

HIS MAJESTY TO VISIT JORDAN ON WEDNESDAY

His Majesty the Sultan and the Jordanian monarch will explore areas of cooperation and means of promoting them in various spheres to serve their interests and aspirations



3 The UNRWA said on Monday that Israel forced over 810,000 Palestinian civilians to flee from Rafah. **>A7**

GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of May 20, 2024



Category	Count
Deaths	35,562
Injured	79,652



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TWO-DAY SYMPOSIUM

Oman’s efforts to deliver aid to Gaza Strip praised

MUSCAT: The Omani Committee for International Humanitarian Law on Monday organised a symposium titled “International Humanitarian Law: The Reality and the Aspirations”.

The two-day symposium is being held at the Diplomatic Club in cooperation with the Mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Muscat.

Sheikh Humaid Ali Al Maani, Head of the Global Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, Chairman of the Omani Committee for International Humanitarian Law, said that the symposium aims “to achieve our common goals in humanitarian action, the need to spread knowledge of the concept of international humanitarian law, the challenges of its implementation and the classification of armed conflicts”.

The symposium also deals with the relationship between the International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian action and initiatives, he added.

For his part, Abdullah Mohammed Said, Head of the Mission of International Committee of the Red Cross in Muscat, valued the Sultanate of Oman’s repeated calls on all warring parties to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law, notably



in the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

He expressed his appreciation for Oman’s efforts to deliver relief aid to the stranded population in the Gaza Strip, as well as the country’s support for organizations operating in this field, including the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The official stressed that the symposium underlines the best ways to provide maximum protection for victims of armed conflicts and their property.

“The best thing to do in this context is to comply with international humanitarian law and implement it effectively,” he explained.

The symposium deals with the principles of use of force and mechanisms for implementing

international humanitarian law, including international jurisdictions, among other issues. It is attended by representatives of government institutions entrusted with international humanitarian law.

The symposium coincides with the 75th anniversary of the 1949 four Geneva Conventions and stresses the importance of achieving better implementation and compliance with international humanitarian law.

The abovementioned Geneva Conventions are the most ratified global pacts.

As many as 196 countries are party to the international statutes, and this makes them concrete global agreements comprising a set of obligations aimed at alleviating the suffering of civilians and other victims of armed conflicts.

Oman’s signing of the four Geneva Conventions reflects its keenness in international humanitarian law.

This interest led to the establishment of the Omani Committee for International Humanitarian Law and to the country’s positions calling for minimizing human suffering and emphasizing commitment to international humanitarian law. -ONA

National Museum displays Louvre Abu Dhabi objects

The “Bowl with a Two-colour Inscription” is displayed in the “Splendours of Islam” gallery dating back to Samanid dynasty



MUSCAT: The National Museum is showcasing two distinctive objects on loan from the Louvre Abu Dhabi for one year, the objects are a “Bowl with a two-colour Inscription” adorned with the beauty of Arabic calligraphy and an iconic “Homage to the Square” reflecting contemporary abstract art.

This comes within the framework of the cultural collaboration between the National Museum and the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

Showcasing the objects offers visitors an insightful exploration into Islamic art and modern abstraction and an immersing experience in the rich tapestry of art, culture, and history that binds the world together.

The “Bowl with a Two-colour Inscription” is displayed in the “Splendours of Islam” gallery dating back to Samanid dynasty (10th - 11th century) hails from Khorasan and Transoxiana, regions traversed by the ancient Silk Roads.

Adorned with Arabic proverbs (amthal), it reflects the wisdom of

the Imam Ali bin Abi Talib and the Islamic hadith.

The contrasting black or brown slip decoration on a white slip base showcases the skill of an adept calligrapher, while the circular composition and the sobriety of the decorative and lexical vocabulary enhance the power of the inscription.

The art piece “Homage to the Square,” is displayed in the “Oman and the World” gallery, by the painter Josef Albers, a master of colour relationships.

He created this iconic piece in 1963. Josef Albers’ “Homage to the Square” series, initiated in 1950 in the United States, encapsulates his exploration into colour theory and optical effects through simple yet profound compositions of nested squares.

Utilising a distinctive technique of oil on masonite panels, these paintings—marked by their subtle textures and the illusion of spatial depth—serve as a pivotal study in colour dynamics.

Albers’ approach, particularly through this series and his seminal book “Interaction of Colour,” highlights his contribution to abstract

art as a universal language, redefining art’s relationship to reality amidst the challenges of the twentieth century.

It is worth noting that this loan embodies the close bilateral collaboration between the National Museum and the Louvre Abu Dhabi, which was established in 2017, when a collection of Omani artefacts was loaned to be displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi, introducing visitors to the civilisation of the Land of Frankincense and Oman’s cultural role on the maritime Silk Road.

The two museums previously collaborated on the “Gardens of Paradise: The Language of Flowers in Iznik Ceramics” exhibition at the National Museum, which was inaugurated in December 2021.

The objects presented the art of Iznik ceramics decorated with flowers and the special symbols it embodies related to evoking Qur’anic descriptions that recall the gardens of Paradise, showcasing pieces loaned from the Louvre Abu Dhabi, including 6 beautiful Iznik ceramics from the 16th century. -ONA

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DOHA

Oman takes part in meeting of GCC finance ministry officials

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, took part yesterday in the 71st meeting of GCC undersecretaries of finance ministries, held in Doha, the State of Qatar.

This meeting comes in preparation for the 121st meeting of the financial and economic cooperation committee, which will be held at the end of May 2024.

Oman was represented during the meeting by Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance.

The meeting discussed a spectrum of topics, including results of meetings of the GCC central bank governors’ committee. It also touched on the programme of achieving economic unity among GCC states by 2025, among other topics. -ONA





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Khoula Hospital doctors conduct rare spine surgery of Omani girl

The surgery was aimed at correcting and stabilising the spine of an Omani girl suffering from scoliosis

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team at Khoula Hospital succeeded in performing the first scoliosis operation of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman.

at correcting and stabilising the spine of an Omani girl suffering from scoliosis. It involved the use of extendable magnetic rods along the length of the spine.

Dr. Sultan Saif Al Kalbani, Head of the Spine Unit at Khoula Hospital (consultant orthopaedic and spine surgeon, and head of the operating medical team), told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the operation constituted a step forward in the treatment of scoliosis in children.

The surgery assumes significance as a means of preventing the aggravation of scoliosis and its impact on vital organs like the lungs, said Al Kalbani, noting that the treatment also supports the growth of the spine and avoids repeated operations.

Al Kalbani pointed out that all patients with a similar type of scoliosis were previously going for treatment abroad because this type of complicated operation was not available in the Sultanate of Oman.

For his part, Dr. Rashid Mohammed Al Alawi, Director General of Khoula Hospital, told ONA that “conducting this advanced type of treatment in the Sultanate of Oman reflects the success of investment in medical infrastructure, thanks to the presence of qualified medical personnel in the hospital and their ability to perform such complex surgical operations”.

He affirmed that this success of the operation constitutes a starting point for making more achievements in the future and providing necessary support and health care to patients and society at large. -ONA





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Oman & Jordan: Towards new promising horizons

The upcoming state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and his meeting with King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan will be an important step to augment the level of cooperation between the two countries in the economic, tourism and trade sectors

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan seek to maximise the benefits of their distinguished relations based on common historical and cultural strategic aspects.

Certainly, the upcoming state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and his meeting with King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan will be an important step to augment the level of cooperation between the two countries in various spheres, especially in the economic, tourism, trade and investment areas.

The two leaders' talks in Amman are also expected to address regional and international issues of common interest based on their political consensus, most notably the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, Palestine, and the Palestinians in general, as the two countries agree in their political positions on the issues.

On this context, Fahd bin Abdulrahman Al Ojaili, Ambassador of Oman to Jordan affirmed that His Majesty's visit to Jordan has a great importance, as it is the first official visit of His Majesty to Jordan since assuming the reins of powers in the country.

He told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the visit will address a set of vital files, in addition to discussing the distinguished fraternal relations between the two countries, that extend over 53 years. He described the relations between Oman and Jordan as a vivid example of fraternity, cooperation and understanding.

He added that the visit has great objectives, in light of regional and international developments, as it increases the permanent joint coordination between the two countries on issues of common concern, especially the Palestinian cause. He affirmed that the relations between Oman and Jordan have been characterised by consensus on crucial stances of concern to the Arab nation and cooperation in all that would achieve security and stability for the two countries, and the region in general.

The two countries agree that peace is the only way to resolve differences in the region, and that working to stimulate this to maintain stability is a strategic goal and an opportunity for future generations in accordance with international resolutions, affirmed the Ambassador. He noted that Oman and Jordan also believe that peace and development will lead to achieving security and stability in the entire region.

The ambassador also underlined the importance of His Majesty's visit in elevating the commercial, investment and industrial exchange and cooperation in all fields, in addition to boosting cooperation between the private sectors in the two countries.

He explained that the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in Jordan works to highlight the available investment opportunities and



promising sectors in Oman to all chambers of commerce in Jordan and to interested businessmen. It provides a guide that reviews the performance of the Omani economy as a type of investment incentives in Oman and works to coordinate the visit of Jordanian businessmen and those who wish to explore the investment opportunities, he added.

The Ambassador added that the Embassy coordinates business meetings and creates communication channels between government officials and potential investors.

Amjad Al Quhaiwi, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Sultanate of Oman pointed out that the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik comes in response to an invitation by King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan. He noted that the visit reflects the distinguished and historical relations between the two countries.

He stated to Oman News Agency (ONA) that the visit is an embodiment of the continuity of cooperation and close diplomatic relations between the two countries, and represents an opportunity to explore new areas.

He added that this visit has many dimensions and gains importance, as it is an opportunity for the two countries to participate in fundamental discussions on a variety of regional and international issues. It comes at a very crucial time and embodies the common vision on many regional issues, the Ambassador noted.

He pointed out that the visit coincides with the Kingdom of Jordan's celebration of the silver jubilee of King Abdullah II assuming the reins of power.

He stressed that the two countries have historically identical views on various Arab, regional and international issues, with continuous consultation and co-

ordination between them that are clearly evident in international events such as the United Nations and the Security Council.

The Jordanian ambassador pointed out that this appears clearly when examining the developments of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the efforts aimed at stopping the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, and delivering humanitarian aid immediately and adequately to all parts of the Strip, as well as the need for continued coordination and consultation on ways to stop the catastrophic conditions in Gaza, and in efforts to reaching a permanent and immediate ceasefire.

He stated that there is continuous communication through a series of meetings aimed at strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries and creating investment opportunities and partnerships, especially since these relations are now witnessing widespread activity and greater momentum after the meeting of the two leaders in 2022, after which a Jordanian-Omani working group was formed to explore investment opportunities and economic cooperation between the two countries.

He added that there is continuous communication between the chambers of commerce and industry, and investment departments in the two countries to determine the extent of progress in economic and trade cooperation between the two sides and to arrange meetings between businessmen in the two countries.

He explained that there are opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of information technology, food, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, mining and communications industries, stressing the joint keenness to promote the economic cooperation and impeding any

obstacles facing businessmen and the private sector.

On the economic side, statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information indicate that the volume of trade exchange between Oman and Jordan witnessed remarkable growth during 2023, registering a 25 percent increase to reach about OMR74,511,421, compared to 2022, which amounted to OMR59,752,392.

Statistics show that Omani exports to Jordan during 2023 increased by 28.2 percent, to exceed OMR43,850,000, compared to more than OMR34,208,000 in 2022, while the total value of Oman's imports from Jordan in 2023 amounted to about OMR27,517,500, an increase of 41.5 percent compared to 2022, which amounted to more than OMR19,441,300.

Preliminary statistics show that the value of direct investments from the Jordan in Oman amounted to about OMR241,800,000 at the end of last year.

