



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN SENDS GREETINGS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to King of the Belgians, Philippe Leopold Louis Marie on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the King and his country's people further progress and prosperity.— **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 97 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

[TIMESOFOMAN.COM](#) [FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#) [YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP](#) [TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS](#) [LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN](#) [INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN](#)

SAMSUNG
Wallet

Secure in-app authentication through mBanking

Know more

Samsung Pay
Now with
Bank Muscat

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.
T&C apply

CONDOLENCES

HM receives phone call from Egyptian president

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Saturday received a phone call from President Abdul Fattah el Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the call, the Egyptian President expressed the solidarity of his country's leadership, government and people with the Sultanate of Oman on the incident that took place in Wadi Kabir in Muscat. He also expressed his sincere

condolences and sympathy to His Majesty the Sultan and the Omani people on the martyrdom of a security serviceman and death of some civilians.

In his turn, His Majesty thanked President el Sisi for his noble feelings and condolences. His Majesty commended the historical and fraternal relations binding the two countries and their peoples.—**ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Inflation rate in Oman rises by 0.7% in June

1 The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman increased in June 2024 by 0.7%, compared to the same month in 2023, according to the data of standard consumer prices, issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). **>A5**

OMAN

Call to end occupation of Palestine territories

2 Oman renewed its call for an immediate end to the illegal occupation of the occupied territories. **>A5**

WORLD

Bangladesh death toll crosses 100 mark

3 The toll in the crackdown by Bangladesh officials on student protesters topped the 100 mark. **>A7**

— **GAZA DEATH TOLL** —
as of July 20, 2024

Deaths
38,919

Injured
89,622

OVER 65,700 GET OMR1.5BN SUBSIDISED HOUSING LOANS

Oman Housing

Bank is working to extend its services to various governorates of the country, especially in areas located outside the Muscat Governorate



citizens since its launch in 1977 until the end of 2023 in the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman amounted to 65,778, with a total value of more than OMR1.5 billion.

He stressed that the Oman Housing Bank achieved positive results by recording good growth rates in most financial indicators, as the bank's total assets increased by 8 percent by the end of 2023 to reach OMR791.6 million compared to the end of 2022, which amounted to OMR729.7 million, as the growth in assets was based

on a key focus on the housing loan portfolio, bringing the total portfolio to OMR770 million, compared to OMR 693 million at the end of 2022, a growth rate of 11 percent.

He pointed out that the Board of Directors of the Oman Housing Bank worked in cooperation with the executive management to prepare the development plan for the bank with strategic dimensions and an action plan (2024-2026) aimed at achieving financial sustainability by continuing to provide housing loans and expanding the activities and services provided by the bank.

He said: "The bank recently launched the "Housing" programme with the aim of providing housing finance to citizens on the waiting lists of the bank and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning through local banks, in addition to launching the "I will continue with you" campaign to enhance the bank's development roles in the various governorates and respond to citizens' inquiries regarding completing financing

application procedures, reviewing the role of the loan provider, and knowing the financing amount."

He said: "The bank sought to extend its services to the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, especially in areas located outside the Muscat Governorate. The number of loans granted to citizens in the governorates outside Muscat reached 2,072 with a total value of OMR88.798 million, almost 74 percent of the bank's total lending activity."

He added in: "The total number of loans approved in Muscat Governorate amounted to 690 with a total value exceeding OMR31 million, while the number of loans approved in Dhofar Governorate reached 105 with a total value of more than OMR4 million.

In North Al Batinah Governorate, housing loans with a total value exceeding OMR15 million were provided to 381 people, and in South Al Batinah Governorate, the number of approved loans reached 712 with a total value exceeding OMR29 million. **>A5**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Housing Bank (OHB) approved 2,762 loans worth OMR120 million in 2023.

Musa bin Masoud Al Jadidi, CEO of the Oman Housing Bank stated that the total subsidised loans provided by the bank to

SHOOTING INCIDENT

Sacrifice of Pakistani expats deserves highest recognition, says envoy Ali

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pakistan's Ambassador to Oman, Mohammed Imran Ali Chaudhry, paid an emotional tribute to the Pakistani nationals who lost their lives while saving others during the tragic shooting incident in Wadi Kabir on Monday night.

Their selfless bravery, he emphasised, reflects the true spirit and valour of the Pakistani people and deserves highest recognition.

In a video clip released by the Pakistan Embassy, Ali said: "In the finest traditions of our country, these brave souls stepped forward without hesitation, fully aware of the imminent danger. They



took bullets to their chests, saving countless precious lives and bringing them to safety."

During the shootout, four Pakistani nationals, one Indian national and a Royal Oman Police (ROP)

personnel were martyred. All the three assailants, which later the ROP confirmed were brothers, were also shot dead.

One of the four Pakistani heroes, who laid down his life, Sulaiman Nawaz from Wazirabad, exemplified courage. "Suleiman ventured into the line of automatic fire to shield others but was martyred in the process," the ambassador recounted, highlighting this as an embodiment of Husseiniyat.

"As the attackers were entrenched atop a building, four of our compatriots, fully aware of the life-threatening danger, nonetheless endeavoured to rescue others. Their gallantry in the face of certain death deserves the highest

recognition, whether from Oman or Pakistan," Ali asserted.

The Wadi Kabir tragedy not only saw the brave sacrifices of Pakistani nationals but also claimed the lives of an Indian civilian, Basha Jan Ali Hussain, and an Omani policeman, Yousuf Al Nadabbi. The Omani policeman valiantly attempted to neutralise the attackers before succumbing to his injuries.

ROP praised

The ambassador also praised the local administration and the Royal Oman Police (ROP) for their efforts. "He was also one among us, our very own son. He closed the doors of the mosque. If he had not done

it, then many people would have been killed," the ambassador said.

Eyewitness accounts corroborated the ambassador's praise for Pakistani expat Sulaiman.

"Sulaiman tried to save an elderly woman and several children outside the mosque compound. As the firing intensified, he was hit but continued guiding others to safety between parked cars," one witness recalled.

"Even as he gasped for breath, Sulaiman directed the children to a safe route into the mosque. Despite having sustained multiple gunshot wounds, he remained focused on saving others until he collapsed," the witness added.

شانجان اوتو
CHANGAN AUTO
Driving Forward With You / قيادة نحو الأمام

ALSVIN

1.5L Engine, 105 hp | 5-speed DCT
Super Warranty - 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS*

THE NEW EXQUISITE FAMILY SEDAN

EMI **OMR 64*** for 6 years

800 50800

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930

Sales Centers : Nizwa 96628940, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

Terms and conditions apply



Save for your future goals today

With Al Heson Savings Account and Ladies Account

Start Saving with BankDhofar Ladies account!



Oman officials offer condolences on death of Pakistani, Indian expats

The envoys praised the measures taken by the Omani officials to contain the situation and confront the aggressors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Khalid bin Hashel Al Musalhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Sheikh Ahmed bin Hashel Al Maskari, Head of the Department of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and the Regional Neighbourhood, offered condolences to Mohammed Imran

Ali Chaudhry, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Amit Narang, Ambassador of the Republic of India, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. During the two meetings, the Omani officials expressed their sincere condolences and sympathy for the death of members of the Pakistani and Indian communities in the shooting incident in Wadi Al Kabir in the Muscat Governorate. They wished speedy recovery



for the injured, stressing the Sultanate of Oman's sympathy and support for the families affected by this horrific incident. The ambassadors of the two countries praised the measures taken by the Omani authorities to contain the situation and confront the aggressors, which reduced the



loss of lives. They thanked and appreciated the Omani officials for the medical care that the injured are receiving in the hospitals. The ambassadors expressed their sincere condolences on the martyrdom of a security man and their wishes for a speedy recovery for all those injured, and their countries' full solidarity with the Sultanate of Oman and support for the measures taken to maintain the security of the country. Meanwhile, the Royal Oman Police (ROP) announced that the perpetrators involved in the shooting incident in Wadi Al Kabir were three Omani brothers. They got

killed as a result of their insistence on resisting the security forces. Investigations confirmed that they were among those influenced by misguided ideas. The ROP expressed its thanks to everyone for their follow-up and concern for the security and safety of their country.

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Cleaning drive at Daymaniyat Islands, fishing nets extracted

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the participation of 32 people, the Environment Authority (EA) managed to extract a number of fishing nets, estimated at 180 meters in length. Environment Authority in the South Al Batinah Governorate organized the seventh campaign to clean coral reef environments in

the Daymaniyat Islands Natural Reserve. According to the Environment Authority, the campaign was able to extract a number of fishing nets stuck in coral reefs, estimated at 180 meters in length. "This campaign comes as a continuation of the expanded environmental campaigns carried out by the Authority to clean the marine

environment and coral reefs, with the participation of the Department of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources in the State of Barka, the Sea of Oman Diving Team, and the Al Dhahirah Amateur Team," EA added. Fishing nets are a threat to the life of marine animals as they get entangled into it and subsequently get killed.



MUSCAT, DHOFAR

Workers held for labour law violation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 135 female workers were arrested in Muscat Governorate and over 230 were held in the Dhofar Governorate for violating the Labour Law. The Office of the Joint Inspection Team in Muscat Governorate, carried out inspection campaigns targeting women's activities during the first half of this year. 930 establishments were inspected and 153 female workers were arrested for violating the Labour Law. The ministry represented by the General Directorate of Labour in Dhofar Governorate, carried out inspection campaigns in the governorate during the first half of July. The inspection visit resulted in the arrest of 232 violators, including 144 in professions specified for Omanis only that includes (29 delivery representatives, 70 incense and frankincense sellers, 9 hotel reception clerks, 18 street vendors, and 15 in car rental).

WINTER FUN ALL SUMMER LONG

SAVE UP TO 15%* WITH SIBLINGS' DISCOUNT

Snow Oman's Summer Camp is back!

Welcoming kids ages 4-10, beat the heat with 'snow' much fun and learning, from snow park rides and games, to workshops, live shows, a trip to VOX Cinemas and Magic Planet, and more! Prices start from OMR 20 and is available for purchase until 29 August.

Book your child's spot now at snowoman.com.

* Terms and conditions apply



Rinnai

COOK YOUR BEST WITH JAPAN'S NO. 1 BRAND

Discover a Wide Range of Table Top Cookers





- Blue Flame Technology
- Flame Failure Security Device
- Detachable stainless steel top plate
- Stainless Steel / Cast Iron Burners
- Enameled Pan Support & More

SHOP NOW



SCAN QR CODE FOR LOCATION



AI Hashar Electronics LLC

For more details, visit or call: Ruwi HO: 94584337 Sohar: 92228272

*Available in all hypermarkets and dealers across Oman



+968-94202775

TOURISTS FLOCK TO STALLS SELLING LOCAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN SALALAH



Many Khareef visitors prefer to buy fresh fruits directly from trees along the roads that cross the orchards and farms

MUSCAT: Tourists and visitors to the Dhofar Governorate eagerly visit stalls selling local fruits and vegetables in the city of Salalah, especially during the Khareef season. This season transforms the region into a lush, green landscape, drawing in thousands of tourists who come to enjoy the cooler temperatures and natural beauty. One unique local experience includes drinking tender coconut water through a water pipe, locally known as “mishli.” This refreshing treat, along with the opportunity to purchase an array of tropical fruits such as bananas and papayas, adds to the allure of the region. The seasonal climatic conditions that characterise the Dhofar Governorate, and the Salalah Plain in particular, support the cultivation of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, with some crops being produced year-round. Coconut trees are at the forefront of these agricultural endeavours, occupying the largest cultivated area in the Salalah Plain. These trees not only provide a vital source of income for local farmers but also enhance the scenic beauty of the region, making it a picturesque destination for visitors. Dhofar’s most notable agricultural products include coco-

nuts (nargile), bananas, lemons, guavas, papayas, tomatoes, and zucchinis. These fruits and vegetables are prominently displayed at stalls, attracting both visitors and residents of Salalah, especially during the Khareef season. The vibrant markets are a hub of activity, with vendors showcasing their freshest produce. Many Khareef visitors prefer to buy fresh fruits directly from trees along the roads that cross the orchards and farms, adding an element of authenticity and freshness to their purchases. The agricultural plain extends from the east to the west of Salalah, encompassing fertile orchards teeming with fruit trees and seasonal vegetables. Coconut trees line the streets of the governorate, creating a striking natural canopy that enhances the beauty of the area. The sight of these towering trees against the backdrop of lush greenery is a quintessential image of Salalah during the Khareef season. The Salalah Agricultural Plain is also renowned for its abundance of other crops, such as papayas and bananas, which thrive in the tropical and subtropical climate with moderate and humid weather. These crops significantly boost the productivity of the agricultural sector in the Sultanate of Oman, making it one of the country’s key productive sectors. Salalah is particularly famous for its banana cultivation, a vital economic and food crop in the governorate. The suitable climatic and environmental conditions in the Salalah Plain make it an ideal location for extensive banana farming. Bananas from Salalah are known for their quality and taste, making them a popular choice both locally and for export. The agricultural activities in Salalah also play a crucial role in the socio-economic development of the region.



