

WORKSHOP ON DEVISING LEGISLATIONS BEGINS

MUSCAT: A training workshop titled "drafting laws for the State's Administrative Apparatus and Public Legal Persons" began here on Sunday under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs. **>A5**



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF CHILE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Gabriel Boric of the Republic of Chile on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Gabriel Boric and the people of his country. — **ONA**



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CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

Prospectus of OQ Gas Networks Co. approved



MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) on Sunday announced the approval of the prospectus of OQ Gas Networks (OQGN), one of the OQ companies affiliated with Oman Investment Authority (OIA).

The company is undergoing transition into a joint stock company by floating not less than two billion shares (constituting 49 percent of the company's capital through an IPO).

This offering is the largest in the history of the Omani capital market in terms of market size and value of the company.

The prospectus explains that the subscription period for the company's shares will extend for two weeks starting from September 26, 2023 for the first and second categories and lasting until October 9, 2023 for the first category.

Subscription for the second category will close on October 5, 2023.

The prospectus also demonstrates that the number of shares offered for subscription is divided into three main categories: the

institutional category (the first category), the individuals' category (the second category) and the major investors' category (the third category).

CMA called on members of the public, including individuals and institutions, to follow up the introductory activity in the issue to be organised by the entity proclaiming the security - namely OQGN and the issue manager - in order to find out the details of the prospectus and the most important information needed, prior to making an investment decision.

The public offering of OQ Gas Networks Company, one of OQ's companies affiliated with the Oman Investment Authority, comes within the framework of the National Programme for Financial Sustainability and Financial Sector Development, in fulfillment of the strategic goal of "Oman Vision 2040" in developing the private sector and developing the economy, which makes the capital market a sustainable engine. In development and wealth creation programs in the Sultanate of Oman. - **ONA**



CLOUD SEEDING

BOOSTS RAINFALL IN OMAN BY 15-18%

The success of cloud seeding has raised groundwater reserves in Sultanate of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The cloud seeding campaign in the Sultanate of Oman has resulted in a significant boost in rainfall with the official data confirming that there has been an enhancement of 15 to 18 percent over a period from 2013-18.

Cloud seeding is one of the technologies that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has relied on to boost precipitation in Oman, where the annual rainfall is low. It is key to

bolstering water and food security, and replenishing groundwater reserves. The success of cloud seeding has raised the groundwater reserves in Oman since the ministry set up its first cloud seeding station in 2013.

The station was established at Mount Al Surat in the Wilayat of Ibri in Al Dhahirah Governorate. Today, there are 12 cloud seeding stations in the Sultanate, including two stations in Dhofar Governorate and 10 stations on Al Hajar Mountains.

Research, studies and statistics reaffirmed the success of cloud seeding in Oman with the technology contributing to enhancement of rainfall during the past years by 15 to 18 percent, according to statistical reports for the years 2013- 2018.

The rainfall data is collected from the rain gauges around the cloud seeding stations in the various governorates. Currently, work is underway for installation of a new cloud seeding station in Musandam Governorate.

The cloud seeding centre at the ministry is working on conducting studies and research on the new technologies that could develop the system including the cloud seeding project with drones that would cover large areas where it is difficult to establish the cloud seeding stations.

The ministry is committed to the development of new technologies that would increase rainfall for the benefit of future generations at risk of water shortage. Such efforts strengthen Oman's prominent role in addressing water sustainability challenges.

Oman's focus on cloud seeding for the past decade has helped address the country's typically arid climate, provide additional rainfall to support agriculture and tackle water security concerns. Seeding is a complex process, with research pouring into the field to assess its effectiveness. But it essentially involves shooting salt flares or other small materials into clouds to try to generate extra rain.

Cloud seeding could yield more water for crops, boost supply and recharge wells. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman, Tunisia to enhance trade ties

1 Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, on Sunday received Samir Saied, Minister of Economy and Planning in the Republic of Tunisia, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting explored ways of enhancing cooperation in economic and investment fields. **>A2**

MARKET

EDO completes its \$1bn sukuk issuance

2 Energy Development Oman announced the completion of its inaugural sukuk issuance of \$1 billion. The offering was oversubscribed by more than five times, reflecting strong investor confidence in EDO as the national energy leader in the Sultanate of Oman. **>B1**



SPORTS

Siraj sizzles as India win Asia Cup

3 India claimed the Asia Cup title for the eighth time after an emphatic 10-wicket win over hosts Sri Lanka in the final at the R Premadasa Stadium. Mohammed Siraj's fiery spell that earned him six wickets, including four in one over, saw the hosts bundled out for 50. **>A8**



Libya floods: Top prosecutor to probe deadly dam collapse

A7



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35°
MUSCAT

FOR TARGET SEGMENTS

Ministry of Health to start seasonal flu vaccination

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health will begin administering the seasonal flu vaccine for target segments from Monday.

The segments include people over the age of 60, people with chronic diseases such as respiratory, heart, renal, liver, neurological, blood, and metabolic disorders, as well as those who suffer uncontrolled diabetes and obesity among adults and children.

They also include pregnant women, Umrah pilgrims, workers in the health sector and two-year old children.

The Ministry of Health calls on the target segments to head to the nearest health institution to receive



the seasonal flu vaccine to avoid influenza infection, which affects the respiratory system and may lead to serious complications.

The Ministry pointed out that the vaccine is also available in the private health sector for non-targeted citizens and residents.

With the temperatures slowly

coming down, the flu season can set in. People sneezing, coughing, and having a running nose or watery eyes, are a common spectacle these days.

"Every flu season is different, and infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others," a doctor said.

Totally exhausted

"Recurring at the change of season, flu is both unpleasant and inconvenient and the patient feels absolutely miserable for days," he said, adding the flu could last from three to seven days and leave one totally exhausted.

A common infectious viral illness, flu is mainly spread by aro-

sol containing the virus in coughs and sneezes. The most common symptoms are chills, fever, runny nose, sore throat, muscle pains, headache (often severe), and coughing, weakness/fatigue and general discomfort.

However containing the infection is quite easy.

"Maintaining general hygiene including regular washing of hands also help contain the spread of the infection, as the virus can be deactivated by soap. Flu jab, or flu vaccine also gives good protection against flu," he added.

For otherwise healthy affected individuals, proper rest and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water will quickly end the infection.

PRAYER
TIMINGS

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Asr.....	3:33pm
Maghrib.....	6:14pm
Isha.....	7:24pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:39am

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OMAN-ITALY JOINT MILITARY DRILL ‘JABAL SHAMS 3’ CONTINUES

Activities of the joint Oman-Italy military drill codenamed “Jabal Shams 3” continue. The drill is participated by the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). The exercise comes within the context of annual training programmes conducted by RAO, in cooperation with friendly countries to exchange experiences and maintain preparedness. — ONA



BILATERAL RELATIONS



Oman and Tunisia explore ways to enhance trade ties

MUSCAT: Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy, on Sunday received Samir Saied, Minister of Economy and Planning in the Republic of Tunisia, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting explored ways of enhancing cooperation in economic and investment fields. The two sides reiterated their keenness to undertake further steps to open up new vistas of joint action serving cooperation in economic, commercial, investment and other areas. The Tunisian delegation comprised businessmen from commercial, industrial, tourism, energy, logistics and other sectors. — ONA

FOR ITS QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



TRA receives ISO global certification

MUSCAT: The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has awarded the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) the ISO (9001/2015) international accreditation certificate for TRA's quality management system. TRA obtained the global standard after fulfilling the requirements of a world-class quality management system, the stages of internal and external assessment and all ISO provisions. The international recognition reflects TRA's keenness to apply quality management standards in the services it offers to beneficiaries and its determination to meet its strategic objectives. TRA takes steps to maintain customer satisfaction and apply the best organisational measures as a basis for implementing all related tasks. — ONA

IN AL DAKHILIYAH GOVERNORATE



ASMED organises training programmes

NIZWA: The Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) department in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate on Sunday organised a number of programmes and workshops in the field of entrepreneurship and craft industries. More than 100 entrepreneurs from the governorate's wilayats participated in the activities. The programmes covered a wide range of activities aimed to provide entrepreneurs with advanced skills and knowledge needed to run their respective projects, said Issa Saleh Al Subaihi, Director of ASMED Department in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. — ONA



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COMMENTARY

A photo in the window of time



Saleh Al-Shaibany

I was just leaving the public toilet in a shopping mall and something stopped me. A young man in his late twenties was washing the hands of his daughter and I just could not help but watching them with a smile on my face.

The young man did not think it was amusing because he probably thought it was the invasion of his privacy in a very public place. I was tempted to explain my 'intrusion' but changed my mind. Instead, I started walking away and left the toilet. What was in my mind was simple. If a photo was taken of the man bending over his daughter washing her little hands, I bet that photo would be of great sentimental value some 30 years later.

By then, she would probably have her own little daughter and would do something similar. She might also be encouraged to capture the moments before her own children are fully independent. Family traits repeat themselves. But it is the sentimental reason of capturing something so ordinary that would rekindle the memories years later is of essence here.

When I have nothing better to do at home, I go through old albums and looked at the photos of my children when they were growing up. I would pick what I think was the 'cutest' and send it to one of them. That is to remind them that their little faces have changed a lot



as they go through their years of adulthood.

Time moves on so fast that and like a flash of the lightening, years have rolled by to leave the memories in the mist of time. Of course, parents never learn to let go. That's why they have the photos in their homes long after their children have flown the nest. Is it just nostalgia? No, it is not. They miss the time when they could hear small feet running on the corridor or a glass crashing on the kitchen floor.

But sometimes, it goes beyond that. Only a few days ago, my brother-in-law had a heated 'debate' with his 92-year old father. He raised his voice and 'humbled' the old man to submission. I am not sure what went on his mind at that time. I am also not sure what went in the mind of his father seeing his son like that. Perhaps he

was thinking, this boy, who was once bouncing in the safe net of my protection, is 'telling me off'.

It goes without saying that there is always a boomerang effect in our lives. History always repeats itself. When you 'shout' to your parents, it might come back when one day your own children would do exactly the same. When that happens, someone might call it 'payback' time.' We all hope it will not happen but being a parent is hard enough. We are supposed to learn when we are growing up but it is never that simple.

In conclusion, the road of parenthood is never long but sometimes it is full of bumpy roads. There are surprises in every corner you turn. And when you think you have done your part as a parent once they have grown up, then one comes back and screams at you.



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FIRST CONCERT OF THE SEASON



ROHM to present Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale dell Rai

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) to present the first concert of the season with the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale dell Rai on October 1.

The National Radio Orchestra of Italy will be conducted by the acclaimed international maestro Michele Gamba.

Joining the orchestra on stage will be Ettore Pagano on cello.

The concert will consist of a programme of overtures and movements from bel canto composers Paisiello, Cimarosa, and Rossini of the early 19th century.

The orchestra is much in demand on the stages of the world and has been the resident orchestra of the Rossini Opera Festival since 2017.

The cellist who will take to the stage for the solo of Rossini's Une larme, da Pechès de ma vieillesse, for cello and piano, is nineteen-year-old Ettore Pagano, winner of the prestigious Kachaturian International Cello Competition in 2022.

The concert will take place at the Royal Opera House of Musical Arts on Sunday, October 1, at 7pm. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact the box office or visit the ROHM website or app.

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National Net-Zero Programme holds several workshops

The industry sector constituted 32% of greenhouse gas emissions in Oman

MUSCAT: The National Net-Zero Programme holds several workshops for the private sector on reaching net-zero emissions. The workshops which run till 19 September, discuss a spectrum of topics including defining the industry sector, highlighting

the objectives to reach net-zero emissions as well as initiatives and projects in the sector and related challenges. It is worth noting that the industry sector constituted 32% of greenhouse gas emissions in Oman. Moreover, the work-

shops are participated by representatives of several public and private establishments, in addition to academics and experts.

— ONA

CLOUD SEEDING

Seeding is a cheaper option

<FROM A1 Another advantage is that seeding is significantly cheaper than desalination. Cloud seeding is simply a way of trying to extract more rain from a cloud. An operation begins in the early morning with meteorologists monitoring the clouds. Those

suitable for seeding are warm clouds or convective clouds technically known as cumiliform that have an updraft in the middle. Fortunately they are the most common type of cloud found in Oman. When these can be seen on radar, pilots are sent to the location and salt flares are fired into

the updraft. These particles attract tiny droplets of water and also encourage condensation. The droplets then collide with others, become larger and eventually fall to the ground as rain. The cloud can also become larger due to this activity.

