compared to OMR104.3 million in the same period last year. Bank Sohar International came posted net profit of OMR50 million, National Bank of Oman (NBO) reported net profit of OMR30.8 million, Bank Dhofar of OMR22.1 million, Ahli Bank of OMR20.2 million, Oman Arab Bank posted a net profit of OMR12.7 million, while Bank Nizwa, which operates according to Islamic law, reported a net profit of OMR8 million. The

bank was able to achieve a 10.9 percent increase in its net profits during the first half of this year compared to profits of OMR7.2 million in the same period last year.

All banks were able to increase their net profits in the first half of this month. Sohar International Bank recorded the highest growth with its net profits rising to OMR50.2 million in the first half of 2024 compared to OMR23.6 million in the same period last year, recording a growth of 112.2 percent. This growth came as a result of the merger with HSBC Bank Oman, which officially left the trading screens on the Muscat Stock Exchange on August 20, 2023 with the completion of the merger of the two banks, while Ahli Bank recorded the lowest growth rate at 1.4 percent from OMR19.9 million to about OMR20.2 million.

The unaudited financial data indicated that the assets of local banks listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange increased to OMR40.5 billion by the end of last June recording a growth of 13.8 percent over their level in June 2023, which amounted to OMR35.5 billion. Bank Muscat, with total assets of about OMR14.2 billion, accounts for 35 percent of the total

Omani stock market faces weekly decline amid global economic concerns and regional tensions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Omani stock market ended this week with a 0.48 percent decline and saw volatile movements, according to an industry watcher.

“The market opened the week with a loss, mirroring other markets in the region that were affected by a global sell-off,” said Ahmed Negm, Head of Market Research MENA at XS.com. The latter was triggered by fears of a recession in the US following weaker-than-expected economic data releases.

“However, sentiment improved later, helping markets recover some of their losses. The risk of potentially increased geopolitical tensions in the region weighed on sentiment and continued to exert downward pressure,” he further added.

At the same time, the oil market witnessed a rebound this week after four weeks of losses, which supported the Omani stock market to a certain extent. Higher crude prices could help the stock market recover more. While the stock market could remain under pressure, it could continue to react to changes in external factors and developments in global markets.

Sector performance was



uniformly negative. The industrial sector was the worst performer and declined by 2.01 percent. Galfar Engineering & Contracting was one of the most traded stocks by volume, experiencing a 6.71 percent decline. Gulf International Chemicals also performed poorly, losing 9.59 percent while Voltamp Energy dropped by 1.99 percent.

The services sector also ended negatively, down by 0.80 percent. OQ Gas Networks was the most traded stock in this sector and closed the week down by 1.40 percent. Oman

Telecom saw significant trading volume as well but reported a negative performance of 0.20 percent. The stock reacted to the release of the company’s results for the first half of the year, which showed a 47 percent decline in profits. SMN Power Holding lost 1.54 percent while Barka Water and Power decreased by 3.70 percent.

The financial sector was down by 0.58 percent, with many banks in the red. Both Sohar International Bank and Bank Nizwa saw declines, recording 0.74 percent and 0.95 percent losses respectively. Additionally, Global Financial Investment Holding was down by 3.90 percent.

“Despite this market volatility, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) reported strong financial stability, backed by favourable economic indicators and improved debt sustainability,” said Ahmed Negm.

“This resilience in the banking sector is crucial for maintaining investor confidence and supporting economic growth, even as broader market challenges persist. The robust performance and sound risk management of Oman’s financial system highlight its ability to navigate external economic pressures effectively,” he further added.

CEO DATA



Broad money supply in Oman grows by 11.5% to OMR23.7 billion

MUSCAT: The broad money supply witnessed a growth of 11.5 percent on an annual basis to reach OMR23.7 billion by the end of May 2024.

The data issued by the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) attributed this increase to the increase in narrow money by 7.3 percent and quasi-money by 13.1 percent, including total savings deposits and time deposits in Omani rials, certificates of deposit issued by banks, margin accounts and all foreign currency deposits in the banking sector.

During the same period, cash held by the public decreased by 3.6 percent, while demand deposits increased by 10.4 percent.

With regard to the interest rate structure of conventional com-

mercial banks, the weighted average interest rate on deposits in Omani rials increased from 2.242 percent in May 2023 to 2.627 percent in May 2024, while the weighted average interest rate on loans in Omani rials increased from 5.443 percent to 5.621 percent during the same period.