Coconut trees line the streets of the governorate, creating a striking natural canopy that enhances the beauty of the area. The sight of these towering trees is the quintessential image of Salalah during Khareef



Oman renews call to end illegal occupation of Palestine territories

The Sultanate of Oman also renews its position calling for granting the Palestinian people their inalienable right to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as capital

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the opinion of the International Court of Justice re-

garding the request of the United Nations General Assembly to the court on 'Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Pales-



tinian territories, including East Jerusalem",
Oman also renewed its call on the international community to

implement international resolutions and conventions calling for an immediate end to the illegal occupation of the occupied territo-

ries and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.
In a statement, the Foreign ministry said: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed up on the opinion presented by the International Court of Justice regarding the United Nations General Assembly's request to the Court regarding "Israeli practices that affect the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem," and the resulting confirmation of the illegality of Israeli practices in the occupied territories and the affirmation of the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people."
"While the Sultanate of Oman welcomes the opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the practices of the occupying state, at the same time, it renews its call on the international community to implement international resolutions and conventions calling for an immediate end to the illegal occupation of the occupied territories and an end to settlement and the cycle of violence in the Palestinian territories."
Oman also renews its position calling for granting the Palestinian people their inalienable right to establish their independent state on the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

CONSUMER PRICES

Sultanate's inflation rate rises by 0.7% in June 2024: NCSI

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman increased in June 2024 by 0.7% compared to the same month in 2023, according to the data of standard consumer prices, issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).
The NCSI data showed an increase in the price of the groups of food items and non-alcoholic beverages by 3.8%, goods and services by 3.3%, health by 2.4%, culture and entertainment by 0.5%, restaurants and hotels by 0.4%, tobacco by 0.2% and garments and shoes by 0.1%.
The prices of the groups of transport decreased by 2%, education by 0.4%, furniture, home supplies and appliances and regular maintenance works of houses by 0.2%, communication by 0.1% with stable prices of the groups of



housing, water, electricity gas and other fuels.
In the groups of non-alcoholic items, the prices of vegetables in-

creased by 13.3%, fruits by 7.3%, milk, cheese and egg by 4.1 % , fish and sea food by 3.4 % , meat by 2 % , sugar, jam, honey and sweet by 2% and bread and cereals by 0.5%.
The inflation rate by June 2024 increased by '1.8 % in Al Wusta Governorate compared to the corresponding period in 2023. The rate increased by 1.6% in Musandam Governorate and by 1.5% in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The rate increased by 1.4 % in both South Al Sharqiyah Governorate and Dhofar Governorate.
The rate also increased by 1.2 % in North Al Batinah Governorate, by 0.9 % in South Al Batinah Governorate and by 0.8% in Al Buraimi Governorate, by 0.7% in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate and by 0.4% in Muscat Governorate during the same period. -ONA

MUSANDAM

Rise in the volume of housing loan

<FROM A1 He added that the approved housing loans in the Governorates of South and North Al Sharqiyah amounted to 267, with 111 loans in North Al Sharqiyah and 156 in South Al Sharqiyah, worth OMR11.5 million, while in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, the number of approved loans reached 362 with a total value of more than OMR16 million.
The CEO of the Oman Housing Bank stated that the Governorate of Al Buraimi witnessed the registration of 203 housing loans with a value exceeding OMR9 million, while the Governorate of Musandam witnessed an increase in the volume of housing loans to reach 42, with a value exceeding OMR1.5 million.
The CEO of the Oman Housing Bank indicated that the campaign will tour a number of governorates and states, including the Wilayat of Ibri in the Al Dhahirah Governorate, the Wilayat of Al Suwaiq in North Al Batinah, the Wilayat of Jaalan Bani Bu Ali in the South Al Sharqiyah, the Wilayat of Bausher in the Muscat Governorate, in addition to the Wilayat of Salalah in the Dhofar Governorate.





MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. (17/2024)

International Companies specialized in the field and registered with Tender Board, may obtain tender documents for the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender Number	Description of Tender	Last date to collect the tender	Tender return date
PRE-23-215 Re-Call 2	Replacement of existing Lighting at Al Seeb (RE-Call 2)	30/07/2024	05/08/2024
PRE/24/037 Re-Call 1	Removal, Supply & laying of Road Marking at Muscat Governorate(RE-Call)	30/07/2024	05/08/2024
PRE-23-201 Re-Call 1	Maintenance of Boshier Sign Boards (Re-Tender)	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-075 Re-Call 1	Upgrade and centralize Avaya call manager for DGs at MM (RE-Call)	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-186	Supply of Safety Barriers	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-185	BEATIFICATION OF THE DAGAL AREA PHASE 2	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-129	Design and Build of Al-MABELAH BAZAR	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-190	Hire of Automatic Truck Mounted High Capacity Thermoplastic Road Marking Machine with operating crew	30/07/2024	05/08/2024
PRE-24-041	Consultancy Services for Development at Hail Al Ghaf	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-192	Redressing Data Center	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-193	Design and Construction of road in Halban at ALSeeb	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-177	Design and Construction of Parking at Muscat Hills	11/08/2024	01/09/2024
PRE-24-195	Supply of Evaporative Cooler	11/08/2024	01/09/2024

1.

Bidders shall submit their offers electronically.

2.

Clarification and Support:

•

For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) .

•

For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+96824402200).

UNCLAIMED SETS FROM
OMASCO ELECTRONICS
SERVICE CENTERS

Oman Marketing and Service Company LLC wishes to inform all customers that a number of "PANASONIC", "AFTRON", "BLUESTAR" AND "HISENSE" sets sent for repair to our Service Centers at Bousher, Sur, Sohar, Nizwa and Salalah before 31/12/2023 have not yet been collected.

Customers are hereby informed that all such sets must be collected within one month from the date of this Announcement on submission of the Official Repair Slip.

Sets not collected within 30 days from the date of the announcement will be disposed off and the company will not accept any claim whatsoever in this regard.

Toll-Free Number: 80062722

**شركة عمان للتسويق والخدمات ش.م.م**
Oman Marketing and Services Company L.L.C.



U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS

The U.S. Embassy Muscat is auctioning used household and office furniture, furnishings, appliances, and IT equipment by online auction.

Interested bidders may view the auction items online starting on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 10:00a.m. by going to <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>. Online bidding for all items will open on Thursday, July 18 at 10:00a.m. Bidders must first register on the website before placing a bid.

All items offered are sold "As is, where is." There are no warranties, either expressed or implied. Bidding closes on Sunday, July 21, 2024 at 1:00p.m.

After the auction closes, successful bidders will be notified and must make full payment in the Bank Muscat U.S. Embassy account 0454000188720026 (Swift: BMUSOMRX) before the payment deadline of July 23, 11:00 a.m. Bidders can view payment instructions in the "How it works" link on the auction website after the auction goes live and successful bidders will receive an email with instructions. **Please note failure to follow payment instructions may result in the forfeiture of your lots and possible bank fees. Please read instructions carefully. Late payments will not be accepted.**

Successful bidders with fully paid lots must collect their items or arrange for someone to collect them on Saturday, July 27 at the Ghala warehouse during the specific scheduled time (BEFORE 2:00pm). If you are unable to arrange pickup on that date, please do not participate in the auction as there are no alternate pickup dates. Directions to the Ghala warehouse will be provided to successful bidders.



شركة إسمنت عمان (S.A.O.G.)

P.O. BOX 566, RUWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Mefah West, Bausher, Tel. # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

RFP 1500000020/24 for Hiring of Consultant to draft the first Sustainability Report, Evaluate its Projects and initiatives related to carbon & GHG Emission

The company invites consulting firms to draft the first Sustainability Report, Evaluate its Projects and initiatives related to carbon & GHG Emission.

The interested consultancy firm could collect the RFP documents from Procurement Office (Tender and Contract) Oman Cement Company in Al Mefah West Factory site.
Or
Contact Mr. Nasser Al Amri or Mr. Jerome Reyes details:
Office number: +968 2270 5565, 5566, Mobile number: +968 99776730 or +968 98070640
email : Nasser.said@omacement.com or jerome.reyes@omacement.com

The last date for RFP documents collection Sunday 28th July, 2024 at 1100 hours and last RFP submission date is Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 2359 hours.

Bidding instruction will be provided together with the RFP documents.

OIL FACILITIES

Israeli forces bomb Yemeni city of Hodeidah

SANA'A: A series of air raids by the Israeli occupation forces targeted the Yemeni city of Hodeidah on Saturday, leaving a number of people dead and severely burned, while fires continue in the targeted facilities. Media outlets affiliated with the Yemeni Ansar Allah group reported that the strikes targeted oil storage facilities in the port of Hodeidah. The raids come a day after a drone attack on the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, claimed by the Ansar Allah group, which resulted in the death of an Israeli citizen.





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

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

TRUMP'S RUNNING MATE

'If Biden doesn't have 'cognitive function', how can he be US president?'