TO CONCLUDE ON 19TH SEPTEMBER

Oman hosts ‘Humanitarian International Law’ seminar

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Defence, hosted the “Humanitarian International Law” seminar of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The seminar held from 17-19 September aims to introduce the articles of the humanitarian international law and its historical development, as well as highlighting the work of the Red Cross.

Moreover, the seminar was attended by senior offices at the Ministry of Defence and the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) and other military and security units.

— ONA

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Key workshop on devising legislations begins in Oman

MUSCAT: A training workshop titled “drafting laws for the State’s Administrative Apparatus and Public Legal Persons” began here on Sunday under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs.

Organised by the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, the two-day workshop saw the participation of more than 90 employees occupying legal positions in units of the State’s Administrative Apparatus (government units) and other public legal entities. — ONA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS AND YOUTH

Registration for Youth Excellence Award 2023 to begin today

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth will open registration for the Youth Excellence Award 2023 on Monday. Registration for this 4th edition of the award lasts till 3 October. Outlines of the award were unveiled at a press conference held by the ministry at the Youth Centre on Sunday. Hamoud Salim Al Jabri, Assistant Director General of Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, said that the Youth Excellence Award 2023 serves as an extension of a programme to honour outstanding Omani youth (which lasted from 2014 to 2022).

Al Jabri added that the award lays emphasis on youth efforts aimed at serving society. Al Jabri pointed out that two areas of competition were added to the 4th edition of the contest: “digital media” and “digital economy”. By organising the competition, the ministry seeks to achieve many goals: instilling a spirit of competition among Omani youth, encouraging young people to develop their skills in a manner that fits with forward-looking generations, celebrating the contributions of Omani youth to sustainable development and en-

hancing the sense of citizenship and belonging among youth, Al Jabri said, noting that the award evolves around the themes of empowerment, innovation, transparency and equality.

Eight winners were felicitated at the end of the 3rd edition of the Youth Excellence Award in its third edition, which saw the presentation of 62 projects.

— ONA



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Justice Isa takes oath as Chief Justice of Pakistan

Justice Isa was not assigned any constitutional case for the past three years when Imran Khan was the Prime Minister of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Justice Qazi Faez Isa was sworn in as the 29th Chief Justice of Pakistan on Sunday, following the retirement of his predecessor Umar Ata Bandial a day earlier, The News International reported.

It is worth mentioning that Justice Isa was not assigned any constitutional case for the past three years when Imran Khan was the Prime Minister of Pakistan as a presidential reference filed against him in 2019.

Notably, Isa's first act as the Chief Justice was to form a full court to hear challenges to the law clipping the top judge's powers,



The Dawn reported.

The oath was administered by Pakistan President Arif Alvi during a ceremony at Aiwan-i-Sadr in Islamabad. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar and Chief of Army Staff Asim Munir were also in attendance.

Justice Isa's tenure as the country's chief justice will be relatively brief, as he is slated to retire from the top judicial post on October 25, 2024, according to The News International.

Notably, Isa took the oath as the apex court's judge on September

5, 2014. Despite being the senior puisne judge, he was not assigned any constitutional case for the past three years following a presidential reference filed against him in 2019, according to The News International.

For the past five months, Justice Isa — who took the oath as an SC judge on September 5, 2014 — has engaged in chamber work only. As a form of protest following his disagreement with the chief justice on suo motu powers, he has refrained from participating in any cases.

In his first and major act as the top judge, Justice Isa formed a full court to hear a set of challenges to the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, a bill that requires the formation of benches on constitutional matters of public importance by a committee of three senior judges of the court, *Dawn* reported.

The pleas will be taken up on Monday. Notices for the proceeding have already been issued to Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan.

-ANI



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LA SAMBUY

French ski resorts suffer snow shortage

PARIS : Unusually high temperatures have caused snow to melt, forcing French ski resorts to close. As winter approaches, there isn't enough snow to continue operations at yet another ski resort in France, *CNN* reported.

La Sambuy, a town that operates a family skiing resort close to Mont Blanc in the French Alps, has chosen to demolish its ski lifts because, as a result of global warming, its ski season has been reduced to a few short weeks, making it unprofitable to keep them open.

"Before, we used to have snow practically from the first of December up until the 30th of March," La Sambuy's mayor, Jacques Dalex, told *CNN*.

Last winter, however, there was only "four weeks of snow, and even then, not much snow," he added. That meant "very quickly, stones and rocks appeared on the piste."

The resort will only be able to operate for less than five weeks in January and February, according to Dalex, and will likely have an operating loss of about 500,000 euros (USD 530,000). The annual expense of maintaining lifts alone is 80,000 euros. La Sambuy isn't a huge resort, with only three lifts and a small number of skis running up to a peak elevation of 1,850 metres. -ANI

BRAZIL

Passenger plane crashes in Amazon rainforest, 14 dead



BARCELOS A passenger plane carrying 14 people crashed in Brazil's Amazon rainforest on Saturday, killing all on board, according to a local official.

Amazonas Governor Wilson Lima said the plane had come down in Barcelos in the northern part of Brazil.

"I deeply regret the death of the 12 passengers and two crew members who were victims of the plane crash in Barcelos on Saturday," Lima said on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Local media reported that the small Embraer PT-SOG aircraft —

a twin-engine turboprop — took off from Manaus, which is the biggest city in the Amazon.

It was attempting to land in Barcelos during heavy rain when it crashed. According to reports those on board were Brazilian tourists on a fishing trip.

Local television network Globo News broadcast visuals of the aircraft lying on a muddy road with the front part covered by foliage.

Brazil's air force dispatched a team from Manaus to gather data and secure any evidence that could be used to investigate the circumstances of the crash. -DW

BAN

Poland stops entry of cars registered in Russia

WARSAW: Poland has initiated the enforcement of an EU directive that prohibits all Russian-registered passenger vehicles from entering the country, marking the latest addition to the array of sanctions against Russia, *Al Jazeera* reported.

According to the EU's decision, motor vehicles bearing registration of the Russian Federation are now prohibited from accessing the territory of the 27-member bloc.

Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Kaminski, stated, "A car registered in Russia has no right to enter Poland." The ban officially came into effect at midnight.

Kaminski further explained, "This is another element of the sanctions imposed on Russia and its citizens in connection with the brutal war in Ukraine, due to the fact that the Russian state today constitutes a threat to international security," according to *Al Jazeera*.

The decision came days after Baltic states including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania banned vehicles with Russian licence plates from entering their territory. -ANI

SATELLITE DATA

Antarctic sea-ice at a record low, climate experts alarmed

COLORADO: The sea-ice surrounding Antarctica is well below any previous recorded winter level, satellite data shows, a worrying new benchmark for a region that once seemed resistant to global warming.

"It's so far outside anything we've seen, it's almost mind-blowing," said Walter Meier, who monitors sea-ice with the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

An unstable Antarctica could have far-reaching consequences, polar experts warn.

Antarctica's huge ice expanse regulates the planet's temperature, as the white surface reflects the Sun's energy back into the atmosphere and also cools the water beneath and near it.

Without its ice cooling the planet, Antarctica could transform from Earth's refrigerator to a radiator, experts said.

The ice that floats on the Antarctic Ocean's surface now measures less than 17 million sq km - that is 1.5 million sq km of sea-ice less than the September average, and well below previous winter record lows.

That's an area of missing ice about five times the size of the British Isles.

Dr. Meier is not optimistic that the sea-ice will recover to a significant degree.

Scientists are still trying to



identify all the factors that led to this year's low sea-ice - but studying trends in Antarctica has historically been challenging, *BBC* news reported.

In a year when several global heat and ocean temperature records have broken, some scientists insist the low sea-ice is the measure to pay attention to.

"We can see how much more vulnerable it is," said Dr. Robbie Mallet, of the University of Manitoba, who is based on the Antarctic peninsula.

Already braving isolation, extreme cold and powerful winds,

this year's thin sea-ice has made his team's work even more difficult. "There is a risk that it breaks off and drifts out to sea with us on it," Dr. Mallet said.

Sea-ice forms in the continent's winter (March to October) before largely melting in summer, and is part of an interconnected system that also consists of icebergs, land ice and huge ice shelves - floating extensions of land ice jutting out from the coast.

Sea-ice acts as a protective sleeve for the ice covering the land and prevents the ocean from heating up. -ONA

JAAHNAVI KANDULA

Protest march over death of Indian student in Seattle

WASHINGTON, DC: Members of the Seattle area's South Asian community took out a march to the site where a police officer struck and killed Indian national Jaahnavi Kandula with his patrol car in January, *The Seattle Times* reported.

Protestors at the march held on Saturday demanded sensitivity and respect after the release this week of a body-camera video showing a police union leader laughing and joking shortly after the incident.

About 100 people gathered at Denny Park on Saturday and made their way to the intersection where Kandula was hit and killed. People while carrying out a march held signs saying "Jaahnavi had more value than SPD" and "Justice for Jaahnavi, jail killer cops," *The Seattle Times* reported.

The rally was put together by UTSAV, an organization based in Bothell that helps connect South Asians with their communities.

Addressing the crowd, US Representative Vandana Slatter said, "We're not a monolith, the Indian community." She said, "There's



diaspora in the community, but we are all united today," according to *The Seattle Times* report.

Jaahnavi Kandula, a 23-year-old from India, was pursuing a master's degree at Northeastern University's campus in Seattle's tech-oriented South Lake Union neighbourhood.

On January 23, Kandula was killed at Dexter Avenue North and Thomas Street when Officer Kevin Dave hit her while responding to an overdose call.

Video from the accident has sparked outrage over the officer's comments. Officer Daniel Auderer, vice president of the Seattle Police Officers Guild, inadvertently left his body camera running and it showed him appearing to joke and bursting into laughter over the death of an Indian student.

The Consulate General of India in San Francisco has raised concerns over the handling of an Indian-origin woman, Jaahnavi

Kandula, who was killed by a police vehicle and has demanded a thorough investigation and action against those involved.

In a post shared on X, formerly known as Twitter, the Consulate General of India in San Francisco stated, "Recent reports including in media of the handling of Ms Jaahnavi Kandula's death in a road accident in Seattle in January are deeply troubling. We have taken up the matter strongly with local authorities in Seattle and Washington State as well as senior officials in Washington DC for a thorough investigation and action against those involved in this tragic case. The Consulate and Embassy will continue to closely follow up on this matter with all concerned authorities."

A Seattle police watchdog agency is carrying out a probe against rank-and-file union leaders over body-camera audio in which they laugh, joke about and downplay the death of a young woman struck by a police cruiser, *The Seattle Times* reported. On Monday, the Seattle Police Department released footage from Officer Daniel Auderer's

body camera.

A day after the incident, the police said that the officer had been responding to a "priority one call." In the footage, Auderer is driving and can be heard talking about the accident that involved 23-year-old graduate student Kandula in a call with the guild's president Mike Solan. In the video, Auderer can be heard saying "she is dead" before bursting out into laughter.

Referring to Kandula, Auderer said, "No, it's a regular person." Towards the end of the clip, he can be heard saying, through bursts of laughter, "Yeah, just write a check. Eleven thousand dollars. She was 26 anyway," misstating the age of the victim.

Auderer said that he did not believe a criminal investigation was being carried out.

He said, "I mean, he was going 50 mph. That's not out of control. That's not reckless for a trained driver."

However, a report released in June revealed that Dave was driving 74 mph in a 25-mph zone while responding to a different "high priority" call, *NBC News* reported

citing *KIRO 7*.

Auderer visited the site of the incident to carry out a drug test on Dave. Timestamps on the body-camera footage revealed that he was revealing details regarding the incident in his call to another colleague the following evening.

In a statement on September 11, the Seattle Police Department said, "The following video was identified in the routine course of business by a department employee, who, concerned about the nature of statements heard on that video, appropriately escalated their concerns through their chain of command to the Chief's Office which, following a review of the video, referred the matter to OPA for investigation into the context in which those statements were made and any policy violation that might be implicated. This is what department policy and the City's Accountability Ordinance require."

According to the incident footage, Dave had chirped his siren but did not have it running continuously when he hit Kandula, *New York Post* reported. -ANI

Libya floods: Top prosecutor to probe deadly dam collapse

The toll could reach 20,000, according to Derna's mayor, Abdel-Moneim Al-Ghaithi, given the sheer number of neighbourhoods affected

Derna: Days after a catastrophic flood killed thousands of people in Libya, the country's top prosecutor will investigate the collapse of two dams in the eastern port of Derna that launched a fast-moving wall of water, Al Jazeera reported. General Prosecutor Al-Sediq Al-Sour said the local authorities,



previous governments, and the allocation of the dams' maintenance funds will also be scrutinised. "I reassure citizens that whoever made mistakes or negligence, prosecutors will certainly take firm measures, file a criminal case

against him and send him to trial," al-Sour said at a news conference on Friday, according to Al Jazeera. The announcement came as rescue teams continued to search for bodies in the devastated city on Saturday.

