

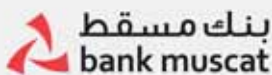


OMAN COMMENDS IAEA INITIATIVE FOR FOOD SECURITY

The Sultanate of Oman has commended the initiative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to harness the atom for food through the use of nuclear technologies in the field of agriculture and food production, notably to ensure the sustainability of food safety. Oman has expressed its keenness to join this initiative. **>A6**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Annual walkathon

1 The OCA will organise a walkathon for supporting cancer patients. **>A2**

OMAN Bee Expo 2024

2 Oman is hosting the Bee Exhibition and conference Africa Bee Expo 2024. **>A3**

MARKET Gasoline production

3 Oman's output of gasoline recorded a rise of 25% in July 2024. **>B1**



OMR15mn pharma factory inaugurated in Raysut Industrial City, Salalah

A6

ADVISORY OPINION

Oman calls on global community to end Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories

NEW YORK: Oman has commended the advisory opinion issued on 19 July 2024 by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the legal consequences of the persistent Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, since 1967.

"This opinion reflects the international community's commitment to the principles of justice and international law, and it urges Israel to end its illegal presence in Palestine and compensate the Palestinian people for all damages emanating from its atrocious policies," said Oman.



Oman's commendation of the ICJ opinion was unveiled in a statement delivered before the resumed 10 Emergency Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly by Khalid

Salah Al Rubkhi, Deputy Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations.

"The adoption of the ICJ's advisory opinion represents an important step forward in supporting the rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitimacy," said Oman.

Oman called on the international community to assume a collective responsibility to ensure the implementation of the advisory opinion and to work for the termination of Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. **>A2**

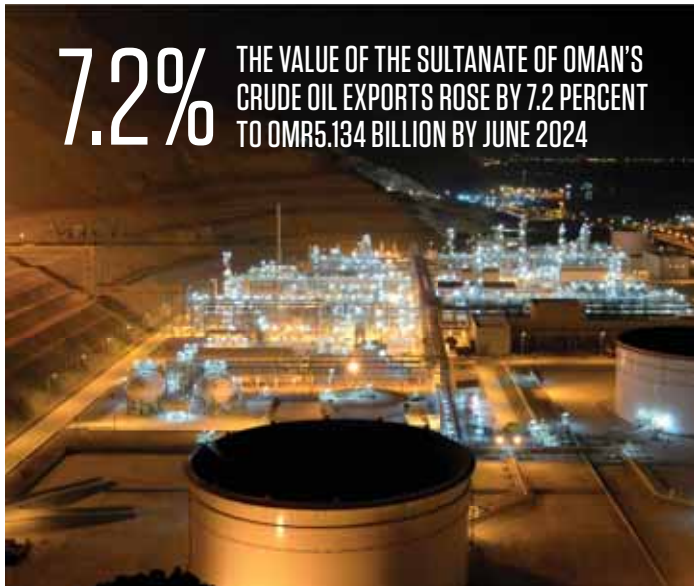
OMAN TRADE SURPLUS SWELLS TO OMR3.65BN IN FIRST HALF OF 2024

The total value of commodity exports rose by 6.7% to OMR11.670bn by the end of June 2024, according to NCSI

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's trade balance recorded a surplus of OMR3.658 billion by the end of June 2024, compared to a surplus of OMR3.704 billion during the same period of 2023, according to preliminary statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The statistics further indicate that the total value of commodity exports increased by 6.7 percent to OMR11.670 billion by the end of June 2024 compared to OMR10.934 billion during the same period in June 2023.

On the other hand, the total value of imports to the Sultan-



ate of Oman increased by 10.8 percent to OMR8.12 billion by the end of June 2024 compared to OMR7.230 billion during the same period in June 2023.

The growth in the value of exports is mainly attributed to the increase in value of the Sultanate of Oman's oil and gas exports to OMR7.228 billion, up by 5.3 percent from OMR6.866 billion compared to the end of June 2023.

The value of the Sultanate of Oman's crude oil exports rose by 7.2 percent to OMR5.134 billion by June 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. The value of refined oil exports increased by 12.8 percent to OMR842 million. The Sultanate of Oman's liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports decreased by 5.7 percent to OMR1.252 billion by the end of June 2024 compared to the end of June 2023. **>A5**



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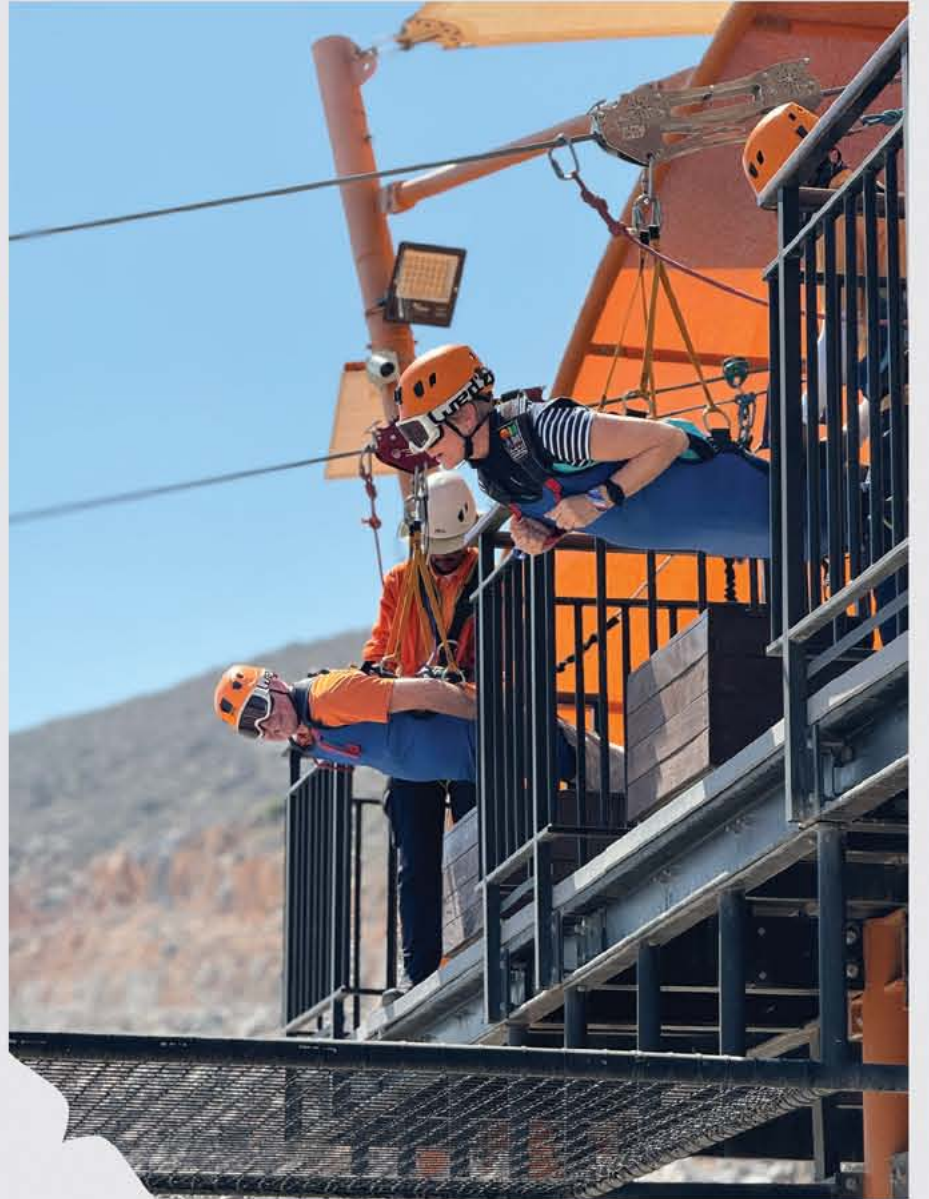
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Asr.....	3:32pm
Maghrib.....	6:12pm
Isha.....	7:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:40am

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Oman hails UNCTAD report on aid to Palestinians

GENEVA: Idris Abdulrahman Al Khanjari, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations and international organisations, hailed the report prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on assistance to the Palestinian people.

The UNCTAD report was read out by the Palestinian Ambassador on behalf of the Arab Group.

The report laid emphasis on the dire situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and the difficult living conditions of the population there.

It showed how the brutal Israeli war in the Gaza Strip and the restrictions imposed on the West Bank have inflicted the greatest damage on the Palestinian economy. It pointed out that in-



frastructure in the Gaza Strip was completely destroyed and that the rates of poverty and unemployment were highly accentuated. This, the report observed, led to unprecedented deterioration of humanitarian and environmental conditions. Oman also called for the implementation of "Clause 127 BB" of the Bridgetown Cov-

enant emanating from the 15th UNCTAD Conference, which stresses the need to back the organisation's action and calculate the overall cost of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian economy and development. It also provides for conducting research and studies to understand the rates of trade and development in Pales-

tine, besides urging the UNCTAD to consolidate the activities of its unit entrusted with assisting the Palestinian people through financial and technical support.

Oman backed the UNCTAD report's emphasis on the need for the international community's immediate intervention to halt the ongoing economic deterioration in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the importance of addressing the humanitarian crisis in Palestine and the establishment of solid grounds for lasting peace and development.

This includes the implementation of a comprehensive recovery plan to upgrade international assistance to the Palestinian people, set free their withheld revenues and lift the blockade on the Gaza Strip, said the speech. -**UNA**

DETERIORATING SITUATION

Rebuild Gaza Strip

<FROM A1 Oman also called for the realisation of a fair, comprehensive solution that leads to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem (Al Quds) as its capital.

Oman expressed its deep concern over the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's blockade and its ongoing military operations in the strip. In this context, Oman called for the immediate lifting of the seige and the facilitation of delivery of urgent humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people.

Oman also stressed the significance of international efforts to rebuild the Gaza Strip and ensure decent life for Palestinians therein, namely by addressing the

humanitarian situation, and engagements to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace.

In conclusion of its statement, Oman called on all member states to support the draft resolution before the UN General Assembly. It pointed out that such support, though not a legal obligation, constitutes a moral responsibility to protect the rights of peoples. Oman also expressed its steadfast support for the Palestinian cause and reiterated its unwavering backing for the Palestinian people in their strive to realise their legitimate aspirations.

This position, the statement said, stems from Oman's strong conviction that "justice, equality and respect for the rule of law are the foundations through which lasting peace can be achieved". -**UNA**

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OMAN CANCER ASSOCIATION

20th annual walkathon to spread awareness, support cancer patients

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Cancer Association revealed the details of its 20th annual walkathon in the presence of association's board of directors and a number of media professionals, and others during a press conference at the headquarters of the Oman Cancer Association.

The Oman Cancer Association organises the annual walkathon, which is an inspiring and impactful event where thousands of participants from all governorates of the Sultanate gather to participate in this charitable event, for spreading awareness and supporting cancer patients.

Dr. Wahid Al Kharusi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Cancer Association, welcomed the attendees, stating that the annual walkathon in support of cancer patients is an important event in strengthening social bonds and raising awareness on the importance of early detection of cancer and appropriate treatment.

Thousands of people of different ages and backgrounds come together to participate in a group walk to raise awareness and funds to support research and development of treatments.