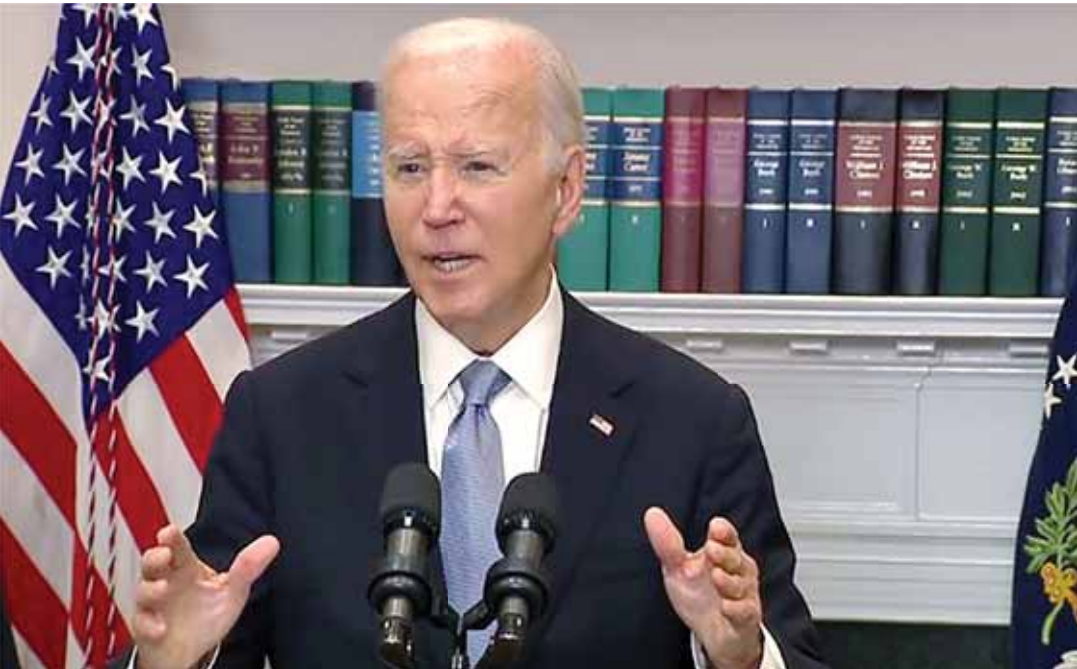


WASHINGTON, DC: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's running mate, JD Vance, on Friday took a shot at US President Joe Biden, asking how he can remain in office if he doesn't have the "cognitive function" to run for re-election. Taking to X, the Ohio Senator asked, "If Joe Biden doesn't have the cognitive function to run for re-election, then he certainly doesn't have the cognitive function to remain as Commander-In-Chief. How can any Dem pushing him to drop out of the presidential race, argue in good faith that he should stay on as POTUS?" His statement came as several Democrats have called for Biden to step aside as the party nominee. Biden has been under intense scrutiny following his incoherent performance in the nationally televised 90-minute debate with Trump earlier this month. However, Biden has vowed he will be "running this race to end" of the November election. In the debate, Biden looked notably hoarse and exhibited limited vocal range, struggling at times to articulate clear differences from Trump. His attempts to cite statistics and legislative achievements were often marred by stumbling and a lack of vocal clarity. Calls from Democrat members became louder on Friday, when Senator Martin Heinrich became the third Democratic senator to call for Biden to move aside, and four House Democrats issued a joint statement urging the president to end his reelection bid. Last week, it was reported that nearly 20 Democrats in the United States Congress have urged Joe Biden to drop out of the 2024 presidential race. The majority of those who urged Biden to withdraw from the race are rank-and-file lawmakers, even as the Democratic Party leadership continues to publicly back the president's re-election, US-based media outlet Politico reported. The lawmakers calling for Biden to exit the race include top national security Democrats like Jim Hines and Adam Smith, the ranking members on the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees, respectively, Politico reported. Most of these hailed from "safe districts" in which the President won by healthy margins in 2020. Lloyd Doggett, a lawmaker from Texas, the first lawmaker to call for Biden to end his re-election bid, represents 'safe' seat and has been in Congress for nearly 30 years. Despite the calls from Democrats, Biden said on Friday that he is looking forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week. He slammed former US President Donald Trump's speech at the Republican National Convention and called it a 'dark vision for the future,' The Hill reported. In a statement, Biden said, "Donald Trump's dark vision for the future is not who we are as Americans. Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box," The Hill reported. He further said, "I look forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda while making the case for my own record and the vision that I have for America: one where we save our democracy, protect our rights and freedoms, and create opportunity for everyone." Biden has been isolating at his Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, home after testing positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday while he was campaigning in Las Vegas.



Biden's complete blood count was normal, showcasing no anaemia or evidence of bacterial infection

WASHINGTON, DC: US President Joe Biden, who was tested positive for COVID-19 early this week, has completed his fourth dose of PAXLOVID, his physician said on Friday. Biden continues to face primary symptoms like a loose, non-productive cough and hoarseness. However, his symptoms have "improved meaningfully" since Thursday, Biden's doctor Kevin C O'Connor stated. In a statement released by the White House on X, Kevin C O'Connor said, "President Biden completed his fourth dose of PAXLOVID this morning. His loose, non-productive cough and hoarseness continue to be his primary symptoms, but they have improved meaningfully from yesterday. His pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate and temperature remain absolutely normal. His oxygen saturation continues to be excellent on room air. His lungs remain clear."



"Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing yesterday was confirmatory for SARS-CoV -2 (COVID-19). Variant identification is still pending. All of his bloodwork was normal," the statement said. Joe Biden's complete blood count (CBC) was normal, showcasing no anaemia or evidence of bacterial infection, it said. "The President continues to tolerate treatment well. We will continue PAXLOVID as planned. In the meantime, the President continues to do the work of the American people," the doctor added. Notably, Biden has been isolating at his Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, home after testing positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday while he was campaigning in Las Vegas. Biden (81) is vaccinated and has also had COVID-19 vaccine booster shots, the most recent being in September 2023, according to the White House. Meanwhile, Biden vowed to get back on the campaign trail next week to "save democracy," The Hill reported. Biden said that Trump's remarks at the RNC on Thursday night focused on his own grievances and had no plans to make life better for working people.

"Last night the American people saw the same Donald Trump they rejected four years ago. For over 90 minutes, he focused on his own grievances, with no plan to unite us and no plan to make life better for working people," Biden said on Friday. He insisted that he would again defeat Trump in November amid growing calls for the president to drop out of the race. Calls from Democrat members became louder on Friday, when Senator Martin Heinrich became the third Democratic senator to call for Biden to withdraw from the race. -ANI

SHAANXI PROVINCE

11 dead, 30 injured in China bridge collapse

BEIJING: At least 11 people died after a highway bridge collapsed partially in northwest China's Shaanxi province on Saturday morning, Xinhua reported, citing local authorities. The bridge, located in Zhashui County in Shangluo City, collapsed at around 8:40 pm on Friday due to a sudden downpour and flash floods, the provincial publicity department stated. On Saturday morning, the rescue teams recovered five vehicles that had fallen into the river, reported Xinhua. Over 30 people were also missing due to the bridge collapse,



Channel News Asia (CNA) reported, citing state television. Since Tuesday, large portions of northern and central China have been dealing with heavy rains, which have caused flooding and

significant damage. Earlier on Friday, the state media reported that at least five people died and eight were missing after the rains sparked flooding and mudslides in Shaanxi's Baoji city.

Reportedly, China is witnessing a summer of extreme weather, with heavy rains across the east and south coming as much of the north has sweltered in successive heat waves, CNA reported. Earlier this month, nearly a quarter of a million people were evacuated in eastern China as rainstorms lashed parts of the country and caused the Yangtze and other rivers to swell, state media reported. According to Xinhua, the storms had affected 991,000 residents in Anhui province and forced the evacuation of 242,000 people. -DW

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

Tighter borders may threaten EU's Schengen idea

BERLIN: Hundreds of thousands of football fans travelled to Germany for the Euro 2024 football championship. Ahead of and during the tournament, random checks were carried out at the borders to ensure security. Germany is now once again debating whether it would make sense to extend these temporary controls at borders with other EU countries. EU law generally prohibits identity checks within the Schengen Area, permitting temporary controls only in very restricted circumstances. The Schengen Area includes all EU member states except Ireland and Cyprus, as well as the non-EU countries Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland. The Schengen Treaty was named after a village in Luxembourg, where the first agreement to abolish border controls was signed by five EU states in 1985. The EU single market pledges free movement of goods, services, capital and people within the bloc. Travelling across borders without

controls is one of the cornerstones of the European integration process. Earlier this year, European Commission Vice President for Promoting our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas said that "Schengen remains one of the crown jewels of European integration." The benefits of the borderless Schengen Area are enjoyed by 420 million EU citizens and about 500 million annual travelers to the bloc from non-EU states. Before the EU member states abolished internal border controls in the 1990s, efficient control of the bloc's external borders was agreed to in accordance with common criteria. But many EU interior ministers find the external borders inadequate. There have been more and more complaints about what perceive as the lack of protection for the European Union's external borders, particularly since 2015, when major movements of migrants from the Middle East into the EU via Greece and Italy intensified.



In October 2023, Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Kainer said that Schengen had "never been as broken as it is now." He thinks it is too easy for people without passports or visas to enter the EU.

Tightening of borders since 2015 Transit countries and countries along the Balkan route that some migrants use to reach the EU have started to reintroduce checks at their borders. "There have been

controls on the border between Austria and Germany since 2015. France also tightened controls after devastating terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016. In its annual State of Schengen Report, the European Commission says the checks at numerous internal EU borders are not "systematic" and do not affect all people wanting to cross. It says visual checks tend to be carried out on some highways and train lines, with some people

targeted for further identification or inspection. The checks do not usually cause major delays or traffic jams on the borders. The idea is not to inspect trucks and other goods vehicles, nor commuters if possible. The European Commission has recommended mixed teams of patrols from different countries that can spontaneously set up checkpoints behind borders and inspect papers, visas and residence permits instead of erecting visible control posts on highways. The EU also has a mechanism whereby people can be checked within an area of 30 km on both sides of a border even if there is no concrete suspicion. The Schengen borders code, which was recently revised and adopted by all of the EU's member states, states that "border control at internal borders shall only be reintroduced as a last resort." **Some exceptions allowed** In theory, systematic border controls are only permitted if there are particular dangers or in the event

of planned major events such as the Olympic Games, G7 summits or, indeed, major football tournaments. They are supposed to last a maximum of six months and must be justified on a case-by-case basis, as required by the European Court of Justice. In practice, however, member states have time and time again implemented their own exceptions using justifications such as migration, the threat of terrorism or security concerns in the wake of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Some countries also tightened borders after October's Hamas terror attacks on Israel in October 2023. The European Commission regularly issues rebukes to member states that erect border controls and requests them to limit these to what is absolutely necessary, but its power is limited. Member states do not have to receive permission from the European Union to erect border controls at internal borders, but they do have to announce plans four weeks in advance. -DW

UN rights chief condemns attacks on student protesters in Bangladesh

According to reports, the death toll in the current spell of violence has reached 105

DHAKA: The United Nations human rights chief on Friday called the attacks on student protesters in Bangladesh “shocking and unacceptable,” as the death toll from the crackdown by authorities crossed the 100 mark.

Almost daily demonstrations broke out at the beginning of July against plans to reintroduce job quotas for public sector jobs, which were abolished in 2018 after earlier student protests.

The students are demanding a merit-based system.

“I am deeply concerned by this week’s violence in Bangladesh, resulting in reports of dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries. The attacks on student protesters are particularly shocking and unacceptable,” UN human rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

“There must be impartial, prompt and exhaustive investigations into these attacks, and those responsible held to account,” the statement continued.

Turk said he was very worried about reports of the deployment



of paramilitary police units, which he said have “long track records of violations.” He urged the government to take measures to ensure the safety of students in peaceful protests and to guarantee the right to freedom of assembly without fear of attacks.

Violence continued in the capital Dhaka on Friday as several hundred student demonstrators blocked roads and clashed with police, the day after the bloodiest day of the protests.

Police fired tear gas to scatter protesters in some areas, journalists from Reuters news agency said. One reporter said many fires could be seen across the city.

A tally, based on victims from hospitals around the country put the death toll at 105, late Friday. They included at least 52 people killed Friday, according to a list drawn up by the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The government has not released a figure for the number of dead.

Also Friday, Dhaka’s police force banned all public gatherings for the day – a first since the protests began.

Demonstrators storm jail in central Bangladeshi district

A group of demonstrators stormed a jail in the central Bangladeshi district of Narsingdi, freeing hundreds of inmates and setting the facility on fire, AFP news agency reported, citing a police officer.

Trains services were suspended

nationwide, communications networks were disrupted and television news channels, including the state broadcaster BTW, fell silent.

The official websites of the central bank, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s office and the police appeared to have been hacked by a group calling itself “THE R3SISTANC3,” Reuters reported.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, a senior leader of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which has backed the protests, was arrested.

Hasina’s office late Friday announced a nationwide curfew and deployed military personnel to keep order.

What is Bangladesh’s quota system and will it be reintroduced?

The quota system would allow for more than half of public-sector jobs to be reserved for certain groups.

Some 30% of jobs would be set aside for the descendants of ex-military personnel who fought for the country’s independence against Pakistan in 1971. A smaller quota would be earmarked for women, the disabled and people from poor neighborhoods.

Critics say the proposals are discriminatory and will benefit those groups aligned with the Awami League party of Hasina, who has ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist for the past 15 years.

Competition for stable and lucrative public-sector jobs in Bangladesh is fierce. Each year, some 400,000 graduates compete for around 3,000 jobs in the civil service exam. The quota system is potentially being reintroduced after the High Court last month overturned a ban when relatives of the 1971 veterans filed petitions.

That ruling was suspended by the Supreme Court pending an appeal hearing scheduled for Sunday.

Hasina urged protesters in a televised address to “wait with patience” for the court verdict, saying that she believes they “will get justice” and “will not be disappointed.” The government said it had offered to hold talks with the protesters but the call was rejected. -aw

DEADLY VIOLENCE

Why are Bangladeshi students protesting?

DHAKA: Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivered a televised address on Wednesday evening decrying the deadly violence during protests that were sparked by mounting frustration over government job quotas.

Her address came after rival student groups and police clashed in cities around Bangladesh on Tuesday. Three people were killed in the southern port city of Chattogram, two in the capital, Dhaka, and one in the northern district of Rangpur, according to police.

Hasina said there would be a judicial probe, and those responsible for the deaths would be brought to justice. “Some precious lives have been lost unnecessarily,” she said. “I condemn every killing.”

On Thursday, more than 30 people died during clashes between students, police and ruling party activists in Dhaka and other cities, according to news agencies citing local hospitals.