The number of companies registered in Oman with Jordanian shareholding by the end of 2023 was about 988 companies, compared to 758 companies in 2022, with a total invested capital of more than OMR78,778,000.

In last February, the two countries signed several memorandums of understanding in the field of attracting direct investment in available investment sectors and activities, developing and boosting cooperation between the chambers of commerce in both countries for commercial promotion and supporting foreign trade, in addition to encouraging and establishing trade and investment partnerships between the business sectors and expanding the horizons of economic cooperation and business relations between the two countries.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between the Omani and Jordanian private



sectors in the field of supply and trade.

During the past period, the two sides held many joint economic and investment meetings and forums with the participation of officials and stakeholders from the public and private sectors in both countries, to discuss means of expanding the horizons of trade cooperation and investment partnerships between them, activate bilateral agreements that support this, and benefit from the economic opportunities available in the two countries.

Faisal bin Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) said that the economic, trade and investment relations between Oman and Jordan have witnessed remarkable development and growth over the past period, in the context of the continued interest and support of the leaderships of the two countries.

He told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the private sector in the two countries seeks to augment economic relations to the desired and reliable level of ambition in attracting investments and expanding the base of economic diversification between the two countries. This, said Al Rowas, aims to achieve the goals of "Oman Vision 2040" and the vision of Jordan's economic modernization "unlocking the potential to build the future," especially as both sides seek to provide all facilities and incentives that would enable the private sector to contribute to achieving prosperity and sustainable growth.

Khalil El Haj Tawfiq, President of Jordan Chamber of Commerce stressed the need for the private sector in both countries to exert more efforts during the next stage to push the economic, trade and investment relations between Oman and Jordan towards wider horizons.

He pointed out in a statement to ONA that a Jordanian business delegation will visit Oman soon, with the prime aim of discussing means of setting up joint projects with the Omani private sector, in a manner that contributes to increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

The Jordanian official called on the Omani private sector to benefit from the free trade agreements that link Jordan with many global economic blocs, to export its products to foreign markets in addition to neighbouring Arab countries.

With regard to the tourism sector, the number of Omani tourists who visited Jordan, according to the latest statistics last year, reached 21,738, and their number this year until the end of last April reached 6,757.

The Omani Studies Unit at Al al-Bayt University, funded by the government of the Sultanate of Oman, is one of the most prominent areas of cultural cooperation between the two countries, through which the bright aspects of Omani history and civilization throughout the ages and the contributions of the Sultanate of Oman to Islamic civilization are demonstrated in the religious, intellectual, cultural and political aspects.

The cultural cooperation between the two countries also includes several aspects, the most important of which is participation in cultural events, exchanging experiences in both countries, and participation in intellectual and literary festivals between Omani and Jordanian writers, as both sides are keen to participate in international book fairs organised in Muscat and Amman.

Meanwhile, the number of Omani students studying in Jordanian universities until the beginning of this year is estimated at 2,371 male and female students. -ONA

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sheikh Abdulmalik meets Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

MOSCOW: Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council on Monday had a meeting with Mikhail Bogdanov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Middle East and Africa.

The meeting comes within the framework of the State Council

Chairman's visit to the Russian Federation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations between Oman and Russia.

They also touched on areas of joint cooperation in various fields.

The two sides explored matters of common interest and ways of enhancing them.

This visit comes within the

framework of enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries in all fields and consolidating relations between the State Council and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly.

The meeting was attended by Hamoud Salim Al Tuwaih, ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation and a number of Council officials. -ONA



ANNOUNCEMENT

Labour ministry announces 689 jobs in public sector



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour on Monday announced 689 job vacancies in various public sector units.

Of the announced jobs, 443 are for holders of Bachelor's degree. Another 65 vacancies are for post-GED (General Education Diploma) holders and 181 vacancies for GED holders and below.

Two weeks duration

The Ministry announced that applying to compete for these job opportunities will be open for a duration of two weeks from the announcement.

Recently, the Ministry of Labour announced that it aims to create 35,000 jobs in the public and private sectors, while achieving a 90 percent rate of job replacement in the government sector.

-ONA

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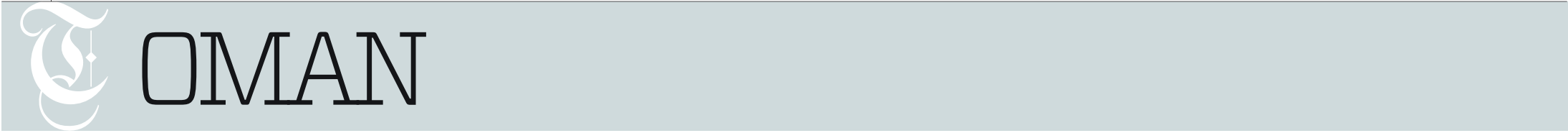
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Note: only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

OETCOMAN

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Sayyid Bilarab reviews progress of Omani startups programme

The workshop aimed to achieve integrity among the government entities in terms of the innovation-based Omani startups



MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Honourable President of the of Omani Promising Start-

ups Programme, reviewed the progress of the joint workshop of the Supervisory Committee and the Technical Committee of the Omani Promising Startups

Programme. The workshop aimed to achieve integrity among the government entities in terms of the innovation-based Omani startups.

The committees discussed during the workshop, a number of issues on the agenda, notably the analytical studies for the Omani startups system conducted by Startup Genome Firm and the outcomes of the study, which includes the proposed initiatives, were reviewed.

The workshop also reviewed the heat map of the startups system prepared by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

A number of ministers, undersecretaries and members of the supervisory committee and the technical committee of the programme, representatives of the government departments and the startups participated in the workshop. – **DNA**

Times
OF OMAN

Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
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ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

FORUM AT OCEC

Oman plans to produce one million tonnes of green hydrogen annually

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, the the Oman Business Forum was organised at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) on Monday.

The forum discussed the latest developments in the future of energies and industries across all sectors, addressing issues relevant to companies and investors. Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and other officials and business leaders attended the event.

During his speech, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef emphasised the increasing importance of renewable energy and sustainability, highlighting their role in enhancing the well-being of life and shaping Oman's economic future, adding that with the annual target production of no less than one million tonnes of green hydrogen, Oman is expected to become the largest source of green hydrogen in the Middle East and the sixth-largest globally by 2030.

He also pointed out that Oman is witnessing investments from major manufacturing companies keen on leveraging green hydrogen production



and export opportunities. Furthermore, he discussed signing a partnership programme between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and "The Business Year" institution to support the release of the 10th annual edition of the book "Oman 2024," focusing on Oman's vision for the year 2040.

Engineer Ammar bin Sulaiman Al Kharousi, Director General of the Investment Services Centre, delivered a visual presentation highlighting the strategic role played by the Invest Oman platform. The platform aims to attract quality investments in Oman in priority sectors, contributing to promoting foreign investment rates.

Al Kharousi also discussed initiatives to facilitate the investor journey, improve the business environment, and achieve high-impact projects in collaboration with various government entities.

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

TENDERS ARE INVITED FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED VENDORS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN THE EXECUTION OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES.

Tender No	Description Tender	Tender Fee (RO)	Tender documents available from	Last date of Tender Submission
ISAS/TEND/037/2024	Supply and installation of interactive panels	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/038/2024	Supply and installation of Air conditioners	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/039/2024	Supply and installation of CCTV Cameras	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/040/2024	Supply and installation of LED walls in MPH	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/041/2024	Supply of chemical & laboratory materials	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/042/2024	Internal painting	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/043/2024	Civil maintenance	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/044/2024	Supply and installation PA System - Digital	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/045/2024	Sale of school Vehicles	—	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/046/2024	Supply of senior school table & chair, KG furniture	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/047/2024	Revamp school front area, Reception, Meeting Room, Principal's Office	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024
ISAS/TEND/048/2024	Printing solution for school- hiring of production machine	10/-	21.05.2024	03.06.2024

All the above tenders are to be addressed to
The Chairperson, Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Al Seeb. The school reserves the right to reject any Tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

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Apollo Hospitals
SULTANATE OF OMAN

PUBLIC NOTICE

Through this notice, the management of Apollo Hospital Muscat would like to inform the general public at large that Mr. Debraj Sanyal – holder of Resident card No. 109733028 who was an employee of Apollo Hospitals - Sultanate of Oman has been terminated from employment w.e.f 02nd May 2024.

General Public is advised not to enter into any transaction with Debraj Sanyal on behalf of Apollo Hospital, Sultanate of Oman and in case any person dealing with him shall do so at his / her own risk and responsibility. Company shall not be responsible for the unauthorized and unlawful action of Debraj Sanyal in any manner.

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Iranian President dies in chopper crash, Vice President to assume interim duties

Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in a message issued on Monday morning, expressed his great sadness over the deaths and offered condolences to people of his country

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Monday tasked Vice President Mohammad Mokhber to assume interim duties after President Ebrahim Raisi was confirmed to have died in the helicopter crash, a day before.

Iranian State media earlier today confirmed the deaths of the 63-year-old Raisi, his foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and seven others in Sunday's helicopter crash in the mountainous region of the country's East Azarbaijan province a day earlier.

Meanwhile, the Iranian cabinet has appointed Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani as acting foreign minister following the death of Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Khamenei, in a message issued on Monday morning, expressed his great sadness over the deaths

and offered condolences to people of his country.

Vice President Mohammad Mokhber is expected to assume interim duties shortly.

"In accordance with Article 131 of the constitution, Mokhber is in charge of leading the executive branch," Khamenei said in a statement. He added that Mokhber will be required to work with the heads of legislative and judicial to prepare for presidential elections "within a maximum period of 50 days," he said.

Earlier on Monday, Iranian state media IRNA shared drone footage shot by the Red Crescent showing the wreckage of the crashed helicopter.

News outlet Tasnim, which is affiliated to the country's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps reported that Raisi's funeral will be held on



Tuesday in Tabriz. Kani has served as deputy foreign minister since September 2021.

Moreover, he was deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council between 2007 and 2013, Al Jazeera reported.

The helicopter carrying Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian, and his accompanying delegation crashed Sunday in the Dizmar forest, nestled between the cities of Varzaqan and Jolfa in East Azarbaijan Province.

The Iranian President was returning following a visit to Azerbaijan when his helicopter came

down in bad weather conditions.

Iran's Supreme Leader described Raisi as a hard-working cleric and a popular president who dedicated his life to serving the people of Iran, the country, and Islam, according to IRNA.

"In this bitter tragedy, the Iranian nation lost a warm-hearted, humble, and valued servant," Khamenei said, adding that President Raisi never stopped his hard and round-the-clock work for the people of Iran despite being faced with criticism from ill-wishers.

Moreover, the Iranian Supreme

Raisi was born in Iran's second-largest city

TEHRAN: Born in 1960 into a strictly religious family in the country's second-largest city, Mashhad, Ebrahim Raisi underwent extensive theological training and holds the title of *hojatoleslam*, which literally means "authority on Islam."

In Iran's religious hierarchy, the position is second only to the Ayatollah.

Raisi's career began at the age of 20 in the wake of the 1979 Islamic Revolution when he was appointed prosecutor general of Karaj, a suburb of Tehran.

He was later deputy prosecutor in Tehran during the 1988 trials of political prisoners.

Raisi was often seen as a

frontrunner to succeed Ali Khamenei as Iran's Supreme Leader. His presidency has seen a deadlock in nuclear negotiations with the United States over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Uranium enrichment

During Raisi's term, Iran also intensified its uranium enrichment and supported Russia over Moscow's decision to invade Ukraine.

Last month, Iran launched a missile and drone attack on Israel amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, as well as continuing to arm proxy groups such as Hezbollah and the Houthi movement.