The walkathon is usually organised in large cities and include



events such as competitions, children entertainment, food, shopping and other activities that bring families and friends together in an atmosphere of fun and solidarity.

He stressed that the walkathon is an opportunity for patients and their families to connect with the community and share their experiences and success stories in facing this disease.

These events also enhance the positive spirit and optimism among the participants. Al Kharusi revealed the new location of the event, as this time it will be held at the Oman Automobile Association instead of Al Qurum Natural Park, where the Walkathon has been known to be held.

The Walkathon is set on a spe-

cific path that the participants walk down together, carrying symbols of hope and courage.

Participation in this march is an opportunity for individuals to stand together and be a part of an awareness campaign that urges support for cancer patients.

He also pointed out that the unisex t-shirt designed for the event will feature the walkathon logo prominently displayed.

Sameh Al Dahshan, media advisor to the Oman Cancer Association, explained the slogan, which is (No one fights alone), as this event is an opportunity for everyone to participate in a noble endeavour to combat cancer and raise awareness of the importance of early detection and proper treatment.

By participating in this walk, the spirit of solidarity and cooperation is enhanced, and individuals are motivated to take positive steps to maintain their health and prevent this deadly disease.

OCA's Annual Walkathon reflects the spirit of resistance, challenge and hope. Seeing thousands of individuals walking side by side, expressing their solidarity and support for cancer patients, inspires us and reminds us of the importance of spiritual strength in facing challenges.

Finally, the Board of Directors of the Oman Cancer Association expressed their thanks and deep gratitude to the Omani government, led by His Majesty the Sultan, for the support and care provided to cancer patients.

They also thanked the sponsoring bodies and the Oman Automobile Association. Al Kharusi called on the media and other corporations to join hands to raise community awareness and support patients to confront this disease and by participating in these events, to raise awareness and raise funds that will be used in medical research and cancer therapy.

So, let us unite together and walk together to support cancer patients and contribute to making our community healthier and happier.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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Business prospects in beekeeping explored

The 4-day event sees the participation of experts, researchers and specialists from various academic and research institutions

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, is currently hosting the 3rd international Bee Exhibition and conference “Africa Bee Expo 2024”.

As many as 37 countries are taking part in the event, which aims to develop the field of beekeeping and open up business prospects for companies and individuals, particularly the small and medium enterprises.

The opening ceremony was held on Wednesday under the pa-



tronage of Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

The conference seeks to exchange scientific, technological and cultural expertise at the global level and upgrade the beekeeper’s professional and commercial capacity such as exporting and entering global markets, attracting investors in the agricultural field and converting industries, in addition to giving added value to hive products and

opening up horizons for tourism and alternative medicine with internationally approved hive products.

The four-day event sees the participation of experts, researchers and specialists from various academic and research institutions, beekeepers, a number of regional and international organisations and private sector companies in the field of bees and honey production and manufacturing, such as the Arab

Beekeepers Union, the Arab Beekeeping Association, the European Bee Organization, the Al Baha Association in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the International Federation of Beekeepers’ Associations.

Activities of the conference include many working papers on various topics, such as the preservation of the local honey bee breed and the Safety and quality of honey based on Gulf specifications. -OMA

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REF: OFM/TD-24/05

Tender for Provision of heavy equipment

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize vendors to participate in our tender for the “Provision of heavy equipment” as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-24/05
Tender subject	Provision of heavy equipment
Tender fee	RO.100/- (non-refundable)
Start date for tender collection	18.09.2024
Last date for tender collection	26.09.2024
Closing date of the tender	29.09.2024
Mode of payment of tender fee	Online
Mode of submission	E-tendering

Vendor selection will be based on “best and final offer”. OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

Companies who are interested to participate they are requested to send an email to vendor.r@omanflourmills.com no later than 26 September 2024.

REF: OFM/TD-24/06

Tender for Hiring of prime mover with qualified driver on lease basis

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize vendors to participate in our tender for the “Hiring of prime mover with qualified driver on lease basis” as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-24/06
Tender subject	Hiring of prime mover with qualified driver on lease basis
Tender fee	RO.100/- (non-refundable)
Start date for tender collection	18.09.2024
Last date for tender collection	26.09.2024
Closing date of the tender	29.09.2024
Mode of payment of tender fee	Online
Mode of submission	E-tendering

Vendor selection will be based on “best and final offer”. OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

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Nepal embassy celebrates National Day and Constitution Day

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Embassy of Nepal hosted a reception at Inter-continental Muscat Hotel on 17 September 2024 to celebrate the National Day and the Constitution Day of Nepal.

Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy,, participated in the programme as the Guest of Honour (Chief Guest).

The government delegation from the Sultanate of Oman comprised two members each from the State Council and Shura Council, Head of Asia and Pacific Department and Head of Arab Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Other participants were Heads of Diplomatic Missions, diplomats, media persons, tourism and business entrepreneurs, bloggers, representatives of Nepali community, Embassy staff etc.

More than 230 guests took part in the programme.

The formal occasion of the reception commenced after Dornath Aryal, Ambassador of Nepal to the Sultanate of Oman lit the traditional Panas Lamp.

While delivering a speech, Ambassador Aryal welcomed the



guests and highlighted the salient features of the Constitution of Nepal. He elaborated how the constitution of Nepal has paved the way for peace, stability, and progress.

He explained that the constitution has institutionalised the values and norms of inclusive democracy and it has guaranteed 33 percent participation of women in every organ of the state.

The ambassador outlined that

Oman and Nepal have been enjoying excellent relations based on friendship, mutual trust and understanding ever since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1977.

He highlighted the recent visit of Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister to Nepal from 26 to 27 August 2024, and the visit of Foreign Secretary Sewa Lamsal to Oman from 5 to 9 Au-

gust 2024 to participate in the first meeting of bilateral consultations and the visit of a seven-member delegation under the leadership of Ambassador Sulaiman Saud Ali Aziz Al Jabri, Head of Legal Department of the Foreign Ministry to Nepal from 1 to 5 August 2024 to discuss on various draft MOUs between Nepal and Oman.

The ambassador explained about the successful completion



of the third investment Summit in April 2024 emphasising the government's priorities to facilitate the foreign investment in Nepal.

He underscored abundant water resources, enormous hydropower potentiality and tourism attractions of Nepal.

He also applauded the strategy of Oman Vision 2040 and extended gratitude to the government of Oman for providing job opportuni-

ties to over 22,000 Nepalis.

A celebration cake was jointly cut by the Guest of Honour and the ambassador. The embassy had set up a "Nepali food Corner" serving Nepali dishes including MoMo, and displayed Nepali products, handicrafts and beautiful paintings.

A tourism promotional video was displayed during the event. Bishesh Kumar Sah, Second Secretary/DCM conducted the event.

DATA

Mineral products had highest non-oil merchandise exports

Statistics also revealed an increase in the value of non-oil merchandise exports by 8.1 percent to OMR3.575 billion by the end of June 2024 compared to OMR3.307 billion recorded by the end of June 2023.

Mineral products had the highest value of non-oil merchandise exports rising by 21.5 percent to OMR1.304 billion, by base metals and their products at OMR671 million, an increase of 7.3 percent, products of chemicals with an export value of OMR521 million, a decline by 0.7 percent.

The value of the Sultanate of Oman's exports of plastics and rubber increased by 11.5 percent to OMR473 million while exports of live animals and animal products fell by 21 percent to OMR169 million. Meanwhile, the value of exports of other products amounted to OMR437 million.

The value of re-exports from

the Sultanate of Oman increased by 13.9 percent to OMR867 million by the end of June 2024, compared to the end of June 2023.

The value of re-exports in transport equipment products rose by 19 percent to OMR259 million while electrical machinery and equipment fell by 3.1 percent to OMR188 million. In foodstuff, beverage and tobacco, the value of re-exports increased by 15.7 percent to OMR82 million, while the re-export of mineral products increased by 57.6 percent to OMR76 million.

The value of re-exports of live animals and animal products decreased by 18.4 percent to OMR59 million while the value of other products amounted to OMR204 million.

In contrast, mineral products had the largest value of merchandise imports to the Sultanate of Oman, increasing by 22.5 percent to OMR2.338 billion by the end of

June 2024, followed by electrical machinery and equipment rising by 20.2 percent to OMR1.324 billion by the end of June 2024. The value of base metal and their products fell by 4.1 percent to OMR752 million.

Chemical products imports fell by 1.7 percent to OMR750 million while transport equipment rose by 4.9 percent to OMR684 million.

UAE tops trade exchange
The United Arab Emirates (UAE) topped trade exchange operations in non-oil exports by the end of June 2024 with a value of OMR457 million, an increase of 8.9 percent by the end of June 2023 as well as trade exchange operations in re-exports from the Sultanate of Oman, where the value to it stood at OMR338 million and the import to the Sultanate of Oman, with a value of OMR1.902 billion. -ONA

ASAD AL BAHAR

RNO conducts naval drill 'Sea Lion' 2/2024

MUSCAT: Activities of the naval drill "Asad Al Bahar" or "Sea Lion" 2/2024, implemented by the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) in the Sea of Oman, began on Wednesday.

The naval drill, conducted with support of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) jets and the Royal Oman Police Coast Guard, runs till 26 September. The execution of this naval drill comes within the framework of the RNO training plans aimed to sustain the level of readiness of its fleet and personnel, in line with the national tasks entrusted to it. -ONA





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PRE-24-041 (Re-Call)	Consultancy Services for Development at Hail Al Ghaf - ReTender	13/10/2024	29/10/2024
PRE/24/264	Renewing IBM FILENET & CMS Licenses for Record and Document Management System	29/09/2024	06/10/2024
PRE/24/241	RFP of Support and Maintenance Services for Oracle SUN Solaris Servers	03/10/2024	10/10/2024

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E-Auction Announcement

The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology announces its intention to hold a general online auction for the sale of government assets through the website www.safqauctions.om.

For those wishing to purchase, the displayed materials are as follows:

Moveables to be sold	Examining location	Viewing Date and Time	Auction Date
Scrap Iron Poles and Barriers	Al-Ghail Workshop Wilayat Al-Suwaïq	Start: (2nd -3rd) October 2024 (During Official Working Hours)	Starts at 8:00 AM on Sunday, 6th October 2024 Ends at 12:00 PM on Monday, 7th October 2024
Scrap Iron Poles, Barriers, and Guiding Signs	Middle East Trading & Contracting Company Site (Wilayat Nizwa)		
Scrap Iron Poles, Barriers, Electronic Devices, and Furniture	Roads Department in Daba and Madha (Musandam Governorate)		
Scrap Iron Poles, Barriers, and Guiding Signs	Roads Department Musandam (Khasab)		
(Backfill) stones and sand of various sizes	Wilayat Samail (Nadab Area)		

Terms and Conditions for Participating in the Online Auction:

1. Registration: Participants must register on the website (www.safqauctions.om).

2. Deposit Payment: A refundable security deposit of OMR 2,000 must be paid electronically via the website (refunded if no purchase is made).

3. Payment: The buyer must pay for the purchased assets via electronic transfer through the website within 48 working hours after the auction's conclusion.

4. Additional Fees: A 5% Value Added Tax (VAT) and a 3% auction commission fee will be added to the final sale price.

5. Asset Removal: The buyer must remove the purchased assets within one week of the auction's conclusion. A penalty of 5% per day will be imposed for any delay, and the Ministry will not be responsible for any damage or loss after the designated removal period.