Bangladeshi authorities have instructed high schools, universities, and Islamic seminaries around the country to close indefinitely. Paramilitary units were also



dispatched to keep order in several cities. Authorities on Thursday also suspended mobile internet services.

Nusrat Tabassum, a quota protester in Dhaka, said she was attacked twice in two days by activists from the Chhatra League, the student wing of Hasina’s ruling party, the Awami League.

“We were doing peaceful demonstrations to reform the quota system. It’s not a political movement. Why did the activists of the ruling party student wing attack us?” she told DW.

Tanveer Hasan Saikat, general secretary of the Dhaka University (DU) Chhatra League, told DW that student wings of Bangladesh’s political opposition parties have been taking advantage of discontent over the job quota issue and are “using students’ emotions as a political weapon.”

Students want more access to government jobs

The student groups are on opposing sides of a high court decision earlier this month order to reinstate quotas for government jobs.

The quota system had been abolished in 2018 following massive student protests.

Under the quota system, more than half of civil service jobs are reserved for specific groups. For example, 30% of government jobs are reserved for family members of veterans who fought in the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.

They are commonly called “freedom fighters” in Bangladesh. Other groups, like women and the disabled, are allotted a smaller percentage.

Several protesters calling for the quota system to be reformed told DW that reinstatement of the job quotas in their previous form would block off the prestigious civil service jobs that many meritorious students aim for.

“Most of the students want to have a government job in Bangladesh. Social security is one of the reasons behind this,” Lamia Rahman Supti, a Dhaka University student who has been participating in the protests, told DW.

She said she didn’t the protesters do not see the logic in reserving government jobs for the grandchild-

dren of people who fought in the liberation war more than 50 years ago.

Those against the quotas in the previous form argue the system is discriminatory and should be reformed to prioritize a merit-based system. Supti said reserving 56% of government jobs for certain groups, as is stipulated under the former quota system, “can’t be a healthy practice.”

“Ordinary students feel excluded at first glance, nothing can be more unfair than this,” she said. “It should be reduced to a tolerable limit, which is 5% in our opinion. It will be good for all of us,” she added.

Some 3,000 such government jobs were open to nearly 340,000 graduates last year, according to government data. Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu, a well-known freedom fighter and cultural personality based in Dhaka, also thinks the quota system should be reformed, but he opposes reducing it to 5%, which the quota reform protesters demand.

“The quota system should be reduced to 20% from the current 56%. The 10% quota we have for women should be increased to 15%

as we still need to see more women in government jobs. Also, we need to keep quotas for ethnic minorities, persons with physical disabilities, and marginalized communities,” he told DW.

He said that in recent years, the Hasina government has been providing monthly allowances to freedom fighters, which has allowed many of their family members to get better educations, and therefore, more grandchildren of freedom fighters are eligible for government jobs than before.

Bachchu said that violence was not the way to solve disagreements over the quota system.

Supreme Court can decide on reform

Although the Supreme Court said the new ruling on quotas would be temporarily paused, protesters have promised to continue until the government removes the quotas once and for all.

Prime Minister Hasina asked the protesters to have faith in the country’s Supreme Court, which is due to issue a new decision on the quota system next month. -aw

IOM

40 killed in boat fire off Haiti’s coast

PORT-AU-PRINCE : At least 40 people were killed after the boat they were on board caught fire off the coast of Haiti earlier this week, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has said, citing local authorities, CNN reported.

The vessel carrying more than 80 migrants departed from Haiti on Wednesday and was heading to Turks and Caicos, the IOM said on Friday, adding that Haiti’s Coast Guard rescued 41 survivors.

According to CNN, IOM’s chief of mission in Haiti, Gregoire Goodstein, blamed the tragedy on Haiti’s spiralling security crisis and the lack of “safe and legal pathways for migration.”

He said, “Haiti’s socio-economic situation is in agony. The extreme violence over the past months has only brought Haitians to resort to desperate measures even more.”

Haiti is dealing with gang violence, a collapsing health system,



and a lack of access to essential supplies, resulting in many Haitians taking dangerous journeys to move out of the country.

Earlier this year, the situation in Haiti escalated after gang warfare exploded, forcing the resignation of the then-government.

According to the IOM’s data, the number of migration attempts by boat from Haiti has witnessed a rise since then. However, the situation in Haiti has not stopped neighbouring governments from repatriating Haitian migrants by the tens of thousands, CNN reported. -ANI

17th Death Anniversary

you will always live in our hearts



Mr. R. Justus

Management and Staff of

GULF OILFIELD AND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES LLC

P.O. Box 423, P.C. 117 Wadi Al Kabir

Tel: 24818163, 24819168, Fax 24818187

To receive the bidding pack, please contact:

Ahmed Al Shuwaikh
M. +968 98 294 204
E. ashuwaikh@hamptons.om

Musher Ahmed
M. +968 98 294 202
E. shmedm@hamptons.om

Hamptons International Oman
Call: +968 24 699 773
muscat@hamptons.om
www.hamptons.om

FOR SALE

Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos Villa & Land



Villa (350 Sqm) & Land (967 Sqm)
Sale by sealed bid

A rare opportunity to purchase an amazing property in the beautiful neighborhood of Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos.

Hamptons International will receive bids in sealed envelopes for this land

The bidder will be responsible for the transfer of ownership fee at the Ministry of Housing

The seller reserves the right not to accept the highest bid or any bid

Closing date for sealed bids:
4.00 PM, 31st August 2024

شركة هامبتونز الدولية سوف تتلقى العطاءات المغلقة لهذا التراب

المتقدم سيتحمل مسؤولية رسوم انتقال الملكية لدى وزارة الإسكان

المالك يحتفظ بحق رفض أعلى عرض أو أي عرض

آخر موعد لإغلاق العطاءات:
٤:٠٠ مساءً، ٣١ أغسطس ٢٠٢٤

FOR SALE

Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos Villa & Land



Villa (350 Sqm) & Land (967 Sqm)
Sale by sealed bid

A rare opportunity to purchase an amazing property in the beautiful neighborhood of Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos.

Hamptons International will receive bids in sealed envelopes for this land

The bidder will be responsible for the transfer of ownership fee at the Ministry of Housing

The seller reserves the right not to accept the highest bid or any bid

Closing date for sealed bids:
4.00 PM, 31st August 2024

شركة هامبتونز الدولية سوف تتلقى العطاءات المغلقة لهذا التراب

المتقدم سيتحمل مسؤولية رسوم انتقال الملكية لدى وزارة الإسكان

المالك يحتفظ بحق رفض أعلى عرض أو أي عرض

آخر موعد لإغلاق العطاءات:
٤:٠٠ مساءً، ٣١ أغسطس ٢٠٢٤

To receive the bidding pack, please contact:

Ahmed Al Shuwaikh
M. +968 98 294 204
E. ashuwaikh@hamptons.om

Musher Ahmed
M. +968 98 294 202
E. shmedm@hamptons.om

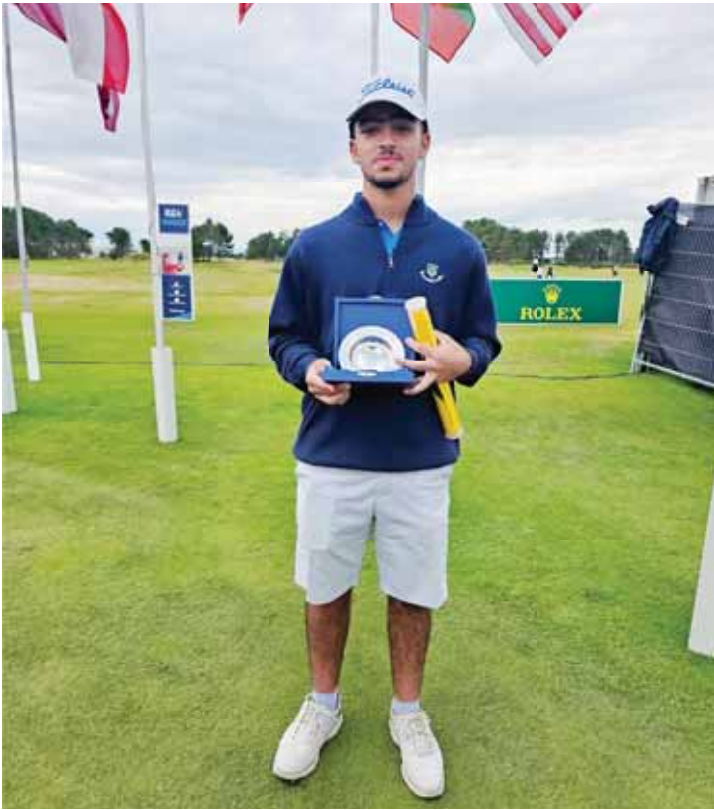
Hamptons International Oman
Call: +968 24 699 773
muscat@hamptons.om
www.hamptons.om

Hamptons INTERNATIONAL

beyond your expectations

SPORTS

Oman’s Adam makes history



“Congratulations Adam on your remarkable achievement in winning the Eastern European & Middle Eastern Trophy at The R&A Junior Open. Your dedication, hard work and talent have truly paid off, and we are all so proud of you”

Faiz Mohammed Riaz
Oman Golf Association
Vice-Chairman



Adam’s achievement at the prestigious The R&A Junior Open is the start of many more laurels to follow for Omani youngsters and we hope his success will inspire more Omani youth to take up the game, said the OGA Vice-Chairman Faiz Mohammed Riaz

MUSCAT: The world’s best golfers were in action nearby at the Troon for the British Open. The chance to see them play at The Open was the inspiration that Oman’s Adam Al Barwani took as he became the first Omani junior golfer to win a title at The R&A Junior Open at Kilmarnock (Barassie) in Scotland recently. Adam, the 15-year-old talented Omani, not only made the cut amid the strong field that comprised 66 boys’ but also came up with a strong showing as he carded a total of 239 over three rounds. Adam was among the early leaders on day one with an 80 and he repeated the score the next day before finishing off in style with 79

amid challenging conditions for a total of 239. The total was enough for the Omani to make history as he claimed the coveted Eastern European & Middle East Trophy at The R&A Open with a score of 160. Adam was followed by Domeniks Tralmaks of Latvia with a score of 158 among the 12 participants vying for the trophy. The field in the Eastern European & Middle East class included golfers from Bahrain, UAE, Lebanon, Jordan, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Turkiye, and Poland. **First Omani to win a trophy at The R&A Junior Open** It is the first time an Omani name has appeared on the trophy at



The R&A Junior Open since its inception 24 years ago. In his exclusive remarks to *Times of Oman*, Adam said: “I trained a lot in Oman and left three days early before the tournament to train with my coach Rick Valentine in Scotland. This allowed me to adapt to the Scottish weather and playing conditions.” He added: “The tournament was held at Kilmarnock Barassie from 15-17 July. There were around 116 players from over 70 countries in both boys and girls categories. The conditions were tough, very windy, and rainy and cold, something I am not used to.” Adam said: “I am very proud to have won the Eastern European and Middle Eastern Trophy. Being the first Omani to ever win

this trophy is an amazing accomplishment not only for me but for my country. I believe that I am a better player and I hope to win more international trophies ahead. This success has certainly lifted my confidence.” Adam thanked his parents and the Oman Golf Association (OGA) for their ongoing support and giving him the opportunity to participate in this prestigious event. He said: “I have had wins at regional level in the past but this is, maybe, my most important amateur win. This tournament features the best juniors in the world – and to put up a good overall show is what I wanted and I achieved.” Adam finished overall 33rd among the 45 golfers who made the cut in the boys’ category. **OGA Vice-Chairman Faiz congratulates Adam** Oman Golf Association (OGA) Vice-Chairman Faiz Mohammed Riaz congratulated Adam on the stupendous success and hoped that “this achievement is only the start of many more for Oman golf and youth.” In his remarks to *Times of Oman*, Faiz said: “Congratulations Adam on your remarkable achievement in winning the Eastern European & Middle Eastern Trophy at The R&A Open. Your dedication, hard

work, and talent have truly paid off, and we are all so proud of you.” Faiz, who along with H H Sayyid Azzan Al Said, as OGA chairman, are spearheading a mission to not only promote golf among youth in Oman but also produce winners. The OGA vice-chairman added: “Your [Adam] success serves as an inspiration to the young youth of Oman, showing them that with passion and perseverance, anything is possible. Your victory not only brings glory to yourself but also shines a positive light on Omani sports and athletes.” Faiz said that “as we celebrate Adam’s triumph, we also look towards the future of golf in Oman.” He added: “At OGA we are committed to expanding the game of golf across the nation and nurturing young talents. We aim to provide more opportunities, resources, and support to aspiring golfers, creating a vibrant and thriving golfing community in Oman.” The top OGA official said: “Adam’s proud achievement at the prestigious The R&A Junior Open is the start of many more laurels for Omani youngsters and we hope his success will inspire more Omani

youth to take up the game.” He added: “On behalf of the OGA, I would also thank the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth for their unwavering support to golf. Their backing has helped the game grow and with their continuous support we hope to make the golfing community in Oman more vibrant and strong.” OGA General Secretary Ahmed Al Jhdhamy was all praise of Adam’s success and said: “His win will pave the way for many more youngsters and we are encouraged by the growing pool of Omani golfers with us.” Meanwhile, South Korean golfers Hyosong Lee and Seonghyeon An were crowned winners of The R&A Junior Open respectively. Lee topped the girls’ field by eight shots over Japanese player Anna Iwanaga thanks to a nine-under-par total of 207. An ran out a four-shot winner over a quartet of players with a six-under 210 aggregate. Cooper Moore of New Zealand, Sweden’s Edwin Sjodin, English player Alex Boyes, and 36-hole leader Aidan Lawson of Scotland shared second place on two-under-par.