The death toll in Derna surged to 11,300 as search efforts continued, Al Jazeera reported citing The Libyan Red Crescent. However, another 10,100 individuals are reported missing in the Mediterranean city, said Marie el-

Drese, the secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Libya. However, the officials in the east and west of the divided country gave different estimates. The World Health Organization (WHO) on Saturday said in a release, "The bodies of 3,958 people have been recovered and identified" with 9,000 more still missing. The WHO also announced 29 tonnes of health supplies for the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, reported Al Jazeera. Ahmed Zouiten, the WHO's representative in Libya, said, "This is a disaster of epic proportions. We are saddened by the unspeakable loss of thousands of souls." The figure could reach 20,000, according to Derna's mayor, Abdel-Moneim Al-Ghaithi, given the sheer number of neighbourhoods affected. On Sunday night, the flooding in Derna carried away entire families, exposing vulnerabilities in the oil-rich nation, which

has been embroiled in strife ever since a 2011 uprising that deposed long-reigning autocrat Muammar Gaddafi. The IFRC on Friday said emergency workers sifting through the mud and rubble are still hopeful of finding survivors. Access to Derna is still very difficult due to the destruction of roads and bridges as well as the cutting of phone and electricity connections to large areas where at least 30,000 people are now without a place to live. The United Nations said in a statement, "With the collapse of most roads, the municipality [of Derna] is urging relevant authorities to establish a sea corridor for emergency relief and evacuations." Petheri Taalas, the UN's World Meteorological Organisation chief, said that several fatalities could have been avoided had a warning been issued earlier and emergency management systems functioned properly in the war-scarred country, Al Jazeera reported. -ANI

SAVING WILDLIFE

Bhutan records milestone in snow leopard conservation with 40% rise

THIMPHU: Bhutan has hit a milestone in snow leopard conservation with a nearly 40 per cent increase in the animal's population in the country, The Bhutan Live reported. The presence of 134 snow leopards has been confirmed in the country by the National Snow Leopard Survey 2022-2023. This represents a nearly 40 per cent increase from the country's first survey in 2016 when 96 snow leopards were recorded, as per The Bhutan Live. The snow leopard is classified as vulnerable on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. Snow leopards face a global threat with as few as 4,000 remaining in the wild. Found in 12 countries across Asia's high mountains, snow leopards are threatened by habitat degradation, prey depletion, conflict



with humans, poaching and climate change. The survey suggests that Bhutan's efforts to conserve snow leopards are having a positive impact though the global population of snow leopards is declining. Deputy chief forestry officer of the Department of Forests and Park Services, Letro, said: "I think

we have a very strong conservation policy and we put a lot of conservation efforts. Moreover, we put a lot of community-based conservation initiatives which makes our community and the local people stewards of the snow leopards. National Conservation Policy is contributing towards the increasing population of the

snow leopards." The survey represents an important addition to the knowledge of snow leopards, a species that is difficult to study as knowing their exact population remains challenging. This, the Department of Forests and Park Services say is due to the harsh mountainous terrain where they dwell. Despite the challenge, Bhutan with funding support from the Bhutan For Life Project and WWF Bhutan conducted its second national snow leopard survey last year to show a robust population of this species. The survey was completed by over 70 rangers from the Snow Leopard Range offices. The survey covered more than 9,000 km sq of snow leopard habitat across the northern alpine landscape of the country with 310 camera trap stations, according to The Bhutan Live. (ANI)

CHALLENGES

Export of saffron from Afghanistan falls

KABUL: Afghanistan's export of saffron has decreased this year compared to the previous years, according to businessmen in the country, TOLO News reported. TOLO News is an Afghan news channel broadcasting from Kabul. As per the businessmen, the challenges of issuing visas and banking restrictions are factors that have had a negative effect on the country's saffron exports. A trader, Mohammad Nazir, said: "Afghanistan's Herat saffron has good quality. The export of the plant is carried out all over the world, especially in Asian and European countries, but the reason for the decrease in saffron exports compared to previous years is the restrictions on issuing visas and the banking system, but there are still exports." "Saffron is a very good source of income for our country. Especially for the farmers of the west region, saffron is cultivated in all prov-

inces of Afghanistan, said Khanjan Alokzai, a member of ACCI. Afghanistan's Taliban-appointed Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock estimates that more than 23,000 tonnes of saffron will be collected from the fields of various provinces in the current solar year. "Last year we harvested 23,000 tonnes of saffron and this year we hope that this amount will increase," said Musbahuddin Mustaeen. Meanwhile, the Taliban's Ministry of Industry and Commerce reported that in the first three months of the solar year, more than seven million US dollars' worth of saffron was exported to various countries of the world. During the first quarter of this year, an amount of 9,122 kg of saffron has been exported, the value of which is \$7.1 million, and compared to the first quarter of last year, it increased by 12 percent. -ANI

MAKE IN INDIA

Ajay Banga's inspiring World Bank journey

WASHINGTON, DC: World Bank President Ajay Banga's statement that "I am the perfect example of Make in India," in a recent interview, shows his remarkable journey but also serves as an inspiring journey of an Indian-educated youth who settled at one of the most influential positions in the global financial arena, Khalsa Vox reported on Sunday. Ajay Banga who hails from India, spent his formative years and received his education exclusively from Indian institutes and didn't pursue any educational course abroad. Ajay Banga's journey underscored the quality and competence of education available within India and demonstrates that one can achieve great heights through dedication and hard work, regardless of where they start. Banga in his interview, emphasized the role of luck, hard work, and the ability to seize opportunities in achieving success. He underscored that luck plays a significant part in one's journey but added that the remainder of success is built upon relentless effort and capitalizing on opportunities as they arise. Banga was entrusted by US President Joe Biden during China's growing challenge to the traditional Washington-led global financial order. Banga's unique perspective as an Indian-educated professional brings a fresh perspective to this



challenge, illustrating the global significance of Indian talent and expertise. The World Bank Chief also challenged the notion of a 'Washington-dominated world.' He pointed out that over half of the World Bank's employees are located outside the United States, highlighting the institution's global nature and the importance of diverse voices in shaping its future. Ajay Banga's vision for the World Bank is to redefine the mission of the organisation and make it more inclusive. Ajay Banga's journey from an Indian youth to the helm of the World Bank serves as a testament to the potential that Indian education and talent hold on the global stage. His vision for the institution, coupled with his pragmatic approach to geopolitics, promises to bring a fresh perspective to the world of global finance and development. -ANI

MILITARY COOPERATION

North Korea's Kim Jong Un leaves Russia

MOSCOW: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un left Russia on Sunday after a visit that focused heavily on military cooperation between the two countries. At the end of his visit, reports said Kim received explosive drones and protective clothing as gifts.

How Kim's Russia tour ended Kim departed for home aboard his armored train from Russia's Far Eastern city of Artyom. The Ria Novosti agency published a video and said a "departure ceremony" was held before Kim's train set off on a journey of around 250 kilometres to the border. Russia's TASS news agency said the North Korean leader had "received five kamikaze drones and a 'Geran-25' reconnaissance drone with vertical takeoff." In addition, the agency also said the governor of the Primorye region Oleg Kozhemyako "offered Kim Jong Un a set of bulletproof protection" and "special clothing not detectable by thermal cameras." Earlier on Sunday, Kim toured a university and took in a walrus show at an aquarium. A video released by Russia's RIA Novosti state news agency showed Kim dressed in a black suit and accompanied by his top officials, walking through the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University in Russky Island. Kim visited the Primorsky Aquarium, Russia's largest aquarium, to watch performances by beluga whales, bottlenose dolphins, fur seals, and the famed walrus "Misha," according to Russian state media. During his visit to Russia, Kim



MILITARY COOPERATION: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un headed home with some explosive souvenirs from his weeklong tour of Russia.

conducted inspections of Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers, hypersonic missiles, and warships on Saturday. North Korean state media said Kim had discussions with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to expand "strategic and tactical coordination" between their countries' militaries. The pair were said to have engaged in discussions to enhance military cooperation, marking what Pyongyang describes as a "new era" in bilateral relations. Kim's visit is a rare occurrence for the North Korean leader, who seldom leaves his country. Earlier in the week, he met

Russian President Vladimir Putin, where discussions covered military matters, the situation in Ukraine, and the deepening of cooperation between the two countries. The warming military ties between North Korea and Russia have raised concerns among the United States and its allies, particularly in light of Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine and North Korea's progress in missile and nuclear development. Both South Korea and the US expressed on Friday that military cooperation between North Korea and Russia would violate UN sanctions against Pyongyang, and they

pledged to ensure consequences for such actions. South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol said the international community "will unite more tightly" to cope with deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea. Russia has also talked about the possibility of military collaboration with North Korea. Moscow is actively exploring the possibility of joint military exercises with North Korea, as confirmed by Shoigu to Russian media. Shoigu had previously visited Pyongyang in July, where he toured a weapons exhibition with Kim. -ANI

SPORTS

Red-hot Siraj sizzles as India lift Asia Cup

In a lopsided final, Rohit Sharma's men won by ten wickets after Siraj ran through the hosts' batting with a six-wicket spell

COLOMBO: The 2023 Asia Cup final turned out to be an anti-climax as India's pacer Mohammed Siraj singlehandedly decimated Sri Lanka in the blink of an eye at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday to give India's their eighth Asia Cup title, the seventh 50-over crown to go with one in the T20 format in 2016.

In overcast conditions that saw the match delayed by 40 minutes, Siraj got the new ball to move around and picked up 6 for 21, the fourth-best ODI figures for India.

He took just 16 balls for his first five wickets - the joint-fastest five-for in ODIs alongside Sri Lanka's Chaminda Vaas and USA's Ali Khan, since 2002, which is when definitive ball-by-ball records have been kept.

As a result, Sri Lanka were all out for 50 - their second-lowest ODI total - with only two batters reaching double digits. The whole innings lasted just 15.2 overs, the fifth-shortest in ODIs overall.

In response, Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan, opening the innings in place of Rohit Sharma, took just 6.1 overs to reach the target for an easy 10-wicket win. The India openers hit nine fours between them; all Sri Lanka batters combined hit five.

Delayed start

After losing the toss, Rohit Sharma said that he too had wanted to bat first on what he called "a dry wicket". But ten minutes before the scheduled start, it started raining. Perhaps that changed the whole situation. When the match finally started after a delay of 40 minutes, Jasprit Bumrah got the ball to move in both directions. With his third delivery, he had Kusal Perera caught behind. Sri Lanka were in for an even ruder shock from the other end.

Siraj started with a maiden, beating Kusal Mendis' outside edge four times in the over. In his next over, he had four wickets. Pathum Nissanka was the first to depart, pushing a length delivery uppishly towards backward point, where Ravindra Jadeja dived low to his right to catch. Two balls later, Siraj trapped Sad-eera Samarawickrama lbw and then immediately after that had Charith Asalanka chipping one to cover. Dhananjaya de Silva survived the hat-trick ball.



Maiden ODI fifer for Siraj

In fact, he pushed it through the vacant mid-on region for four. Such was Siraj's adrenaline that he chased it all the way to the long-on boundary, leaving the Indian fielders splitting their sides with laughter.

Dhananjaya did not last much longer; next ball, Siraj finished the over by having him caught behind, thus becoming the fourth bowler after Vaas, Mohammad Sami and Adil Rashid to take four wickets in an over in ODIs (where data is available). In his next over, Siraj uprooted Dasun Shanaka's off stump to complete his maiden ODI five-wicket haul.

At 12 for 6, Sri Lanka were in danger of being bowled out for the lowest ODI total. Mendis and Dunieth Wellalage saved them from that ignominy by adding 21 for the seventh wicket. But Siraj

wasn't done yet. In the 12th over, he got one to nip back to rattle Mendis' middle stump.

Gill, Kishan seal victory

Soon after, Hardik Pandya wrapped up the innings with three quick wickets. Gill and Kishan faced no trouble in chasing down the paltry target, with Gill opening his account by flicking Pramod Madushan for four on the last ball of the first over.

From the other end, Kishan struck back-to-back fours off Matheesha Pathirana, only for Gill to go one up on him in the next over with three in three balls. Off the first ball of the seventh over, Kishan sealed the win with a single to long-off.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 50 in 15.2 overs (Mohammed Siraj 6-21, Hardik Pandya 3-3) lost to India India 51/0 in 6.1 overs (Shubman Gill 27*, Ishan Kishan 23*). - Agencies

'Plan was to keep it simple, and I kept getting wickets'

COLOMBO: Mohammed Siraj's fourth over against hosts Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup 2023 final was bang, bang, bang, bang. In just one over, the pacer had ripped through the Sri Lankan top order with four wickets in one over and finishing with a spectacular spell - 6/21. "Like a dream," he called it, and put it down to "keeping it simple" and "executing my line and length". And the batters kept falling.