The average interest rate in the interbank lending market for one night recorded an increase of 5.501 percent in May 2024 compared to 5.295 percent in May 2023.

This came as a result of the increase in the weighted average interest rates on repurchase operations to reach 6 percent compared to 5.726 percent during the same period last year, in line with the policies of the US Federal Reserve. - OMA

STATISTICS

Oman’s production of refineries and petroleum industries declines by 1.8%

MUSCAT: Total refinery and petroleum industry products in the Sultanate of Oman decreased by 1.8 percent in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. The production of motor fuel also decreased by 27.1 percent during the month of June compared to the previous month, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Statistics showed that the production of standard grade petrol (M-91) by Omani refineries decreased by 9.5 percent by the end of June 2024, compared to an increase in the production of premium motor fuel (M-95) by 9.8 percent. The production of M-91 fuel reached about 7.47 million barrels, while its sales reached 6.82 million, while the production of M-95 fuel reached 6.55 million barrels with its sales reaching 6.41 million barrels.

Gas oil (diesel) output decreased by 6.2 percent to 16.85 million barrels while its sales reached 6.81 million barrels. Jet fuel production increased by 2.3 percent to 5.62 million barrels, while its sales reached 1.99 million barrels. LPG production reached 4.48 million barrels, while sales reached 5.33 million.

As for petrochemicals products, statistics show that gasoline production increased by 6.5 percent to 83,500 metric tonnes, paraxylene production reached 265,100 metric tonnes, up by 4.6 percent.

Polypropylene production decreased by 23.7 percent to 101,800 metric tonnes, but its sales increased by 25.7 percent to 17,000



metric tonnes. The Sultanate of Oman’s exports of M-91 fuel increased by 16.2 percent to reach 1,410,700 barrels, and M-95 fuel exports recorded an increase of 53.5 percent to reach 572,800 bar-

rels until the end of June 2024. Exports of gas oil (diesel) amounted to 9,058,200 barrels, jet fuel 3,605,000 barrels, while exports of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) amounted to 280,600 barrels. Pa-

raxylene exports amounted to 254,700 metric tonnes, benzene exports amounted to 81,500 metric tonnes, and polypropylene exports amounted to 81,200 metric tonnes. - OMA

MARKET

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION



SQU and Sohar Port join forces to drive research, development and innovation initiatives

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) has partnered with Sohar Port and Freezone (Sohar) through a newly signed agreement aimed at strengthening collaboration in research and development.

The agreement was signed by His Highness Sayyid Dr. Fahad bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of SQU, and Eng. Abdullah bin Khalfan Al Jabri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sohar, signifying a commitment to fostering innovation and establishing impactful partnerships that drive sustainable economic growth.

By leveraging on SQU's academic excellence, Sohar seeks to enhance its capabilities in critical technical areas, effectively merging practical expertise with theoretical insights. The collaboration will address critical issues within the logistics and industrial sectors, positioning this strategic alliance to make a substantial contribution to the growth of Oman's national economy.

To further solidify the mutual understanding between the two entities, the partnership aims to establish a sustainable educational ecosystem that promotes knowledge dissemination and facilitates experience sharing.

This will be achieved through a variety of initiatives including the organisation of conferences, workshops, and seminars, along with the publishing of joint scientific publications. This collaborative effort not only enhances educational opportunities, but also aligns with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040 by fostering innovation through cutting-edge technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, and Autonomous Vehicles.

Moreover, it will support university graduation projects thereby, enhancing scientific research and developing engineering solutions to overcome logistics challenges.

Joining forces will also support the Oman AI-enhanced Drone Competition, an annual event organized hand in hand with the University and with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. This competition focuses on training university and college students in drone technologies and their integration with artificial intelligence for autonomous capabilities. Part of the competition, Sohar will facilitate field visits and practical training for SQU students, offering them hands-on experience in the industrial and logistics sectors.

Natural gas production in Oman rises by 5.3%

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information showed that industrial projects accounted for 64.3 percent of natural gas uses in the Sultanate of Oman until the end of June 2024, while uses for industrial projects amounted to 17,717 billion cubic metres



MUSCAT: Total production and imports of natural gas in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 5.3 percent to 27.58 billion cubic metres by the end of June 2024 compared to 26.19 billion cubic metres during the same period in 2023.

Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that industrial projects accounted for 64.3 percent of natural gas uses in the Sultanate of Oman until the end of June 2024, while uses for industrial projects amounted to 17,717 billion cubic metres.

The total breakdown of natural gas usage includes 5.42 billion cubic metres for oil fields, 4.31 billion cubic metres for power

generation stations and 124.100 million cubic metres for industrial projects.

It is noteworthy that the non-associated production of natural gas, including imports, amounted to 21.96 billion cubic metres, while the associated production amounted to 5.61 billion cubic metres. - OMA

FOR JULY

Saudi ports report 9.11% growth in cargo handling



RIYADH: The ports overseen by the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) witnessed a 9.11% increase in the volume of cargo handling during July this year, which reached 27,382,403 tons; it handled 25,096,888 tons in the same month of last year.

According to Mawani data, the number of inbound containers rose by 15.72%, to 271,465, over the 234,592 containers in the same month last year. However, the number of outbound containers decreased by 2.50%, to 243,758,

compared to 250,003 containers in the same period of 2023.

The total general cargo amounted to 701,606 tons, solid bulk cargo reached 4,482,634 tons, and liquid bulk cargo 15,349,511 tons. The ports also received 506,016 heads of livestock, a 127.60% jump compared to 222,327 in the same period of 2023. Handled containers stood at 645,019, down 14.40% from 753,496 containers last year. Transshipment containers decreased by 51.73%, to 129,797, compared to the 268,901 containers in 2023. Maritime

traffic also declined by 11.24%, to 908 ships, versus 1,023 ships in 2023, while passenger numbers dropped 31.80%, to 52,191 from 76,532 last year. Vehicle traffic saw an 8.64% decrease, to 90,471, from 99,026 in the previous year.

Mawani's ports achieved a 9.16% increase in cargo handling volumes, to 27,640,795 tons in June 2024. The number of outbound containers rose by 7.78%, to 228,031. In comparison, inbound containers increased by 9.85%, to 245,569. - SPA

WORLD GOLD COUNCIL

Asia's gold inflows reach \$438 million in July; India leads growth after import duty reduction

NEW DELHI: Asia continued its streak of attracting gold investments, extending its inflow momentum to 17 consecutive months with a \$438 million influx in July, according to World Gold Council report.

India emerged as the frontrunner in these inflows, after the reduction in gold import duty to 6 per cent from 15 per cent following the announcement in the Union Budget.

As of July 23, India's import duty on gold was reduced to 6 per cent from 15 per cent. This change has impacted the gold market, contributing to a strong year-to-date (y-t-d) performance.

In July, gold prices reached Rs 65,314 per 10 grams, marking a 4.5 per cent return for the month and a 17.5 per cent y-t-d return. This robust performance has been a major factor driving inflows into Indian gold ETFs, as investors capitalized on the favorable market conditions.

These measures have made the investment landscape for gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) more equitable and attractive, further enhancing the allure of gold as an investment. Additionally, the strong performance of gold in the local currency added to the momentum, making it a preferred asset class for Indian investors.

Following a slight dip in June, gold staged a recovery in July, closing the month 4 per cent higher at USD 2,426 per ounce. The precious metal even hit an all-time high of USD 2,480 per ounce mid-month before experiencing a modest decline towards the end.

This surge was primarily driven by lower 10-year Treasury yields and a weaker US dollar, according to the Gold Return Attribution Model (GRAM). However, the main drag came from the Commodity Exchange (COMEX) futures market, where an increase in open interest did not fully match the rise in net longs, leading to a decrease in the fu-



tures market ratio.

The gold market also saw a spike in implied equity volatility (VIX) early in August, triggered by a combination of factors including a Bank of Japan interest rate hike, de-levering in global markets, and weaker-than-expected US employment data. While some of the losses have been recouped, a return to pre-selloff levels may take time.

Global gold ETFs experienced their strongest month since April 2022, attracting USD 3.7 billion in July, marking the third consecutive month of net inflows. All regions saw positive flows, with Western funds leading the charge.

The combination of strong inflows and a 4 per cent increase in the gold price pushed global gold ETFs' total assets under management (AUM) to a new month-end peak of USD 246 billion.

Collective holdings also rebounded, increasing by 48 tons to reach 3,154 tons, the highest level since January.