-DW

Leader also expressed sadness over the deaths of other senior officials who were with President Raisi in the helicopter crash in East Azerbaijan, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, the Tabriz Friday prayer leader, and the provincial governor. —ANI

CONDOLENCE MESSAGES

World reacts to the death of Iran's President, foreign minister

TEHRAN: Following the tragic death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, world leaders offered their condolences on Monday to Raisi, the Iranian Foreign Minister and other officials who were on board.

Chinese President Xi Jinping extended his "sincere condolences" to the people of Iran after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and several others died in a helicopter crash, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a press briefing.

"(Raisi's) tragic death is a great loss to the Iranian people, and the Chinese people have lost a good friend," Xi was quoted as saying.

Xi said: "President Raisi has made important contributions to maintaining Iran's security and stability, promoting national development and prosperity, and also made active efforts to consolidate and develop the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership."

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Iran's late Ebrahim Raisi an "outstanding leader" after the Iranian president was reported to have been killed in a helicopter crash. "Raisi was an outstanding politician whose entire life was dedicated to serving his homeland," Putin said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressed "sincere condolences" to Iran after it was reported that Iranian Presi-

dent Ebrahim Raisi had died in a helicopter crash. "I pray for God's mercy for my dear colleague and brother," Erdogan said.

He expressed his "sincere condolences to the friendly and fraternal people and government in particular to the religious head of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Khamenei."

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said he was "deeply saddened" by the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and other officials in a helicopter crash. "I am deeply saddened by the tragic deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein [Amirabdollahian] and several other officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

Afghanistan's Taliban government said they were deeply saddened by the deaths of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash. "We share our grief with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the people of that country and offer our condolences to all the families of the victims, the nation and the government of Iran," the Taliban prime minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, said in a statement.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced that the country will observe a one-day of mourning and the flag will fly at half mast as a mark of respect for



President Raisi and his companions. Shehbaz Sharif offered his condolences and said, "Had been anxiously following developments regarding the reported crash landing of President Raisi's helicopter. Was hoping for good news. Alas, this was not to be. I, along with the government and people of Pakistan extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to the Iranian nation on this terrible loss. May the martyred souls rest in heavenly peace. The great Iranian nation will overcome this tragedy with customary courage."

Former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif Khansari also posted a message of condolences and expressed his condolences on the "martyrdom" of his successor, Hossein Amirabdollahian, along with President

Raisi. Zarif described Amirabdollahian as "my dear brother", and in a post shared on Instagram, Zarif wrote that the news of the accident was "painful."

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan expressed "deep sympathy" to Iran, the leadership, and the people of Iran on the death of the Iranian president.

"Sincere condolences and deep sympathy to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the leadership and people, on the death of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and their companions in a painful accident. We pray for God's mercy upon them and their honourable families for patience and solace, and we affirm the UAE's solidarity with Iran in these difficult circum-

stances," the UAE President said in a post shared on X.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani also offered sincere condolences to the Iranian government and the people of Iran. "Sincere condolences to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the death of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and the accompanying officials in the painful helicopter accident, asking God Almighty for mercy and forgiveness for them and for their families with patience and solace. We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return," Qatar's Emir posted on X.

Iraqi PM Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani expressed solidarity with Iran during this painful tragedy, reported Al Jazeera.

Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro, has expressed condolences to Iran and its Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, saying that Raisi was an "unconditional friend" of Venezuela.

"A heartfelt hug from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. You, Iran, are an example of dignity, morality and resistance," Maduro wrote in a social media post.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the demise of Raisi and acknowledged Raisi's contribution to strengthening India-Iran bilateral relationship.

"Deeply saddened and shocked

by the tragic demise of Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. His contribution to strengthening the India-Iran bilateral relationship will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Iran. India stands with Iran in this time of sorrow," PM Modi tweeted.

Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said, 'May God have mercy on them'.

"As we send you and the brotherly people of the Islamic Republic of Iran our deepest and sincere condolences, let us ask God Almighty to cover them with His vast mercy and forgiveness, and to grant them peace," the Saudi Press Agency quoted his statement as saying, according to Al Jazeera.

"May his soul rest in peace. We belong to God and to Him we shall return."

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, too, offered his condolences on the demise of Raisi, and Amirabdollahian, and other Iranian officials. "The president of the Arab Republic of Egypt prays that the deceased Iranian president and the departed may rest in God Almighty's mercy, and grant their families patience and solace, expressing the solidarity of the Arab Republic of Egypt with the Iranian leadership and people in this terrible incident," a statement read,

—Agencies

UNRWA STATEMENT

'Over 810,000 civilians have fled Rafah in past two weeks'

GAZA: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Monday that Israel forced over 810,000 Palestinian civilians to move from the city of Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip, during the past two weeks.

The Agency said in a post on X that "every time families are displaced, their lives are at serious risk." "The exodus continues in Gaza. UNRWA estimates over 810,000 people have fled Rafah in the past two weeks," it said.

"Every time families are displaced, their lives are at serious risk. People are forced to leave everything behind looking for safety. But there's no safe zone. #Cease-fireNow"

Israeli occupation forces continue the closure of the Rafah border crossing, Gaza's sole pedestrian crossing to the outside world, and the Karm Abu Salem commercial crossing in southern Gaza for the 14th consecutive day, exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe gripping the besieged territory.

The closure of the crossings coincides with the intensification of the Israeli aggression on the gov-



ernorates of Rafah, Central Gaza, Gaza, and the North Gaza, even extending to the Mawasi area, where citizens have been instructed by the Israeli army to seek refuge.

Since May 7, Israeli occupation forces have occupied the Palestinian side of the Rafah border crossing, halting the flow of aid to the territory. Additionally, since then, Israeli forces have maintained the closure of the Karm Abu commer-

cial crossing southeast of Rafah, preventing the entry of humanitarian and medical aid.

The Rafah border crossing is considered the main land gateway for delivery of international aid and for the wounded and sick in Gaza seeking treatment abroad.

The continued closure of these crossings poses a significant challenge to humanitarian efforts and exacerbates the dire situation

for Palestinians in Gaza, who are already grappling with the consequences of the ongoing Israeli military aggression, now in its 227th day.

Stop work and construction orders issued by the Israeli occupation

The Israeli occupation authorities on Monday notified a halt on work and construction in five homes in

the town of Ni'lin, west of Ramallah. Local sources reported that the occupation forces stormed the town and handed over two local residents demolition notices against their homes in the eastern area of the town.

The soldiers further handed over notices to stop work and construction in five other homes in the town.

Ireland vows to recognise Palestinian state by end of May

Ireland will recognise Palestinian statehood before the end of this month, Simon Harris, Ireland's premier, has confirmed.

Harris made the comments as he was delivering a speech in County Longford following the National Famine Commemoration event.

He said that his country's position on Middle East issues is clear, stressing the need to stop violence immediately and allow humanitarian aid to arrive without hindrance due to the humanitarian catastrophe occurring in Gaza.

Harris pointed out that Ireland is moving with countries that

want to recognise the State of Palestine.

It is noteworthy that eight member states of the European Union recognise the State of Palestine, and these are Bulgaria, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Greek Administration of Southern Cyprus, and Sweden.

Norway donates \$10 million for supporting health sector in Palestine

The Minister of Finance, Omar Al-Bitar and the Head of the Norwegian Representative Office in Palestine, Tor Neviste, today signed an agreement to support the health sector with the equivalent of \$10 million provided by Norway.

During an event in the city of Ramallah, the Minister of Health Majid Abu Ramadan said in the presence of the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Muhammad Mustafa, that the agreement is dedicated to purchasing medicines and medical consumables, and also to support the treatment of thousands of patients in East Jerusalem hospitals. — Wafa

SPORTS

Rajasthan Royals consigned to Eliminator after washout

Royals finished third following the abandonment of the game and now face Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the Eliminator on May 22

GUWAHATI: Rain in Guwahati denied hosts Rajasthan Royals (RR) a shot at a top-two finish in the final league fixture of IPL 2024 on Sunday. RR's game against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) was abandoned, without a ball being bowled, at around 10.50pm (local time), meaning RR ended the league phase with four losses in a row, followed by this washout, to finish third with 17 points.

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) also had 17 points, having successfully chased down 215 against a severely depleted Punjab Kings (PBKS) side earlier in the day, but they stayed second, thanks to a superior net run-rate.



Pat Cummins' SRH will now face table-toppers Kolkata Knight Riders in the first qualifier in Ahmedabad on May 21.

As for Royals, they will run into a red-hot Royal Challengers Bangalore side, which is on a six-match winning streak, in the Eliminator the next day at the same venue. KKR's players might have to

rock up cold in the playoffs, with their last two league games having been abandoned without a ball being bowled. Especially Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Phil Salt's potential replacement, who is yet to play his first game this IPL. His last outing with the bat was for Afghanistan in mid-March.

Royals have similar concerns

around their overseas players. Their finisher Shimron Hetmyer was originally deemed fit for Monday's fixture, but eventually didn't make it to the XI or the Impact subs bench, with RR captain Sanju Samson suggesting that they had to make some last-minute changes to their team.

Hetmyer hasn't played since

failing to finish a tense chase against SRH along with Rovman Powell on May 2. Tom Kohler-Cadmore, who is somewhat of a like-for-like replacement for Jos Buttler, had a fairly rough initiation into the IPL, managing 18 off 23 balls against Punjab Kings in much drier conditions in Guwahati on May 15.

The Guwahati surface was under covers for the most of Monday evening before the rain briefly relented to allow the toss for a seven-over shootout, which was scheduled to restart at 10.45pm local time. However, soon after KKR won the toss and chose to bowl, the rain returned to force a damp end to the league phase.

ICC T20 WORLD CUP

Simmons joins PNG as 'specialist coach'



ST KITTS: Phil Simmons, who coached West Indies to the 2016 T20 World Cup title, has joined Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a 'specialist coach' ahead of the 2024 edition of the tournament in June.

Simmons' second stint as West Indies coach ended soon after their group-stage elimination at the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia and he has worked extensively in franchise cricket since, coaching Trinbago Knight Riders, LA Knight Riders and Karachi Kings.

He will support head coach Tenda Taibu, the former Zimbabwe wicketkeeper, and Cricket PNG said in a press release on Sunday.

"My role here is as a consultant coach and [will be about] how I put across my experience, not just playing in World Cups but playing in the Caribbean and the things that we should be looking at to make sure we do it right in the Caribbean and especially the venues that we play at.

"As a player internationally, for fourteen years and then as an international coach for eighteen years, it's been a long time in the game. It's always brilliant to come home, always brilliant to come back to any part of the West Indies.

You know how beautiful it is here. I'm looking forward to getting home, which is Trinidad."

PNG arrived in St Kitts at the end of last week after a four-day journey from Port Moresby. They are due to train and play various unofficial warm-up matches over the coming days before facing Oman and Namibia in official warm-up fixtures in Trinidad and Tobago next week.

They have been drawn in Group C of the World Cup itself. They will face co-hosts West Indies in their opening match in Guyana on June 2, then play Uganda four days later at the same venue. They will then travel back to Trinidad to face Afghanistan on June 14 and New Zealand on June 17.

Simmons said: "Their energy is unbelievable: their warm-up alone yesterday got me tired. The guys look like they have settled in really well... I've known the head coach for a long time and he's always energetic. There is always a lot of energy, but the players seem to be pushing him where that is not so, and I like that atmosphere in the team."

Batter Assad Vala will lead PNG, who will be playing their second T20 World Cup. - Agencies

AUSTRALIA SQUAD FOR T20 WORLD CUP

Fraser-McGurk, Short set to be Australia's travelling reserves

SYDNEY: Australia are set to take two travelling reserves to the T20 World Cup with Jake Fraser-McGurk and Matthew Short likely to be named as the 16th and 17th squad members who will join as cover in case of a tournament-ending injury to one of the first-choice 15.