Summer Sensations!

New Range. New Benefits.

Movement that inspires

Insurance, Service & Registration*

Scratch & Win*
Service up to 200, 000 Kms, Gold coins, iPhones

Walk-in & Win**
A Family Trip to Singapore

• & More

Own a Kia from a hi-tech range of Sedans, EVs & SUVs and be the first to unlock the chance to win Service up to 200, 000 Kms, Gold coins, i-phones & much more as assured scratch & win prizes. Visit Kia Showroom today!

Reliable International Automotive LLC. C.R. No. 1707183, Wattayah: 24579846/47; Al Mawelah: 99473174; Barka: 92190747; Nizwa: 99874368; Sohar: 92837722; Sur: 25546190; Rustaq: 92869449; Salalah: 23211460

*Standard offer of 1 yr. comprehensive Insurance, 30,000Kms/ 3 yrs. (Whichever is earlier) Service & Registration will available on select models/MY. Insurance applicable would be given to the extent of a private vehicle only, if applicable. Additional premium as per insurance normi would have to be paid by the buyer. For models where Insurance is offered as a benefit, additional cash gift can be availed by customer in lieu of Insurance. Insurance benefit is NOT applicable on 25MY Sportage & Carnival models, 24MY models of Picanto, K3, Cerato, K5, K8, Carens, Sportage, Sorento PE and 23MY models. Service offer benefit is not applicable on EV models. Registration benefit is not applicable on 25MY models & 24MY models of Picanto, Cerato, Carens & Sportage. **Buy a Kia and Scratch an Assured coupon and Win Gold coins (10 grams/24 carat), i-phone 15 & Chance to upgrade extra service from 30,000Kms to 50,000Kms (or) 80,000Kms (or) 100,000Kms (or) 200,000Kms. Selection coupon will be given one time & cannot be changed once finalized by the Kia buyer. The offer is not valid on EV models. All EV customers will be offered an assured Gift of Iphone 15.***Walk into any Kia Showroom during the promotion period with your valid driving license & experience the new Kia Range on display and enter into a 'Walk-in & Win' Raffle Contest. Final results of the raffle will be declared on 5th August 2024. Win a family Holiday Trip of 4 days for 4 persons (2 Adults, 2 Children) including economy return airfare, 4 star Hotel 1 unit room stay (Visa excluded) to Singapore. Actual travel between Aug-Nov/24 only. All the above benefits not applicable on Ministry, Bulk Fleet, Corporate & RAC deals. Scheme Period: 27 MAY 2024 to 25 JULY 2024. Vehicles may also include some Dealer Installed Accessories. Pictures & Colors are indicative. For further details, please visit your nearest Kia showroom.

The ongoing release of second quarter earnings has weighed on market performance, with mixed results fostering a more cautious stance and increasing uncertainty



haibi, Coach and analyst in global financial markets.

The ongoing release of Q2 earnings has weighed on market performance, with mixed results fostering a more cautious stance and increasing uncertainty. Additionally, declining oil prices further capped any potential upward movements, posing a risk of continued negative impacts if the downward trend persists.

The financial sector saw a mod-



est downturn of 0.20 per cent this week. Oman Emirates' shares fell by 4.88% after reporting a 115% profit increase for the first half of the year compared to the same period last year. Similarly, Bank Nizwa shares dropped by 0.95% after a modest profit increase of 11%.

In contrast, Bank Muscat and Global Financial Investment expe-

perienced gains of 0.40 per cent and 2.67 per cent, respectively.

The industrial sector mirrored the financial sector's performance with a 0.20% decline. Al Anwar Ceramics was among the hardest hit, plummeting by 10% following an 88.8% loss in the first half of the year.

Gulf Mushroom Products and National Detergent also saw de-

clines of 3.49% and 0.67%, respectively, despite the latter reporting a profit increase of 171%. On the brighter side, Oman Flour Mills, Muscat Thread Mills, and Voltamp Energy enjoyed gains of 6.30%, 9.18%, and 11.11%, respectively, buoyed by strong first-half profits.

The services sector presented a more positive outlook, advancing

by 0.47 per cent. Abraj Energy Services and Renaissance Services saw increases of 1.02 per cent and 1.39%, respectively, despite Renaissance experiencing a 21.1 per cent financial loss. National Gas also surged by 6.86%, even amid significant losses, and Sembcorp Salalah's shares increased by 3.96 per cent.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total mobile phone subscriptions in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 3.1 percent by the end of March 2024, reaching 7.201 million subscriptions, compared to 6.842 million subscriptions in the same period in 2023.

The report issued by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority stated that this growth was accompanied by an increase in the penetration rate among the total

population by 4.13 percent, an increase in the average usage per subscription by 4.19 percent, and an increase in the average revenue per subscription by 1.77 percent.

Total mobile broadband subscriptions decreased by the end of last March by 1.41 percent, accompanied by a decrease in average usage per subscription by 7.60 percent and a decrease in average revenue per subscription by 1.56 percent.

As for fixed telephone, total subscriptions increased by 3.03 per-

cent to reach 596,809 subscriptions compared to 562,419 subscriptions, while average usage per subscription decreased by 11.16 percent and average revenue per subscription decreased by 5.98 percent.

Total subscriptions for fixed broadband also increased by the end of the first quarter of this year by 1.86 percent, reaching 572,450 subscriptions, compared to 539,334 subscriptions in the same period in 2023, accompanied by a decrease in the average usage per subscription

by 0.68 percent, while the average revenue per subscription increased by 0.87 percent.

Regarding international calls, the report indicated that the total international minutes issued witnessed by the end of the first quarter of 2024 an increase of 6.03 percent, and the average revenues per minute on mobile phones decreased by 7.76 percent, while the average revenues per minute on fixed lines also decreased by 10.32 percent.





CHERY

THIS SUMMER Gear Up to Fly With Chery



ARRIZO 6 PRO

Installment Starting From **R0 64***



TIGGO 4 PRO

Installment Starting From **R0 67***



TIGGO 8 PRO MAX

Installment Starting From **R0 117***

The season, begin a winning journey with Chery! Own a Chery and get a chance to win an all-expenses * paid trip to Azerbaijan. Also get assured benefits like Free Service, Insurance and more. Visit a Chery showroom today and enjoy a memorable journey with your new Chery!

GRAND RAFFLE \$\$\$

Holiday Package

INSURANCE*

1 Year Comprehensive

TEST DRIVE & WIN \$

5 winners Samsung S24 Ultra

FREE SERVICE**

up to 5 Years 50,000 kms
(whichever is earlier)

ENGINE WARRANTY

10 Years / 1,000,000 kms

RAFFLE \$\$

4 Winners (1500 Litres of Gasoline)

REGISTRATION***

1 Year

14
OUT OF TOP
50 CHINESE
GLOBAL BRAND
BUILDERS

Tiggo 8 SUV
Top 2023
China Automotive
User Satisfaction
Index

WORLDWIDE SATISFACTION
AWARD
2023

SAUD BAHWAN Group

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC.
P.O. Box 3168, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel. +968 24578000, Fax +968 24561031, C. R. No. 1347521,
E-mail: sales@new-worldautos.com

For Test Drives & Bookings Call / Whatsapp 24579541 92616598

Campaign Period: 01.06.2024 - 01.08.2024. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses insurance (as applicable), helpline will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Owner only) on all Chery models Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. ***15 Years / 50,000 kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 6 services with the 1st & second service at 1,000 kms & 10,000 kms and then 4 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all Chery models. ****Free 1st year Registration for all Chery models. \$ Test Drive & Win - 5 winners can win Samsung S24 Ultra 5G phone. Anyone taking a test drive of Chery vehicles during the campaign period are eligible to participate in this test drive & win offer. \$\$ Raffie: 4 winners can win 1500 Litres of Gasoline fuel as raffie. The raffie will be applicable for all Chery customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. \$\$\$ Grand Raffie: 1 winner can win a holiday Package to Azerbaijan for 2 adults which includes flight tickets (Economy class) to take and back to Muscat, 4-star hotel stay for 4 nights, 4 days with breakfast and 1 local sightseeing tour. *Semi-annual date of raffie: 04th Aug 2024. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Chery showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. *Campaign will not be applicable for ministry/government deals/supplies & Conditions Apply. Credit approval is based on sole discretion of Finance. EMI is calculated for a tenure of 10 years.

SAUD BAHWAN Group

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC.
P.O. Box 3168, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel. +968 24578000, Fax +968 24561031, C. R. No. 1347521,
E-mail: sales@new-worldautos.com

For Test Drives & Bookings Call / Whatsapp 24579541 92616598

Campaign Period: 01.06.2024 - 01.08.2024. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses insurance (as applicable), helpline will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Owner only) on all Chery models Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. ***15 Years / 50,000 kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 6 services with the 1st & second service at 1,000 kms & 10,000 kms and then 4 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all Chery models. ****Free 1st year Registration for all Chery models. \$ Test Drive & Win - 5 winners can win Samsung S24 Ultra 5G phone. Anyone taking a test drive of Chery vehicles during the campaign period are eligible to participate in this test drive & win offer. \$\$ Raffie: 4 winners can win 1500 Litres of Gasoline fuel as raffie. The raffie will be applicable for all Chery customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. \$\$\$ Grand Raffie: 1 winner can win a holiday Package to Azerbaijan for 2 adults which includes flight tickets (Economy class) to take and back to Muscat, 4-star hotel stay for 4 nights, 4 days with breakfast and 1 local sightseeing tour. *Semi-annual date of raffie: 04th Aug 2024. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Chery showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. *Campaign will not be applicable for ministry/government deals/supplies & Conditions Apply. Credit approval is based on sole discretion of Finance. EMI is calculated for a tenure of 10 years.

SAUD BAHWAN Group

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC.
P.O. Box 3168, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel. +968 24578000, Fax +968 24561031, C. R. No. 1347521,
E-mail: sales@new-worldautos.com

For Test Drives & Bookings Call / Whatsapp 24579541 92616598

Campaign Period: 01.06.2024 - 01.08.2024. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses insurance (as applicable), helpline will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Owner only) on all Chery models Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. ***15 Years / 50,000 kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 6 services with the 1st & second service at 1,000 kms & 10,000 kms and then 4 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all Chery models. ****Free 1st year Registration for all Chery models. \$ Test Drive & Win - 5 winners can win Samsung S24 Ultra 5G phone. Anyone taking a test drive of Chery vehicles during the campaign period are eligible to participate in this test drive & win offer. \$\$ Raffie: 4 winners can win 1500 Litres of Gasoline fuel as raffie. The raffie will be applicable for all Chery customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. \$\$\$ Grand Raffie: 1 winner can win a holiday Package to Azerbaijan for 2 adults which includes flight tickets (Economy class) to take and back to Muscat, 4-star hotel stay for 4 nights, 4 days with breakfast and 1 local sightseeing tour. *Semi-annual date of raffie: 04th Aug 2024. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Chery showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. *Campaign will not be applicable for ministry/government deals/supplies & Conditions Apply. Credit approval is based on sole discretion of Finance. EMI is calculated for a tenure of 10 years.