6. No Returns: All sales are final, and the sold items cannot be returned or have their prices reduced. No appeals or complaints will be entertained regarding this matter.

7. As-is Condition: The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology and Safqa Auctions are not responsible for any discrepancy between the description or image of the items for sale and their actual condition. The buyer must inspect the items on the designated inspection date, as the items are sold in their current condition without any warranties.

8. Right to Reject Bids: The company reserves the right not to allow the auction to the highest bidder without providing reasons if the bid price does not meet the desired value.

9. Deposit Forfeiture: The security deposit will be forfeited in the following cases:

- If the buyer fails to pay for the items within the specified payment period.
- If the buyer fails to remove the purchased items within the specified removal period.

Notes:

- All assets are sold as-is.
- The company reserves the right to cancel the auction without giving any reasons.

For more Information please visit the website (www.safqauctions.om) or contact the following numbers: (96916169-91798145-94443325). For inspections during official working hours, please contact: (91798145 - 94443325).

Auction Locations:



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Nizwa Site



Al Ghail Workshop – Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology



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OMR15mn factory opens in Raysut Industrial City

Dhofar Pharmaceutical Industries Factory's cutting-edge facility aims to boost the nation's drug security and reduce reliance on imports by manufacturing intravenous and kidney dialysis solutions locally

SALALAH: In a major stride towards strengthening Oman's healthcare sector, the Dhofar Pharmaceutical Industries Factory was inaugurated on Wednesday at Raysut Industrial City in Salalah.

With an investment exceeding OMR 15million, the cutting-edge



facility aims to boost the nation's drug security and reduce reliance on imports by manufacturing intravenous and kidney dialysis solutions locally.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion, alongside Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, and other distinguished officials.

Built over an expansive 22,000-square-metre area, the factory is equipped with advanced German technologies and adheres to the highest international standards. The project is set to play a critical role in meeting both local

and regional demand for pharmaceutical solutions, bolstering Oman's health security and its goal of reducing reliance on imports.

"This factory is a product of the Health Sector Investment Lab, launched by the Ministry of Health in 2022, in collaboration with Nazdar and aligned with Oman Vision 2040," said Al Yousef.

He emphasised that the factory is a key addition to the industrial expansion in Dhofar Governorate, underlining its role in supporting Oman's strategic objectives in health and industry.

With an annual production capacity of 15million units of intravenous solutions and 2.3 million

units of kidney dialysis solutions, the factory will easily meet the estimated demand of 5 million units annually within Oman's health sector.

High-quality production

Sheikh Salem bin Ali Amer Jaid Al Mahri, Chairman of Dhofar Pharmaceutical Industries, highlighted the company's focus on accommodating national talent and expertise to ensure high-quality production.

Dr. Mohammed bin Hamdan Al-Rubaie, Director General of the Drug Safety Centre at the Ministry of Health, pointed out that the facility complies with both the US FDA and European Medicines Agency standards, further cementing its role as a strategic project that enhances Oman's self-sufficiency in essential medical supplies.

The factory is set to not only stabilise local prices but also reduce the country's dependency on volatile international markets, reinforcing Oman's position in the global pharmaceutical industry while advancing research and innovation in the sector.

This project marks a significant step toward building a more resilient and sustainable health system, ensuring Oman is better equipped to respond to emergencies and improve patient care. — ONA

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10 surgeries to ease suffering of many patients conducted

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team at Al Nahda Hospital (from the departments of ENT, Head and Neck Surgery, Oral, Maxillo-facial and Facial Surgery) has successfully performed 10 advanced surgeries for a number of patients who suffered various health complications.

The surgeries included the removal of cancerous and benign head and neck tumours using free flaps.

They took about 14 to 18 hours of operating.

Dr. Rashid Mohammed Al Alawi, Director General of Khoula Hospital, said that the perfor-



mance of such operations at Al Nahda Hospital reflects the expertise that the hospital has gained, putting it on track to localise the special skills, using Omani medical staff instead of dispatching patients abroad. — ONA

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Oman hails IAEA initiative to harness atoms for food security

VIENNA: The Sultanate of Oman has commended the initiative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to harness the atom for food through the use of nuclear technologies in the field of agriculture and food production, notably to ensure the sustainability of food safety.

Oman has expressed its keenness to join this initiative.

This was unveiled in Oman's speech delivered before the IAEA's 68th session of the General Conference.

The speech was read out by Yousef Ahmed Al Jabri, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the IAEA.

Al Jabri said that nuclear science and technology play an important role in addressing current global challenges.

"Recognising this role, the Sultanate of Oman signed a technical cooperation framework document with the IAEA for the period



(2024-2029). It is the third mandate of its kind to be joined by the Sultanate of Oman. This framework includes cooperation programmes in the fields of radiation safety, agriculture and food safety, human health, water resources, environment, and cultural heritage," he added.

Al Jabri pointed out that the first technical cooperation cycle under this framework for the period (2024-2025) began to be implemented in new projects in the

fields of combating farm pests, ensuring food safety, improving the quality of medical radiation practices and enhancing the infrastructure for radiation safety.

Al Jabri affirmed Oman's cooperation with the IAEA and all member states to achieve the Agency's goals and enhance its central role in serving peace and development.

Al Jabri expressed thanks and appreciation to the Japanese government for its cooperation with the IAEA in hosting scientific Omani team of five experts and specialists from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) to learn about the experience of some Japanese institutions in developing and implementing programmes on monitoring and controlling viral and human diseases, as well as the associated strategy for implementing these programmes. — ONA

GCC AIRPORTS CEOS FORUM

Potential to launch alliance for regional airports reviewed

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by "Oman Airports," host led on Wednesday the first GCC Airports CEOs Forum I, at St. Regis Al Mouj, Muscat, with the participation of the CEOs of GCC airports.

This forum, in its inaugural edition this year, is part of the efforts to deepen cooperation between the airports of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, aiming to drive economic growth and develop the aviation and air transport sector in the region, benefiting the people of the GCC and enhancing economic integration. The forum is held to support the shared goals of GCC countries, fostering bilateral coordination between their institutions in response to the aspirations of GCC leaders to achieve comprehensive and sustainable economic development.

It aligns with the Gulf region's strategic focus on investing in



infrastructure and improving services to accommodate the expected growth in air travel and aviation, alongside the joint committees and ongoing work plans in the airport sector.

Sheikh Aimen bin Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of "Oman Airports," welcomed the participation of the CEOs of GCC airports in this forum, which has been designed as a vital platform to strengthen cooperation and integration between the Gulf airports. He af-

firmed that the forum reflects the commitment of the aviation sector in Oman and the Gulf countries to joint efforts within a comprehensive vision for developing services and infrastructure in the sector, driving sustainable development in the region.

The forum discussed the possibility of launching a regional alliance for airports in the Middle East, to contribute to achieving the strategic aspirations of the countries of the region. — ONA

REF: OFM/TD-24/07
Tender for Merchandising Services

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize vendors to participate in our tender for the "Merchandising Services" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-24/07
Tender subject	Merchandising Services
Tender fee	RO.25/- (nonrefundable)
Start date for tender collection	18.09.2024
Last date for tender collection	26.09.2024
Closing date of the tender	29.09.2024
Mode of payment of tender fee	Online
Mode of submission	E-tendering

Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

Companies who are interested to participate they are requested to send an email to vendor.r@omanflourmills.com no later than 26 September 2024.

REF: OFM/TD-24/08
Tender for In store Branding and production

Oman Flour Mills SAOG, (OFM) invites specialize vendors to participate in our tender for the "In store Branding and production" as per the scope of work and specifications.

Tender Ref no.	OFM/TD-24/08
Tender subject	Instore Branding and production
Tender fee	RO.25/- (nonrefundable)
Start date for tender collection	18.09.2024
Last date for tender collection	26.09.2024
Closing date of the tender	29.09.2024
Mode of payment of tender fee	Online
Mode of submission	E-tendering

Vendor selection will be based on "best and final offer". OFM is not bound to select the lowest bidder.

Companies who are interested to participate they are requested to send an email to vendor.r@omanflourmills.com no later than 26 September 2024.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Pact worth over OMR9mn inked for Al Mughsayl road project



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology has signed an agreement on Wednesday for the construction of the Al Mughsayl Road and Bridge project, with a total cost exceeding OMR 9 million. The agreement was signed by His Excellency Engineer Said bin Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology, while Engineer Syed Azher from AZ Engineers signed on behalf of the company, with the presence of the Ministry's Undersecretary for Transport. The project involves the construction of a concrete bridge measuring 630 metres in length, supported by 20 piers and two side abutments, each 13 metres high. The bridge will feature six deco-

orative arches, with the two largest arches rising to 45.9 metres and the remaining arches to 35.9 metres. Additionally, the bridge will include parking areas on both sides and a smooth pedestrian walkway with lighting, varying in width from 2 to 7 metres. The project also includes the creation of an at-grade crossing to facilitate access to other tourist sites. This project will enhance traffic flow from Salalah to the western districts of Dhofar Governorate (Rakhyout and Dhalkut) and is significant as an international route leading to the border crossing with the Republic of Yemen. Notably, the bridge site holds tourist significance due to its proximity to Marneef Cave, Mughsayl Fountains, and the Mughsayl beachfront.



ARABIAN TIGER 4

Royal Army of Oman conducts joint military exercise

MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO), represented by Musandam Security Force, and the Royal Special Force of the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday conducted a joint practical demonstration codenamed "Al Nimr Al Arabi" or "Arabian Tiger 4". The exercise, implemented with backing from the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), was held under the auspices of Maj.Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of

the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). It was attended by Brigadier General Yasser Mohammed Al Ma'awdah, Commander of the Special Operations Battalion 24 of the Royal Bahraini Special Force. The practical demo took place at the Combat Training Unit in built-up and mountainous areas in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate. In that terrain, the participating forces put to practice their preset plans and achieved their training objec-

tives. The participants showed a high level of performance, morale and combat ability that exhibited harmony in conducting such joint drills. The joint exercise constituted a link in a series of annual training plans and programmes carried out by the RAO - in cooperation with armies of Arab and foreign countries - to perpetuate the combat efficiency of RAO members. - ONA



ANNOUNCEMENT



Trump says he will meet Indian PM Modi next week

WASHINGTON DC: Former US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he would meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week. Trump made the announcement at a campaign event in Michigan. He called India a "very big abuser" on trade but added that Modi was "fantastic." "He happens to be coming to meet me next week," Trump said, without giving any further details on where the meeting would take place. India's Ministry of External Affairs published Modi's US schedule earlier on Tuesday but made no mention of a meeting with Trump.

Biden hosting 'Quad Leaders' in Delaware US President Joe Biden is slated to host a summit of "Quad Leaders" in Delaware on September 21 with Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Japanese Prime Minister Kishida Fumio in attendance. Modi will also attend some official events in New York, according to India's foreign ministry.