Australia's chair of selectors George Bailey had suggested that Australia would carry just one reserve to the Caribbean when the provisional squad was announced, but they are likely to add a second with the in-form Fraser-McGurk set to be named alongside Short.

They have elected not to add a third frontline spinner as a travelling reserve. Leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha was with the squad as a reserve at the ODI World Cup last year when Australia had just one specialist spinner but this time Ashton Agar is included in the 15. Sangha is also understood to be managing a hip flexor issue and therefore wasn't in contention. Left-arm orthodox Matthew Kuhnemann trained with Australia's non-IPL players in Brisbane in the two camps held over the past fortnight but is yet to play a T20I for Australia despite playing Test and ODI cricket over the past two years.

Fraser-McGurk's omission from the main squad caused a stir given his stunning IPL form with many in Australia and overseas believing he should have been included. He has yet to make his T20I debut and has only played two ODIs. He was not selected in the main squad on the basis that Australia have an established top three in David Warner,



Travis Head and captain Mitchell Marsh and that the selectors needed players with more versatility to fill roles outside the first-choice XI. Fraser-McGurk will likely provide cover if one of the top three gets injured during the tournament.

Short was also unlucky to miss out on a spot in the final 15 having appeared in nine of Australia's last 14 T20Is and also played in multiple batting roles. He opened in five games having been BBL player of the tournament in back-to-back seasons as an opener but batted at No. 3 once and No. 6 twice as Australia looked to build some middle-order depth. He only bowled his part-time off-spin in four of those matches including an over in the powerplay in three of them. He is likely to provide cover for a number of different roles in the squad.

Australia have opted not to carry another fast bowler in their reserves as there may be times

in the tournament they only play two of the four they selected in the squad. They have the capability of playing two spinners or the extra all-rounder in Cameron Green to lengthen the batting line-up down to No. 8.

Spencer Johnson, Xavier Bartlett and Sean Abbott will all be in the UK playing in the T20 Blast during the World Cup and can be flown into the Caribbean more easily than anyone remaining in Australia.

Australia's squad members not involved in the IPL finals will fly to the Caribbean on Thursday for a training camp in Trinidad that will include two practice matches against Namibia and West Indies on May 28 and 30 respectively. There is a possibility that Australia will have limited numbers available for those matches with Head, Green, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Glenn Maxwell set for a delayed arrival due to the IPL playoffs not being com-



pleted until May 26.

But while New Zealand opted not to play any practice matches due to the logistical challenge of having chunks of their squad arrive at different times into the Caribbean, Australia are prepared to play the warm-up games with limited numbers to choose from.

A number of their players including Marsh, Warner, Agar, Josh Hazlewood, Adam Zampa, Matthew Wade, Nathan Ellis and Josh Inglis have either played no cricket since the end of the Australian domestic summer in March or have played very little cricket in the IPL. Under ICC rules, only players named in the 15-man squad can play in the warm-up fixtures.

Marsh, Hazlewood, Inglis, Zampa and Agar have all trained in Brisbane over the past fortnight along with Short. Marsh is understood to have recovered from his hamstring injury but he is still yet to bowl. (With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD COACH

Gary Kirsten joins Pakistan team ahead of England T20I series

LEEDS: Pakistan's newly appointed head coach, Gary Kirsten joined the 'Men in Green' in Leeds on Sunday ahead of their upcoming four-match T20I series against England.

Team manager Wahab Riaz, captain Babar Azam and assistant coach Azhar Mahmood welcomed the new head coach. Kirsten was also presented with a team jersey after he linked up with the team.

Kirsten joined the team after his stint with the Indian Premier League (IPL) outfit Gujarat Titans ended. GT ended the campaign in the eighth spot with 12 points and a net run rate of -1.063.

The former South Africa cricketer was announced as Pakistan's limited-over head coach last month.

During his playing days which lasted from 1993 to 2004, Kirsten made 101 Test and 185 ODI appearances for the Proteas. He amassed 14,087 runs and 34 centuries across both formats.

In Test format, he scored 7,289 runs at an average of 45.3 and a strike rate of 43.4. Out of 34 tons, he has 21 tons in the red ball format. In the ODIs, he has 6,798 runs at an average of 41.0 and a strike rate of 72.0.

Kirsten has had a fair share of experience in the managerial role.



He served as the head coach of Pakistan's arch-rival India from 2008 to 2011.

It was under his reign, that India lifted the 2011 World Cup trophy on their home soil and ended their

28 years of wait. India also became the number-one team in the ICC Test rankings during his stint.

Kirsten will look to inspire the Pakistan team to World Cup glory. Their upcoming four-match series against England will help them prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup.

The T20I series will begin on May 22 in Headingley Carnegie and will conclude on May 30 in London.

Out of 19 teams, Pakistan are the only team that hasn't announced their squad for the marquee event in June in the USA and the West Indies.

For the marquee event in June,

Pakistan are placed in Group A alongside USA, India, Canada and Ireland. The Men in Green will kick off their campaign against the USA on June 6 and will face arch-rival India on June 9 at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York.

Pakistan squad for the England series: Babar Azam (C), Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan. - ANI

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2024 reaching \$85.20, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rise by 67 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$84.53. - OMA

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EU-MERCOSUR TRADE DEAL

The biggest free-trade zone in the world will not come into being before the EU elections in early June. So what's holding it up? Will the agreement ever be finalised — and, if so, when?

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR39.03 million

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR10.03 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR29 million, for a maturity period of 182 days

Muscat: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR39.03 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR10.03 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.750 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at



OMR98.730 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.01368 per cent and 5.07714 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR29 million, for a maturity period of 182 days. The average accepted price reached OMR97.446 for every OMR100, and the mini-

mum accepted price arrived at OMR97.440 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.12127 per cent and 5.25548 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity

to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 6.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills

Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -ONA

TARGETS LOCAL TALENTS AND INNOVATORS

Ministry launches 'Hadatha' award to celebrate cybersecurity accomplishments

MUSCAT: Represented by the National Centre for Information Safety (Oman National CERT), the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology yesterday launched the 'Hadatha Cybersecurity Award', which targets local talents and innovators, as well as parties undertaking cybersecurity initiatives, government and private institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

The organisers evaluate the performance and accomplishments made in the field of security.

The award also seeks to raise the Sultanate of Oman's global indices in the fields of innovation and cybersecurity.

It is aimed at establishing a comprehensive cybersecurity system that utilises the services of experts, specialists and competent authorities, in addition to celebrating success stories.

The award includes three main categories of competitors: "Individuals", "Establishments" and "Startups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)".

The "Individuals" segment focuses on initiatives with eco-



nomical and social returns, including awareness in the field of cybersecurity, academic research, specialised scholarly papers and self-employment projects.

The "Establishments" segment

highlights the readiness of institutions that upgrade their social responsibility in serving a given axis of the cybersecurity industry programme.

The third category of the award

celebrates the accomplishments of startups and SMEs that play a role in the cybersecurity industry by undertaking projects that have an economic return to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

S&P GLOBAL MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Volume, productivity improved at most Indian ports in first quarter of 2024

NEW DELHI: The volume of container movements increased at most Indian ports on a yearly basis during the first quarter of 2024, according to an analysis by S&P Global Market Intelligence, a financial information and analytics firm.

The biggest increase was registered at Kattupalli port with a yearly increase of 91 per cent, as per the report by the financial information and analytics firm.

Oceanside port productivity (port-moves-per-hour) generally improved among ports the firm surveyed. In India, Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai registered a significant 36 per cent year-on-year improvement in performance in the first quarter of 2024.

Berth productivity at the large Indian ports was generally stable year-on-year. Among medium-sized ports, Pipavav port in Gujarat was the highest performer, delivering 125 berth-moves-per-hour (BMPH) during the quarter.

Further, the report noted India



managed to reduce import dwell time for containers (-22 per cent year-on-year at larger ports; -41 per cent year-on-year at medium ports) at a greater rate than counterparts in Southeast Asia and China (-2.9 per cent year-on-year at larger ports; +1.6 per cent year-on-year at medium ports).

However, export dwell time for containers worsened at Indian ports. Median export dwell time rose to more than four days from

3.5 days the previous year period.

Dwell time is the time a vessel stops to either drop off or pick up goods at ports. This time is crucial in determining the total efficiency.

The dwell time for transshipment almost halved at large Indian ports while at the same time increased by more than 45 per cent at counterparts in Southeast Asia and China, the S&P Global Market Intelligence said.

"Import dwell time is the elapsed

time in days from offloading from the ship to gate-out while export dwell time is that from gate-in to loading on the ship," it explained.

Further, the analysis found that Jawaharlal Nehru Port and Mundra Port both saw a significant decrease in vessel waiting time.

Medium-sized Indian ports also experienced lower year-on-year vessel waiting times, with major improvements at Pipavav, Chennai and Krishnapatnam. -ANI

GLOBAL MARKETS



Metals, stocks surge as rate cut expectations firm

SINGAPORE: Asian shares hit two-year highs while copper and gold struck records on Monday as investors wagered on interest rate cuts around the corner and China stepping up efforts to steady its property sector, Reuters reported.

Brent crude futures rose to a one-week high of US\$84.25 a barrel after reports on fresh instability in the Middle East.

Gold climbed more than 1 percent to US\$2,449.89 and copper futures surged nearly 7 percent in Shanghai to a record 88,940 yuan a tonne and fetched US\$11,104.50 in London.

ANZ analysts pointed to tight supply and signs of resilient global growth as helping copper and noted record first-quarter imports of 566 tonnes of gold into China as supporting prices.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was up 0.4 percent, Japan's Nikkei rose 0.7 percent and hit a five-week high and world shares were within a whisker of last week's record peaks.

S&P 500 futures rose 0.1 percent, as did FTSE futures and European futures.

China announced "historic" steps on Friday to stabilise its property sector, with the central bank facilitating 1 trillion yuan (US\$138 billion) in extra funding and local governments set to buy some apartments. It left benchmark rates on hold, as expected.

After last week cheering a slowdown in U.S. inflation and European policymakers' flagging rate cuts as soon as June, investor focus now turns to policy speeches, meeting minutes, a central bank decision in New Zealand and Nvidia results.

"The week ahead will pivot on the Fed speakers and (Fed) min-

utes in how they paint the picture of policy risks ahead, with a bias to ease rather than hike essential," said Bob Savage, BNY Mellon's head of markets strategy and insights.

Two-year US Treasury yields ended last week four basis points (bps) lower at 4.825 percent and were steady in Asia trade. Ten-year US yields were down 8.4 bps last week to 4.42 percent.

Big in Japan

Across the Pacific speculation is growing that Japanese rates can lift off zero, which is driving government bond yields there to their highest in more than a decade.

Ten-year yields went up 2.5 bps to 0.975 percent, the highest since 2013, though the wide gap to U.S. yields left the unloved yen little changed.

In currency markets the dollar logged its largest weekly drop on the euro in two-and-a-half months last week, but was steady in Asia morning trade on Monday. The euro was a touch stronger at US\$1.0880 on Monday. The yen was steady at 155.70 per dollar.

The Australian dollar rose 1.4 percent last week and held at US\$0.6697 on Monday and the New Zealand dollar hovered at US\$0.6127. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand sets interest rates on Wednesday and is expected to leave its main cash rate at 5.5 percent.

Meeting minutes are due from Australia's central bank and the Federal Reserve. Flash global PMIs are also out this week.

Elsewhere in commodities, unrest in New Caledonia drove up prices for its major export, nickel, and silver was chasing gold higher broke above US\$30. -WAM

ARAB MONETARY FUND

Cairo to host Council of Arab Finance Ministers meet

ABU DHABI: The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is organising the 15th regular session of the Council of Arab Finance Ministers in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, on Wednesday, as part of the annual joint meetings of Arab financial institutions, under the chairmanship of Nadia Fattah, Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Morocco.