Despite the slowdown earlier in the year, Asia has been a stand-out performer, recording inflows of USD 3.6 billion year-to-date, significantly outpacing other regions. Supported by record-breaking inflows and a strong gold price, the total AUM of Asian gold funds reached an all-time high of USD 15 billion, with collective holdings increasing by 47 tons.

Gold trading volumes surged across all markets in July, averaging USD 250 billion per day--a 27 per cent increase month-over-month and well above the 2023 average of \$163 billion per day.

The rise in trading volumes was driven by stronger activity in the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) and a 51 per cent month-over-month increase in volumes across major exchanges, with COMEX leading the way. Trading activities of global gold ETFs also rose, increasing by 9.3 per cent month-over-month, primarily due to North American funds.

As gold enters August, it traditionally benefits from seasonal tailwinds, particularly from weaker bond yields. However, several factors could impact its performance.

Market sentiment has become increasingly dovish following weak US economic data. However, the Federal Reserve's cautious approach ahead of elections may pose a downside risk to gold if the Fed's language does not align with market expectations.

The shifting dynamics in the US political arena, particularly with the upcoming Democratic National Convention, could have implications for gold. Both major parties are expected to maintain gold-friendly policies.

A potential market sell-off driven by disappointing Q2 earnings from US tech giants could further support gold, as it has so far this year. - ANI

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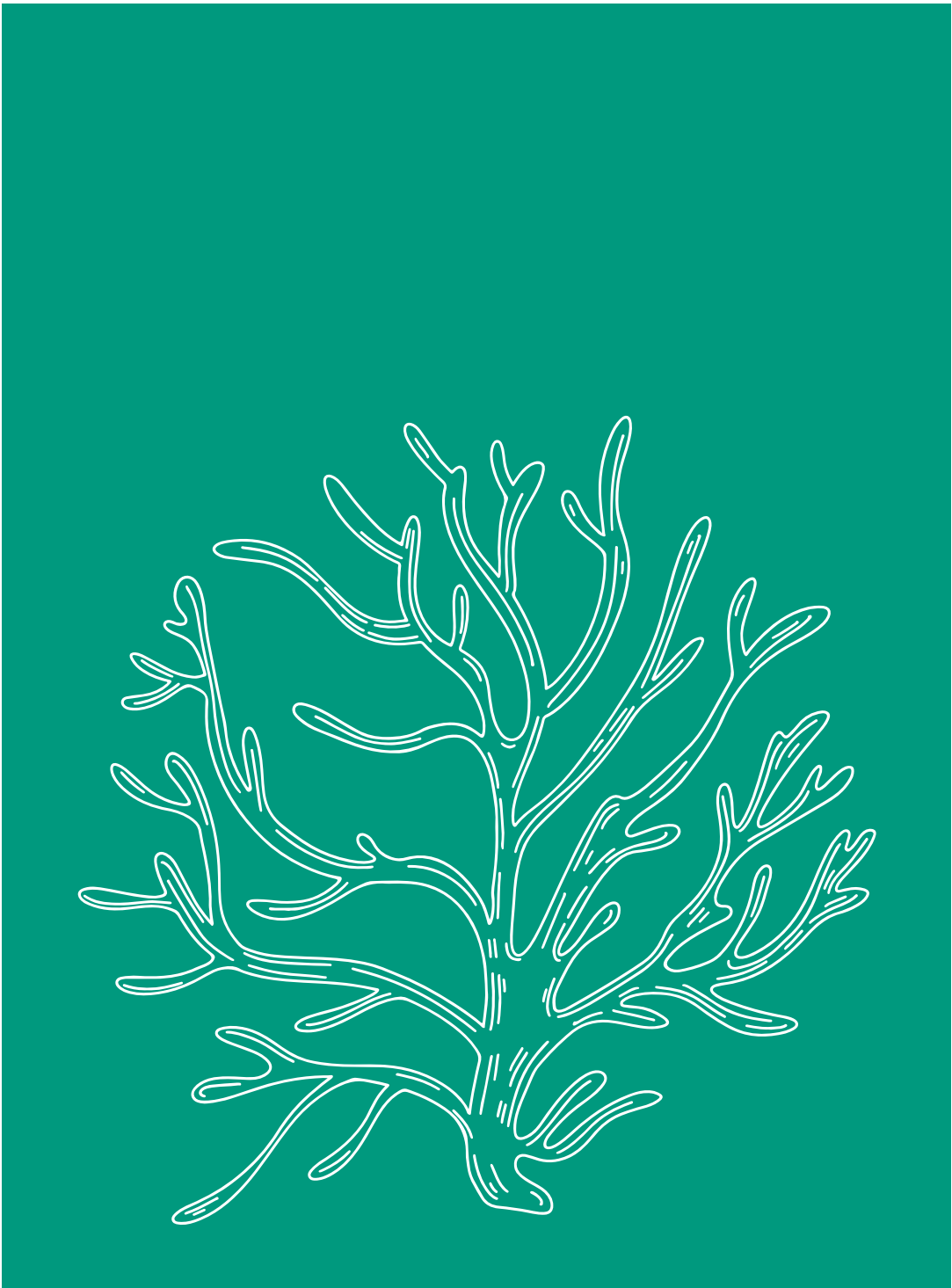
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LIFESTYLE