SAUD BAHWAN Group

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC.
P.O. Box 3168, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel. +968 24578000, Fax +968 24561031, C. R. No. 1347521,
E-mail: sales@new-worldautos.com

For Test Drives & Bookings Call / Whatsapp 24579541 92616598

Campaign Period: 01.06.2024 - 01.08.2024. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses insurance (as applicable), helpline will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Owner only) on all Chery models Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. ***15 Years / 50,000 kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 6 services with the 1st & second service at 1,000 kms & 10,000 kms and then 4 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all Chery models. ****Free 1st year Registration for all Chery models. \$ Test Drive & Win - 5 winners can win Samsung S24 Ultra 5G phone. Anyone taking a test drive of Chery vehicles during the campaign period are eligible to participate in this test drive & win offer. \$\$ Raffie: 4 winners can win 1500 Litres of Gasoline fuel as raffie. The raffie will be applicable for all Chery customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. \$\$\$ Grand Raffie: 1 winner can win a holiday Package to Azerbaijan for 2 adults which includes flight tickets (Economy class) to take and back to Muscat, 4-star hotel stay for 4 nights, 4 days with breakfast and 1 local sightseeing tour. *Semi-annual date of raffie: 04th Aug 2024. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Chery showroom. Pictures and colours shown above are for illustrative purposes only. *Campaign will not be applicable for ministry/government deals/supplies & Conditions Apply. Credit approval is based on sole discretion of Finance. EMI is calculated for a tenure of 10 years.

SAUD BAHWAN Group

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC

NEW WORLD AUTOS LLC.
P.O. Box 3168, Postal Code 112, Sultanate of Oman
Tel. +968 24578000, Fax +968 24561031, C. R. No. 1347521,
E-mail: sales@new-worldautos.com

For Test Drives & Bookings Call / Whatsapp 24579541 92616598

Campaign Period: 01.06.2024 - 01.08.2024. Benefits applicable for all purchases except Government Organizations & Ministries. *Cash gift in lieu of insurance* Cash Gift is given in lieu of insurance only as applicable for respective models. In case customer chooses insurance (as applicable), helpline will not be eligible for "Cash gift in lieu of insurance" offer. **Comprehensive 1 Year Insurance (Owner only) on all Chery models Insurance benefit under the campaign would be given upto the extent applicable for Private vehicles only. Additional premium as per insurance norms will have to be paid by the RAC, Taxi & Driving School Company. ***15 Years / 50,000 kms Service (whichever is earlier) covering 6 services with the 1st & second service at 1,000 kms & 10,000 kms and then 4 services at 10,000 kms service interval based on normal operating conditions on all Chery models. ****Free 1st year Registration for all Chery models. \$ Test Drive & Win - 5 winners can win Samsung S24 Ultra 5G phone. Anyone taking a test drive of Chery vehicles during the campaign period are eligible to participate in this test drive & win offer. \$\$ Raffie: 4 winners can win 1500 Litres of Gasoline fuel as raffie. The raffie will be applicable for all Chery customers who purchase cars during the campaign period. \$\$\$ Grand Raffie: 1 winner can win a holiday Package to Azerbaijan for 2 adults which includes flight tickets (Economy class) to take and back to Muscat, 4-star hotel stay for 4 nights, 4 days with breakfast and 1 local sightseeing tour. *Semi-annual date of raffie: 04th Aug 2024. Vehicles may include dealer-installed items. For further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Chery showroom

MARKET

Salalah Free Zone showcases its industries and investments

70 percent of the new firms have set up industrial projects that are engaged in producing derivatives of frankincense, packaging and manufacturing detergent agents like soap and frankincense oil.



MUSCAT: Salalah Free Zone (SFZ) organised an exhibition to showcase the most prominent industries and investments in the zone under the slogan “Made in

SFZ”. Sixteen firms operating at SFZ took part in the third edition of this exhibition. Dr. Ali Mohammed Tabouk, CEO of the Salalah Free Zone, said

that SFZ succeeded in attracting 13 new companies during the first half of 2024. He pointed out that 70 percent of the new firms have set up industrial projects that are

engaged in producing derivatives of frankincense, packaging and manufacturing detergent agents like soap and frankincense oil. The companies also produced air

conditioning devices, blood sugar measuring gadgets, foodstuff and dairy products. Tabouk added that the exhibition was aimed at raising community awareness about companies and products manufactured in the Salalah Free Zone. He stressed the importance of the SFZ as a prime mover for the advancement of the industrial sector and

the consolidation of the national economy at large. SFZ cumulative investment stands at OMR4.7 billion, with 64 out of 145 registered companies fully functional during the operational stage. Industrial companies constitute 56 percent of the total number of companies at the SFZ, which indicates the strength of investments in the zone. -**ONA**

OPTION TO PAY IN INSTALMENT

Bank Muscat launches online easy payment plan

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the launch of online Easy Payment Plan (EPP) which provides the option to pay in instalment for online shopping through integration with Bank Muscat’s Payment Gateway System. The Easy Payment plan facilitates affordable purchases of products and services with interest free repayment instalments of up to 12 months using Bank Muscat Credit Cards. It is noteworthy

that Sharaf DG is the Bank’s first merchant partner under the On-line EPP plan service. Customers can benefit from the new payment plan by visiting the merchant website and adding to the cart the items they would like to purchase. They can then use Bank Muscat’s credit card to complete their purchase by selecting Instalment Payment Plan on the online payment gateway. The credit card limit will be reduced by the purchase amount. The minimum purchasing value using this service is



RO 100 and is applicable to all active Bank Muscat credit cards. Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Hamood Al Jufaili, Assistant

General Manager – Digital Banking, Bank Muscat, said: “In line with the bank’s customer-centric vision to provide excellent

financing facilities, Bank Muscat’s online Easy Payment Plan will allow customers to avail goods and services and pay conveniently over a period of 12 months without interest. The Bank is planning to enhance the list of merchant partners who provide this service in the coming period. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our valued customers for their continuous trust in the services and products which are designed to enhance their banking experience.” Bank Muscat confirms its keen-

ness to enhance secure digital payments through developing various payment options to meet customers’ needs and aspirations. The Bank’s credit cards are a preferred mode of payment in Oman, and the online EPP scheme reiterates the bank’s commitment to promoting secure digital payments in Oman. These credit cards witness great turn out and their state-of-the-arts features enhance digital payment solutions to complete different types of transactions from anywhere, safely.

EXPERTS IN

All Kinds of home automation/Integration like Audiovisual, Lighting Control System, CCTV/ Access Control along with product consultation & expert advise on the above being taken care. Also all kinds of Electrical installation & maintenance taken care with at most professionalism.

Contact: 93387263, 92839679





البعـد الرابعـ الـجـديـد شـ.مـم

THE NEW 4th DIMENSION LLC

Email: newfourthdimension@gmail.com

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

Elevate your lifestyle with NBO’s exclusive credit card benefits

MUSCAT: In its commitment to enhancing the banking experience for its customers, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) provides a comprehensive suite of credit card benefits, focusing on luxury and convenience, and delivering value through exclusive offers designed to meet a variety of lifestyle needs. Maha Al Raisi, Assistant General Manager & Head of Products at NBO, states, “At National Bank of Oman, we believe that loyalty should be rewarded. That’s why our credit card benefits are more than just a payment tool; they are a passport to a variety of exclusive luxuries and everyday conveniences. They reflect our commitment to providing exceptional value to our customers, whether they’re travelling the world or making local purchases. From cashback and airport lounge access to travel insurance and chauffeur services, NBO’s credit cards offer an elevated experience tailored to the needs of today’s customers. We aim to ensure that every transaction with our credit cards feels like a reward in itself.” The Infinite, Signature, and



Platinum credit cards come with premium benefits that cater to travellers and those seeking entertainment and rewards. For frequent travellers, the Infinite Credit Card provides unlimited access to global airport lounges. Signature Credit Card holders receive up to 12 complimentary airport lounge visits per year, while Platinum Credit Card users are entitled to 6 visits annually. The NBO Rewards Program offers for credit card holders with a competitive 1% cashback on purchases made with Infinite, Signature, and Platinum Credit Cards, and 0.5% cashback on the Gold Credit Card. In addition to these benefits, cardholders can enjoy exclusive Entertainer offers and travel portal discounts, adding substantial value to their experiences. NBO also provides compli-

mentary international travel insurance and chauffeur services for Infinite and Signature Credit Card holders. The chauffeur service, which provides airport transfers in Muscat and Salalah, ensures a smooth and luxurious journey for customers, from doorstep to destination, exemplifying NBO’s dedication to exceptional convenience and value for premium cardholders. Moreover, cardholders can elevate their entertainment experience with an exclusive 50% discount on VOX Cinema tickets, adding value and enjoyment to their leisure activities. Additionally, NBO Visa Credit cardholders receive a complimentary BookingBash subscription, unlocking up to 50% off on experiences around the world alongside other special offers. These credit card benefits are designed to offer NBO customers flexibility, innovation, and a personalised experience. By focusing on the unique needs and aspirations of the customers, NBO continually evolves to remain a trusted partner throughout their financial journey.

REPORT

Global electricity demand is forecast to grow by around 4% in 2024: IEA

PARIS: The world’s demand for electricity is rising at its fastest rate in years, driven by robust economic growth, intense heatwaves and increasing uptake of technologies that run on electricity such as EVs and heat pumps, according to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). At the same time, renewables continue their rapid ascent, with solar PV on course to set new records. Global electricity demand is forecast to grow by around 4% in 2024, up from 2.5% in 2023, the IEA’s Electricity Mid-Year Update finds. This would repre-

sent the highest annual growth rate since 2007, excluding the exceptional rebounds seen in the wake of the global financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. The strong increase in global electricity consumption is set to continue into 2025, with growth around 4% again, according to the report. Renewable sources of electricity are also set to expand rapidly this year and next, with their share of global electricity supply forecast to rise from 30% in 2023 to 35% in 2025. The amount of electricity generated by renewables worldwide in 2025 is forecast to eclipse

the amount generated by coal for the first time. Solar PV alone is expected to meet roughly half of the growth in global electricity demand over 2024 and 2025 – with solar and wind combined meeting as much as three-quarters of the growth. Despite the sharp increases in renewables, global power generation from coal is unlikely to decline this year due to the strong growth in demand, especially in China and India, according to the report. As a result, carbon dioxide emissions from the global power sector are plateauing, with a slight increase in 2024 followed by a decline in 2025. -**WAM**

LIFESTYLE

STUDY
FINDS HOW
PLASTIC WASTE
CAN BE
CONVERTED TO
ELECTRONIC
DEVICES



DELAWARE: The University of Delaware and the Argonne National Laboratory have developed a chemical process that converts Styrofoam into the high-value conducting polymer PEDOT: PSS. The researchers show how improved plastic trash may be successfully integrated into functional electronic devices such as silicon-based hybrid solar cells and organic electrochemical transistors.

The research group of corresponding author Laure Kayser, assistant professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in UD's College of Engineering with a joint appointment in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences, regularly works with PEDOT:PSS, a polymer that has both electronic and ionic conductivity, and was interested in finding ways to synthesize this material from plastic waste.

Following a meeting with Argonne chemist David Kaphan at an event hosted by UD's research office, the UD and Argonne research teams began evaluating the hypothesis that PEDOT:PSS could be produced by sulfonating polystyrene, a synthetic plastic found in many types of disposable containers and packaging materials.

Sulfonation is a common chemical reaction where a hydrogen atom is replaced by sulfonic acid; the process is used to create a variety of products such as dyes, drugs and ion exchange resins. These reactions can either be "hard" (with higher conversion efficiency but that require caustic reagents) or "soft" (a less efficient method but one that uses milder materials).

In this paper, the researchers wanted to find something in the middle: "A reagent that is efficient enough to get really high degrees of functionalization but that doesn't mess up your polymer chain," Kayser explained.

The researchers first turned to a method described in a previous study for sulfonating small molecules, one that showed promising results in terms of efficiency and yield, using 1,3-Disulfonic acid imidazolium chloride ([Dsim]Cl). But adding functional groups onto a polymer is more challenging than for a small molecule, the researchers explained, because not only are unwanted byproducts harder to separate, any small errors in the polymer chain can change its overall properties.