The meeting will be attended by the finance ministers of Arab countries, along with observers from the Arab League, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Arab executive directors of both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group.

Dr. Fahad M. Alturki, Director General and Chairman of the AMF Board of the Arab Monetary Fund, stated that the meeting is an opportunity to discuss the challenges faced by financial policymakers in the Arab region within the context of regional and international economic and financial developments. He praised the efforts of Arab countries in public finance reforms and emphasised their importance in achieving financial sustainability and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth in a complex economic environment. -WAM

MARKET

EU–Mercosur’s trade deal: No pact before European elections

The biggest free-trade zone in the world will not come into being before the EU elections in early June. So what’s holding it up? Will the agreement ever be finalised — and, if so, when?

BRUSSELS: The free trade deal between the European Union and the South American trade bloc Mercosur would be the world’s largest such agreement, affecting a total of 780 million people. But in late March, French President Emmanuel Macron not only described it as “a very bad agreement,” he even suggested it should be “left behind” and called for “a new agreement.”

Macron likely doesn’t want to



give right-wing populist parties like Marine Le Pen’s National Rally any free ammunition for their campaign ahead of the EU elections in June. And he wouldn’t want to get French farmers any more annoyed; they’ve already brought the country to a standstill for weeks with their protests.

Weeks later, Macron’s words still resonate. The agreement between the EU and Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, which was actually finalised five years ago, is still on hold. History is repeating itself: France also blocked the agreement in 2019. Back then, it was in response to the far-right Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro and his controversial policies in the Amazon rainforest.

Germany pushing forward as France applies the brakes

Now, the French head of state is worried Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay may flood the European Union with cheap meat — and that French farmers will again take to the barricades. Meanwhile, German industry is pushing for the agreement to be concluded — if necessary by a qualified majority, even without France.

Major chemical companies, such as BASF and Bayer, as well as the automotive industry, including Daimler and Volkswagen, see the deal as a great business opportunity. “Volkswagen stands for an open, free, and rule-based trade policy, and is advocating for the

swift ratification of the Mercosur agreement,” the auto giant told DW in a statement.

In Brussels, negotiators have remain notably calm, despite the delay. “The EU-Mercosur teams remain in contact on a technical level to resolve the outstanding issues,” said Olof Gill, a trade and agriculture spokesperson for the European Commission. “The EU continues to focus on ensuring that the agreement meets the EU’s sustainability goals, while also taking the EU’s sensitivities in the agricultural sector into account.”

And so we have yet another chapter in the seemingly endless story of the negotiations between the EU and Mercosur, which first began in 1999. The goal was to fa-

cilitate trade between the two continents in certain products, and to reduce tariffs.

China benefits from stalled negotiations

It has been suggested the European Union could invest in green energy, for which there is much potential in South America. But Marcela Cristini, a senior economist at Argentina’s Latin-American Research Economic Foundation, said the continued delay of the free-trade deal will hurt those ambitions, with China keeping a very close eye on the stalled talks.

Although Argentine President Javier Milei railed against China during his recent election campaign, saying he didn’t want to do business with communist countries, Cristini is convinced China would respond if Argentina came calling. In fact, 21 Latin American and Caribbean countries are keen to be part of China’s Belt and Road initiative, a global trade and infrastructure project also known as the New Silk Road.

“The Mercosur countries are global traders, and China is one of the main buyers of agricultural and industrial products,” said Cristini. “That is not going to change. In the case of Mercosur, China is the individual countries’ No. 1 or No. 2 trade partner.”

EU-Mercosur agreement ‘outdated, unsuitable’ for climate

Meanwhile, France’s Macron is the last hope for those who are fundamentally opposed to the free-trade agreement. Environmental and human rights organizations in Europe and South America have been fighting the plans for years. A brief remark by the French president, in which he suggested negotiating a new treaty that “takes into account development, climate and biodiversity” made them sit up and take note.

At the forefront of the opposition is German environmental lawyer Roda Verheyen. In a legal opinion commissioned by Greenpeace Germany, she concluded that the agreement violated international climate law.

“This agreement should no longer be negotiated, because it simply does not represent a modern and lawful free trade agreement, no matter what they add to it,” she told DW. “The EU-Mercosur agreement is quite simply outdated, and unsuitable, from today’s perspective, for combining climate protection and global policy approaches.”

Verheyen has already argued successfully for greater climate protection in Germany, before the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe in 2021. -dw

REPORT

UK set to have slower inflation than Eurozone and the US

LONDON: The United Kingdom (UK) is set to have slower inflation than both the Eurozone and the US for the first time in over two years as falling energy prices for consumers cut Britain’s rate of headline price growth.

Prediction

The *Financial Times* said that the annual growth in consumer prices for April is predicted to drop to 2.1 per cent, which is close to the Bank of England’s target of 2 per cent. This would be sharply below March’s 3.2 per cent figure.

The newspaper added that the decline is largely the result of a 12 per cent fall in the regulatory cap on household energy bills last month, following a decline in wholesale gas prices.

With the falling prices for consumers, April would be the second straight month in which UK inflation was lower than consumer price inflation in the US, and the first time since March 2022 that it was below both the US and Eurozone rates.

Fuels debate

The figures will further fuel debate among policymakers at the Bank of England about when to cut rates from their 16-year high of 5.25 per cent. Lower inflation would provide a boost to UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak after data this month showed that the UK economy is recovering from last year’s recession in the first quarter, with growth of 0.6 per cent the fastest in two years. -oia

NEW RULES

Post-Brexit trade border controls to cost UK \$6bn

LONDON: Britain will spend at least 4.7 billion pounds (\$6 billion, €5.5 billion) on implementing a new approach to import goods after exiting the EU customs market in 2020, the UK government’s public spending watchdog said on Monday.

The UK voted to leave the European Union in 2016 but remained in the bloc’s single market and customs union until 2021.

In 2021, the UK withdrew from the EU customs union and a new EU-UK Trade Cooperation Agreement (TCA) went into effect.

The European Parliament said in a report that the trading of goods between the parties had become “burdensome” since Brexit and trade volumes had shrunk.

UK checks this year to cost at least \$6 billion



More checks were scheduled as the UK is gradually implementing the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) this year.

The first phase of BTOM went into force on January 31, and the second phase, which includes physical checks at ports, went into

effect on April 31. A third phase, requiring safety and security declarations, is slated for October 31.

The National Audit Office (NAO) said the 4.7 billion pounds figure is the amount the government forecasts it will spend on the 13 most significant programs

to manage trade across the border and improve performance over the lifetime of the programmes.

The UK government delayed the implementation of full controls five times since the exiting the EU customs markets, which caused uncertainty for businesses.

“Late announcements about policy and uncertainty about the implementation of controls have also reduced the ability of businesses and ports to prepare for changes,” the NAO said.

The watchdog was also critical of the government’s 2025 UK Border Strategy, which was published in 2020, saying it “lacks a clear timetable and an integrated cross-government delivery plan, with individual departments leading different aspects of implementation.” -dw

TECHNOLOGY

Apple to add AI to notifications



WASHINGTON: Apple plans to add the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) in all aspects of the upcoming iOS 18 iPhone system, including notifications.

As part of the changes, the company will improve Siri’s voice capabilities, giving it a more conversational feel, and add features that help users with their day-to-day lives an approach it calls “proactive intelligence.” That includes services like auto-summarising notifications from your iPhone, giving a quick synopsis of news articles and transcribing voice memos, as well as improving existing features that auto-populate your calendar and suggest apps.

Many applications deliberately send notifications to users; in order to urge them to interact with them continuously, but that makes the notification section

full of a large number of them regardless of how important they are to the user.

Some users consider that the iOS notification management system may need further development, and AI may play a role in improving notification management to provide greater benefits to users and reduce their dispersion.

Apple is seeking to make the AI benefits it intends to offer users with iOS 18 processing-based devices, but there will be other processing-based benefits in the company’s cloud servers.

Apple may abandon the development of a smart chat app similar to other apps such as ChatGPT and Gemini in its next system, which may also mean that the company has not reached an appropriate agreement with rival companies to integrate its applications into the system. -oia

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INNOVATION

Summit offers opportunity to experience latest in electric vehicle technology

ABU DHABI: Under the patronage of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MoEI), the third edition of the Electric Vehicle Innovation Summit (EVIS 2024) was inaugurated yesterday by Sharif Al Olama, Under-Secretary for Energy and Petroleum Affairs at MoEI. The event, held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), marks a significant milestone in the Mena region’s journey towards sustainable transportation.

Delivering the opening speech, Sharif Al Olama reiterated the UAE’s commitment to building a sustainable transport system. He said, “The summit comes at a critical time, as the world strives to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. An all-inclusive decarbonisation drive is a must to reach our collective goal. This raises an urgent need to promote green mobility and accelerate the reduction of CO2 emissions coming from the transport sector, one of the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases.”

He added, “To achieve this target, the National Demand Side Management Program has launched a host of initiatives targeting a greener mobility system. One of the main initiatives is promoting the shift to electric vehicles as a sustainable transport option. Today, electric and hybrid vehicles account for 3 percent of all vehicles on our roads in the UAE. We can see a growing appetite for EVs in the local market. People are displaying a stronger sense of responsibility towards the environment and want to make eco-friendly choices.”



The Under-Secretary noted that according to a report by the International Energy Agency, the UAE ranked second in the Middle East for the sales of EVs. In 2023, 13 percent of total car sales were electric vehicles.

He said, “As a government, we play an active part in increasing the penetration of EVs by building an integrated charging station network linking all emirates. In this regard, we are collaborating with stakeholders from the private sector to increase investment in the infrastructure of the electric charging network through various financing mechanisms that serve all concerned parties.

“Our aim is to increase the scale and pace of the shift to green mobility through raising the share of EVs to 50 percent of all vehicles on our roads by 2050. This comes in line with the UAE’s commitment to becoming carbon-neutral in

fewer than three decades.”

Al Olama added, “Regionally, we are developing an EV Gulf Corridor, where the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman will be linked with the UAE by installing charging stations at our borders with the two countries to help ease the movement of electric vehicles.”

Naser Ali Al Bahri, CEO of Nirvana MICE, said, “EVIS 2024 is not just an event; it’s the future of e-mobility in the MENA region. This exhibition and summit, featuring over 150 global exhibitors, showcases the evolution of the electric mobility sector with a rich program of industry discussions. Our robust partnerships, including the unwavering support from the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, are instrumental in propelling this transformative journey forward. We are setting the stage for continued innovation and sustainable growth.”

Following the opening remarks, Al Olama led a guided tour of the exhibition floor, highlighting major advancements in electric vehicle technology.

The summit is set to continue through 22nd May, offering attendees the opportunity to experience the latest in electric vehicle technology, including test drives of the newest vehicles which showcase the rapid acceleration and silent operation that define modern electric vehicles.