"Last time, against Sri Lanka, in Trivandrum, I had taken the first four wickets [three of the first four], but couldn't get the fifth," Siraj told Sanjay Manjrekar on the official broadcast between innings, *ESPNcricinfo* reported.

"Then I realised that you only get what is in your destiny, not more, however hard you try. So the plan was to keep it simple and execute my line and length, and I kept getting wickets." He added: "Today, I was getting so much swing that I tried to make the batsmen drive, drag them forward and get their wickets. That was the plan. I didn't run after wickets, but the conditions did a lot of work for me. If you keep hitting the wickets with one line, you will keep getting wickets."

Prize money donated

Rain was a constant in the Sri Lanka leg of matches at the Asia Cup, and the groundspersons in

Pallekele and Colombo put in a heroic effort to ensure more cricket was played than might have been thought possible.

India captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli at different points in the tournament, thanked the groundspersons, and Siraj went one step further after the final, donating his Player-of-the-Match prize money to the team of workers. "This cash prize [US \$5,000] goes to the groundsmen. They deserve it fully. This tournament wouldn't have been possible without them," Siraj said. Earlier in the day, the Asian Cricket Council had announced an award of US \$50,000 for the team of groundspersons as well.



ENGLAND WORLD CUP SQUAD

Brook drafted in as Roy gets the axe

LONDON: Jason Roy has been axed from England's World Cup squad, with Harry Brook drafted in in his place, after the selectors made a late amendment to their 15-man squad for the tournament in India which gets underway in just under three weeks' time.

Roy, 33, was an integral member of the England squad that won the World Cup in 2019, and had been named in England's provisional squad for the defence of their title, ahead of their four-match series against New Zealand this month.

However, he was unable to feature in any of the four games after suffering a series of back spasms. In his absence, Roy's rival for the opener's role, Dawid Malan, made an unequivocal case for a starting role in the tournament, finishing as Player of the Series with 277 runs at 92.33 in three games, including a match-winning century at Lord's.

Consequently, it will be Malan and Jonny Bairstow who will open the batting for England when their tournament gets underway against New Zealand in Ahmedabad on October 5, with Brook - the notable omission from their original 15-man squad - preferred to Roy as the squad's reserve batter.

Brook himself did not make a convincing case for his inclusion in the course of the New Zealand series, managing a total of 37 from 68 balls all told, including two stints as an opener following Roy's original back spasm.

However, Brook's outstanding displays across formats this past year - most notably in Test cricket, where he has made 1181 runs at 62.15 and a strike-rate of 91, but also with a sensational 41-ball century for Northern Superchargers in the Hundred - have convinced the selectors that he is an asset they cannot do without.

FORMULA ONE

Sainz triumphs in Singapore thriller

SINGAPORE: Carlos Sainz converted pole position into a second career victory as the Spaniard held off the charge of Lando Norris and the Mercedes pair of Lewis Hamilton and George Russell - who crashed on the final lap - to take a well-earned win at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday - the first non-Red Bull win of the season.

Sainz kept a hold of the lead at the start but with Charles Leclerc having opted to start on the softs, as opposed to those around him on the mediums, the Monegasque was able to jump ahead of Russell for second place.

He then navigated a Safety Car - caused by Logan Sargeant crashing into the barrier - to keep a hold of the lead, as he later held off the challenge of Russell, Norris, and Hamilton.

But after Esteban Ocon - running in sixth at the time - stopped on track with a suspected gearbox issue, Mercedes used the Virtual Safety Car to stop their drivers for some new medium tyres, setting up a grandstand finish.

But despite Russell and Hamilton getting past Leclerc, they could not overtake Sainz and Norris, with the Spaniard gifting his former McLaren team-mate some DRS in the closing stages to hold off the Silver Arrows pair, and sealing a second career win.

Russell's hopes of a podium ended in the barrier at Turn 10 on the final lap as he looked to get past Norris for second, allowing the McLaren driver to take his third podium finish of the season, while Hamilton took third place.

Leclerc was able to hold off the fast-charging Max Verstappen for fourth at the end, with the Red Bull driver recovering from a difficult outing, that at one stage saw him being overtaken by the leading drivers for the first time this season, to take fifth.

Pierre Gasly was an impressive sixth for Alpine, while Oscar Piastri took seventh for McLaren. Sergio Perez ended up eighth - although he is being investigated for his part in a collision with Alex Albon.



Liam Lawson scored the first points of his short F1 career for AlphaTauri as he took ninth, ahead of the lead Haas of Kevin Magnussen. Alex Albon wound up 11th for Williams, ahead of Alfa Romeo's Zhou Guanyu, and the other Haas of Nico Hulkenberg.

Both Sargeant and Fernando Alonso had their fair share of inci-

dents in the race as the latter had a five-second penalty, a slow pit stop, and went off track to finish last of the remaining runners behind the American rookie in 14th.

Russell's crash at the end meant he, alongside Valtteri Bottas, Yuki Tsunoda - who sustained a puncture in the opening lap of the race - and Ocon did not finish the race.

DEALERS MEET IN OMAN

Milano, the renowned Italian brand and a cherished member of the Danube Group, renowned for its premium bath and home solutions across the Middle East, hosted its annual Dealers' Meet in Oman on September 8. >**B2**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,711.25 points, down by 0.31 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.15 per cent at 469.35 points. Phoenix Power, up 1.79 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 6.32 per cent, was the top loser. >**B2**

EDO completes its inaugural benchmark \$1bn sukuk issuance

Investor participation was widespread and global, with over 175 orders received from regions including Europe, the UK, the US, the Middle East and Asia

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Energy Development Oman (EDO) SAOC announced the successful completion of its inaugural benchmark sukuk issuance of \$1 billion.

The offering was oversubscribed

by more than five times, reflecting strong investor confidence in EDO as the national energy leader in the Sultanate of Oman.

Investor participation was widespread and global, with over 175 orders received from regions including Europe, the UK, the US,

the Middle East, and Asia. The sukuk was successfully priced at a profit rate of 5.875 per cent, with a 10-year maturity period.

Commenting on the new issuance, Mazin Al Lamki, the CEO of EDO, stated, "We take great pride in this significant transaction, which underscores international investors' endorsement of our ongoing commitment to strengthen Oman's energy strategy. We deeply appreciate our investors' trust in us, highlighting our robust creditworthiness and our transformation into a fully integrated energy enterprise. Furthermore, this fresh offering aligns with EDO's funding strategy to extend the debt maturity timeline in accordance with our capital struc-

ture and corporate objectives."

Standard & Poor's and Fitch have assigned a BB rating to the senior unsecured Sukuk Al Ijara/Murabaha, which has been priced with a spread of 165 basis points over US Treasuries. These trust certificates will be issued within the framework of EDO Sukuk Limited's trust certificate issuance programme.

Bank Muscat SAOG, National Bank of Oman SAOG, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank PJSC, Arab Banking Corporation BSC, Dubai Islamic Bank PJSC, First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC, J.P. Morgan Securities plc, KFH Capital Investment Company KSCC, Mashreqbank PSC, and Standard Chartered Bank collaborated as co-lead managers and bookrunners for the issuance.



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This fresh offering aligns with EDO's funding strategy to extend the debt maturity timeline

Mazin Al Lamki
CEO of EDO

INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCES

Money exchange companies introduce Unified Common Service Charge in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a significant move towards enhancing customer experience and transparency, 13 money exchange companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman have introduced a Unified Common Service Charge for international remittances to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines and Sri Lanka, set at a minimum of OMR2.

This initiative aims to provide greater consistency and fairness in the fees associated with international money transfers, ensuring that customers receive a clear and uniform understanding of charges. Furthermore, the Common Exchange Rate System will be applicable for remittances to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Customers sending funds to these countries will benefit from a standardised exchange rate, which reflects the commitment of the Money Exchange Companies Forum to promoting equitable and reliable financial services.

The sources also added that as a very special social consideration, members shall offer a discounted charge of OMR1.2 for small value transactions of up to OMR50 to Bangladesh for a limited period



through their arrangements.

It is important to note that while the common service charge applies to all specified countries, there will be additional bank-end charges or incentives applicable for remittances to the respective countries as per the local policies of those countries.

"We are excited to introduce this Unified Service Charge and Exchange rate system, as it un-

derscores our commitment to customer satisfaction and transparency," the Exchange Company members stated. "Our aim is to simplify the process of international money transfers while upholding the highest standards of transparency, integrity and fairness," they added.

The money exchange companies invite customers, partners, and stakeholders to benefit from this

transformative initiative, which is set to revolutionise the remittance landscape in Oman.

Money exchange companies also urged customers to use legal remittance channels approved by the regulator which are transparent and fully secure, since there won't be any protection and guarantee for the hard-earned money being sent through illegal and unapproved channels.

GENERAL AUTHORITY OF CIVIL AVIATION

GACA issues performance of domestic and international airports of Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) issued its August report on the performance of domestic and international airports in Saudi Arabia.

Airports are assessed according to 14 basic performance measurement criteria. The assessment comes in implementation of the strategic directions aimed at improving the services provided to and the traveller experience across the Kingdom's airports.

King Abdulaziz International Airport (KAIA), King Fahd International Airport (KFIA), Abha International Airport, Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Regional Airport in Qassim and Gurayat Domestic Airport came top in the report.

For fairness in evaluating the performance of airports, GACA divides their performance into five categories.

Among international airports with more than 15 million passengers annually, Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport took first place, with a compliance rate of 91 per cent, followed by Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport with 82 per cent.

In the category of international airports with five to 15 mil-

lion passengers annually, KFIA led with a compliance rate of 82 per cent, Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport achieved a compliance rate, of 82 per cent, and KFIA outperformed Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport in terms of the average waiting time for arriving and departing flights.

Among international airports with two to five million passengers annually, Abha International Airport took first place, with a 91 per cent compliance rate and King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Jizan followed with an 82 per cent compliance rate.

In the category of international airports with less than two million passengers, Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Regional Airport achieved a 100 per cent compliance rate, outperforming peers in terms of total average waiting time for departing and arriving flights. Regarding domestic airports, Gurayat Domestic Airport came on top with a 100 per cent compliance rate, surpassing peers in terms of total average waiting time for departing and arriving flights. -SPA

EWASTE MANAGEMENT

Port of Duqm embarks on green voyage: A significant step towards achieving sustainable development goals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Port of Duqm signed an agreement with Evergreen Gulf Recycling Hub (EGRH), the regional leader in e-waste recycling.

The collaboration will result in responsible e-waste collection and responsible disposal including recycling and up-cycling. PODC pledged to channel the proceeds generated from the e-waste programme to the corporate social responsibility fund, which will strengthen the acclaimed CSR programmes of PODC, and ensure the communities are benefited.

e-waste management is one of the key green initiatives Port of Duqm envisaged in line with Oman Vision 2040 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These programmes will be in line with the port's ambitions towards 'creating a green sustainable hub for the future'.

eWaste is a growing concern across the globe and region which is growing at an exponential rate and there is an urgent need to ensure eWaste is managed to make sure appropriate technologies are deployed and awareness is created across the stakeholders.

There will be at least three kiosks across Duqm and Muscat to safely deposit the collected e-waste before transferring it to EGRH. EGRH is equipped with an advanced process line to process the e-waste and AI-enabled technologies to sort at the molecule



level are in the pipeline.

PODC will play a key role in collecting the e-waste from various stakeholders in Duqm and managing them for responsible disposal. Data security is taken care of and there are options for Green Certificates and shredding the hard drives onsite for an extra level of assurance. Upcycling will ensure that nonrenewable resources are conserved, and cost optimisation is achieved in the production line. Resource optimisation is one of the major aspects of the journey towards sustainable development.

Port of Duqm is addressing all the possible avenues to embrace green projects and ensure they are embedded in port businesses for sustainable development. eWaste management programme scope is widened to attract stakeholders and their participation in such programmes.

Strategic MoU with Unicorn International

In an important step, the Port of Duqm has signed an agreement, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with Unicorn International, a well-known company in energy-conservation solutions. This team-up is expected to be a source of new ideas, combining the port's broad plans with Unicorn's skills in saving energy, solar power, Net Zero Buildings, HVAC controls, mission-critical facilities, and aggrotech technologies. This combined effort is set to explore the huge potential of the Port of Duqm to include green ideas in all its activities, starting projects that cover a broad range of efforts to conserve the environment and promote sustainability.