Trump-Modi relations Trump and Modi enjoyed warm relations during the former's term as president. During Modi's 2019 visit to the US, the two praised each other at a "Howdy, Modi!" event in Texas which was attended by over 50,000 people. Modi also hosted a big rally for Trump when he visited India in 2020, where a crowd of people wore "Namaste Trump" hats. - nw

Palestinian health ministry dispatches aid to Gaza Strip

This shipment would contribute to alleviating the suffering of the people in the Gaza Strip, adding that the five trucks are loaded with medicines and medical supplies

GAZA: Health ministry of Palestine sent five trucks carrying medicines and medical supplies to the Gaza Strip from its warehouses in Nabulus on Wednesday. The Director General of Warehouses at the Ministry of Health, Saleh Thawabtah, said that under the directives of President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, and under the supervision of Health Minister Majed Abu Ramadan, "for the first time since the beginning of the aggression on Gaza, we were able to coordinate the sending of five trucks loaded with medicines and medical supplies from the ministry's central warehouses to the ministry's hospitals in the southern governorates." **Five trucks** He expressed his hope that this shipment would contribute to alleviating the suffering of the people in the Gaza Strip, adding that the five trucks are loaded with medicines and medical supplies designated for those suffering from bone injuries, in addition to

antibiotics, kidney dialysis materials, and other medical supplies. Thawabtah confirmed that five more trucks will be sent next week. **Gaza: Medical crews recover 10 slain Palestinians in Rafah** Medical crews recovered 10 slain Palestinians on Wednesday from areas north of Rafah city. Medical sources reported that the bodies of five people were recovered from homes targeted by the occupation in Al-Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip. They added that five civilians were killed as a result of the Israeli occupation bombing of Khirbet al-Adas area on Tuesday. The occupation forces also blew up residential buildings in the city of al-Zahraa in the Nuseirat camp, while the occupation's aircraft targeted the eastern areas of al-Zeitoun neighbourhood in Gaza City. The Israeli military vehicles stationed east of the Jabalia camp opened fire on the lands and homes of citizens in northern Gaza.

Over 10,700 Palestinians detained in occupied West Bank since October 7 The Israeli occupation forces detained at least 30 people, including a child and former detainees, in the occupied West Bank during the last 24 hours. The Detainees and Ex-Detainees Commission and the Palestine Prisoners Society said in a joint statement that the detention operations took place across the governorates of Salfit, Bethlehem, Hebron, and Ramallah, accompanied by widespread raids and abuse, assaults and threats against detainees and their families, in addition to vandalism and destruction of citizens' homes. In Salfit, the occupation forces detained several Palestinians after raiding and vandalizing their homes. In Bethlehem, the village of Husan and Wadi Fukin witnessed a large-scale arrest campaign, where 17 people from the village of Husan were detained and later released after hours of interroga-

tion and beating, while three others were kept in detention. In Hebron, the occupation forces detained eight civilians from Al-Fawwar camp after raids and attacks on citizens, in addition to setting up observation points on the rooftops of several houses. **Forces storm villages** In Ramallah, the forces stormed the villages of Jifna and Al-Amari camp, where they detained two young men after raiding their homes. PPS and the Commission affirmed that, the total number of Palestinians detained in the occupied West Bank since October 7th has risen to over 10,700. This figure includes those detained from their homes, at military checkpoints, those who surrendered under pressure, and those taken hostage. **Israeli forces continue aggression against Hebron-area refugee camp** The Israeli occupation forces Wednesday sent more military reinforcements towards Al-Fawar

camp, south of Hebron, amidst carrying out widespread arrests and abuses against citizens. WAFA correspondent reported that the occupation sent large reinforcements to the entrance to the camp, which has been subjected to a wide-scale aggression since the early hours of the morning, resulting in the detention of dozens of young men, raiding more than 50 homes, and stealing money from some of them. Eyewitnesses said that the occupation forces turned a house in the middle of the camp into a field investigation center, and seized a printing shop whose owner is not yet known. The sources indicated that the sounds of gunfire are heard from time to time in most parts of the camp. **UNRWA chief: Israel has stopped giving visas to heads and staff of the international NGOs** The chief of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees Tuesday announced that Israel has stopped giving visas to the heads and staff of the international non-governmental organizations. "The Israeli authorities have stopped giving visas to heads and staff of the international NGO community," he said on his X platform account. "Increasingly, the Government of Israel is phasing out representation from humanitarian organizations or those engaged in reporting on the atrocities of this war and the impact on civilians," he revealed. "Humanitarian organisations and international media are prevented from doing their work properly," he added, while calling on Israel to lift restrictions on the community of NGOs which "have been providing humanitarian assistance to people in need in close partnership with the U.N." - WAFA



SPORTS

FOOTBALL ICON

Italy’s 1990 World Cup star Salvatore ‘Toto’ Schillaci dies aged 59

MILAN: Italian icon Salvatore Schillaci, the top scorer at the 1990 World Cup, died aged 59 on Wednesday.

Schillaci, better known as ‘Toto’, scored six goals to win the Golden Boot at the 1990 World Cup on home soil.

Italy lost in the semi-finals, but Schillaci was also awarded the Golden Ball as the best player and gained hero status.

Schillaci was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2022.

Capped 16 times for his country, scoring seven goals, he represented Italian giants Juventus and Inter Milan after beginning his club career at Messina.

Juventus, whom Schillaci joined in 1989, said: “We immediately fell in love with Toto. His desire, his

story, his being so wonderfully passionate, and it showed in every game he played.

“We at Juve were lucky enough to get excited about him before - in that incredible summer of 1990 - the whole of Italy did, captivated by those wonderfully energetic celebrations of his.”

Schillaci scored his first goal of the 1990 World Cup as a substitute against Austria, and after another substitute appearance against the United States earned his first start against the Czech Republic.

Partnering Baggio up front, Schillaci scored again as Italy’s campaign built momentum, and his hero status was confirmed with further goals in the subsequent knockout round matches against Uruguay and the Republic of Ire-



land in the quarter-finals.

Despite opening the scoring in the semi-final against Argentina, Italy lost out on penalties in Naples - but Schillaci sealed the

Golden Boot with his sixth goal of the tournament in the third-place play-off against England.

He finished runner-up to Germany’s World Cup-winning cap-

tain Lothar Matthaus for the 1990 Ballon d’Or.

Italian prime minister Giorgia Meloni said: “A football icon is leaving us, a man who has entered the hearts of Italians and sports fans around the world.

“The striker from the magic nights of Italia ’90 with our national team. Thanks for the emotions you gave us, for having made us dream, celebrate, embrace and wave our national flag.”

Serie A president Lorenzo Casini described Schillaci as “a champion who lit up the magical nights of the 1990 World Cup in Italy”.

“His desire to emerge and reach the highest levels of football has been and will continue to be a source of inspiration for the many young people who chase the

dream of playing in Serie A.”

Schillaci scored only one more goal for Italy and did not appear for his nation again at a major tournament.

He became the first Italian player to play in Japan’s J-League before retiring in 1999.

The president of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC), Gabriele Gravina, said of Schillaci: “His face was a symbol of shared joy [and] will forever remain a common heritage of Italian football. “Toto was a great footballer, a tenacious symbol of will and redemption. He was able to thrill the Azzurri fans because his football was full of passion and it was precisely this indomitable spirit that made him appreciated by everyone and will make him immortal.” - Agencies

Kamindu slams ton for Sri Lanka

The batter notched up his fourth Test century to help the hosts end the day at 302/7 against the Kiwis in Galle

GALLE: Kamindu Mendis continued his phenomenal start to Test cricket notching up a fourth Test ton, but a couple of late wickets at the end of play ensured that New Zealand were not completely out of it after an engrossing opening day’s play in the first Test in Galle on Wednesday.

At stumps, the hosts were 302/7 with Kusal Mendis the other main run-getter with 50.



That one of those wickets was that of Kamindu will have brought the visitors particular joy, though the nature of the wicket - with it

spitting out of the rough outside the left-handers off stump, to catch his glove - might give New Zealand’s left-hand heavy batting

line-up some pause.

Kamindu’s 114 off 173 was part of two key partnerships, the first worth 72 with Angelo Mathews

and the second for 103 with Kusal. Around them, New Zealand did what they do best. They put their best foot forward, set up solid plans, and threw themselves at everything.

It meant Sri Lanka were unable to take complete control of the game having won the toss and elected to bat first on an unusually grass-strewn surface.

Will O’Rourke was the pick of the bowlers, grabbing three wickets, including that of both Sri Lanka openers within the first hour of the morning session, while Glenn Phillips was the pick of the spinners with figures of 2 for 52. Mitchell Santner was wicketless, though that was less a reflection of his efforts and more a case of bad luck.

Ramesh Mendis was unbeaten on 14 off 42 at stumps, alongside him was Prabath Jayasuriya, but this was a day that belonged to Kamindu.

His best work was done alongside the other Mendis in the line-up, Kusal, whose 50 off 68 provided the ideal foil to Kamindu’s steady hand. While missteps were rare for

New Zealand, one in particular - a missed chance off a Kamindu miscue when he was still on 21 - might linger a little longer in the memory. That was also a rare Kamindu misstep, as for the most part, he dealt with whatever the visitors threw at him with consummate ease.

The most striking feature of his innings was the ease with which he used his feat against the spinners, a concerted ploy geared towards not allowing them to settle on their lines and lengths. It meant the use of sweeps was more targeted than prolific, hounding out gaps in the field for a consistent flow of runs.

His partnership with Mathews offered a much-needed period of consolidation after Sri Lanka had slumped to 106 for 4. Mathews had looked far from his best during a laboured 36 off 116, and it meant the scoreboard also wasn’t moving as swiftly as the hosts might have hoped.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 1st inning: 302 for 7 (Kamindu 114, Kusal 50, O’Rourke 3-54, Phillips 2-52) vs New Zealand. - Agencies

IPL 2025

Ponting named head coach of Punjab Kings

NEW DELHI: Australia’s Ricky Ponting has been named the new head coach of Punjab Kings (PBKS) starting from Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, following his departure from Delhi Capitals two months ago, ending a seven-year stint with the franchise.

According to *ESPNews*, Ponting has inked a multi-year deal with Punjab Kings, a team known for its diverse ownership.

Ponting is expected to have significant control over the coaching staff, with decisions pending on the future of last season’s coaches: Trevor Bayliss (head coach), Sanjay Bangar (head of cricket development), Charl Langeveldt (fast-bowling coach), and Sunil Joshi (spin-bowling coach).

Ponting becomes the third head coach in four seasons for Punjab Kings, who finished ninth in the 2024 IPL season.

The team has not made the playoffs since 2014, when they were runners-up.

Ponting’s IPL journey began as



a player with Kolkata Knight Riders in the inaugural 2008 season. He later joined Mumbai Indians, where he relinquished the captaincy mid-season in 2013, allowing Rohit Sharma to take over and lead the team to their first title that year. Ponting continued in an advisory role in 2014 and served as head coach in 2015 and 2016.

In 2018, Ponting took over as head coach of Delhi Capitals, guiding them to three consecutive playoff appearances from 2019 to 2021, including their maiden final in 2020. - ANI

MONZA RACE

Al Faisal confident of a good show

MUSCAT: Oman’s Al Faisal Al Zubair has expressed optimism on winning the title in the 2024 Fanatec GT World Challenge powered by AWS Endurance Cup.

Currently, overall second with two more rounds to go, the Al Manar Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo driver is confident of a good show at the forthcoming penultimate and fourth round in Monza, Italy.