RESEARCHERS
FIND HOW
SEAWEED

ANTIOXIDANTS



HELP IN
PREVENTION OF
PARKINSON'S

Associate Professor Akiko Kojima-Yuasa of Osaka Metropolitan University's Graduate School of Human Life and Ecology led a research group that has verified the physiological effect of Ecklonia cava polyphenols, seaweed antioxidants, on the prevention of Parkinson's disease

The neurodegenerative condition known as Parkinson's disease is transported by the loss of neurons that produce dopamine, a neurotransmitter essential for both motor control and cognitive function. The number of people with Parkinson's disease is rising quickly as the world's population ages. Reactive oxygen species overproduction damages neurons, which causes Parkinson's disease.

Because reactive oxygen species formation kills dopaminergic neurons, which control dopamine neurotransmitters, it must be suppressed. Since there is now just symptomatic treatment available, therapeutic regimens and preventative measures must be developed.

Fortunately, Associate Professor Akiko Kojima-Yuasa of Osaka Metropolitan University's Graduate School of Human Life and Ecology led a research group that has verified the physiological effect of Ecklonia cava polyphenols, seaweed antioxidants, on the prevention of Parkinson's disease.

In this study, two types of motor function tests were con-

ducted using Parkinson's disease model mice that were orally fed the antioxidants daily for one week and then administered rotenone. Results showed that motor function, which was decreased by rotenone, was restored. There was also improvement in intestinal motor function and the colon mucosa structure, a special tissue that covers the colon.

Further, cellular experiments using Parkinson's disease model cells verified the biochemical interaction of the preventive effect of Ecklonia cava. Validation results showed that the antioxidants activate the AMPK enzyme (adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase), an intracellular energy sensor, and inhibit the production of reactive oxygen species that cause neuronal cell death.

"This study suggests that Ecklonia cava antioxidants may reduce neuronal damage by AMPK activation and inhibiting intracellular reactive oxygen species production," stated Professor Kojima-Yuasa. "It is hoped that Ecklonia cava will be an effective ingredient in the prevention of Parkinson's disease." -ANI

ROUND-UP

20-METRE THROW

Olympics: Germany win first shot put gold in 28 years

PARIS: Germany won Olympic gold in the women's shot put for the first time in 28 years courtesy of Yemisi Ogunleye.

The 25-year-old from the southwestern German city of Mannheim produced a precisely 20-metre (65.6-foot) throw on her third and final attempt, beating New Zealand's Maddison-Lee Wesche who threw a personal best 19.86 meters.

Bronze went to Jiayuan Song of China (19.32 meters) while Ogunleye's teammate Alina Kenzel from Stuttgart came ninth (18.29 meters).

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"I'm lost for words, it's unbelievable!" she told broadcaster ZDF.

"I just felt an incredible calm in that moment which wasn't from this world!" she said of her winning throw. "I was just so focused."

How Ogunleye battled with injury – and racism

As a young girl, Ogunleye was a ballet dancer and a gymnast – but she soon switched to athletics when she was 13.

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After a series of serious knee injuries as a teenager, including two cruciate ligament tears, her career as a sportswoman was on the brink – but she battled back.

She faced challenges off the pitch, too, experiencing racism due her Nigerian background, but she said her faith kept her strong.

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50 KG WRESTLING

We will follow CAS decision: IOC President Thomas Bach on Vinesh Phogat's appeal for silver medal



PARIS: The International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach opened up on Indian grappler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the final of women's 50 kg wrestling at the Paris Olympics and said that they will "follow the Court of Arbitration for Sport's (CAS) decision".