Youth awareness

The MoU outlines a rich variety



of green projects that aim to enhance Port of Duqm's business operations. The plan includes creating sustainable buildings with modern technology and starting smart building projects such as new HVAC controls and solar energy projects. This partnership is ready to start a new period of earth-friendly projects at the Port of Duqm.

Besides, the team-up will investigate opportunities in regenerative braking technology, which is set to change the way we save energy. More than just building advancements, the MoU aims to start youth education sessions to increase awareness about environmental sustainability among young people. This partnership also creates chances for broad marketing opportunities, highlighting the green projects that will become a feature of the Port of Duqm.

Phased implementation

Acknowledging the complexity and wide impact of these projects, Unicorn International will help create a step-by-step plan to start these green projects. This plan aims to achieve quick wins while keeping a focus on the long-term goal. The partnership promises to not only plan but also realise practical green projects that show the port's dedication to caring for the environment.

As the Port of Duqm is about to start a green revolution, its planned partnership with Unicorn International signifies a big step in its efforts to reach the Sustainability Development Goals. This effort not only represents the port's promise to promote a greener environment but also starts a new period where new ideas meet sustainability, guiding the port to a future that is both successful and in harmony with the environment.

FITCH RATINGS

Fitch marginally raises global growth forecast for 2023 to 2.5%

NEW DELHI: Fitch Ratings has upwardly revised the global growth forecast for 2023 by 10 basis points to 2.5 per cent, reflecting surprising resilience so far this year in the US, Japan, and emerging markets excluding China.

The slump in China's property market is casting a shadow over global growth prospects, just as monetary tightening increasingly weighs on the demand outlook in the US and Europe, says Fitch in its September 2023 GEO, released earlier this week.

Fitch has raised US growth by 0.8 per cent to 2.0 per cent, Japan by 0.7 per cent to 2.0 per cent and emerging markets excluding China by 0.5 per cent to 3.4 per cent.

However, the rating agency has lowered the world growth forecast for 2024 by 0.2 per cent to 1.9 per cent with widespread downward revisions.

The previously hoped-for stabilisation in China's housing market has failed to materialise and new sales could fall by a fifth this year, it said.

"Housing is a third of investment and 12 per cent of Chinese GDP and has strong multiplier impacts on the wider economy. Policy easing has been underwhelming to date and export demand is falling," it said. -ANI

MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Phoenix Power, up 1.79 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 6.32 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,711.25 points, down by 0.31 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.15 per cent at 469.35 points. Phoenix Power, up 1.79 per cent, was the top gainer while National Gas, down 6.32 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 368 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.63 million, with more than 8.56 million shares changing hands. Out of 34 traded securities, 5 advanced, 15 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR224,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR151,000, followed by GCC and Arab investors for OMR73,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,691.46 points, down 0.38 per cent. Prices of United Finance were up by 1.79 per cent respec-

tively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Ahli Bank, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Ominvest were up by 5.00 per cent, 2.94 per cent, 1.34 per cent, 1.25 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,754.32 points, down 0.19 per cent. Prices of Oman Packaging, Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 1.54 per cent, 1.06 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Oman Chromite, Raysut Cement, Jazeera Steel Products, Oman Flour Mills were up by 6.15 per cent, 1.90 per cent, 0.71 per cent, 0.40 per cent, 0.18 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.23 per cent before closing at 1,637.44 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Oman Telecom were up by 1.79 per cent, 0.10 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Oman National Engineering, Ooredoo were up by 4.17 per cent, 1.45 per cent, 1.03 per cent, 0.95 per cent, 0.26 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,734.72	4,705.02	4,711.25	4,725.90	-14.66	-0.31
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,723.45	7,682.28	7,691.46	7,720.74	-29.28	-0.38
Industry Index	5,807.62	5,749.71	5,754.32	5,765.35	-11.03	-0.19
Services Index	1,644.88	1,637.27	1,637.44	1,641.19	-3.75	-0.23
MSX Shariah Index	471.74	468.86	469.35	470.05	-0.71	-0.15
MSX TR INDEX	6,233.83	6,194.72	6,202.92	6,222.22	-19.30	-0.31
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,427.70	8,382.78	8,392.79	8,424.75	-31.95	-0.38
SERVICES TR IDX	1,816.69	1,808.28	1,808.47	1,812.61	-4.14	-0.23
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,203.98	6,142.12	6,147.05	6,158.83	-11.78	-0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,569,993	2,631,949	368	23,731,514,767	5	15	14	34

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	100,267	5,715	2	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.055	0.058	0.100	20,299,256
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	36,576	7,059	11	0.200	0.200	0.188	0.190	0.188	0.002	1.064	0.190	0.188	0.190	0.100	41,800,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	714,267	722,267	37	1.014	1.017	1.009	1.010	1.009	0.001	0.099	1.010	1.010	1.010	0.100	757,500,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	951,585	285,470	33	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	487,783,907
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	340	1	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.320	0.340	0.100	112,496,721
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO	3,000	204	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.100	6,120,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,720,843	775,976	77	0.286	0.286	0.284	0.285	0.285	0.000	0.000	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.100	2,139,323,163
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	215,000	88,150	12	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.410	0.000	0.000	0.410	0.405	0.409	0.100	96,928,100
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	544,911	57,103	22	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	574,128,293
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	3,673	312	2	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	828,074	317,867	38	0.389	0.389	0.383	0.384	0.385	-0.001	-0.260	0.384	0.384	0.384	0.100	249,962,584
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	311,570	77,581	3	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.249	0.250	-0.001	-0.400	0.249	0.247	0.254	0.100	31,099,582
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	45,755	4,794	3	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.104	0.109	0.100	15,600,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	130,000	51,350	4	0.395	0.395	0.395	0.395	0.400	-0.005	-1.250	0.395	0.395	0.395	0.100	264,004,343
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	2,110	145	5	0.070	0.070	0.068	0.068	0.069	-0.001	-1.449	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	13,575,221
Total	IS	6,608,611	2,394,334	251												
Parallel Market																
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	11,893	682	6	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.056	0.057	0.100	83,368,283
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	11,232	2,224	2	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.198	0.195	0.003	1.538	0.198	0.198	0.212	0.100	6,422,300
OM0000001707	OMAN CARBLES INDUSTRY	1,250	2,488	2	2.000	2.000	1.950	1.950	1.950	0.000	0.000	1.950	1.900	1.950	0.100	174,915,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	105,000	8,190	7	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	16,068,000
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	2,880	176	1	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.100	4,271,828
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,052,921	102,967	48	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000000781	MUSANDAM POWER	2,000	544	1	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.000	0.000	0.272	0.270	0.275	0.100	19,146,080
OM00000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	70,000	7,000	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.102	0.100	20,000,000
OM00000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	59,333	17,385	27	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.000	0.000	0.293	0.293	0.295	0.100	225,668,600
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	537	303	1	0.565	0.565	0.565	0.565	0.566	-0.001	-0.177	0.565	0.565	0.566	0.100	88,987,500
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	540	75	1	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.140	-0.001	-0.714	0.139	0.138	0.139	0.100	27,800,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	3,130	300	2	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.098	0.096	0.100	91,638,907
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	2,098	299	3	0.138	0.147	0.138	0.147	0.149	-0.002	-1.342	0.147	0.138	0.147	0.100	45,228,137
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	368	1,874	3	5.098	5.100	5.000	5.100	5.199	-0.099	-1.904	5.100	5.000	5.100	0.100	15,300,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	500,000	82,500	4	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.170	-0.005	-2.941	0.165	0.165	0.170	0.100	387,693,482
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	26,000	598	3	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.024	-0.001	-4.167	0.023	0.022	0.023	0.100	16,431,346
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	2,000	76	1	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.040	-0.002	-5.000	0.038	0.038	0.040	0.100	3,230,000
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	200	24	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.130	-0.008	-6.154	0.122	0.120	0.130	0.100	9,931,136
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	110,000	9,890	3	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.095	-0.006	-6.316	0.089	0.089	0.090	0.100	7,565,000
Total	IS	1,961,382	237,615	117												

TRADE AGREEMENT

Chinese companies benefited from the preferential tariff policies under CAFTA

NANNING: With the barrier gate for customs release lifted, 6 tonnes of blended yarn was imported tariff-free to China through Dongxing, a border city in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The yarn was produced in a Vietnamese production line of the cotton yarn production giant Texhong International Group Limited and will be further processed to produce fabrics in China.

Chen Yingjian, a business manager of the company in charge of cargo imports in Dongxing, said the company has benefited from the preferential tariff policies under the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) implemented in 2010, while the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has further lowered their duty costs.

Among all the goods for which the company declared duty with Dongxing Customs, the value of those that were granted tax breaks



amounted to \$2.5 million in the first eight months of this year, according to Chen.

Connected by both land and sea, China and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) have enjoyed ever-growing trade ties over the years, with the CAFTA and the RCEP helping cut trade costs and boost supply chain construction between China and ASEAN.

The RCEP is comprised of 15 members - the 10 ASEAN member states, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. The RCEP was signed in November 2020 and went into effect on January 1, 2022, to gradu-

ally eliminate tariffs on over 90 percent of goods traded among its members.

Official data shows that the bilateral trade volume between China and ASEAN had increased from about \$100 billion in 2004 to \$975.34 billion in 2022. China has been ASEAN's largest trading partner for 14 consecutive years, while ASEAN has been China's largest trading partner for three consecutive years.

As of July, two-way investments topped \$380 billion, while more than 6,500 enterprises with direct investment from China had been established in ASEAN. -Xinhua

STATISTICS

EU tourism at decade high in first half of 2023

BRUSSELS: The EU tourism industry is experiencing a strong recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first half of 2023, the number of nights spent in tourist accommodations reached its highest level in the past decade, signalling a notable resurgence in the industry's performance in many countries, according to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

In the first half of this year, there were 1193 million nights spent in tourist accommodations, marking an increase of nearly 11 million compared to the same period in 2019 (1182 million, +0.9 per cent). Additionally, there were 136 million more overnight stays than in the first half of 2022 (1057 million, +12.9 per cent). -WAM

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ANNUAL EVENT

Milano Dealers Meet 2023 in Oman celebrates success, builds connections

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Milano, the renowned Italian brand and a cherished member of the Danube Group, renowned for its premium bath and home solutions across the Middle East, hosted its annual Dealers' Meet in Oman on September 8.

The grand event took place at the opulent Grand Hyatt Hotel and drew a remarkable gathering of over 400 dealers. Milano's commitment to nurturing strong dealer relationships and acknowledging their invaluable contributions to the brand was at the forefront of this extraordinary gathering.

Milano recognises the significance of its expanding dealer network as a pivotal pillar of its business. This dedication is exemplified through its innovative program, initiated in 2017, which rewards top-performing Middle Eastern dealers with luxurious vacations as a testament to their outstanding achievements and commitment to promoting the Milano brand.

In its inaugural year, this initiative whisked dedicated dealers away to Switzerland, followed by an Italian cruise in its second year. The tradition has continued, with high-achieving traders embarking on unforgettable journeys to Georgia, London, and Singapore in subsequent years. The eagerly anticipated scheme for this year promises to transport them to the



enchanted destinations of Switzerland, Paris and Disneyland.

Dealers were treated to exclusive one-day discounts available only to event attendees during the glittering evening, which featured world-class entertainment and performances by top artists from around the globe. Milano also provided valuable strategic insights into its business, engaged in discussions about future market expectations with the dealers, and reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to leading the industry.

Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman of the Danube Group, expressed his gratitude for Milano's enduring presence in Oman, stating, "Oman was the first country to recognize

and appreciate the Milano brand. I cannot thank the dealers of Oman enough for their pivotal role in shaping Milano into the brand it is today." He continued, "Oman is a key market for our brand, and the ongoing government development projects are fueling growth in the construction and FM sector, enabling us to connect with a broader target audience."

Sajjan shared insights into Milano's growth strategies, explaining, "Our primary objective is to meet customer needs and expand our product lines with relevant solutions, making Milano the ultimate one-stop shop for all home improvement needs."

With its extensive range of

high-quality and affordable products, Milano has become a household name in urban and suburban areas of Oman, offering not only sanitaryware but also doors, electrical, and hardware products. Expanding beyond these areas, the brand is actively engaging traders in interior regions such as Ibri, Ibra, Duqm, Nizwa, Sinaw, Al Ashkhara, Izki, Jalan Bu Ali, Al Kamil, Sur, Quriyat, Shinas, Wadijizi, and Liwa.

As part of its brand strategy, Milano aims for substantial growth in 2023. The brand has intensified its research and development efforts to introduce new products in the future and expand its global customer base.