The team has made one change for the race with Australia’s Broc Feeney joining forces with Al Zubair and Austria’s Dominik Baumann to vie for Gold Cup honours, scheduled from September 20-22.

Speaking ahead of the race, Al Zubair said: “I am looking forward to this weekend’s race in Monza. It is the penultimate round of the championship before Jeddah. We are currently second in the championship, nine points behind the Saintéloc Audi. Anything is really on and it is still possible to win the title. This weekend we have a good package with the Mercedes for Monza and we hope to do well.”

Feeney replaces Canadian Mikaël Grenier as the new racing combination aims to close the nine-point gap on the Saintéloc



Racing trio of Paul Evrard, Gilles Magnus and Jim Pla in both the Team and Gold Cup Championships. Saintéloc Racing won rounds one and three at Paul Ricard and the Nürburgring, while the Al Manar Racing by Getspeed crew prevailed at the prestigious CrowdStrike 24 Hours of Spa.

Feeney, 22, is a well-known young Australian driver who competes in the Repco Supercars Championship and was also the winner of the 2021 Dunlop Super2 Series in a VF Commodore. He started karting 11 years ago and won numerous championships



before graduating to the Toyota 86 Racing Series Australia.

The Gold Coast youngster is also a class winner at the Bathurst 12-Hour and finished third, fifth and sixth overall on his last three outings in a Triple Eight Race Engineering Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo.

Al Zubair said: “We will have Broc Feeney joining us instead of Mikaël Grenier, as Mik has a race in the IMSA Championship. We really believe in Broc’s strength and we think we can achieve a good result at the weekend and continue the fight for the championship.”

Fifty-two cars will compete for

honours across the various categories in Italy this weekend. Gold Cup rivals include the third-placed Haupt Racing Mercedes crew, the Tresor Attempto Racing Audi and the CSA Racing Audi that claimed a podium finish at the opening round in France.

The weekend’s action gets underway with a bronze test on Friday before a two-hour free practice session takes centre stage on Saturday. Pre-qualifying will be permitted for an hour in the afternoon. A hectic Sunday sees the three qualifying sessions before the three-hour race fires into life.

BARCELÓ MUSSANAH RESORT TO BE THE VENUE

100 sailors from nine countries for Mussanah Race Week from October 4

MUSCAT: Around 100 sailors from nine countries will feature in the 13th edition of Oman Sail’s Mussanah Race Week (MRW), which gets underway on October 4 at the Barceló Mussanah Resort for a week.

For the first time in the history of MRW, there will be a programme for local schools this time, which will offer 75 students the chance to race for three days during the competition.

Sailors from Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, India, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Singapore and Thailand will compete in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 classes, as well as the para inclusive RS Venture Connect classes. School students will compete on a special course with the best performing sailors gaining the opportunity to take part as juniors in



future editions of Mussanah Race Week.

Competition will be held over 12 races in each class, with no more than three per day. Racing will take place following three practice

days, on October 4-7, to allow sailors the chance to hone their skills, gain experience on the water and test themselves ahead of competitive sailing.

Abdulaziz Al Shidi, Oman Sail’s

Acting Sailing Director, said, “Mussanah Race Week is a much anticipated and much-loved fixture in Oman’s sailing calendar. We are delighted to once again welcome sailors from around the

world to experience our nation and build lifelong relationships within the sport. This year’s event introduces the first schools programme which aims to share the competitive atmosphere with new sailors

and help them to discover the joy of sailing, kick-starting a long-term opportunity for students to participate in future sailing events by promoting the sport within local schools.”

Shaima Al Asmi, Oman Sail’s Operations Executive and Mussanah Race Week Project Manager, added, “Mussanah Race Week is a prime example of how inclusive and accessible sailing can be. Young sailors from Oman and across Asia have the chance to make new friends, sail with and against each other, learn new skills, and sail in a world class environment.”

Earlier this year, Oman Sail’s Mussanah Sailing School at the Barceló Mussanah Resort was classified as a Category A High Performance Centre by the Asian Sailing Federation.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2024 reaching \$73.46, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 18 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$73.28. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,719.74 points, up by 0.13% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.03% at 431.71 points. Voltamp Energy, up 7.98%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.09%, was the top loser.

Gasoline production in Oman rises by 25% in July 2024

Meanwhile, the total production of refineries and petroleum fell by 2.4 per cent until the end of July 2024 compared to the same period in 2023

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's production of gasoline recorded a rise of 25 per cent in July 2024 compared to June 2024, according to preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Meanwhile, the total production of refineries and petroleum fell by 2.4 per cent until the end of July 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

The production of regular gasoline (M-91) fell by 9.6 per cent to reach 8,685,700 barrels, and its domestic sales also fell by 3 per cent to reach 8,045,600 barrels until the end of July 2024.

The production of premium gasoline (M-95) rose by 8.3 per cent, reaching 7,803,800 barrels, and its domestic sales also rose by 9.9 per



cent, reaching 7,595,300 barrels until the end of July 2024.

The production of diesel fuel (gas oil) fell by 5.2 per cent, reaching 18,831,300 barrels, with domestic sales amounting to 8,059,000 barrels. Furthermore, the production of aviation fuel oil fell by 1 per cent, reaching

6,790,500 barrels, with domestic sales of 2,364,600 barrels. The production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) also rose by 5.3 per cent, reaching 5,173,800 barrels, with domestic sales also rose by 11.5 per cent, reaching 5,821,200 barrels.

Regarding petrochemicals, the

production of benzene increased by 6.8 per cent, reaching 99,900 MT, while the production of paraxylene reached 325,600 MT, representing 6.6 per cent. The production of polypropylene dropped by 21.8%, amounting to 122,700 MT until the end of July 2024.

The Sultanate of Oman's ex-

ports of gasoline (M-91) rose by 16 per cent to reach 1,415,400 barrels, and the exports of premium gasoline (M-95) also rose by 119.8 per cent, reaching 912,700 barrels.

The exports of diesel fuel (gas oil) reached 10,502,700 barrels, and the exports of aviation fuel oil reached 4,405,500 barrels. Ad-

ditionally, the exports of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) reached 290,800 barrels.

The exports of paraxylene reached 311,000 MT, and the exports of benzene and polypropylene reached 97,700 MT and 93,700 MT, respectively, until the end of July 2024. - **ONA**

FOODEX SAUDI 2024



Opaz showcases food investment opportunities

Times News Service

RIYADH: Opaz is participating in Foodex Saudi 2024, taking place from September 16-19 at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. This eleventh edition of the exhibition is one of the most significant global events in the food sector, attracting thousands of visitors and specialists from around the world.

At the event, Opaz is showcasing investment opportunities and innovative projects that support the growth of the food sector, which plays a vital role in enhancing sustainable economic development within the zones. They have set up a dedicated area featuring presentations on the competitive advantages offered by special economic zones and free zones. Opaz emphasized op-

portunities for developing food supply chains and highlighted the role of these zones in meeting the increasing demand for food products. The Opaz pavilion has seen substantial interest from both local and international visitors and investors.

To foster collaboration between national and international companies, Salalah Free Zone, Khazaen Economic City, the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and SAMAC are joining Opaz in their exhibition space. This event provides an excellent platform for exchanging ideas and experiences among local and international businesses. Notably, the exhibition features brands from over 50 countries, enhancing the exchange of experiences and innovations, which contributes to a diverse range of offerings and enriches the visitor experience.

SAUDI MARITIME & LOGISTICS CONGRESS

Asyad Group solidifies its leadership as major force in global supply chains

Times News Service

DAMMAM: Asyad Group, Oman's global integrated logistics provider, takes centre stage at the Saudi Maritime & Logistics Congress 2024 which is being held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, on September 18 and 19.

While the GCC solidifies its status as a critical regional powerhouse and hub in global logistics, Asyad Group is poised to showcase its world-class assets, strategically located ports, and cutting-edge integrated global logistics through its unparalleled multimodal solutions and a network of active operations in key trade hubs like China, India, the USA and the GCC, including Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam.

A diverse portfolio that includes three deep seaports, three free zones, an economic zone, and a dry port, combined with its integrated logistics that comprise shipping, freight forwarding, transportation and warehousing services, and a state-of-the-art fulfilment centre supported by last-mile delivery service, positions Asyad as a trusted partner for businesses seeking efficient and reliable transportation and supply chain solutions.

"This Congress is more than an event; it serves as a vital nexus where decision-makers, innovators, and stakeholders in the logistics and maritime sectors converge to explore new frontiers and shape the future of global trade. With the GCC accounting for 30% of the world's container traffic, the region plays a critical role in steering



the intricacies of today's logistics landscape. Asyad Group's participation highlights our dedication to advancing innovation, building strategic alliances, and fostering sustainable growth within the sector," said Ahmed Al Bulushi, Chief Executive Asset Management.

During the congress, Essam AL Sheibany, VP Sustainability at Asyad Group, will take part as a distinguished panelist in a session titled "Energy Transition for a Sustainable Future" and will discuss the advancement of eco-friendly

initiatives in the logistics sector, setting new standards for sustainable maritime practice, and the use of alternative fuels in the region. The congress will feature Dimitri van Eekelen, VP Commercial of SOHAR Port and Freezone, participating in the panel discussion "Interconnected Logistics & The Supply Chain of the Future." He will explore evolving cargo owner relationships, regional transshipment, and the impact of cargo handling on port and shipping. Additionally, Talal Al Barwani, Sales

Manager of Asyad Drydock, will join the panel discussion titled "Shipbuilding and Repair." He will provide insights on how the ship new building market is adapting to decarbonization and emerging technologies.

Visitors to the Congress will witness the extensive range of Asyad Group's core strengths, from advanced maritime operations and state-of-the-art technology to a robust logistics network that seamlessly integrates land, sea, and air across 6 continents.

FINANCE AND LEASING COMPANY

Taageer Finance launches inaugural tier 1 perpetual bond issuance

The issue size is up to OMR15 million (with a greenshoe option to increase size up to OMR 25 million) at an attractive coupon rate of 7.50%

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Taageer Finance Company (or Taageer Finance), a premier finance and leasing company in Oman has opened for subscription its inaugural tier 1 perpetual bond issuance on September 16 for a period of two weeks.

The issue size is up to OMR15 million (with a greenshoe option to increase size up to OMR 25 mil-

lion) at an attractive coupon rate of 7.50%. The perpetual bonds shall be denominated in Rial Omani and listed on MSX in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations in Oman. The perpetual bonds are being offered by private placement to prospective investors with a minimum investment amount of OMR 100,000 through as a book building process.

Bank Muscat Investment Bank-

ing, Oman's premier investment banking team, is the sole issue manager for the transaction. The subscription closes on 26 September, 2024 with a tentative bond issuance date of 2 October.

Taageer Finance, with a proven track record of more than 20 years, is one of the largest and the fastest growing finance and leasing finance company in Oman. Taageer Finance, backed by strong Omani

shareholders and a highly experienced management team has delivered sustainable business and financial performance across market cycles. The company caters to diversified economic segments through its varied and innovative product offerings. Over the years, the company has successfully diversified its funding sources which include bank borrowings, corporate deposits as well as bonds, thereby reflecting

the confidence demonstrated in the Company by banks and a wide investor base. The proposed issuance would further strengthen Taageer Finance's balance sheet and aid the delivery of Company's growth plans going forward.