Vinesh was set to compete against the United States of America's Sarah Ann Hildebrandt for the gold medal but was disqualified on Wednesday for breaching the weight limit by just 100 grams. After her disqualification, Phogat requested the CAS to award her the silver medal.

The decision on awarding Vinesh Phogat a silver medal following her disqualification from the final of women's 50 kg wrestling will be taken before the end of the ongoing marquee event, announced the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Friday.

In a statement, CAS said, "An application was filed at the CAS Ad hoc Division at 16:45 CEST on 7 August 2024 by Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat (the Applicant) in relation to the decision taken by United World Wrestling (UWW) to replace her, because of her failed second weigh-in, before the gold medal match of the Women's

Freestyle 50kg competition at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 that was due to commence at 18:15 CEST the same day (the Challenged Decision)."

"The applicant initially sought a decision from the CAS Ad hoc Division annulling the challenged decision and ordering another weigh-in before the final match as well as a declaration that she be declared eligible and qualified to participate in the final. However, she did not request urgent interim measures. The CAS Ad hoc Division procedure is fast, but it was not possible for a decision on the merits to be issued within an hour, bearing in mind that the Respondent UWW (United World Wrestling) would have had to be heard fast. The procedure is, however, ongoing and the Applicant has confirmed that she seeks the annulment of the challenged decision and that she requests to be awarded a (shared) silver medal," the statement added.

Speaking at a press conference, Thomas Bach said that one cannot have two silver medals in one category. He added that the regulations of the International Federation have to be followed.

"If you ask generally about having two silver medals in one cate-

gory then my answer is no. There are the regulations of the International Federation that have to be followed and the International Federation, United World Wrestling was taking this decision..." Bach said.

The IOC president concluded by saying that they will CAS's decision in the end.

"Looking at the federation or everybody who has to make such a decision then when and where do you make the cut? Do you say with 100 grams we give it, but with 102 grams we don't give it anymore?... Now it's in CAS, we will in the end follow the CAS' decision. But again, the International Federation, they have to apply and interpret their rules. So this is their responsibility," he added.

Following her disqualification from the Paris Olympics final, Phogat announced her retirement from wrestling on Thursday.

In an emotional post on X, Phogat expressed her sense of defeat and gratitude, stating, "Maa kushi (wrestling) won against me, I lost. Forgive me, your dream and my courage have been broken. I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye Wrestling 2001-2024. I will always be indebted to you all for forgiveness." -**ANI**



Javelin thrower
Arshad Nadeem won
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PARIS : Javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem dedicated his gold medal at the Paris Olympics to Pakistan and said that it was a gift to his nation on the occasion of Independence Day.

Nadeem won gold with a throw of 92.97 metres, setting a new Olympic record and surpassing Denmark's Andreas Thorkildsen's

mark from Beijing 2008. Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters.

Taking to his official X handle, Nadeem thanked his coach Salman Iqbal Butt for his tireless effort.

"First of all, I thank Allah Almighty for this huge success, with the prayers of my parents, prayers of the entire nation and especially the tireless effort of my coach Mr. Salman Iqbal Butt and the support of Dr. Ali Sher Bajwa, I have achieved this massive milestone. Thank you All! Lastly, This Gold medal is a gift from me to the entire nation on the occasion of Independence Day," Nadeem wrote on X.

India's Neeraj Chopra fell short of retaining his gold medal, finishing with a best throw of 89.45 meters. Despite a strong performance on his second attempt, he struggled with four consecutive

foul throws, which prevented him from winning gold.

Chopra became the second male athlete from post-independence India to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.

Following the failure to defend his gold medal, Neeraj expressed dissatisfaction with his performance and revealed that the last two to three years were not good for him in terms of fitness.

Speaking after the event as quoted by Olympics.com, Neeraj said, "It was a good throw but I am not that happy with my performance today. My technique and runway was not that good. (I managed) only one throw, the rest I fouled."

"(For my) second throw I believed in myself to think I can also throw that far. But in javelin, if your run is not so good, you cannot throw very far," added Neeraj. -**ANI**

FOOTBALL

FA Community Shield: Manchester rivals collide as City face United in battle for early silverware

LONDON: As the curtain rises on a new season, Manchester City and Manchester United are set to clash in the FA Community Shield at Wembley on Saturday.