Unhealthy snacks increase risk of strokes, cardiovascular disease

With unhealthy snacks, 25 percent of people negate the positive effects of healthy meals, which raises their risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease. Researchers from the School of Life Course & Population Sciences and ZOE outline the snacking behaviours of 854 participants from the ZOE PREDICT project in their findings, which were published today in the European Journal of Nutrition.

Dr Sarah Berry from King's College London and chief scientist at ZOE said, "Considering 95 per cent of us snack, and that nearly a quarter of our calories come from snacks, swapping unhealthy snacks such as cookies, crisps and cakes to healthy snacks like fruit and nuts is a really simple way to improve your health."

Contrary to what is often believed, the analysis demonstrated that snacking is not harmful as long as the snacks are nutritious. Compared to those who don't snack at all or who nibble on harmful foods, people who frequently eat high-quality snacks like nuts and fresh fruits are more likely to have a healthy weight. Analysis revealed that high-quality snacks

Researchers discovered that only half of the individuals matched the nutritional value of their meals and snacks. This discrepancy negatively affects health indicators including blood sugar and fat levels, and resolving it may be as easy as changing one's diet.

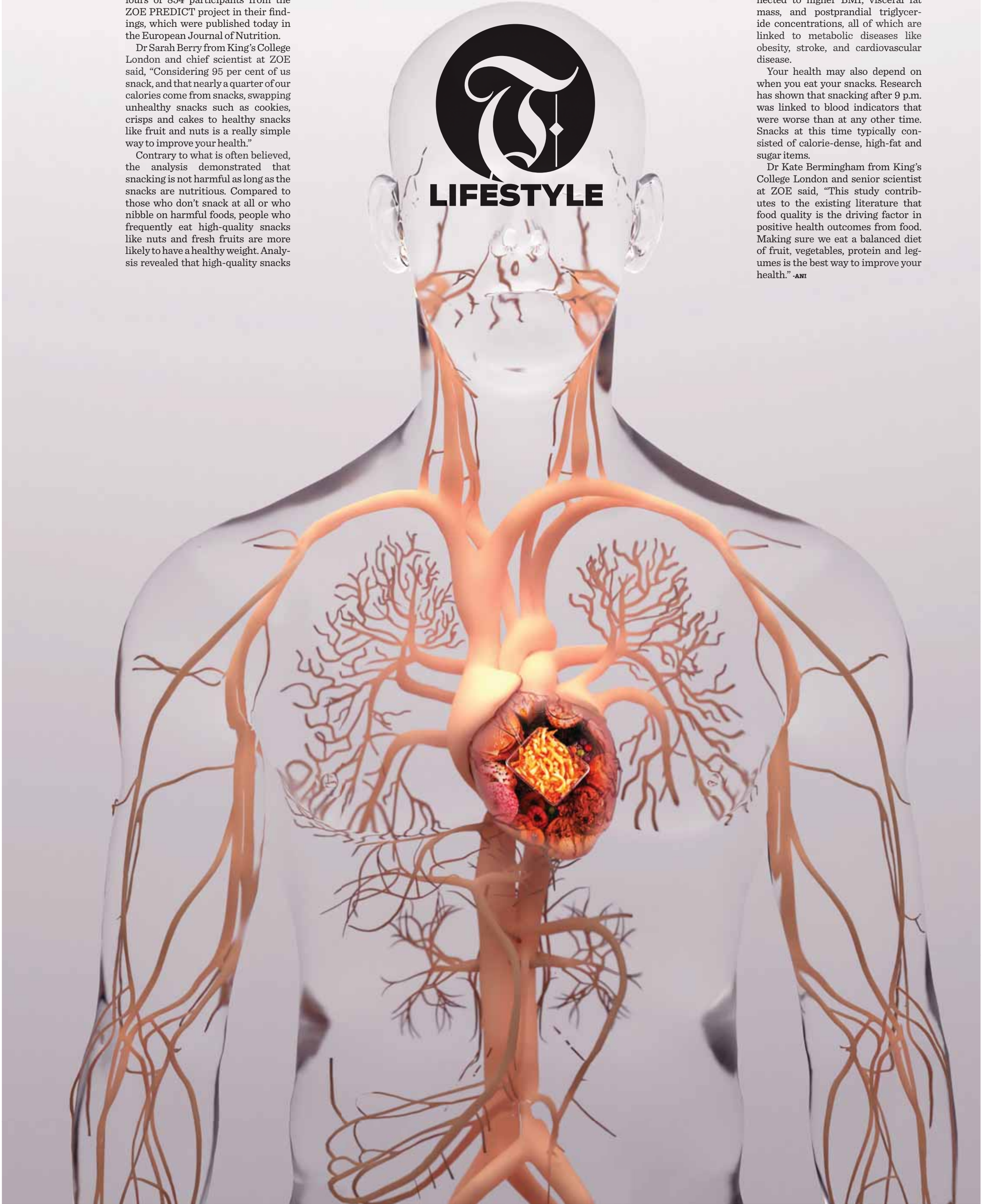
can help improve metabolic health and reduce appetite.

However, a quarter of the individuals claimed to consume unhealthy snacks in addition to healthy main meals. Poor-quality snacks, such as heavily processed foods and sweets, made people feel hungry and were linked to worse health markers.

Unhealthy snacks have been connected to higher BMI, visceral fat mass, and postprandial triglyceride concentrations, all of which are linked to metabolic diseases like obesity, stroke, and cardiovascular disease.

Your health may also depend on when you eat your snacks. Research has shown that snacking after 9 p.m. was linked to blood indicators that were worse than at any other time. Snacks at this time typically consisted of calorie-dense, high-fat and sugar items.

Dr Kate Bermingham from King's College London and senior scientist at ZOE said, "This study contributes to the existing literature that food quality is the driving factor in positive health outcomes from food. Making sure we eat a balanced diet of fruit, vegetables, protein and legumes is the best way to improve your health." **ANI**



Man City rally to down West Ham

Holders maintain their 100 percent start to the Premier League season with a 3-1 victory

LONDON: Defending champions Manchester City remained at top of the Premier League and retained their 100 percent start to the season after coming back from a goal down to win 3-1 in a difficult visit to play West Ham United on Saturday.

Pep Guardiola was back in the dugout for his side, who fell behind after James Ward-Prowse flicked Vladimir Coufal's cross beyond Ederson in the 36th minute, and West Ham could have increased their lead with better finishing.

However, City reacted in the second half, with Jeremy Doku heading the equaliser in the 46th minute. Bernardo Silva completed the turnaround when he lifted the ball home in the 76th minute and Erling Haaland scored a goal four minutes from time.

"All game we were fantastic, even when we were losing at half-



time against an incredible side," City manager Pep Guardiola told BBC Sport. "We were efficient and patient in the second half.

"It was a big win after the international break. The team showed

good spirit to survive."

City maintain their two-point lead over Tottenham and Liverpool at the top of the table, while West Ham drop to sixth thanks to their first defeat of the campaign.

Elsewhere, two goals deep into injury time kept Tottenham second and denied Sheffield United their first win of the campaign with a 2-1 triumph.

Gustavo Hamer put Sheffield

ahead in the 73rd minute and a shock away win looked to be on the cards before Richarlison flicked home a corner in the eighth minute of injury time.

There was then high drama

when Dejan Kulusevski fired home two minutes later to turn the game around, before Sheffield's Oli McBurnie was sent off as tempers boiled over.

Aston Villa also produced a late show to win 3-1 over Crystal Palace whose 76-year-old coach Rod Hodgson was taken ill before the game after trailing to Odsosne Edouard's 47th minute opener.

Jhon Duran equalised for Villa in the 87th minute, before Douglas Luiz kept his nerve to score a 98th minute penalty given after a contentious decision, and Leon Bailey added a third in the 11th minute of injury time.

Brighton piled the misery onto Manchester United with a 3-1 win at Old Trafford.

Former United player, Danny Welbeck opened the scoring in the 20th minute and Pascal Gross and Jesus Joao Pedro added further goals after 53 and 71 minutes. Substitute Hannibal Mejbri pulled a goal back for United.

Callum Wilson, who minutes earlier had seen a goal ruled out for a foul on the keeper, scored a 64th minute penalty that gave Newcastle United a much-needed 1-0 win at home to Brentford and ended a run of three defeats.

Also, Carlos Vinicius scored the 65th minute goal that gave Fulham three points against Luton Town, who have lost their first four games of the season. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA



Felix on target as Barca thrash Betis

MADRID: Joao Felix scored on Saturday night as his side Barcelona ran riot with a 5-0 win at home to Betis in Saturday's Spanish La Liga match.

The win took Barcelona to top of La Liga and extended their unbeaten run to five matches.

Felix, the Portuguese forward, who is on loan from Atletico Madrid, opened his Barca account in the 25th minute from a narrow angle after Betis keeper, Rui Silva had blocked his first effort.

Robert Lewandowski doubled Barca's lead before the break after being put through on goal, and Ferran Torres made it 3-0 at the start of the second half with a brilliant free kick round the outside of the Betis defensive wall.

Raphinha made it 4-0 with another shot from outside the penalty area in the 66th minute and Joao Cancelo scored his first Barca goal with a solo effort, nine minutes from time. Barcelona are a point ahead of Real Madrid, who host Real Sociedad on Sunday.

Barcelona had 66 percent of possession and created passing intricate moves to break down a Betis side whose best chance came when Willian Jose was denied from close range by goalkeeper

Marc-Andre Ter Stegen.

Betis, who travel to Rangers in the Europa League on Thursday, are ninth in the table.

In another match, Valencia stunned Atletico Madrid with a 3-0 win in the Mestalla Stadium to end Atletico's unbeaten start to the campaign.

Hugo Duro put Valencia 2-0 up with goals after five and 34 minutes and Javier Guerra rounded off a slightly surprising win with Valencia's third goal, nine minutes after halftime.

Athletic Club Bilbao overcame the loss of winger, Nico Williams through injury to claim a comfortable 3-0 win at home to Cadiz.

The goals came in the second half, after Oihan Sancet had hit the bar twice before the break. Gorka Guruzeta opened the header from Oscar de Marcos' cross, before Asier Villalibre nodded home after a defensive error and then set up Inaki Williams for the third in injury time.

Vedat Muriqi's outstretched foot gave Mallorca their first win of the season, as they took three points away to Celta Vigo, who still have to find their feet following the arrival of Rafa Benitez as coach. - Xinhua

ITALIAN SERIE A

Inter triumph in Milan derby



ROME: Inter Milan continued their sensational run as they won the Derby della Madonnina by humiliating AC Milan 5-1 on Saturday thanks to goals from Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Marcus Thuram, Hakan Calhanoglu and Davide Frattesi.

Both teams entered San Siro with fine forms on Saturday as the two sides kept perfect records since the start of the new season, with Inter leading the table by virtue of a superior goal-difference.

Inter Milan took a dream start just under five minutes into the game, when Thuram rolled across for Federico Dimarco from the by-line, and the full-back's strike turned out to be an assist for Mkhitaryan to redirect into the net.

Mkhitaryan had the chance to double the lead minutes later, but the Armenian saw his header wide of the post while at the other end Theo Hernandez surged into the box but only to see his attempt inches wide.

The Nerazzurri extended the lead in the 38th minute in an electric fashion when Denzel Dumfries over-hit his pass for Thuram, but the Frenchman gathered the ball and got past

Malick Thiaw to release a blockbuster that went beyond a helpless Mike Maignan.

AC Milan pulled one goal back in the 57th minute when Olivier Giroud's inspirational pass found Rafael Leao who out-paced Matteo Darmian to slot home.

As the Rossoneri just breathed a life back, Inter Milan restored the two-goal margin as Lautaro assisted for Mkhitaryan to hit in a deflected strike, leaving Maignan rooted to the spot.

In a desperate bid to avoid a defeat, AC Milan threw on three players trying to overturn the tide, however, their city rivals shattered the hopes when Calhanoglu converted a penalty earned by Lautaro, before Frattesi came off the bench to put the icing on the cake in the dying minutes.

In an earlier fixture on Saturday, Juventus dominated Lazio 3-1. Manuel Locatelli set up Dusan Vlahovic to open the scoring in the 10th minute before Federico Chiesa put the Old Lady firmly in charge by firing home a left-footed strike.

Despite Juve's wayward pass that allowed Luis Alberto to curl into the net in the 64th minute, Vlahovic bagged his brace three minutes later as Weston McKen-



Henrikh Mkhitaryan

nie's long pass found the Serbian whose nice first touch let him commit two defenders to finish with a scorcher.

The win, coupled with AC Milan's fiasco, lifted Juve to second place with 10 points, two behind Inter Milan.