Further information on Taageer Finance can be accessed through its website. Interested investors can access the prospectus for the issuance on MSX website.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Voltamp Energy, up 7.98%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.09%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,719.74 points, up by 0.13% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.03% at 431.71 points. Voltamp Energy, up 7.98%, was the top gainer while Shell Oman Marketing, down 9.09%, was the top loser. Shares of DIDIC were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 431 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.84 million, with more than 16.23 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded securities, 15 advanced, 15 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for RO 13K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 8K, followed by foreign investors for RO 5K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,771.54 points, up 0.43%. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, OMINVEST, Oman Arab Bank, Bank Nizwa were up by 2.78%,

2.50%, 1.35%, 0.95% respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment, DIDIC, Bank Muscat were down by 1.39%, 1.28%, 0.83%, 0.39% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,739.69 points, up 0.4%. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Gulf Mushroom Products, Muscat Thread Mill, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.98%, 1.36%, 0.97%, 0.73% respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Al Anwar Ceramics, Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Chromite were down by 4.23%, 2.86%, 0.77%, 0.64%, 0.59% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.42% before closing at 1,817.32 points. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Sembcorp Salalah, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, Al Jazeera Services were up by 2.74%, 1.92%, 1.79%, 1.35%, 1.05% respectively. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, Muscat Gases, Oman Telecom, National Gas, Ooredoo were down by 9.09%, 2.44%, 1.39%, 1.16%, 0.36% respectively.— **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,723.72	4,709.04	4,719.74	4,713.40	6.34	0.13
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,774.60	7,726.50	7,771.54	7,738.04	33.50	0.43
Industry Index	5,756.62	5,711.67	5,739.69	5,716.59	23.11	0.40
Services Index	1,817.32	1,806.79	1,817.32	1,809.64	7.68	0.42
MSX Shariah Index	432.12	431.37	431.71	431.58	0.14	0.03
MSX TR INDEX	6,565.22	6,544.83	6,559.69	6,550.88	8.81	0.13
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,832.75	8,778.10	8,829.27	8,791.21	38.06	0.43
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,641.77	6,589.91	6,622.24	6,595.58	26.66	0.40
SERVICES TR IDX	2,114.73	2,102.48	2,114.73	2,105.79	8.94	0.42
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
16,233,330	2,839,734	431	24,507,136,504	15	15	12	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PREV. CLOSEDIFF (BD)DIFF %LAST PRLAST BDLAST OFFPREV VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	77,142	5,534	7	0.072	0.074	0.071	0.074	0.072	0.002	2.778	0.074	0.072	0.074	0.100	9,018,750
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	976,490	73,237	26	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.073	0.002	2.740	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	50,616,557	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	614,500	224,255	7	0.360	0.369	0.360	0.369	0.360	0.009	2.500	0.369	0.360	0.369	0.100	246,628,842
OM0000004735	SEBBOCORP SALALAH	1,383,556	146,657	5	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.104	0.002	1.923	0.106	0.103	0.106	0.100	101,184,627
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	66,725	5,004	8	0.074	0.076	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.351	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.100	53,580,476
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	15,000	4,125	2	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.273	0.002	0.733	0.275	0.274	0.275	0.100	34,346,498
OM0000009072	QO GAS NETWORKS	1,568,670	224,372	143	0.143	0.144	0.142	0.143	0.142	0.001	0.704	0.143	0.143	0.144	0.100	619,279,221
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	117,201	45,678	14	0.392	0.395	0.389	0.395	0.393	0.002	0.509	0.395	0.389	0.395	0.100	93,381,950
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	21,400	1,198	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	19,943,129
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	2,000	150	1	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.078	0.078	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,697,513	374,996	24	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.139	0.131	0.148	0.100	775,227,232
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	204,306	60,819	12	0.297	0.299	0.297	0.299	0.299	0.000	0.000	0.299	0.292	0.307	0.100	230,288,800
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	13,996	3,908	4	0.280	0.280	0.279	0.279	0.280	-0.001	-0.357	0.279	0.279	0.280	0.100	181,613,440
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	272,220	70,536	9	0.260	0.260	0.258	0.258	0.259	-0.001	-0.386	0.258	0.258	0.265	0.100	1,936,650,442
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	167,100	166,173	23	1.000	1.000	0.991	0.995	1.009	-0.014	-1.388	0.995	0.995	0.995	0.100	746,250,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	164,681	11,712	10	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	6,390,000
OM0000002168	ALANWAR CERAMIC	5,000	850	1	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.170	0.175	-0.005	-2.857	0.170	0.160	0.170	0.100	37,400,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	30	24	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.880	-0.080	-9.091	0.800	0.800	0.880	0.100	76,000,000
Total	18	8,367,830	1,419,218	299												

Parallel Market

OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	279	102	2	0.356	0.379	0.356	0.379	0.351	0.028	7.977	0.379	0.360	0.373	0.100	30,851,642
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	704,601	40,162	47	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.057	0.058	0.100	1,704,987
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	4,517	1,012	2	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.221	0.003	1.357	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.100	10,251,539
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	64,189	9,618	4	0.148	0.150	0.148	0.150	0.148	0.002	1.351	0.150	0.148	0.150	0.100	250,411,520
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,800	2,074	5	0.191	0.199	0.191	0.192	0.190	0.002	1.053	0.192	0.192	0.194	0.100	11,751,200
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	3,500	361	2	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	1,704,987
OM0000004430	BANK NIZWA	287,320	28,086	15	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.952	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	237,110,021
OM0000001301	DHOFAH FOODS AND INVESTMENT	9,159	577	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.060	0.063	0.100	12,453,646
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	33,030	1,486	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	3,673	261	2	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.000	0.071	0.071	0.074	0.100	11,044,078
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	1,700	199	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	59,448,115
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	59,867	213,366	1	3.564	3.564	3.564	3.564	3.585	-0.021	-5.866	3.564	3.230	3.550	1.000	11,761,200
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	19,938	3,108	3	0.156	0.156	0.155	0.155	0.156	-0.001	-0.641	0.155	0.000	0.155	0.100	8,525,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	48,887	6,315	9	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.129	0.130	-0.001	-0.769	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.100	26,185,252
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INTERNATIONAL DEV & INV HO	3,711,070	886,946	3	0.239	0.239	0.238	0.238	0.240	-0.002	-0.833	0.238	0.238	0.238	0.100	97,400,623
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	68,634	5,857	8	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.081	0.088	0.100	7,225,000
OM0000001172	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,670,486	202,937	8	0.078	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.262	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.100	16,337,660
OM0000001176	MUSCAT GASES	6,747	810	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.123	-0.003	-2.439	0.120	0.000	0.120	0.100	3,600,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	22,742	1,546	3	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.071	-0.003	-4.225	0.068	0.068	0.070	0.100	1,428,000
Total	19	7,711,139	1,404,824	118												

GCC region expected to grow at 4.4% in 2025

ABU DHABI: The latest ICAEW Economic Insight report for the Middle East, prepared by Oxford Economics, said that the GCC region is poised for a significant rebound, with growth projected to more than double to 4.4% in 2025.

The report highlighted that while economic growth in the Middle East is projected at 2.1%

in 2024, a significant acceleration to 3.7% is expected in 2025. The report emphasised the resilience of the GCC's non-energy sectors, which are expected to expand by 4.2% this year and 4.4% in 2025.

Recent PMI readings suggest strong domestic activity, and anticipated interest rate reductions are expected to further bolster con-

sumption and private investment. These sectors, including tourism, trade, and finance, are becoming crucial growth drivers in the region's economic diversification efforts.

Scott Livermore, ICAEW Economic Advisor, and Chief Economist and MD, Oxford Economics Middle East, said, "The GCC's proactive and strategic investment in non-oil sec-

tors, alongside the gradual recovery of oil production, is paving the way for robust growth in 2025, where the resilience of the GCC stands out."

Hanadi Khalife, Head of Middle East of ICAEW, said, "The report underscores the importance of resilience in navigating global economic and regional geopolitical headwinds." — **WAM**

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Alizz Islamic Bank seminar continues to educate SMEs

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank and Al Jabr MENA recently held the second 'Alizz Business Seminar' titled 'The Importance of Personal Branding' with guest speaker Sarrah Al Saadi in the Grand Hall at the Alizz Islamic Bank Head office with more than 100 participants.

The seminar is part of the 'Alizz Business' value proposition where the bank not only believes in providing banking solutions for SMEs but also focusing on the importance of helping to nurture SMEs by equipping them with knowledge that will enable them to learn, expand and grow. Through enhancing the knowledge of small and medium enterprises and developing their skills Alizz Islamic Bank aims to raise the SMEs capabilities and set them up for success.

Sarrah Al Saadi is a certified trainer known for transforming Omani youth. Her passion and expertise help SMEs enhance their communication skills and make a lasting impact. She currently manages the Oman Institute for Training Services (OITS) Language and Testing



Center. Additionally, she is the Executive to the Chairman at Oman Educational Services (OES), and plays a key role in guiding the organisation's strategic initiatives.

Alizz Business is a special value proposition for SMEs that meets all their banking requirements. This value proposition has been designed to offer attractive savings, financing and investment solutions



SCIENTISTS AIM TO DECODE GENETIC ROOTS OF MENTAL ILLNESS

It's becoming increasingly obvious that genetic mutations in specific genes can raise the likelihood of getting NPD, and hundreds of those 'risk genes' have been found to date, but their involvement in NPD remains unknown

Neurodevelopmental and psychiatric diseases (NPD), such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, autism, and depression, have a negative impact on individuals, families, and society. Unfortunately, effective therapies are often lacking.

It's becoming increasingly obvious that genetic mutations in specific genes can raise the likelihood of getting NPD, and hundreds of those 'risk genes' have been found to date, but their involvement

in NPD remains unknown.

"Very little is known about the basic function of most of these genes, and what we do know often comes from work in cancer cell lines rather than brain cell types," said David Panchision, Chief of the Developmental and Genomic Neuroscience Research Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), who spearheaded the SSPsyGene programme aiming to tackle this challenge.

"As such, we still don't

have a clear understanding of how alterations in these genes may work individually or in combination to contribute to neurodevelopmental and psychiatric disorders."

To get to the bottom of this, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) initiated a consortium called SSPsyGene (sspsygene.ucsc.edu) in 2023, uniting research teams from renowned US universities with the joint goal of characterising the genetic origins of NPD, focusing on

250 selected high-risk genes. Among the contributors are Jubao Duan, Endeavor Health (formerly NorthShore University Health System) and University of Chicago, USA and Zhiping Pang, Rutgers University, USA with their teams, who developed a method for mutating NPD risk genes in human stem cells at large scale.

In the modified cells, a selected NPD risk gene is mutated so that it no longer makes a functional protein. The modified stem cells can

subsequently be turned into neurons and other brain cells to model the consequences of risk gene mutations in a simplified, lab-based version of the human brain.

In the initial phase of the project, the teams tested 23 NPD risk genes, reported in work published in a recent article in the journal Stem Cell Reports.

The resulting stem cell lines will be made available to other researchers worldwide to facilitate research on those risk genes and

their contribution to NPD. In future works, Pang, Duan and the other members of the consortium will join forces to generate mutated stem cell lines for a much larger number of risk genes, with the ultimate goal of understanding the genetic causes of NPD and generating better treatments.