As EVIS 2024 progresses, it continues to attract increasing attention, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for electric mobility and sustainable transportation solutions. The exhibition and summit serve as a dynamic venue for discovering the latest trends, networking with industry leaders, and witnessing the technologies that will define tomorrow’s transport solutions. -waim

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Contact: 95273713 Finance, Acct Manager (20 yrs exp of Oman) finalisation MIS, audit, tax, VAT, ILC, ITR & credit control, oracle ERP. Contact: 92383882 Indian female (MBA finance) having more than 15 yrs of experience in Oman in finance & accounts seeks suitable senior position. Contact: 94953826, 92824146 B.Com ICWAI (Inter) Expd. in finalization audit MIS credit control experienced in retail,FMCG service industry 19 yrs Oman D/L , can join immediately, Salary RO 1,000/- (negotiable) Contact 97634372 Indian male having 10 yrs of experience upto finalisation well with ERP systems. Contact: 97481803 Accountant CMA-USA female 16 yrs of experience .contact 96274865. Email: geetadshetty@yahoo.com Accountant Indian male B.com graduate 8 yrs experience (5 year in Oman) looking for a suitable post. Contact +968 78905799. Email soora korat13@gmail.com Indian female B.Com having 9 yrs experience in accounts and administration looking for suitable job. Contact 98500291. Email: andreacardoz23@gmail.com	Indian, MBA finance, 13 yrs of Oman experiences, 8 yrs in electricity sector & 5 yrs in Insurance industry. Contact: 97304941. Email: ajirc06@gmail.com Indian male, Chief accountant, 10 yrs experience in Oman up to finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, tax assessments. Working experience in SAP & other ERP systems, looking for a suitable position, having valid D/L. Contact 92024380 Email: mithun.chittedathu@gmail.com Indian male 24 yr, Bcom looking for a suitable position in accountant with 1+ yr experience in India. Contact +96879571870. Email: safwancm21@gmail.com Female Indian, MBA finance postgraduate looking for suitable placement available for immediate joining. Contact: 79880468. Email: sana.hameed537@gmail.com Experienced Indian having Boom Computer Application looking a job in Oman. Recently in India. vineesh.pallathi121@gmail.com Indian male,25yrs, looking for job as Accountant,assistant accountant,2 yrs experience in GCC.Available Immediately.Contact 78953212 Email: waseemmohammed789@gmail.com Indian male, M.Com, 17 yrs exp accounts, tax audit, VAT. Looking for Senior position in accounts & finance, valid D/L. Contact: 97228382. Email: anbilisivak@gmail.com Accountant 19 yrs experience in SAP manufacturing, automotive, telecom,9 yrs Oman experience having Oman D/L. Contact: 95598262 Indian male 33, M. Com, 13 yrs experience in Oman and india as senior accountant looking for suitable position, currently in Oman with valid Oman D/L. Contact 91293133 M.Com Marketing Indian lady with Oman S/L seeking job with 1 yr experience. Immediate joining. Contact: 99573447 Indian male, B.Sc Mathematics graduate, 6 years experience in supervision, billing & sales, for immediate joining. Contact:78230431 Finance, Accounts manager ACCA with 15 yrs experience in Oman, looking for suitable position. Contact: 95276276. Email: Sadatyounis@outlook.com Senior Accountant, Indian male, accounts up to finalisation, debt and credit management, 15 yrs experience in Oman, having D/L and NOC. Contact: 94001764 Chief accountant, Indian Male, 20 yrs experience in finance,accounts up to finalisation. Well versed with ERP systems, audit, MIS, banking, budgeting etc. Valid D/L. Contact: 79187945	Indian male B.Com graduate, 7 yrs accounting experience in India (Tax, Vat return filing, finance). Contact: 78699354. Email: haseebnalloor@gmail.com M.Com, Indian, Chief Accountant, having D/L, 16 yrs experience in Oman up to finalization, audit, budgeting, MIS, VAT, Income Tax, Tax assessments, looking for a suitable position. 78233089. Indian male, MCOM, 6 yrs. experience in Accounts, audit, taxation, and VAT looking for jobs in finance and accounts, currently working in a reputed firm in Muscat. Contact: 93272970 Indian Male 22 yrs B.Com Indian qualified, 1+yr India experience accountant with looking for full time placement, will be available immediately. Contact: +968 79534299, musharaffsheikh@gmail.com ARCHITECT Indian male 15 yrs experience Senior Arch,interior Cad draughtsman.Currently working in a prestigious Interior designing & fit out company on18th November Looking for better opportunity. Contact: +968-94728837 Email: touseefade@gmail.com ADMINISTRATION Required project coordinator (construction site) with 4-5 years' experience in GCC & Oman D/L. Contact: +968 97123333 call/whatsapp Indian male with 7 yrs experience in Oman in cleaning and pest control services as a supervisor or site Incharge looking for job. D/L available. 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Contact: +968 91132424	Indian male 25 yrs, Nebosh -IGC with 1.5 yrs of experience in the construction field as an HSE officer Oman, with valid D/L looking for suitable placement. Contact +968 98337336. navinsathyan.pp@gmail.com Bachelor in mechanical engineer having 24 yrs of experience in the field of facility management (building maintenance-services), project execution. Seeking a suitable placement.currently residing in Oman. Contact 91195175. Email: mahafeez2003@gmail.com. Civil Project Manager with 25 yrs of experience in contracting, consultant, client representative. Looking for suitable placement. Contact: 79081315. Email: riyas05@hotmail.com EDUCATION/ TRAINING Indian female B.Ed MSc, Science lecturer, looking for job. Contact: 78963783, 78270420 MANAGER Facility, MEP manager 6 yrs in Oman and 4 yrs UAE experience. Contact: 9170 1152 LOGISTIC Indian male with 8 yrs of logistics, freight forwarding, and procurement experience, with Omani D/L. Contact / WA: +968 9744 2565. Email:hussain_khizar@yahoo.com Indian male 10 yrs experience Dubai,india storekeeper cum salesman, looking for immediate placement. Contact: 78495431, 78492316. Email:manumathi12w@gmail.com Indian female MBA in HR & finance, Diploma in logistics & supply chain management with 6mths exp as CS, 1 mth internship in logistics, looking for job. Contact: 98233405, Email: nivyakraj123@gmail.com IT graduate with experience in logistics, warehousing and air cargo operations seeking suitable opportunity and available to join immediately. Contact: 79069075 IT BE, CSE with 1 yrs of experience as system support Engineer & IT coordinator, and web developer Contact: 79068700 IT support specialist executive coordinator, Indian B.Tech computer science, 6yrs experience require suitable opening. Contact: 78544647 Expert IT professional with over 7 yrs of experience seeking a full-time position in IT system administration or desktop support engineering. 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Email: vipinpvns@gmail.com Having experience in space selling and have worked for leading newspapers in India. Looking out for a placement in Oman preferably in newspapers Industry, advertising or related field. Contact: +96879654451. Email: aajaza@gmail.com Indian male having 17 yrs exp in sales & marketing,able to manage division independently, building materials,water proof & coating. Looking for suitable post. Contact: 79222935 Indian (M) 9 yrs Oman exp in sales & marketing with D/L Oman. Contact: 77113215. Indian graduate with 11 yrs of experience as coordinator (project & Sales)with Oman D/L, looking for suitable openings. Contact: 97619257 Indian graduate 7 yrs experience in sales with D/L. Contact: 98613373. Email: syedismailnoor@gmail.com MISCELLANEOUS Indian male 32, valid D/L. Looking for any part time or full time job. Contact: 93079335. Email: adarshsoman2@gmail.com



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Guests are pampered like royals at the majestic Shangri-La Al Husn, offering a perfect getaway for Oman and GCC residents

A LUXURIOUS WEEKEND ESCAPE IN OMAN

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Living in Oman, surrounded by its natural beauty and rich culture, is an experience in itself. With pristine beaches, impressive Al Hajar Mountains, and the captivating sand dunes of Rimal Sharqiyah, it offers plenty to explore. Yet, sometimes, residents need a break from everyday routine to pamper themselves with ultimate luxury. There is no better escape over a weekend than Shangri-La Al Husn.

A total of 180 rooms and suites in different categories are on offer for guests to pick from, with the suites experienced by many stars and global personalities over the years. The resort, including the other two hotels (Al Bandar and Al Waha), boasts 640 rooms, 14 restaurants, and 3 pools across all three hotels.

Arrival and Accommodation

Part of Shangri-La Muscat, this all-adult hotel Shangri-La Al Husn is located on the cliffs overlooking Al Bandar and Al Waha, the complex's other two resorts. Al Husn is an idyllic retreat designed to offer a luxurious escape without the need to travel far.

Nestled between the rugged Hajar Mountains and the serene Gulf of Oman, this exquisite resort promises a rejuvenating weekend staycation for residents of Oman and the GCC.

Al Husn means castle in Arabic, and the majestic Arabesque architecture provides a royal feel on arrival.

The Al Husn experience begins with a smooth check-in, greeted by the warmth and professionalism of the staff.

The welcome drink and cool perfumed towels to refresh the guests set the tone for the stay. The rooms are spacious and elegantly furnished, boasting a private balcony with an unobstructed view of the azure sea - a picture-perfect setting!

The rooms feature a large dressing area and a bathtub separated from the room with an attractively latticed sliding wooden panel. Minute details in the interiors include gold detailing, dark wooden accents, and gold polished taps. Amenities include a coffee machine, a complimentary mini bar stocked with Ferrero Rocher chocolates and Oreos, and a welcome tray of fresh fruits.



Dining Experiences

For breakfast, Sultanah offers a buffet blending international and traditional Omani dishes. The nautical-themed restaurant is one of many dining options available. Lunch at Mahara Beach Bar is a culinary delight, with a seafood platter brimming with freshly caught delicacies. The prawns, grilled to perfection, are particularly enjoyable. Al Muheet poolside café offers bites throughout the day as guests enjoy a swim in the sea or pool.

For dinner, guests can choose to dine at Rohit Ghai's Aangan, an Indian restaurant that offers a gastronomic delight with a set menu crafted by a Michelin-star chef. Indulge in the signature prawns masala or Aloo Tikki to start with, then relish the amazing spread, with desserts leaving a lasting impression.



Shangri-La Al Husn provides the perfect staycation for Oman and GCC residents, blending luxury, culture, and natural beauty into an extraordinary escape.



Activities and Relaxation

The private beach, resembling a cove, offers guests pure bliss with its powdery soft sand and crystal-clear turquoise water. Guests can lounge under a cabana, read a novel, and enjoy refreshing dips in the sea.

Small ice boxes containing water bottles and juices are provided on the house. A separate section features sun loungers facing another cove, perfect for watching the sunset behind the mountains. Water sports activities, including stand-up paddle boards, kayaks, and wakeboarding, are also available.

Explore the resort's frankincense farm or watch turtle hatching while learning about conservation efforts from the on-site turtle ranger. The sister hotels are within walking distance, where guests can enjoy the popular lazy river designed as a loop under a

canopy of palm trees.

Relaxation continues with a rejuvenating session at the Luban Spa, offering treatments that combine traditional techniques with the aromatic essence of frankincense. A leisurely stroll through the resort's lush gardens, filled with fragrant blooms and chirping birds, creates a tranquil atmosphere perfect for a week-end break.

Exclusive Offerings

An infinity pool overlooking the ocean and a complimentary afternoon tea served on Sultanah's deck between 3-4 pm are elegant offerings. The high tea includes an assortment of delicate pastries and fragrant teas and coffee.

Another exclusivity when staying at Al Husn is the complimentary unlimited sunset pre-drinks between 6-7 pm, featur-



ing aperitifs, including canapés, served in the palm-lined courtyard or at Sultanah in summer season.

Perfect Staycation

Shangri-La Al Husn provides the perfect staycation for Oman and GCC residents, blending luxury, culture, and natural beauty into an extraordinary escape. Every detail, from the exquisite dining experiences to the impeccable service, contributes to a sense of unparalleled indulgence. This Omani paradise is more than just a getaway; it's a haven for the soul, right at our doorstep.

And for Oman residents, a sizzling offer of OMR 90 net per night for two adults is available until September. The residents can also avail early check-in and late check-out benefits with a guaranteed upgrade to the next available category.

SPORTS

Man City boss Guardiola casts doubt on new deal

A winner of 12 league titles across three countries since becoming a manager in 2008, Guardiola said that it is difficult to find the motivation

LONDON: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has raised the prospect he will leave the club when his contract expires at the end of next season, *BBC Sport* reported.