Elsewhere, the Serie A defending champion Napoli fought back from 2-0 down to snatch one point after a 2-2 tie against Genoa. - Xinhua

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Dortmund edge past Freiburg



BERLIN: Borussia Dortmund bounced back from a 2-1 deficit after Mats Hummels' brace paved the way for a 4-2 victory over 10-men Freiburg at the fourth round of the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Hummels broke the deadlock, nodding home Julian Brandt's whipped corner into the box with 11 minutes into the match.

Freiburg's effort paid off just before the break as Lucas Holer equalised the scoring before Nicolas Hofer's header turned the tides in the injury time of the first half.

The visitors eventually levelled the scores at the hour mark when Niclas Fullkrug's work helped Donyell Malen to make it 2-2.

In the 82nd minute, Hofer weakened his team after he was sent off for a rude foul play on Marcel Sabitzer. Dortmund benefitted on its numerical advantage and made it 3-2 six minutes later as Hummels latched onto a loose ball inside Freiburg's penalty area. Dortmund doubled their lead through Marco Reus in the added time.

Elsewhere, Leipzig jumped to the third spot after smoothing the way for the victory with three goals within 27 minutes against hapless Augsburg. Union Berlin suffered its second straight defeat as Wolfsburg snatched a narrow 2-1 win on home soil. Stuttgart's Serhou Guirassy provided a second-half hat trick to edge winless Mainz 3-0. Hoffenheim beat Cologne 3-1 and Eintracht Frankfurt shared the spoils with Bochum following a 1-1 stalemate. - Xinhua

DIAMOND LEAGUE 2023 FINAL

Czech's Vadlejch takes title, India's Chopra finishes second

EUGENE: India's Neeraj Chopra finished second in the men's javelin throw event at the Diamond League 2023 Final in Eugene, USA, with a best effort of 83.80m on Saturday.

Chopra became the first Indian to win a Diamond League Trophy last year but could not defend his title at Hayward Field.

Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, the 2016 and 2017 Diamond League champion, won his third title with a best throw of 84.24m.

None of the athletes crossed the 85m mark in Eugene. Chopra, who

holds the Indian national record of 89.94m, won a world championship silver medal at the same venue last year with an 88.13m effort.

Reigning Olympic and world champion Chopra began with a foul on his first attempt. The 25-year-old got off the mark with an 83.80m mark with his second throw and jumped to the second spot behind Vadlejch, who started with an 84.01m effort.

An 81.37m throw on the third attempt followed by another foul from Chopra allowed Vadlejch to keep the lead despite the latter managing just one legal throw



from the first four attempts.

Tokyo 2020 silver medallist Vadlejch logged his best mark of the night with the final attempt to defeat Chopra for the second time this year. Vadlejch had also beaten Neeraj Chopra at the Zurich Diamond League last month.

Finland's Oliver Helander came third with an 83.74m throw.

Two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada finished sixth with a 74.71m throw.

En route to the final in Eugene, Chopra won the Doha and Lausanne legs of the 2023 Diamond League series but had to settle for

the second position in Zurich. He qualified for the Diamond League Final with 23 points from three meetings while Vadlejch, who competed in all four qualifying events, topped with 29 points.

European Games champion Julian Weber came second in the Diamond League series with 25 points but missed the final due to injury.

The Diamond League Final was Chopra's penultimate outing this season. His next assignment will be to defend his title at the Asian Games 2023 starting in Hangzhou later this month. - Agencies

Meethaq Islamic Banking takes part in GCC forum on zakat

During the 3-day forum, Meethaq showcased through its stall at the Oman Across Ages Museum its various customised services and facilities that are developed based on the best Islamic banking standards

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat participated recently in the GCC forum on zakat and the first meeting for zakat committees in Oman held at Oman Across Ages Museum. The forum was attended by authorities responsible for managing and distributing zakat in the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and members from zakat committees affiliated with the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs. It included as part of its activities an exhibition for zakat committees and panel discussions for committees' members. Meethaq is keen to participate in different events to showcase its wide array of services and products designed to meet the needs and aspirations



of its valued customers. During the three-day forum, Meethaq showcased through its stall at the museum its various customised services and facilities that are developed based on the best Islamic Banking standards. The digital banking services provided by Meethaq have made it easy and convenient for customers to manage their transactions, including for example, how to calculate zakat and paying zakat and charity amounts

easily through its internet and mobile banking services. Ali Ahmed Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager, Meethaq - Corporate Banking, said, "Meethaq has always been at the forefront in actively participating in different events since it is a great opportunity to meet with our valued customers and get to know more about their needs and answer any questions they might have about the services offered. Meethaq will

continue working on its strategy towards development and innovation to offer the best services possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers and wish them and the participating zakat committees all the best." Ali Al Lawati further pointed out that the zakat committees play an essential role in the Sultanate as they are constantly working towards developing projects that can ensure providing a sustain-

able income for those who are eligible for zakat. Meethaq Islamic Banking plays as well a pioneering role in providing the best banking services in line with Shari'a and encourage the community to pay their zakat through a number of awareness programmes organised throughout the year. Meethaq is proud of its partnership with the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs and cooperation in implementing a number of joined

programmes in this regard. Meethaq provides a vast array of services including several variants of Savings and Current Accounts customised to meet the needs of different customer segments, financing solutions such as Home Financing, Car Financing, Personal Goods Financing, Travel Finance, Personal Financing, Education Finance, Marriage Finance, Diminishing Musharaka Financing and Goods Murabaha Financing. Meethaq also offers credit cards, debit cards, Motor Takaful solutions, Trade Finance solutions and Hafawa Premium Banking services. With the aim of offering a full range of Islamic financial offerings to cater to the different customer segments, Meethaq provides products suited to the needs of corporates and SMEs which include current account, project financing, working capital facilities and tailored financing solutions based on their business needs. Since its inception, Meethaq has established the largest Islamic branch network in Oman with 27 branches, a dedicated network of over 50 ATMs/CDMs, and free access to more than 750 ATMs and CDMs of Bank Muscat across the country. Every Meethaq product goes through the process of Shari'a compliance certification by its Shari'a Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman. Meethaq's adoption of AAOIFI standards (Accounting & Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions) further distinguishes Meethaq Islamic banking practices in terms of standardisation of its products and services complementing its world-class Islamic banking experience.

MILESTONE



Lulu Financial inaugurates 300th Global Customer Engagement Centre in Dubai

DUBAI: 14 years, 10 countries, 300 customer engagement centres and counting. UAE-based financial services conglomerate Lulu Financial Holdings (LFH) scripted a new chapter in its illustrious journey with the grand opening of its 300th Global Customer Engagement Centre in Dubai's Al Rigga. The new Engagement Centre is the company's 96th in the UAE under the Lulu Exchange brand and was inaugurated by Saad Cachalia, South African Ambassador to the UAE. The event was also attended by the Guest of Honour - Renato N. Dueñas, Jr., Philippine Consul General in Dubai, as well as the company's Managing Director, Adeeb Ahamed and other senior management from the global and regional offices. Congratulating Lulu Financial Holdings on achieving this milestone, Saad Cachalia, said, "I am delighted to be part of the celebrations of Lulu Financial Holdings' 300th Customer Engagement Centre, a global company hailing from the shores of UAE, which has in a short span of time emerged as one of the most trusted names in cross-border payments. "The company's approach to growth, through meaningful partnerships and people-centric services, has been key to its expansion and enabling the cause of financial inclusion in low- and middle-income countries. "I congratulate the team on today's remarkable achievement

and wish them many more years of success." Renato N. Dueñas, Jr., said, "Lulu Financial Holdings has achieved tremendous growth over the last 14 years, fostering a sense of community among the Diaspora they serve, in UAE and other countries. I congratulate the team on reaching this grand milestone of 300 Customer Engagement Centres and convey my best wishes as they aspire to touch newer milestones." Adeeb Ahamed said, "The inauguration of our 300th Customer Engagement Centre signifies our remarkable journey and unwavering dedication to transforming cross-border payments. This journey wouldn't have been possible without our valued customers, as well as various regulators and industry partners, who have spurred us to embed a culture of innovation into our fabric. Today's milestone is a significant step forward, and we look forward to continue innovating value and inspiring experiences for all our stakeholders." Since its inception in 2009 with the opening of the first Lulu Exchange Customer Engagement Centre in Abu Dhabi, the company has evolved into a diversified player in the global payments industry. With a strong emphasis on digital transformation and platform-based innovations, the company's various investments serve segments such as cross-border payments, foreign exchange, banknotes, and microfinance.

PROMOTION

Exclusive benefits available on Lexus

MUSCAT: Own a Lexus and benefit with Service from 5 Years / 50,000 kms up to 6 Years / 60,000 Kms (Whichever is earlier) and 1 Year Free Registration (Conditions apply. For details visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom). The Lexus range in Oman boasts exceptional luxury, technology, features and more. The range includes the LX, GX, RX, NX, UX, LS, ES and IS. The bold and powerful flagship Lexus SUV – the LX is available with a choice of two powertrain options, including two newly developed V6 twin-turbo engines. The V6 twin-turbo 3.5-liter petrol engine achieves class-leading performance that surpasses that of a conventional V8, producing 409 hp and up to 66.28 Kg.m torque. Meanwhile, the V6 twin-turbo engine 3.3-liter diesel variant is capable of 302 hp and up to 71.38 Kg.m torque. Both versions are mated to a 10-speed automatic transmission. The capable and luxurious Lexus GX460 makes a lasting impression with its capability and luxury. The GX is equipped with a 4.6L engine that provides outstanding power and responsive performance. The GX is also equipped with an impressive interior that make every journey remarkable. The stylish and attractive RX has been completely reimagined to deliver greater style, comfort, and performance with a choice of three powertrains, two of which are electrified. A newly developed inline 4-cylinder, 2.4-liter turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 430 nm of torque is paired



to a new 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission (8AT). Meanwhile, the new hybrid-electric system combines a 2.5-liter petrol engine and electric motor to produce a total of 247 hp, which is paired to an electronically-controlled continuously variable transmission (E-CVT) to provide excellent fuel efficiencies. A hybrid-electric system pairing a 2.4-liter turbocharged engine with an electric motor is also available, which provides a combined power of 366 hp mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission. The popular Lexus NX makes quite an impression with its sleek stance. The NX is powered with two powertrain options. An inline 4-cylinder, 2.4 L turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 6000 RPM and is paired to an 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission (8AT). The NX is also available with hybrid-electric system that combines two power sources consisting of a 2.5-liter petrol engine and two electric motors producing 240 hp. The hybrid-electric system is paired to a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT). The exciting and luxurious Lexus UX reflects the "Yet Philosophy," in many ways, but especially in terms of design, performance and utility. The front wheel drive Lexus UX is powered by a high-efficiency 2.0 litre, four-cylinder engine, which is coupled with a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission. In sedans, the Lexus range includes the flagship LS which is an inspiring luxury sedan, is available in 3.5-liter V6 Multi Stage Hybrid System producing 354 hp, a 3.5-liter V6 naturally aspirated Atkinson-cycle producing 311 hp and 38.7 Kg.M Torque, and a 3.5-liter twin-turbo V6 engine producing 415 hp and 61.2 Kg.M of Torque.

The Lexus ES is a favourite luxury sedan among users owing to its thrilling drive personality imbued by two powertrain options. ES350 is powered by a 3.5 litre, 24 valve, V6 engine that produces 298 hp and 36.3 kg.m. of torque. While the ES250 is powered by high efficiency 2.5 litre, 16-valve DOHC engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg.m of torque. The powerful and thrilling Lexus IS350 is a sleek and stylish powerful sedan which is equipped with a 3.5-litre engine that's paired to an 8-speed automatic transmission. The turbocharged IS300 features a 2.0-liter twin-scroll turbocharged inline four-cylinder engine with intercooler that generates 241 Hp. In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000 Kms (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

GET-TOGETHER

MMME Oman Wing celebrates Onam and Eid

MUSCAT: MMME Oman, a branch of the main group Malayali Mums Middle East celebrated Onam and Eid at Platinum Hall, Oman Avenues Mall recently. This group is solely managed by the ladies. The group organised various cultural programmes like thiruvathirakali, skits, group songs, solo songs, fusion performances, and traditional oppana, as part of its celebrations. The super-talented moms performed various art forms in a 5-hour programme. The dance performances were a visual treat to the eyes. Games were conducted for the newcomers

who joined the group recently. Many exciting gifts were given through lucky draws. No members were disappointed as all the members were given special return gifts. The programme ended with a grand Onam sadya. Mona Mohiyadheen is the convener of the MMME Oman group. Sindhu Soman advisory member and Smitha Nair, treasurer organised the event. This group was started to bring the hidden talents of the mothers who are living away from their homeland, confined in the four walls of the house.