To address this challenge, the researchers embarked on many months of trial and error to find the optimal conditions

that minimized side reactions, said Kelsey Koutsoukos, a materials science doctoral candidate and second author of this paper.

"We screened different organic solvents, different molar ratios of the sulfonating agent, and evaluated different temperatures and times to see which conditions were the best for achieving high degrees of sulfonation," he said.

The researchers were able to find reaction conditions that resulted in high polymer sulfonation, minimal defects and high efficiency, all while using a mild sulfonating agent. And because the researchers were able to use polystyrene, specifically waste Styrofoam, as a starting material, their

method also represents an efficient way to convert plastic waste into PEDOT:PSS.

Once the researchers had PEDOT:PSS in hand, they were able to compare how their waste-derived polymer performed compared to commercially available PEDOT:PSS.

"In this paper, we looked at two devices -- an organic electronic transistor and a solar cell," said Chun-Yuan Lo, a chemistry doctoral candidate and the paper's first author. "The performance of both types of conductive polymers was comparable, and shows that our method is a very eco-friendly approach for converting polystyrene waste into high-value electronic materials."

Specific analyses conducted at UD included X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) at the surface analysis facility, film thickness analysis at the UD Nanofabrication Facility, and solar cell evaluation at the Institute of Energy Conversion. Argonne's advanced spectroscopy equipment, such as carbon NMR, was used for detailed polymer characterization. Additional support was provided by materials science and engineering professor Robert Opila for solar cell analysis and by David C. Martin, the Karl W. and Renate Boer Chaired Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, for the electronic device performance analyses.

One unexpected finding related to the chemistry, the researchers added, is the ability to use stoichiometric ratios during the reaction.

"Typically, for sulfonation of polystyrene, you have to use an excess of really harsh reagents. Here, being able to use a stoichiometric ratio means that we can minimize the amount of waste being generated," Koutsoukos said.

This finding is something the Kayser group will be looking into further as a way to "fine-tune" the degree of sulfonation. So far, they've found that by varying the ratio of starting materials, they can change the degree of sulfonation on the polymer. Along with studying how this degree of sulfonation impacts the electrical properties of PEDOT:PSS, the team is interested in seeing how this fine-tuning capability can be used for other applications, such as fuel cells or water filtration devices, where the degree of sulfonation greatly impacts a material's properties.

"For the electronic devices community, the key takeaway is that you can make electronic materials from trash, and they perform just as well as what you would purchase commercially," Kayser said. "For the more traditional polymer scientists, the fact that you can very efficiently and precisely control the degree of sulfonation is going to be of interest to a lot of different communities and applications."

The researchers also see great potential for how this research can contribute to ongoing global sustainability efforts by providing a new way to convert waste products into value-added materials.

"Many scientists and researchers are working hard on upcycling and recycling efforts, either by chemical or mechanical means, and our study provides another example of how we can address this challenge," Lo said. **-ANI**

SPORTS

FORMULA ONE

Norris on Hungary pole in McLaren front row lock-out



BUDAPEST: Lando Norris led Oscar Piastri to a McLaren one-two ahead of Max Verstappen in an action-packed qualifying session at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday. Norris edged his team-mate by 0.022 seconds and Verstappen by just 0.046secs in a session that featured changing conditions and two red flags for big crashes. The result gives Norris his third career pole, and McLaren a first one-two in qualifying since the 2012 British Grand Prix. Lewis Hamilton qualified fifth for Mercedes behind Ferrari's Carlos Sainz while team-mate George Russell was only 17th after he and the team fumbled a

wet-dry first session. Red Bull's Sergio Perez increased the pressure that was already mounting on his future with a crash in the first session that left him 16th on the grid. The other red flag was caused by RB's Yuki Tsunoda in the final session with just over two minutes remaining. The session did resume, but Verstappen and Fernando Alonso decided there was no reason to go out again and they were proved right as only Daniel Ricciardo improved on the final lap, to leapfrog Tsunoda into ninth place. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc took sixth ahead of Alonso and his Aston Martin team-mate Lance Stroll and the two RBs.

ENGLAND GREAT

Geoff Boycott discharged after throat cancer surgery



LONDON: Former England captain Sir Geoffrey Boycott has left hospital after an operation to remove a tumour from his throat on Friday. A update on his X account, external from his family said Boycott had "been discharged from hospital" following surgery and will continue his recovery at home. Boycott, 83, was treated for the condition in 2002 with chemotherapy and radiotherapy, and was told last month the cancer had returned. "Lots of pain meds [medication] and a liquid-only diet for the foreseeable but he's on the mend and looking forward to watching The Open and England cricket at home," his family posted. The former England opening batsman played in 108 Tests between 1964 and 1982, scoring 8,114 runs including 22 centuries. He captained the side on four occasions during the 1978 season instead of injured regular skipper Mike Brearley. Boycott, who played first-class cricket for Yorkshire, averaged 56.83 as a batter with more than 48,000 runs and 151 centuries. He spent 14 years with the BBC's commentary team after retiring from playing, working on Test Match Special until 2020. Boycott had quadruple heart bypass surgery in 2018, which he said was a factor in his decision to step away from commenting, as well as the coronavirus pandemic.

INDIA CRICKET TOUR TO SRI LANKA



Nayar, ten Doeschate to join India team as assistant coaches

MUMBAI: Former India all-rounder Abhishek Nayar and former Netherlands all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate are set to join India's support staff as assistant coaches for the upcoming white-ball tour of Sri Lanka, according to an *ESPNCricinfo* report on Saturday. The pair will reunite with newly-appointed India head coach Gautam Gambhir, having recently served as his assistant coaches during Kolkata Knight Riders' run to the IPL 2024 title. It has also been learnt that former South Africa fast bowler Morne Morkel has been approached to become India's new bowling coach. Morkel had worked with Gambhir at Lucknow Super Giants and Durban's Super Giants in the SA20, where Gambhir was the global mentor. Former India and Karnataka seamer Vinay Kumar has also been shortlisted for the bowling coach role, but Morkel is understood to be the leading candidate.

The new coaching set-up's first assignment will be a white-ball tour of Sri Lanka, comprising three ODIs and three T20Is, which begins on July 27. Nayar, 40, played three ODIs for India and won multiple Ranji Trophy titles with Mumbai in his first-class career, which spanned over 100 matches. Even when he was an active player, Nayar mentored Dinesh Karthik and helped him stage an international comeback. More recently, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy heaped praise on Nayar after KKR won their first IPL title in ten seasons. Nayar has also worked as the head coach of Trinbago Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL). As for ten Doeschate, he is currently with Los Angeles Knight Riders in the USA's Major League Cricket as an assistant to head coach Phil Simmons. He also brings with him the experience of having been a batting coach at Kent. - *Agencies*

Nadal reaches first final in two years

The Spaniard rallied from a set down to defeat Duje Ajdukovic in the semi-final on Saturday

BASTAAD: For the first time in more than two years, Rafael Nadal has that final feeling. The Spaniard rallied from a set and a break down to overhaul Duje Ajdukovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday afternoon at the Swedish Open and reach his first tour-level championship match since 2022 Roland Garros. Having overcome Mariano Navone in a four-hour marathon on Friday in Bastad, Nadal needed time to loosen up in his maiden clash against Croatian qualifier Ajdukovic. Yet he raised his level in time to recover after dropping serve in the opening game of the second set, going on to break his opponent's serve five times across the second and third sets en route to a two-hour, 13-minute semi-final triumph. "I think it was a tough match. My opponent had one of the best back-



hands that I played against," said Nadal in his on-court interview. "He came here with a lot of confidence. I think I was trying to push him back. It was very, very difficult, honestly, but I found a way to sur-

vive and be through to that final after a long time without being in a final. So that's great news and I'm very happy with that." Just as he had against Navone, Nadal sealed victory despite let-

ting slip a double-break lead in the deciding set. After Ajdukovic rallied from 0-3 to 3-3, the former No. 1 in the ATP Rankings immediately broke through on return again before holding firm behind his serve to clinch the win. Although he made a relatively slow start to Saturday's match, Nadal delivered a more consistent performance overall than he had against Navone. He was particularly clinical on return, and converted all six break points he earned against Ajdukovic, according to Infosys ATP Stats. "Always it is a great feeling to be back in a final," said Nadal. "I have won four matches in a row, something I was not able to make happen since two years ago. A lot of things happened, but still in this process of recovering, a lot of things I lost, because I had a very important hip surgery almost one year ago. "So things were not going that easy, but I am fighting. I am fighting during the whole tournament to be where I am today, and I think matches like yesterday's, like today's, help to improve a lot of things on court. I am happy with that, and let's see if I am able to play a little bit better tomorrow." Now 11-8 for the season, Nadal will take on seventh seed Nuno Borges or Thiago Agustin Tirante in Sunday's final in Sweden. The 38-year-old is on a nine-match winning streak in Bastad, where he lifted the trophy on his previous appearance in 2005. - *Agencies*

SECOND TEST: ENGLAND VS WEST INDIES

Da Silva and Joseph help Windies take 41-run lead

NOTTINGHAM: Joshua Da Silva's resolute half-century and some late-innings thrashing by Shamar Joseph took West Indies 41 runs ahead of England on the third morning of the second Test at Trent Bridge on Saturday. Da Silva remained unbeaten on 82, having added fifty runs to his overnight score, when Shamar Joseph fell on the final ball of an extended first session for 33 off 27 balls, the pair putting on 71 runs in 78 balls for the 10th wicket. Chris Woakes found plenty of swing to lead the bowling for England with three wickets for the day, including two in as many balls, but West Indies would be thrilled with an improved batting performance led by centurion Kavem Hodge and Alick Athanaze's 82 on the second day which gave them hope of drawing level in the series. England bowled just one over with the second new ball on the second evening but under far cloudier skies, it took just 15 deliveries on Saturday morning for the hosts to break through. Woakes and Jamie Smith combined to remove Jason Holder, prodding one outside off stump to be caught before he was well taken by Harry Brook's lightning reaction at gully off Gus Atkinson. Alzarri Joseph should have been caught when, on 7, he skied Atkinson's shorter ball but Ben Stokes, running in from cover and diving with his right hand outstretched, spilled the chance. Mark Wood, who left the field



with cramp late on the second day after his high-paced efforts went unrewarded, returned to the field at the start of play and he had ball in hand again just before the morning drinks break. But it was Woakes who found himself on a hat-trick shortly after the pause when Alzarri Joseph's resistance ended chasing a wide one outside off stump and feathering to keeper Smith and Jayden Seales was bowled for a first-ball duck. Shamar Joseph survived the hat-trick ball, stepping into a fuller one and fending it to the off side. Da Silva brought up his fifty in emphatic style, using Wood's extra pace to guide the ball over the boundary at deep extra cover, having taken things slow for the first 90 minutes. No. 11 Shamar Joseph faced up to Woakes well in the next over, breaking a run of four dot balls with a cracking four over mid-off and then Da Silva took another six off Wood over deep third to take

West Indies past the 400-mark. Shamar Joseph drew his side level with England's first-innings 416 thrashing Atkinson for six in front of square, then he sent broken roof tiles raining down onto spectators sitting in the stands below at backward square leg followed by four through fine leg to take 16 off the over and West Indies 10 in front. Da Silva amassed 18 runs off one Joe Root over with three consecutive fours followed by a heave over long-on for six, his third maximum of the innings. Then, finally, Wood snared the wicket that had eluded him in 20 overs of toil when Shamar Joseph sent a leading edge high to mid-on, Atkinson snaffing the catch. **Brief scores (Lunch, day 3):** West Indies 1st innings 457 (Kavem Hodge 120, Joshua Da Silva 82*, Alick Athanaze 82; Chris Woakes 4-84) lead England 1st innings 416 (Ollie Pope 121, Ben Duckett 71, Ben Stokes 69; Alzarri Joseph 3/98) by 41 runs. (With inputs from ESPNCricinfo.com)

SERIE A CLUB

Fabregas becomes head coach at Como

ROME: Cesc Fabregas was on Friday named the head coach of Italian Serie A club Como, having previously worked as their assistant head coach. Fabregas, 37, has signed a four-year deal with Como, who last season got promoted back to Italy's top flight after a 21-year absence.