Guardiola has created English football history by steering his City side to four successive league titles with the latest achieved on Sunday after City beat West Ham 3-1 to claim the crown with 91 points, two more than Arsenal.

The latest title takes his personal tally to six, equal with Liverpool's Bob Paisley and George Ramsay of Aston Villa, and only exceeded by Sir Alex Ferguson, who has 13.



On May 25, City will attempt to become the first side to complete the domestic Double in successive seasons.

In total, Guardiola has won 17 trophies since arriving at City in 2016. In 2019, City became the first side to win the Premier League, FA Cup and EFL Cup in the same season.

Last term, they emulated Manchester United by winning the Treble, beating Inter Milan in Istanbul to win the Champions League for the first time in the club's history.

"Last year, after Istanbul, I said 'it's over, there's nothing left,'" he said.

"But I have a contract and I start to think 'no-one has done four in a

row, why don't we try?'. And now I feel it's done, so what next?"

"Now I don't know what exactly the motivation is because it's difficult to find it when everything is done."

Guardiola's present contract expires at the end of next season, by which time he will have been at City for nine years.

Asked on Sky Sports about his future, Guardiola said: "The reality is I am closer to leaving than staying. We have talked with the club - my feeling is that I want to stay now. I will stay next season and during the season we will talk. But eight or nine years - we will see."

Guardiola said he had to be told by Match of the Day presenter -

and former Barcelona star - Gary Lineker about doing the Double two years in a row.

"He told me no team has done back-to-back Premier Leagues and FA Cups," said Guardiola, who has now won 12 league titles for three clubs in 16 years as a manager.

"I want my players to enjoy two or three days and then prepare for the final. Why should we not work as much as possible to do what we have to do?"

City were pushed all the way by Mikel Arteta's Arsenal side as the Premier League title race went down to the final day for the 10th time.

Of Guardiola's six league triumphs with City, this was the third time they won it on the final day after pipping Liverpool to the title in 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Speaking after the game, Guardiola praised Arsenal for running his side close and pushing them to their limits.

"We get the message so I know they will be there for many years," he said. "Young manager, big talent. They send us a message that we have to be careful for the next few years."

"But today is a day to celebrate. If people told me in the next seven years we are going to win six Premier Leagues I will say you are insane, it's not going to happen."

"It happened. Now is our period. We are part of that."

SPANISH LA LIGA

Villarreal hold Real Madrid in an eight-goal thriller



MADRID: Alexander Sorloth's four goals inspired Villarreal to battle back from behind to earn a 4-4 draw at home to La Liga champions Real Madrid on Sunday.

A much-changed Real side had led 4-1 at half-time after goals from Joselu and Lucas Vazquez in between a brace from Arda Guler.

But former Crystal Palace striker Sorloth, who scored his side's first goal before the break, added three more in the first 11 minutes of the second half to help Villarreal earn a point.

Sorloth's goals, against a Real side that did not include Jude Bellingham or Vinicius Jr, moved him two goals clear of Girona's Artem Dovbyk at the top of La Liga's scoring charts on 23 goals, with one round of games remaining.

A point for Villarreal ends their hopes of qualifying for European football next season, sitting eighth and four points off Real Betis in seventh with just one game to go. Real's attention remain on their Champions League final with Borussia Dortmund on June 1.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Anfield awash with emotion as Reds coach Klopp bids farewell

LONDON: Jurgen Klopp punctuated his opening-day mission statement as Liverpool manager by insisting it is not important what people think about you when you arrive, the true measure of achievement is what they think about you when you leave.

As a beaming Klopp disappeared down the tunnel for the final time as Liverpool manager in front of packed stands at 6.46pm (local time) on a glorious Merseyside Sunday night, the German was in no doubt about Anfield's feelings.

Klopp, clad in a red T-shirt with 'I'll Never Walk Alone Again' on the rear and 'Thank You Luv' - the phrase he closely associates with the city of Liverpool - on the front, was accompanied by roars of appreciation, smiles and plenty of tears.

It was the finale of a nine-year thrill ride summed up by a banner stretching across the full length of The Kop before kick-off that provided a neat three-word summary of Klopp's reign from first day to last.

Liverpool ended a season that brought third place and a Carabao Cup with a 2-0 win over Wolverhampton Wanderers that gave Klopp his 299th victory in 491 games. Of 167 league games at An-



field, he lost only 12.

This was a football match that took place around Klopp, not in front of him.

Indeed, until the celebrations and tributes kicked into gear near the final whistle, the normally highly animated, often agitated, manager was a low-key figure.

Klopp did not stalk the technical area, instead sitting alongside his loyal, long-time lieutenant Peter Krawietz, seemingly content to just take in the closing 90 minutes at the place where he has built a legend.

This was the day when Liverpool and their supporters wanted nothing other than to pay homage to Klopp, his crowning achievements being winning the Champions League in 2019 - the club's sixth win in the competition - then bringing the league title back to Anfield for the first time in 30 years the following year.

From the moment thousands of Liverpool fans basked in the sunshine on Anfield Road hours before kick-off waiting to greet Klopp one last time as he took his seat at the front of the team coach,

this was an occasion that went through the full range of emotions he has brought to the club.

As soon as foot was set inside Anfield, the playlist set the tone with All Things Must Pass by George Harrison followed by The Monkees' I'm A Believer - another reference to Klopp's "we must turn doubters into believers" message in his opening address.

There was even a somewhat suspect German version of The Beatles' I Feel Fine, the anthem adopted by Liverpool's fans as I'm So Glad Jurgen Is A Red.

TENNIS

Dominant Zverev outplays Jarry for second Italian Open crown

ROME: Alexander Zverev produced a dominant serving display to clinch a straight sets victory over Nicolas Jarry and claim his second Italian Open title on Sunday.

The German third seed dropped just five points on serve in a 6-4, 7-5 win to seal a sixth Masters 1000 crown.

Zverev will now move up a place to fourth in the world rankings and served a warning to his rivals ahead of the French Open, which begins on 26 May.

But he said: "The focus is on Paris for sure, but let me enjoy this one for a few days first."

"Rome is a very special place for me. Obviously it's a very, very special week."

Chilean Jarry was competing in his first final at this level.

The world No.24 had knocked out sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas in the quarter-finals, but while he battled hard to stay in the match



he had no answer to his opponent's arrow-like serve, as Zverev landed 80% of his first serves in.

"He's playing huge," said Zverev of his opponent, who also beat America's Tommy Paul en route to the final.

"I can see from the opponents he has beaten this week that he is playing incredible tennis."

"I told him that if he carries on playing like that then he is going to have many more titles at this level."

US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

Schauffele lifts first major title

KENTUCKY: Xander Schauffele holed a nervy six-foot birdie putt at the 18th to win his first major with a record score on a gripping final day at the US PGA Championship on Sunday.

The American held off the charging Bryson DeChambeau and Viktor Hovland to triumph on 21 under at Valhalla, Kentucky - the lowest overall total in a major by one shot.

Having led the tournament since equalling the best round at a major when he shot 62 in round one, the 30-year-old Californian finished with a six-under 65 to claim the Wanamaker Trophy by one shot.

"I was emotional after the [winning] putt lipped in," said Schauffele. "It's been a while since I've won - I really did not want to go into a play-off with Bryson."

"My dad is in Hawaii and I managed to call him but I had to hang up quickly because he was making me cry."

Six birdies in eight holes



around the turn briefly put Norwegian Hovland into the lead, but world No.3 Schauffele responded with magnificent birdies on the 11th and 12th to wrestle it back.

DeChambeau profited with a birdie after his wild drive on 16 hit a tree and bounced back into the fairway, and he also birdied the last to card a 64 and draw level with Schauffele, sparking raucous celebrations on the 18th green.

Hovland then had a putt to also get to 20 under, but crumbled

under the pressure, taking three shots from 10 feet as he finished on 18 under.

However, Olympic champion Schauffele, who has faced criticism for not closing out tournaments when well placed, stood up to the onslaught, rolling in a birdie of his own to secure the title.

The world's top two players Scottie Scheffler and Rory McIlroy rounded off disappointing weekends at eight and nine shots back respectively.

Geely launches new Preface and opens state-of-the-art showroom

As the leading sedan model, the new Preface embodies a seamless blend of technology, design, intelligence, driving control, and safety—ushering in a new era of ‘perfected presence’ on Oman’s roads

MUSCAT: Towell Auto Centre (TAC), the official distributor of Geely vehicles in Oman, introduced the launch of its latest masterpiece, the new Preface, along with the inauguration of its newest showroom in Oman.

This event marks a significant milestone in Geely’s commitment to delivering excellence and redefining the automotive landscape in the Sultanate of Oman. As the leading sedan model, the new Preface embodies a seamless blend of technology, design, intelligence, driving control, and safety—ushering in a new era of ‘perfected presence’ on Oman’s roads.

Engineered on the advanced Compact Modular Architecture (CMA) platform, the new Preface redefines automotive excellence by prioritising safety, performance, quality, and intelligence. With class-leading torsional rigidity (29,000 Nm/deg) and the shortest braking distance in its class (35.9m for a speed of 100km/h), the new Preface excels in handling and driving manipulation.

Leveraging CMA’s Super Matrix, it embodies technological advancement through six core competitive edges: unparalleled flexibility and scalability, diverse power options, a world-class chassis, leading power capabilities, advanced electrical architecture, and global market adaptability. This solid foundation ensures that the new Preface offers a driving experience tailored to local preferences, seamlessly blending design, technology, and performance.

Crafted to command the road with unparalleled stability and space, the Geely Preface stands out with its largest car size, widest



body, and longest wheelbase in its class. Its streamlined exterior design merges safety with elegance, offering a perfect blend of style and functionality.

The flawless interiors showcase sophisticated craftsmanship and cutting-edge technology, including a 13.2” 2Khigh-res infotainment display and a Harman™ infinity deluxe headrest audio system. With a Powertrain 2.0TD+7DCT, it achieves the fastest acceleration in its class (6.9s for 0-100km/h), setting a new benchmark for driving control. Equipped with an L2 ADAS intelligent driving assistance system and a Qualcomm Snapdragon 8155 chip, the Preface establishes perfection in every dimension. With such unmatched performance and unwavering reliability, the Geely Preface promises to elevate every journey, inspiring confidence and excitement on every road.

The event kicked off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the

inauguration of our state-of-the-art showroom. The new showroom promises an immersive journey for customers.

Boasting a modern and spacious facility, it offers a plethora of benefits. With an expanded product range, dedicated service areas, interactive displays, and expert staff at hand, the new facility offers more opportunities to customers to explore the diverse lineup of vehicles with ease.

Following this, the grand unveiling ceremony of two variants of the Preface commenced with a warm welcome speech and a brief introduction to the new models by a Geely representative followed by the reveal of New Preface. Guests were captivated by the modern aesthetic, cutting-edge features, and superior performance capabilities of the Preface.

Amidst the cheer during the event, the excitement reached its peak as a lucky winner of the Geely Preface contest ‘Guess the

Car’ hosted by Al Wisal FM, was announced and awarded a special prize. Additionally, the first buyers of the Geely Preface car were also felicitated, marking the beginning of their journey with this remarkable vehicle. The celebration continued with lively interactions and eager anticipation for the new era of automotive excellence that the new Preface promises to bring.

Media and influencers captured the excitement with group photos and video bites. Commenting on the launch, a spokesperson at Towell Auto Centre expressed his enthusiasm stating, “We are overjoyed to introduce the New Geely Preface to the aspirational consumers of Oman. This sedan embodies a perfect combination of style, power, technological features, safety, and comfort, reflecting Geely’s dedication to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. We are confident that the Preface will exceed the expectations of our esteemed customers.