ROUND-UP

Alizz Islamic Bank partners with Dar Al Atta’a to support community

The agreement signed with Alizz Islamic Bank aims to provide a suitable educational environment for pre-school children by renovating an existing endowment building

MUSCAT: As part of the banks pioneering role in lending a hand to the community and various institutions and associations, Alizz Islamic Bank recently partnered with Dar Al Atta’a to implement one of the ‘Tamkeen Programme’ projects for the current year 2023. This comes as part of the bank’s belief that the prosperity of individuals leads to the prosperity of the societies in which we live. Dar Al Atta’a’s goal is to contribute towards improving living conditions and bringing about lasting positive change in our community. The association contributes continuously towards making a positive impact in Omani society. The agreement signed with Alizz Islamic Bank aims to provide a suitable educational environment for pre-school children by renovating an existing endowment building. The project also contributes towards providing job opportunities in the region. The agreement was signed by Maryam bint Issa



Al Zadjali, Chairperson of the Association and Ali bin Saif Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank. This project falls under the ‘Tamkeen Programme’, which is one of the association’s main programmes and aims to contribute to sustainable projects that will

enhance income and achieve prosperity for both individuals and society. As part of the associations belief in providing better opportunities that enable investment in the nation’s people to create a support factor for Oman’s renaissance and development; over the past

years, Dar Al Atta’a has worked to establish cultural centres throughout the Sultanate. The Dar Al Atta’a Association will manage and supervise the project and follow up on the stages of implementing the maintenance and restoration of the endowment

building in Al Hajar Village in Wilayat Al Awabi. During this period, the building will be restored and equipped with the necessary classroom amenities and equipment to provide a comprehensive educational environment for pre-school children and a suitable environment for the school’s teaching staff. Speaking about the project, Maryam Al-Zadjali said, “This project is of great importance as it is linked to empowerment through pre-school education, which contributes to enhancing the abilities and skills of children and preparing them for the next stages of their education.” Commenting also Ali Al Mani, CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank said, “Social responsibility is in line with Alizz Islamic Bank’s mission of achieving exceptional and sustainable results for our shareholders. The bank has partnered on and supported many projects that have had a positive impact on society and that have created community value.” Al Mani added, “Investing in our communities has been our focus since the founding of Alizz Islamic Bank, and the ultimate goal is to strive to provide a better life for the people we serve across the Sultanate. We are confident that investing in sustainable initiatives is a crucial element towards achieving community prosperity. The bank has provided strong support for leading national associations and organisations that work towards building a strong and resilient society and we have contributed to the growth of several non-profit social organisations.”

OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB’S CEO Summit brings together more than 300 chief executives to embrace change



MUSCAT: The second edition of the CEO Summit, conceived by Oman Arab Bank (OAB) in collaboration with Alizz Islamic Bank welcomed more than 300 chief executives, local and global thought-leaders. Designed to inspire CEOs to embrace change and leverage emerging technologies, the event featured speakers including Tahir Al Amri, Executive President of Central Bank of Oman, futurist Richard Watson and Dr Lamya El Hajj, Associate Professor at Sultan Qaboos University. Broad topics of discussion were tackled during the event, such as driving sustainable economic recovery and trends that will disrupt industries over the next 50 years, culminating with a conversation/Q&A with all of the day’s speakers. Sulaiman Al Harthi, CEO of Oman Arab Bank, who welcomed guests to the event with an opening address, said: “It is extremely important for companies all around the Sultanate to continue to align



with Oman’s socio-economic agenda and strive towards the goals set out in Oman’s Vision 2040 to push forward our nation’s macroeconomic growth, but we all also need to take a global view to catalyze even greater achievements. What we wanted to achieve – and successfully delivered – with the CEO Summit is to foster a perspective that will encourage the hundreds of business leaders who attended to explore the vast opportunities in international markets that can be accessed using the latest technologies and trends. It was inspiring to hear from the visionary thinkers who hosted sessions and see so many of my fellow leaders come together at CEO Summit in a spirit of solidarity, with minds open to learning new ideas and perspectives.”

The CEO Summit built on the success of the inaugural 100 Inspire CEOs Forum, which saw the participation of more than 200 CEOs from various sectors across the Sultanate of Oman.

NATIONAL INITIATIVE



IHG Hotels Oman and Dar Al Atta’a partner to launch ‘Together for Oman’ campaign

MUSCAT: In the wake of tropical cyclone “Shaheen,” which wreaked havoc in the northern regions of the Sultanate of Oman on October 3, 2021, IHG Hotels Oman announced its partnership with Dar Al Atta’a Association to launch the ‘Together for Oman’ campaign. This national initiative aims to provide vital assistance to those affected by the catastrophic weather event. The cornerstone of this collaboration is the support for Dar Al Atta’a’s visionary project, “Al Atta Neighbourhood.” This project is designed to provide 36 Omani families with a fresh start, ensuring them a secure and dignified quality of life. The families, whose homes were rendered uninhabitable due to the devastating impact of Cyclone Shaheen, will find refuge in this newly constructed residential enclave. The Al Atta Neighbourhood is set to be an integrated residential community, offering not only shelter but also a vibrant environment for families to thrive. With an estimated cost of OMR1,500,000, this neighbourhood will comprise 36 modern housing units, meticulously designed to meet the unique needs of the beneficiaries. Located in Sana’a Bani Ghafer, it will boast essential amenities such as a public park, mosque, multi-purpose hall, and a nursery. One of the distinguishing features of Al Atta Neighbourhood is its commitment to sustainability. Greenhouse systems and alternative energy sources will be integrated, demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to construction that aligns with Oman’s environmental goals. IHG Hotels Oman is rallying its guests and team members for the “Giving for Good” drive, mobilizing collective efforts towards the success of this monumental project. Together, we envision a brighter future for the affected families, as they find solace and security within the walls of Al Atta Neighbourhood. “We believe in the strength and resilience of the Omani community, and it is our honour to stand alongside Dar Al Atta in this noble endeavour. Together, we will rebuild lives and create a legacy of hope. This transformative project is slated for completion by the end of 2023, marking a significant milestone in the collective efforts to restore normalcy and prosperity to the affected regions.



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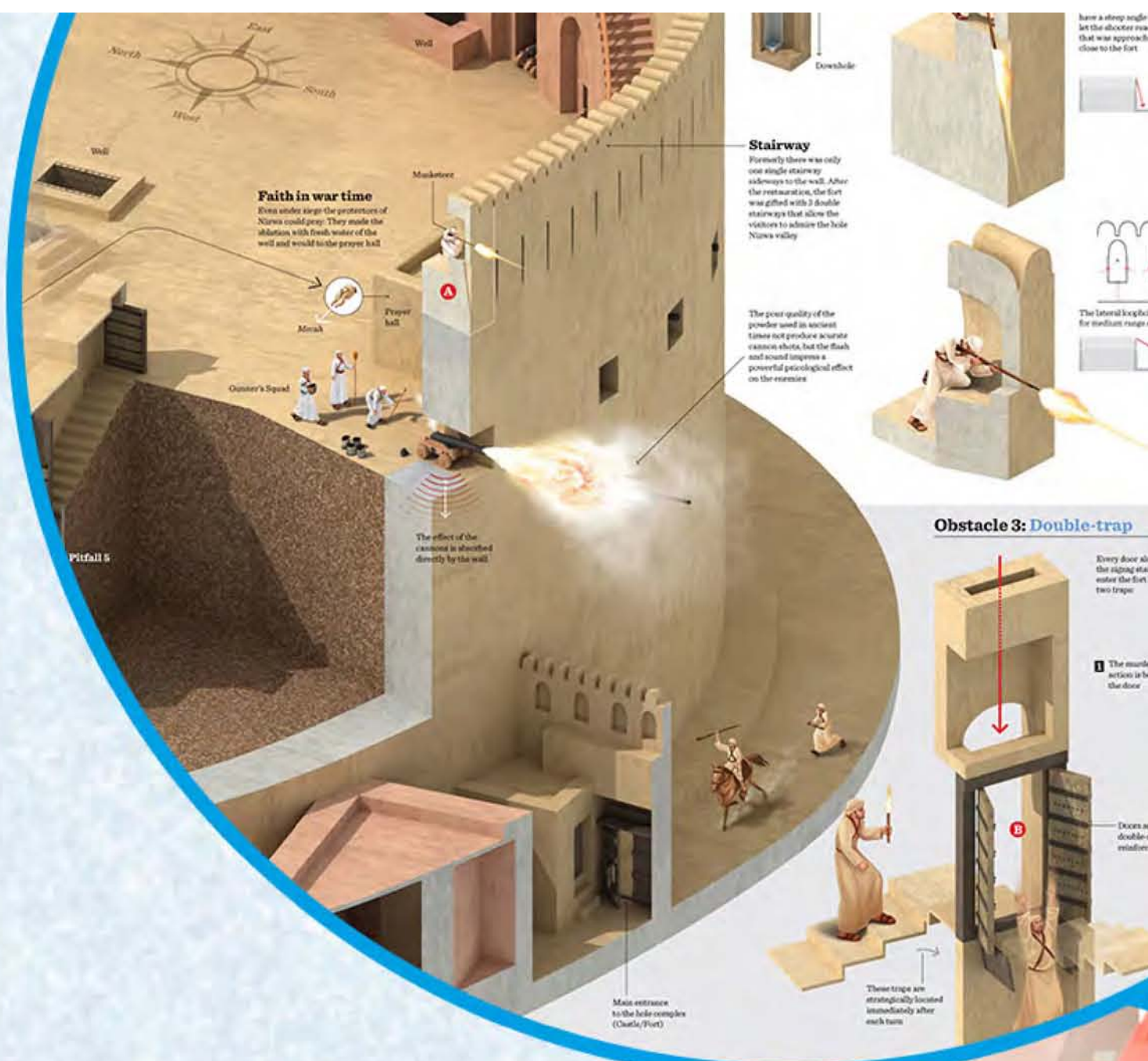
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CELERY
GARLIC
TOAST

- Ingredients**
- 4 slices of whole wheat bread
 - To be ground to a coarse paste -
 - 1/4 cup celery , chopped
 - 2 cloves of garlic
 - Salt and pepper to taste

- Instructions**
- Apply the ground celery paste equally on all 4 slices of bread .
 - Bake in a preheated oven at 180c for 7- 10 minutes.
 - Cut into halves, sprinkle 1/2 tsp of red chilli flakes on the toasts and they are ready to be packed in the lunch box .

3 BACK TO SCHOOL RECIPES

Created by Oneza Tabish



APRICOT
FLATBREAD

- Ingredients**
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups Ghee
 - A pinch of Salt
 - 2 cups Milk
 - 2 cups dried apricots ,finely chopped
 - 1/2 tsp Rose water

- Instructions**
- Sieve the flour into a large bowl and rub in the ghee with your fingertips, until well incorporated and resembles breadcrumbs.
 - Mix in the salt. Add some water and a little milk, gradually, and knead to make a hard dough.
 - Divide the dough equally into small portions. Roll each portion out on a floured board into a small round of 3-4” diameter.
 - Mix the rose water with the apricots .
 - Take two rounds, brush the top with little water and place the apricot mixture in between, seal from all sides and flatten.
 - Place on a greased iron tray. Smear some ghee over the rounds and cook, on medium heat, in the oven. Remove when brown on both sides. Repeat until all are baked.
 - Cook a bit and wrap in butter paper to be packed in lunch box .

CHINESE
MEATBALLS

- Ingredients**
- FOR THE MEATBALLS*
- 500g chicken mince
 - 4-6 spring onions, chopped, plus extra bits to garnish
 - 4 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
 - 1egg, whisked
 - 2 tbsp white breadcrumbs
 - Oil, for shallow-frying

- FOR THE SAUCE*
- 3 tbsp sugar
 - 3 tbsp vinegar
 - 1 tbsp sweet chilli sauce
 - 125ml tomato sauce
 - 1 tbsp soy sauce
 - 1 tbsp honey

- Instructions**
- To prepare the meatballs, in a bowl ,lightly mix together chicken mince, chopped onions, parsley, egg and breadcrumbs.
 - Season with salt and pepper.
 - Divide the mix into 24 meatballs.
 - Place them in a single layer on a tray and refrigerate for an hour.
 - Heat oil in a pan and shallow-fry the meatballs in small batches until golden brown on all sides.
 - Remove, place on paper towels and set aside.
 - For the sauce, pour all the ingredients into a pan and whisk well. Then place over medium-high heat and bring to a gentle boil, stirring constantly. Remove. Add all the meatballs to the sauce and stir gently.
 - Serve hot or cool for a few minutes before packing in lunch box .