The Spaniard, who ended his playing career at Como last year, has been promoted to head coach, his first full managerial role. He previously managed five matches as Como's caretaker boss between November and December 2023. "I am so happy to be starting this season as head coach and I thank the ownership group for trusting

me with this position," said ex-Arsenal, Chelsea and Barcelona midfielder Fabregas. "I share the ambitions of the group and believe this is just the start of where this club can go. "It's going to be a tough and important season but myself and the rest of the coaching staff are ready and we all believe."

Fabregas, who won the World Cup with Spain in 2010, spent the second half of last season working as an assistant to Welsh caretaker boss Osian Roberts, who has now become Como's head of development. They face 36-time Serie A winners Juventus on their return to the top flight on 19 August. - *Agencies*





Discover wonders of your own backyard:

HAWANA SALALAH

MUSCAT: This Khareef, immerse yourself in the breathtaking beauty of your homeland at Hawana Salalah, the crown jewel of Omani tourism. As the largest destination in Salalah, Hawana Salalah offers an unparalleled blend of luxury, adventure, and cultural richness. It is the right time to escape to the enchanting beauty of nature and the wonderful autumn atmosphere in Salalah.

Hawana Salalah proudly hosts four exquisite hotels: the elegant Salalah Rotana Resort, the charming Fanar Hotel and Residences, the delightful Juweira Boutique Hotel, and the newly unveiled The Club Hotel, a beacon of luxury and sophistication. Each offers unique experiences and world-class amenities, ensuring an unforgettable stay.

For all our Khareef guests, we are delighted to offer Omani citizens special discounts on room rates and food and beverage options. Experience the finest hospitality and indulge in gourmet delights, all at exclusive prices just for you.

Moreover, guests will enjoy complimentary access to Hawana Aquapark, the largest and most exciting water park in Salalah. From thrilling slides to relaxing pools, it's perfect for families seeking fun and adventure.

Let's cherish the splendor of Oman. Visit Hawana Salalah and rediscover the beauty, warmth, and hospitality of your country. Support local tourism and make unforgettable memories with your family in the serene landscapes of Salalah.



ROUND-UP

Elevate your driving experience with Lincoln’s latest summer offer

The new offer entitles customers to additional service benefits and a registration fee waiver for the first year



MUSCAT: Indulge in the exquisite timeless elegance and refined craftsmanship of Lincoln’s premium SUV range. Experience Lincoln’s latest summer promotion with additional service and registration incentives across Lincoln models. New Lincoln Owners can now benefit from up-graded service of up to 100,000km and free first-year registration. The offer is valid from 2 June to 1 August. Head to the Lincoln dealership in

Muscat (Wattayah) to experience outstanding designs and performance-oriented vehicles. Owning a Lincoln is a premium-power experience. The new offer entitles customers to additional service benefits and a registration fee waiver for the first year. A Lincoln representative commented, “We aim to enhance the luxurious ownership experience. Customers can benefit from our exclusive after-sale service and state-of-the-art service facilities by trained professionals.” He further added.

Lincoln’s premium range includes the Nautilus, Aviator, Corsair and Navigator. Select from a range of powerful SUVs, built with premium craftsmanship, high-technology safety and connectivity features. The Lincoln is the perfect choice for a summer getaway with family and off-roaders. Embark on the next road trip in the 5-seater mid-size Nautilus powered by a turbocharged 2.0-litre engine that produces 250 horsepower and 380 Nm torque mated with an 8-speed automatic transmission. The engine is ex-

ceedingly fuel-efficient and delivers optimal power output. Elevate the experience with seamless connectivity with Android Auto Play and Apply Car play compatibility, wireless charging options, smart exit and entry systems, powerful LED headlamps with AHS, front-rear and side airbag protection, anti-lock braking system and a plethora of other features. The Navigator powered by a twin-turbo V6, 3.5L GTDI engine that produces a thrilling 440 horsepower and 691 Nm of torque and paired with a 10-speed

automatic transmission with SelectShift paddle activation. Easily switch between driving modes with a beautiful animation display, ambient lighting and daytime running LED lights. Command the road with Lincoln’s 22” polished aluminium wheels and the night-time illuminated Lincoln logo to set off a journey of a lifetime. The Lincoln Aviator, a mid-sized 4x4 makes a bold presence with an inspiring design and sleek profile. The Aviator offers premium capability in a three-row 7-seater setting. Under the hood, the Aviator is powered by a twin-turbocharged 3.0-liter V6 engine paired with a 10-speed SelectShift® automatic transmission. It delivers an impressive 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque for effortless acceleration. The Lincoln Aviator offers an engaging driving experience with Lincoln Drive Modes’ five signature settings – Normal, Conserve, Excite, Slippery and Deep Conditions. Equipped with Lincoln Co-Pilot 360™, an integrated driver-assist technology, includes Evasive Steering Assist, Reverse Brake Assist, Active Park Assist Plus

and Adaptive Cruise Control with Traffic Jam Assist. Traffic Jam Assist combines Stop-and-Go, Lane Centering and newly developed Speed Sign Recognition to provide a seamless journey experience. The 5-seater Lincoln Corsair SUV is engineered to deliver a remarkable driving experience carving a perfect balance between comfort, safety and technology adaptations. Its power is packed with a turbocharged four-cylinder engine, an 8-speed automatic transmission with SelectShift, Pilot360™ driver-assist features, and other integrated technologies for the driver’s assistance. Lincoln has set a benchmark for providing premium luxury driving experiences prioritizing high comfort levels, spaciousness, utility, high-end technology and top-notch safety features inclusion. Consequently, awarded the best premium brand in the Vehicle Satisfaction Awards conducted by Auto Pacific, an automotive marketing research and product consulting firm. In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

BANKING SECTOR



Bank Nizwa honoured with prestigious awards

MUSCAT: In recognition of its leadership in the Islamic banking sector, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, was awarded the ‘Islamic Bank of the Year’ award at the New Age Banking Summit 2024, for its exceptional performance.

Additionally, the bank was also titled ‘Best Bank in the Mid-Size Banks’ in the Sultanate based on a study conducted by Oman Economic Review (OER) magazine, which evaluated the financial performance of banking institutions. The awards were graciously accepted by Khaled Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Nizwa, on behalf of the bank.

This recognition underscores Bank Nizwa’s persistent efforts in driving the economic development of the country. It highlights the bank’s significant role in advancing innovation within the banking sector to enhance services in the Sultanate, creating an environment that promotes financial inclusion and improves operational efficiency resulting in enhanced customer service. In doing so, Bank Nizwa sets a distinguished example of banking innovation, supporting the country’s sustainable development goals.

Commenting on the occasion, Khalid Al Kayed said, “We are honoured to receive this recognition, which reflects Bank Nizwa’s outstanding prowess in the Islamic banking sector and high-

lights the leading role the bank plays in the country’s economic development journey. We regard this award as a driving force that propels us to continue our journey towards greater achievements, further cementing our leadership on the map of the Islamic banking sector within the country. We will continue to introduce modern banking solutions that comply with Sharia principles and integrate the latest digital technologies into banking transactions to provide secure and seamless financial services that meet all the growing and evolving needs of customers; driving Islamic banking towards new horizons of growth and innovation.”

It is worth noting that Bank Nizwa recently announced its financial results for the second quarter of this year, showcasing promising financial performance. As of the end of June 2024, Bank Nizwa’s financial results indicated an 11% growth in net profit, with total assets reaching OMR1,673 million, a 7% surge compared to the same period last year. Financing to customers grew by 9% to OMR1,442 million, while customer deposits increased by 10% to OMR1,365 million compared to the same period last year. These remarkable achievements affirm the effectiveness of Bank Nizwa’s growth strategy and underscore its leadership in the Islamic banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

MEDIA EVENT

ahlibank showcases mission, vision & core values at ‘Partner in Excellence’

MUSCAT: In a significant stride towards solidifying its position as the ‘Partner in Excellence’ to all, ahlibank recently held a special media networking event at the Bank’s Head Office in Watayyah, highlighting its mission, forward-thinking vision, and integral values. The event took place on Wednesday, 17 July 2024, witnessing the attendance of key personnel from leading media institutions and news agencies in Oman. The event highlighted ahlibank’s core values of innovation, integrity, responsibility, sustainability, and most significantly, the Bank’s commitment to excellence. Being the ‘Partner in Excellence’, ahlibank shed the spotlight on its vision to be a vibrant and innovative center for banking; one that is committed to surpassing its customers’ expectations, and contributing tangibly to the country’s socio-economic growth agenda. In addition, the event underpinned ahlibank’s mission to deliver outstanding value to its shareholders



through its comprehensive banking solutions, guaranteeing access to excellent products and services. During the event, Jumana Al Hashmi, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications at ahlibank, said, “We would like to express our gratitude to all government and private institutions for accepting our invitation to our annual media event and for their invaluable support in helping us achieve our goals. We have refined

our approach and enhanced our framework to be more customer-centric, aligning with our commitment to delivering a comprehensive range of banking products and services, which has further strengthened our relationships with all our customers. At ahlibank, we are dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of excellence. As we continue our significant growth journey, we will adapt to emerging developments

in the banking sector in Oman. With our cutting-edge technologies and diverse offerings, ahlibank will set new benchmarks and make a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals and communities we serve.” During the event, the attendees learned about ahlibank’s achievements during the past period, which included many significant milestones in the Bank’s history. ahlibank also showcased its media strategy and highlighted the many initiatives it intends to undertake, in addition to the many goals it seeks to achieve. The event included an introductory tour of the new main building; a vibrant center for banking excellence, and a staple in architecture for its grandiose design and pleasant views. Moving forward, ahlibank anticipates the future’s opportunities, as it continues its operations within the banking sector, embarking on an exciting journey of momentous growth and substantial excellence.

PREMIUM DEFINED

Own your premium drive: LYNK & Co 01 available with incredible offers

MUSCAT: LYNK & CO, the premium automobile brand is revolutionizing the roads of Oman. Each model is crafted with a blend of cutting-edge technology, superior craftsmanship & remarkable performance. Experience the thrill of owning the Lynk & Co 01, a Premium SUV. Incredible offers with many benefits are available until August 31st, 2024. Enjoy financing options with EMIs starting from just 135 OMR, alongside a 6-year extended warranty with unlimited kilometers, 6 years of AAA roadside assistance, and 5 years or 50,000 kilometers of service. Additionally, free registration for the first year which will save you on registration costs. As a bonus receive a free gift valued at RO 50 with your purchase.



This stylish SUV sets a new standard for luxury driving in Oman. It seamlessly blends sophisticated design with advanced technology, delivering unmatched ur-

ban performance. Stay seamlessly connected and informed on the go with the car’s wireless charging, advanced infotainment system, and intuitive HMI interface. The

city-smart design perfectly combines elegance with functionality, making it ideal for everyday adventures. Cutting-edge safety features, including ADAS (Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems), and an air-purifying cabin ensure you can drive with confidence and peace of mind, allowing you to fully experience the beauty of Oman’s roads. The powerful 2.0L Turbo engine in the Lynk & Co 01 delivers an impressive 215 HP, enabling swift acceleration and smooth passing for a truly confident drive. Lynk & Co 01 rated with 5.5-stars in C-NCAP crash test. Take advantage of this perfect opportunity with added benefits to drive home your dream car. These offers are valid only until August 31.



mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

OmanOasis OmanOasisOfficial OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing
- ✓ Electrolytes

oman OASIS

800 71 222 9275 5522

RAM 1500



THE POWER OF ELEGANCE RAM 1500 RANGE

STARTING FROM
OMR 20,999 / OMR 248 PER MONTH

5 YEARS / 100,000 KMS FREE SERVICE
5 YEARS / 100,000 KMS WARRANTY
5 YEARS / 100,000 KMS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
FREE FIRST YEAR INSURANCE & REGISTRATION
TRADE-IN BONUS UP TO OMR 500



RAM

KNOW MORE

Vehicle image shown is for illustration purposes only and accessories shown might not be part of the standard model. ©2024 FCA US LLC. All Rights Reserved. RAM is a registered trademark of FCA US LLC.

NEW
collection



IDdesign | KARE

SHOP IN STORE & ONLINE

   IDdesignoman |  80080888 |  Markaz Al Bahja Mall