"The hope is that this collaborative work will generate a highly impactful resource for the neuroscience and psychiatric research community," said Panchision. — ANI

Record-breaking night for Bayern

Harry Kane slams four as German giants pulverise Dinamo Zagreb 9-2 in their Champions League league game in Munich on Tuesday

MUNICH: Bayern Munich's Harry Kane scored four goals to become England's top scorer in Champions League or European Cup history in a 9-2 demolition of Dinamo Zagreb on Tuesday night. Kane's fourth - his third penalty of the game - was his 33rd Champions League goal as he passed Wayne Rooney's old record of 30. The quadruple also marked his 50th, 51st, 52nd and 53rd



Bayern goals in just 50 games for the club. Another London-born player, France winger Michael Olise, scored twice on his Champions League debut. Bayern Munich are the first team to score nine goals in a Champions League game. Kane gave Bayern the lead with a penalty after Aleksandar Pavlovic was fouled, sending goalkeeper Ivan Nevistic the wrong way. Raphael Guerreiro scored a fantastic half-volley before Olise, the summer signing from Crystal Palace, headed in Joshua Kimmich's cross. Bayern brought on Sven Ulrich for the injured Manuel Neuer at half-time and he conceded twice in five minutes before touching the ball - with Bruno Petkovic and Takuya Ogiwara beating him to make it 3-2. But Bayern took control again - with Kane scoring a rebound after Kimmich's shot was saved - and Olise slotting into an empty net. England's Kane then scored his second spot-kick after a dubi-

ous handball decision from the video assistant referee. And he netted a hat-trick of spot-kicks, and his fourth goal overall, after Alphonso Davies was fouled. Leroy Sane came off the bench to smash in from 20 yards and Leon Goretzka headed in their ninth. Jamal Musiala, Serge Gnabry and Kane also had goals disallowed for offside. This is the joint second highest scoring Champions League game ever, level with Monaco's 8-3 win over Deportivo La Coruna in 2003. The record remains Borussia Dortmund's 8-4 win over Legia Warsaw in 2016. Thomas Muller came on for Bayern for his 152nd Champions League appearance, passing Barcelona legend Xavi as the player to make the most appearances for a single club in the tournament. Kane has scored nine goals in five games for Vincent Kompany's Bayern this season, also hitting a hat-trick in Saturday's 6-1 win at Holstein Kiel. - Agencies

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool power past AC Milan

MILAN: Liverpool claimed an assured 3-1 victory at AC Milan on their Champions League return to firmly bounce back from Saturday's shock Premier League defeat by Nottingham Forest. The Reds were stunned on the break inside three minutes when AC Milan winger Christian Pulisic found the net with a driven strike across goal. But Arne Slot's side responded with a dominant performance and, after Mohamed Salah hit the bar, defender Ibrahima Konate levelled with a stooping 23rd-minute header from Trent Alexander-Arnold's free-kick. Salah struck the bar again before Virgil van Dijk completed the turnaround shortly before half-time when he met Konstantinos Tsimikas' corner with a close-range header. The win was wrapped up in the 67th minute when Cody Gakpo ended an electric run by squaring the ball to Dominik Szoboszlai for a tap-in. Liverpool also gave a brief debut to summer signing Federico Chiesa who replaced Salah in the 93rd minute. Liverpool were playing their first Champions League match in 18 months after spending last season in the Europa League. It was a happy return - even after a shaky opening which may



have had a few Reds fans worrying about the start of a slump. But after Liverpool conceded they were back to their high-pressure best, catching Milan out in dangerous areas and firmly responding to Saturday's honeymoon-ending loss to Forest. Salah looked lively, hitting the bar twice in the first half, and AC Milan goalkeeper Mike Maignan did well to twice keep out Gakpo.

Liverpool's centre-backs got their side back into the game with towering headers to punish AC Milan for poor defending at set-pieces. After the restart Maignan denied Diogo Jota, but was injured by the striker's follow-through and had to be replaced because of knee trouble. The visitors continued to dominate and got a deserved third through Szoboszlai's tap-in, while Reds keeper Alisson Becker was called into late action, tipping a Rafael Leao strike on to the post in the final moments. Liverpool have tough fixtures to come in this year's Champions League - notably against Real Madrid and Bayer Leverkusen in October - so a win to kick things off will be a big relief for Slot. During the match Liverpool players wore black armbands to pay tribute to travelling supporter Philip Dooley who was killed when struck by a vehicle in Italy, while representatives from both teams placed flowers on what would have been his seat at the game. The Reds' victory was their first in Europe without Jurgen Klopp as manager since Brendan Rodgers' side beat Besiktas 1-0 in the first leg of a Europa League last-32 tie in February 2015. - Agencies

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Juventus begin campaign in style

TURIN: Juventus started their Champions League campaign with a comfortable 3-1 victory over PSV Eindhoven at Allianz Stadium on Tuesday. Kenan Yildiz gave Thiago Motta's side the lead in brilliant fashion in the 21st minute with a powerful, curling effort that flew in off the post. The 19-year-old's strike means he has replaced Juventus legend Alessandro del Piero as the club's youngest goalscorer in Europe's

elite competition. Buoyed by Yildiz's goal, Juve pushed forward and added a second goal six minutes later through former Leeds midfielder Weston McKennie. The United States international slotted beyond PSV goalkeeper Joel Drommel with a first-time finish from seven yards out. Six minutes into the second half, Dusan Vlahovic guided a beautiful pass across the box to find Nicolas Gonzalez.

The Argentine took one touch to set himself before firing beyond Drommel to score his first for Motta's side to make it 3-0. With the last kick of the game, Ismael Saibari netted a consolation for the Dutch Eredivisie champions after being found by a fine pass from Johan Bakayoko. Juventus travel to Germany next to take on RB Leipzig, while PSV welcome Sporting Lisbon to Philips Stadion. - Agencies



SERIE A

Roma sack manager Daniele de Rossi

ROME: Italian Serie A club Roma sacked manager Daniele de Rossi just four matches into the new Serie A season on Wednesday. Roma, who hired De Rossi to replace Jose Mourinho at the Stadio Olimpico in January, have been unable to win any of their Serie A matches this season, drawing three and losing at home to Empoli last month. Roma are currently 16th in the Serie A standings following their 1-1 draw at Genoa on Sunday. A club statement read: "The club's decision is taken in the interest of the team, to be able to promptly resume the desired path at a time when the season is still at its beginning. "To Daniele, who will always be at home in the Giallorossi club, a heartfelt thanks for the work carried out in these months with passion and dedication." De Rossi's tenure at Roma



started superbly. In his first 11 league matches, Roma lost just once, picking up 26 points from a possible 33. That run took Roma from ninth to fifth in the table. They also reached the semi-finals of the Europa League, being knocked out by Bundesliga champions Bayer Leverkusen. A sixth-place finish last season saw them qualify again for this season's Europa League. Among Roma's fixtures in Europe this season are a trip to Tottenham

on 28 November. This summer, Roma signed last season's La Liga top goalscorer Artem Dovbyk from Girona, as well as experienced German centre-back Mats Hummels on a free transfer. There have been a number of exits. Former Manchester United centre-back Chris Smalling left for Saudi Pro League side Al-Fayha, former Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham has joined AC Milan on loan and Romelu Lukaku, who spent last season on loan from Chelsea with Roma, has joined Napoli. Andrea Belotti (Como), Rui Patricio (Atalanta) and Leonardo Spinazzola (Napoli) have also departed in recent months. As a player, De Rossi, who is now 41, spent 22 years with Roma between 1997 and 2019, making 616 appearances for them. He was also part of Italy's 2006 World Cup-winning side. - Agencies

EFL LEAGUE CUP

Man United have a 'perfect night' with a 7-0 victory over Barnsley

LONDON: Manchester United enjoyed the 'perfect night' as their biggest victory (7-0) under Erik ten Hag to cruise into the EFL Cup last-16 at the expense of hapless League One outfit Barnsley on Tuesday. Marcus Rashford, Alejandro Garnacho and veteran midfielder Christian Eriksen all scored twice, while Brazilian winger Antony converted a first-half spot-kick in what turned into a rout by the end. It was United's biggest win since they hammered Southampton 9-0 in February 2021 when the stands were still empty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was certainly a night to remember as far as Ten Hag's tenure is concerned. United had not previously scored five under the Dutchman and the goals that got them there before Eriksen's late



brace was even more reason for celebration. "For the team this is the perfect night," said Ten Hag. "We did everything we planned, win to reach the next round, scored some great goals, entertained the fans and worked on our game model, so we are happy."

In another match, at Goodison Park, goalkeeper Alex McCarthy was the hero in the penalty shootout, saving Ashley Young's penalty in sudden death, as Southampton edged past Everton 6-5 to reach the fourth round of the Carabao Cup. - Agencies

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat leads development of capital markets and investment sector

Bank Muscat has delivered more than \$40 billion for over 95 financial advisory and fundraising mandates over the last 15 years



MUSCAT: The capital markets are crucial pillars for boosting economic growth across the world as they contribute to sustainable development and the creation of a strong economy through offering a platform to businesses for raising capital while providing investors an opportunity to invest the capital in line with their investment objectives. Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been playing an important role in capital markets in Oman, as evidenced by the continuous accomplishments of Bank Muscat and the prominent strategies implemented to support its pioneering role as a trusted banking institution for over 40 years.

In line with its vision “To Serve You Better, Everyday”, Bank Muscat, represented by Investment Banking and Capital Markets team, is committed to attaining excellence and reaffirming its leadership position by offering a diverse range of innovative investment products that reflect latest trends amid the evolving global and GCC markets. These products are designed suitably to meet the needs of both types of investors i.e. individuals and institutions. Further, the Bank offers unique financial advisory solutions to support various projects and corporates in the Sultanate and promote local and foreign investments.

In order to highlight the Bank’s role in developing the capital markets, recently Bank Muscat organised a media meet to highlight Bank Muscat’s contributions to the investment banking and capital markets field locally and regionally. The visit, attended by a number of media representatives, provided an opportunity for the audience to have conversations with the bank’s officials, as well as to further strengthen partnership with various media outlets, which are an important component of the bank’s growth and success.

Bank Muscat is the largest asset manager in Oman and a leading asset manager in the GCC region, with a proven track record of successful operations for almost three decades. It offers tailored investment solutions across various asset classes including equity, fixed income, real estate and private equity investments. Further, the Bank’s investment banking team is the market leader in offering financial advisory and fundraising solutions across debt or equity solutions and for a wide range of instruments. Being the largest financial advisory team in Oman, it has delivered more than \$40 billion for over 95 financial advisory and fundraising mandates over the last 15 years.



Speaking about the event, Khalifa Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager, Investment Banking and Capital Markets at Bank Muscat, said: “I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all our stakeholders for their partnership and ongoing cooperation. The Investment Banking and Capital Markets department’s accomplishments over the years reflect Bank Muscat’s commitment to incorporating the Bank’s values into its various businesses; working towards enhancing the Bank’s vision and serving the customers better every day. Bank Muscat invests heavily in its expertise in expanding financial advisory services, providing investment opportunities, and promoting Oman’s economy by successfully completing several strategic transactions for major institutions across a diverse range of economic sectors.”