Both the teams aim to lay down an early mark ahead of the Premier League campaign.

Despite City's recent struggle in the Community Shield, having lost the last three editions, including a penalty shootout defeat to Arsenal last year. They enter this contest as clear favourites.

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For United, this season begins with more questions than answers. United head coach, Erik ten Hag's position was under scrutiny after an eighth-place finish in the Premier League. Their defensive frailties were glaring last season.

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Last season, Haaland topped the Premier League scoring charts with 27 goals and netted 38 in all competitions. Given his impressive record of averaging a goal per game against United, he's a strong bet to score in the Community Shield.

He even scored a hat-trick against Chelsea in Columbus recently.

Phil Foden thrives in Manchester derbies, having been directly involved in seven goals in his last six appearances against United, with six goals and one assist.

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SPORTS

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ROUND-UP

Tap‘N’Go service from Bank Muscat new convenient payment solution

The new payment service allows merchants and business owners including home business owners to accept card payments directly on their Android phones and smart devices

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to provide cutting-edge payment solutions to enhance customers’ experience, Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, offers the Tap‘N’Go payment service enabled with the Near Field Communication (NFC) feature.

The service facilitates transactions by eliminating the need of having a physical terminal to accept payments.

The new payment service allows merchants and business owners including home business owners to accept card payments directly on their Android phones and smart devices. All NFC-enabled payment cards may be used for customers to initiate payment transactions via the Tap‘N’Go application. This digital service is available for Bank Muscat and Meethaq customers alike. To benefit from this service, merchants have to open a merchant account that allows business to accept card payments, in addition to opening a Bank Muscat corporate account.

The launch of Tap‘N’Go application adds to the Bank’s growing portfolio of customer-centric



services and facilities, including payment options such as Samsung Pay and QR code. Customers can benefit as well from other digital services including, the Soft Token App authentication, Internet Banking transactions, instant opening of Themaar Savings Plan, viewing access for minor accounts, payments to Pakistan and Bangladesh wallet, Speed transfer to Egypt, Friendi Mobile Top Up, payment to government for Value added Tax (VAT), Excise Tax and Corporate income Tax, VAT statement for Corporate customers, Group Bill Payments which allow users to submit multiple Bill Payment transactions in a single click, setting SMS Language instantly by Internet Banking & Mobile Banking, performing QR payment by doing a phone shake, MEDC electricity prepaid & post-paid payment, Muscat Finance and National Finance Loan Installment payment and payments to new educational institutes, in addition to the NFC feature available on ATMs & CDMs.

AT SALALAH ANANTARA HOTEL

NBO hosts exclusive dinner for Sadara Priority Banking clients

MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) recently hosted an exclusive dinner event for its esteemed Sadara Priority Banking clients at the luxurious Salalah Anantara Hotel on 6 August, 2024.

The event was a resounding success, reaffirming NBO’s commitment to providing exceptional personalised banking experiences and fostering meaningful relationships with its high-net-worth clients.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome, followed by an insightful keynote speech. Guests enjoyed a short presentation highlighting the unique offerings of the services. The night was filled with fine dining and live music, creating an ideal atmosphere for networking and engagement.

Ali Bin Mustafa Al Lawati, AGM - Head of Private Banking and Segments at NBO, commented on the significance of the event: “We were pleased to host this exclusive dinner for our Sadara Priority Banking clients. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase our dedication to delivering personalised wealth management services, premium benefits, and priority access to financial solutions. Our purpose is to deepen our relationship with clients and help them experience excellence by offering tailored financial advice and bespoke services that cater to their unique needs.”



NBO’s Sadara Priority Banking is designed to enhance the banking experience for high-net-worth clients by offering a range of personalised services. These include comprehensive wealth management, dedicated relationship managers, and priority access to a suite of financial solutions tailored to meet the specific needs of each client. Additional benefits include a chauffeur service to and from Muscat and Salalah airports, ensuring a seamless and luxurious experience for our valued clients. The core objective of Sadara is to foster long-term relationships by delivering exceptional service and bespoke financial advice.

Through this exclusive dinner, NBO demonstrated its commitment to being the leading financial partner for high-net-worth individuals in Oman. The event highlighted NBO’s ongoing dedication to innovation and excellence, showcasing the bank’s ability to provide tailored services that cater to the unique and evolving needs of its distinguished clients.

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