In addition to the Preface, we are equally thrilled to unveil our new state-of-the-art showroom, designed to elevate the customer experience to new heights. With its modern amenities, expansive layout, and customized service, our showroom aims to provide a welcoming environment where customers can explore our latest offerings comfortably.”

The event concluded on a high note, with photo sessions and attendees expressing their admiration for Preface and excitement for the future of Geely in Oman. The dual celebration of the car launch and showroom inauguration represents a new chapter in Geely’s journey in Oman, one filled with innovation, excellence, and unparalleled customer satisfaction.

In Oman, Geely vehicles are brought to you by Towell Auto Centre. Established with a commitment to excellence, TAC has been delivering premium automotive products and services to the

Sultanate of Oman over the years. And today it offers a comprehensive range of exceptional customer support services, managed by industry-leading professionals, and backed by superior after-sales services. The introduction of the Preface exemplifies Geely’s dedication to innovative design, customer satisfaction, and quality.

Geely Auto Group is a leading automobile manufacturer based in Hangzhou, China. Founded in 1986 as a subsidiary of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group (ZGH), Geely Auto Group operates several well-known international automotive brands, including Geely Auto, Lynk & Co, ZEEKR, Proton, Volvo Cars, Polestar, Lotus, London Electric Vehicle Company, Farizon Auto, and Cao Cao Mobility. With over million vehicles sold, Geely Holding is listed in the Fortune Global 500 and continues to lead the automotive industry with its commitment to innovation and excellence.

TROPICAL-THEMED

Trader Vic’s marks 90 years of culinary excellence and iconic cocktails with milestones, memories and global expansion

MUSCAT: Trader Vic’s, the legendary tropical-themed empire, is poised to celebrate a momentous 90 years of culinary innovation, unparalleled ambiance, and the creation of their iconic ‘Mai Tai’ cocktail. Originating from a modest Oakland, California bar named ‘Hinky Dinks’, Trader Vic’s has transformed into a global brand captivating audiences worldwide.

In tandem with Trader Vic’s 90th anniversary, 2024 also marks significant milestones, with the ‘Mai Tai’ cocktail reaching its 80th anniversary and noteworthy anniversaries for Trader Vic’s locations in Dubai (30th year) and Tokyo (50th year), adding layers of celebration.

Trader Vic’s roots trace back to 1934 when founder Victor Bergeron transformed ‘Hinky Dinks’ into an island paradise, laying the foundation for a culinary empire. Pioneering exhibition cookery, Bergeron introduced Chinese wood-fired ovens, grazing menus, and multi-ethnic fusion cuisine. The brand, the first of its kind, introduced once-exotic ingredients like Morel mushrooms, Malagasy green peppercorns, and kiwi fruit. In honour of the 90 years, each Trader Vic’s flagship worldwide will feature special celebratory menus, offering nostalgic nods to signature cocktails from each decade.

Trader Vic’s Muscat is thrilled to be part of the milestone celebration as Trader Vic’s marks 90 years of culinary innovation, iconic cocktails, and unforgettable experiences worldwide.



In honour of this momentous occasion, Trader Vic’s Muscat is offering exclusive promotions and limited-time offers. Guests can indulge in nostalgic nods to signature cocktails from each decade and enjoy special celebratory menus featuring the best of Trader Vic’s culinary delights.

Daniel Arbenz, Area General Manager, InterContinental Muscat stated, ‘We are thrilled to be part of the milestone celebration as Trader Vic’s marks 90 years of

culinary innovation, iconic cocktails, and unforgettable experiences worldwide. In honor of this momentous occasion, Trader Vic’s at the InterContinental Muscat is offering exclusive promotions and limited-time offers. Guests can indulge in nostalgic nods to signature cocktails from each decade and enjoy special celebratory menus featuring the best of Trader Vic’s culinary delights.

Rhett Rosen, CEO of Trader Vic’s, reflects, “Commemorating 90 years is a momentous occasion

to reflect on the brand’s enduring legacy and global impact. Trader Vic’s has not only pioneered in the culinary world but symbolizes cultural fusion and unparalleled hospitality. Looking ahead, we are excited about the next chapter, committed to delivering exceptional experiences and expanding the Trader Vic’s legacy globally. As the brand looks towards the future, it continues to innovate and evolve, with plans for further expansion and the introduction of new concepts under the Trader

Vic’s Hospitality Group umbrella.”

The InterContinental Muscat, known as the Grande Dame of Muscat, is situated in the prime residential, government, and diplomatic quarter of the city. It spans 35 acres of palm gardens nestled between the Hajjar Mountains and the Gulf Coast, providing stunning views and an “urban city resort” experience. The hotel’s proximity to Muscat’s business and commercial district makes it ideal for business and leisure travelers, as well as for hosting meetings, conven-

tions, and events.

Guests are invited to explore Muscat’s highlights with the help of the hotel’s Concierge, including the Royal Opera House Muscat, Sultan Qaboos Mosque, beaches, souq markets, and local restaurants. The hotel is located near the diplomatic quarter and is only 20 minutes from Muscat International Airport, with the Royal Opera House Muscat and Qurum Beach within walking distance.

Hotel facilities include a 4th-floor InterContinental Club lounge, seven dining venues, various pools, a kids’ play area, a business center, the Palm Beach Club, and tennis and Padel courts. Meeting and event spaces feature Omani architecture and modern amenities like audio-visual equipment, video conferencing, and WiFi. The Club InterContinental offers exclusive benefits and panoramic views of the Gulf of Oman, providing a luxurious and private retreat.

With 19 global locations in the United States, Middle East, and Asia, Trader Vic’s is renowned for its authentic island ambiance and world-famous Tiki cocktails. Home of the Original Mai Tai®, created in 1944 by Victor “The Trader” Bergeron, the legendary cocktail has become the most replicated tropical drink of all time. Offering innovative multi-ethnic fusion cuisine in a paradise escape, Trader Vic’s is a must-visit destination for happy hour, brunch, a leisurely supper, or any other occasion.

ROUND-UP

Toyota picks ‘Biggest Excitement’ campaign’s final raffle draw winner

Al Sayyid Ahmad Badr Hamoud Al Busaidi from Muscat, who purchased a Toyota Camry 2.5 Premium, won the Toyota Crown

MUSCAT: Recently Toyota Oman announced the 5th and final raffle draw winner.

Al Sayyid Ahmad Badr Hamoud Al Busaidi from Muscat who purchased a Toyota Camry 2.5 Premium won the Toyota Crown.

The popular campaign – The Biggest Excitement had many benefits for customers opting to buy a Toyota. Customers has a chance to enter the raffle draw & win one from 5 Toyota Crown cars and avail exclusive benefits including Service from 3 Years / 30,000

kms up to 10 Years / 100,000 kms (whichever is earlier), Insurance 1 Year and Free Registration. Apart from that customers could also avail attractive instalments. The campaign that begun on 3 March lasted up to 1 May.

Building on the legacy of one of the world’s best-loved vehicles since the 1950s the Crown has been built to provide an intuitive driving experience that will exceed expectations and establish a new benchmark. When the first generation was launched, the Crown

came to symbolise “innovation” and “pushing the limit” within Toyota. Since then, it has gained recognition in Japan as Toyota’s premium sedan.

The Toyota Crown is built around the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA-K) platform. The new Crown comes exclusively with a choice of two environment friendly powertrains. The first hybrid electric powertrain consists of a front electric motor and Toyota’s first-ever 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder turbo engine with All Wheel Drive, paired with direct shift six-speed automatic transmission with a combined power of 340 HP and 40.7 Kg.m. torque.

The second hybrid electric powertrain consists of two electric motors and a 2.5-liter four-cylinder petrol engine, generating a total power of 222 HP. The hybrid-electric system, paired with an Electric Continuously Variable Transmis-

sion (e-CVT), achieves the lowest fuel efficiency, with a consumption rate of 21.6 km/l.

The Toyota Camry is available with a choice of three powertrain options. They include a 2.5-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine that produces 204 hp and 24.8 kg.m of torque which is paired with an eight-speed Direct-Shift Multi-mode automatic transmission.

A 3.5-liter V6 engine with D-4S fuel injection system that produces 298 hp and 36.3 kg.m of torque and which is mated to an eight-speed multi-mode automatic transmission.

And an electrified hybrid system, which combines a petrol engine and two electric motors. The combined power of the two power sources is 208 hp. It is also paired with an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (ECVT), delivering heightened driving pleasure.



RAPID INNOVATION ADVANCEMENTS

Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co: Spearheading talent development in alignment with Oman Vision 2040



MUSCAT: In an era marked by rapid innovation advancements and industry transitions, Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. LLC (MARH) stands out as a beacon of innovation and progress in Oman’s automotive industry. As the country propels towards the ambitious benchmarks set by Oman Vision 2040, this esteemed organisation leads the charge in integrating local talent into its workforce, promoting sustainable development and community empowerment.

Over the past year, MARH has not only expanded its operational scope but has also made remarkable strides in fostering a local workforce capable of driving the nation towards its strategic goals. This journey of transformation and empowerment reflects the company’s commitment to the socioeconomic fabric of Oman, making

it a critical player in the national vision of progressive autonomy and economic diversification.

Central to the company’s strategy is Omanisation – the policy aimed at increasing employment opportunities for Omani nationals in the private sector. Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. LLC has embraced this initiative with vigour, implementing comprehensive training programs that aim to equip Omani youth with essential skills and knowledge. In collaboration with the Ministry of Manpower, the company has launched innovative employment training programs that serve as a cornerstone for career development in the automotive sector.

“Our vision at MARH is deeply entwined with Oman’s progressive ambitions. We are steadfast in our dedication to empower young

Omani talents, equipping them with world-class skills to drive our nation towards unprecedented growth,” said Said Darwish Al Balushi, the CEO of Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co., reflecting the company’s dedication towards national progress. “Aligning with the Oman 2040 Vision, our objective transcends beyond achieving business excellence; we aim to make substantial contributions to our society and economy.”

The company’s strategy involves a dual approach. On one hand, it focuses on internal training programs aimed at enhancing the professional capabilities of its Omani staff. On the other, it actively participates in nationwide initiatives that aim to bolster the overall skill set of the Omani workforce. Through rigorous training modules and subsequent compe-

tency assessments, Moosa ensures that its employees are not only prepared to meet the demands of the job but are also equipped to contribute to the industry’s innovation and growth.

Furthermore, the representation of renowned automotive brands such as GMC and Suzuki has not only positioned the company as a leader in the automotive sector but has also showcased its commitment to quality and excellence. These partnerships have enabled MARH to introduce cutting-edge automotive technologies and practices into the local market, thereby setting new standards in the industry.

Majid Hamad Al-Yaqoubi, stating from human resources and Omanisation prospective that within just twelve months, the company has not only witnessed significant

progress but has also laid the foundation for a future characterized by resilience, adaptability, and a steadfast commitment to excellence. As Musa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. embarks on a new chapter of growth and empowerment, it remains unwavering in its dedication to driving positive change, fostering inclusivity, and shaping a brighter future for all stakeholders involved.

As part of its future strategy, Moosa Abdul Rahman Hassan & Co. LLC is committed to expanding its reach and influence further. The company plans to increase its investment in local talent by introducing more advanced training facilities and expanding its collaboration with educational institutions. This will not only enhance the technical skills of Omani workers but also provide them with the

necessary exposure to lead and innovate in their respective fields.

Looking forward, MARH’s roadmap includes the development of more robust frameworks for talent acquisition and management, ensuring that the most capable and motivated Omani professionals are brought into the fold. This strategy is expected to boost not only the company’s growth but also contribute significantly to the national goal of economic diversification.

“The path we are on requires resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. As we embark on a new chapter of growth and empowerment, we remain steadfast in our dedication to driving positive change, fostering inclusivity, and shaping a brighter future for all stakeholders involved,” the CEO concluded.





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