Bank Muscat invests heavily in its expertise in expanding financial advisory services, providing investment opportunities, and promoting Oman’s economy by successfully completing several strategic transactions for major institutions across a diverse range of economic sectors.” Khalifa Al Hatmi further explained: “Bank Muscat is keen to maintain its leadership in investment in the Sultanate and the progress made thus far is a testament to the dedication shown by our team of experts and professionals, who are committed to providing the best in class investment services to the Bank’s individual and corporate customers.” Bank Muscat’s Investment Banking team is the market leader in corporate finance and advisory solutions encompassing corporate finance, project finance, debt capital markets, debt refinancing and restructurings, IPOs, structured financings, quasi-equity financings, private placements, as well as mergers and acquisitions in the Sultanate of Oman.

‘AL DAAYIRA’



IDdesign Oman launches incentive programme for interior designers

MUSCAT: IDdesign, a pioneer in innovative, high-concept modern Scandinavian design, announced the launch of ‘Al Daayira’ – a members-only commission programme exclusively for Oman’s top interior designers, architects, and contractors.

The programme is designed to foster stronger relationships between IDdesign and the local design community, driving creativity, collaboration, and loyalty while enhancing customer experience.

Over the last two decades, IDdesign has established itself as one of the leading European furniture brands in the Sultanate, blending elegance, comfort, and innovation into every piece. With a philosophy rooted in the highest standards of quality and craftsmanship, IDdesign’s furniture and home accessories are handpicked and designed with meticulous Scandinavian attention to detail. The brand’s unique use of materials and high production standards ensure that each item is a lasting companion for modern living.

IDdesign’s ‘Al Daayira’ is more than just an incentive - it is a platform that connects the nation’s most talented designers, architects, and contractors, encouraging collaboration and excellence. Through this initiative, IDdesign aims to strengthen its ties with the design community, providing a space where creativity thrives, and ensuring customers receive exceptional, innovative interior solutions.

Meet-and-greet event

To celebrate the launch, IDdesign hosted a special meet-and-

greet event at its flagship store in Markaz Al Bahja. Leading interior designers participated in the event, which featured a panel discussion focused on the latest trends in interior design, the scope of the profession in Oman, and the challenges faced by designers in the region.

The panel included prominent industry experts such as Ricardo Rubio Perea, Senior Architect, MME Design Solutions - Eng. Asara Nasser Alhashimi, CEO, Level Interiors and Rawan Said Alshidhani, MD, Interiors by Rawan.

Commenting on the launch of the ‘Al Daayira’ programme, Sanjay Yadav, General Manager of IDdesign Oman, said: “‘Al Daayira’ is our way of giving back to the incredibly talented design community in Oman. We have been fortunate to receive immense love and support over the years, and now, with this programme, we hope to foster deeper relationships with the people who inspire us daily. This initiative will enable us to push the boundaries of design together and provide our customers with a truly unique experience.”

IDdesign offers a carefully curated selection of contemporary furniture, accessories, lighting, and art pieces. The showrooms’ welcoming spaces provide customers with an inspiring shopping experience, where new décor and furnishings are updated regularly.

Known for its distinctive blend of Scandinavian design, IDdesign has become a trusted name in furniture and home décor, delivering elegance, comfort, and quality to homes across Oman.

TAILORED FINANCIAL SERVICES

Elevate your banking experience with BankDhofar’s Al Rifaa Privilege Banking

MUSCAT: BankDhofar’s Al Rifaa Privilege Banking is designed to offer more than access to a suite of exceptional banking services – but to a host of lifestyle features as well.

Al Rifaa privilege banking offers preferential rates on deposits as well as tailored financial services and priority processing of transactions. The innovative segment is designed to cater to the distinct needs of the Bank’s valued customers, providing an elevated banking experience that combines exclusive benefits, personalized services, and gratifying rewards.

Al Rifaa is designed for individuals who demand superior value in every aspect of their lives, this account is a testament to BankDhofar’s commitment to innovation and customer-centricity. Account holders will have priority custom-



er support in priority service at the branches as well as at the Bank’s call centre. To encourage saving, the account also offers attractive interest rates on their deposits with preferential rates on the High Yield savings account.

The Platinum range of debit and credit cards offered to account holders are embedded with a host of benefits, as the credit card offers airport lounge access, additional reward points on local and international purchases, 24x7 concierge services as well as extended warranty on purchases. Al Rifaa Account simplifies the process for

the customer to avail tailored financial services with competitive terms. The account also enables them to access personal accident insurance, motor insurance and travel insurance.

This prestigious offering is designed to provide a banking journey that transcends traditional services, introducing customers to a world where financial empowerment meets personalized luxury. With a steadfast focus on technological advancements and customer empowerment, BankDhofar continues to lead the way in transforming Oman’s banking sector.

LECTURE ON ISLAMIC FINANCIAL ENGINEERING

Alizz Islamic Bank hosts Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Subhi Ahmed Ayadi

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently hosted Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Subhi Ahmed Ayadi to conduct a lecture on ‘Islamic financial engineering and Islamic alternatives to financial derivatives’ at the bank’s headquarters.

The lecture was part of ‘Manar Alizz’ initiative, which is the voice of the bank for cultural awareness about Islamic Banking and its principles. The programme aligns with the bank’s overall strategy of knowledge sharing. Alizz Islamic Bank continues to focus on developing and engaging employees and the public through interactive sessions on topics that interest them.

Speaking about the lecture



Issa bin Salim Al Riyami, Head of Shari’a Compliance and Audit of Alizz Islamic Bank said “The lecture that was conducted today by Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Subhi Ayyadi described the Shari’a compliant

alternatives that are available for customers. By devising innovative approaches and initiatives like ‘Manar Alizz’ we make sure to benefit society and fulfill the mission of Islamic banking. We believe in giving back through knowledge sharing, which will not only bring about positive change in the communities in which we live and work, but will have more far reaching impact to enable individuals and businesses to thrive.”

Sheikh Dr. Ayyadi holds a PhD degree in Islamic Economics from the University of Holy Quran in Sudan and a Master’s degree in Islamic Economics from Yarmouk University in Jordan.

LADIES WING



ISC session focuses on empowering women

MUSCAT: The Indian Social Club Oman Ladies Wing, hosted an engaging workshop titled ‘Groomed and Gorgeous’ on September 13. Led by Sumangla Jacob, a certified image consultant and soft skills trainer, the session focused on empowering women through a comprehensive understanding of personal presentation.

Participants were taken through key aspects of cultivating an appearance that is appropriate, authentic, attractive, and affordable. Sumangla also emphasized the significance of effective communication, while encouraging attendees to adopt positive attitudes and habits that complement their outward appearance. The workshop provided participants with practical insights and actionable tips to enhance their confidence, poise, and overall presence.

Ladies who attended felt delighted to have got an opportunity to learn how to master the art of personal presentation. It was a workshop that helped in evaluating one’s self worth.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

Al Sharqiyah University launches orientation week activities

MUSCAT: This week, the Orientation Week activities for new students for the first semester of the academic year 2024/2025 were launched at Al Sharqiyah University, receiving more than 3,200 male and female students in various specialisations and programs offered by the university.

The 4-day orientation week will include students’ free tour to get to know the campus buildings and facilities, an integrated exhibition for students organized by student activity groups, and introductory corners for a number of service departments, such as the Student Affairs Department, the Language Center, and the Foundation Program. As well as an introduction about the Admissions and Registration Department, the Finance



Department, the Information Technology Department, and the Learning Resources Center. In addition to the Internal Housing Department Services, the Administrative Affairs Department represented by the University Clinic, the Security Department, and the Security and Safety Department

instructions. The program will also include meetings with colleges’ deans and the placement tests in English, IT, and mathematics.

The program included a meeting of Professor Fouad Chedid, the Vice Chancellor, with the students during the evening entertainment and cultural evening.

ROUND-UP

Lulu on expansion spree in Oman; opens new store in Al Mudhaibi

The new hypermarket features an improved décor with multiple check-out counters and liberal parking space to add to a relaxed shopping experience

MUSCAT: Lulu Hypermarket, Oman's leading retailer has further expanded its presence in Oman with the grand opening of its newest store in Samad Al Shan, Al Mudhaibi on September 18.

The inauguration of the outlet was held under the patronage of Sheikh Saud Bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Hinai, Wali of Al Mudhaibi, in the presence of senior government officials in the Sultanate, Lulu group Chairman Yusuff Ali M.A. and other dignitaries.

Spanning over 40,000 square feet, the Al Mudhaibi store is the 31st store of Lulu in Oman. It offers a wide range of products across multiple categories, including groceries, fresh produce, electronics, and more. The spacious layout and modern design provide a comfortable shopping experience for customers. The new store features an improved décor with multiple check-out counters and liberal parking space to add to a relaxed shopping experience.

Speaking at the launch, Yusuff Ali emphasized the company's commitment to serving the Omani community and contributing to the local economy. "We are extremely grateful for the continued support of the Government of Oman and the people of this beautiful country," he stated. "We are committed to fostering a strong partnership with the Omani community and contributing to the nation's economic growth. Our expansion into Al Mudhaibi is a testament to this commitment. By prioritizing In



Country Value in our operations, we aim to support local businesses, create employment opportunities, and develop a sustainable supply chain. We believe that this approach will not only benefit our customers but also contribute to the overall development of Oman," he added.

The expansion of Lulu Hypermarket into Al Mudhaibi reflects the company's strategic approach to reaching new markets and meeting the evolving needs of its customers. The new store is expected to become a popular destination for residents in the area,

offering a wide variety of products, competitive prices, and excellent customer service.

Lulu Hypermarket's commitment to providing exceptional value and service is evident in its ongoing expansion. The Al Mudhaibi store reflects the company's dedication to enhancing the shopping experience and contributing to the economic development of the region.

Present also on the occasion were Ananth A.V, Director Oman, Shabeer K.A, Regional Director, Oman of the Lulu Group and other officials.



CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Lynk & Co 05: The ultimate SUV for urban adventures

MUSCAT: Lynk & Co is at the forefront of redefining the automotive experience by integrating cutting-edge technology with premium features, making automobile luxury accessible to all. Built for both city streets and off-road adventures, the Lynk & Co 05 is powered by the robust Drive-E 2.0TD T5 Turbo Engine, delivering high-performance driving with speed and efficiency. Whether cruising through the city or tackling rugged terrain, this AWD SUV is engineered for every journey.



Adventure companion

The Lynk & Co 05 isn't just about style and power; it's crafted for those with a thirst for adventure. With innovative technology designed to elevate every drive, this SUV adapts seamlessly from urban roads to desert trails.

The 8-speed automatic transmission ensures smooth gear shifts that suit both highway cruising and rugged paths while the BorgWarner 5th Gen Intelligent Four-Wheel Drive system enhances handling and traction.

With Harman Infinity™ Audio for crystal-clear sound and luxurious Nubuck upholstery, it pairs adventure with sophistication. The full-spectrum ambient lighting system offering over 16 million color combinations, lets you set the perfect tone for any landscape.

Top-tier safety features

The Lynk & Co 05 ensures you are not just exploring but doing so with complete assurance. Packed with safety features, it provides peace of mind no matter where the road leads. Adaptive Cruise Control with Queuing Assistant (AC-

CQA) helps you maintain a safe speed and distance in traffic, while Door Opening Warning (DOW) alerts you to approaching hazards when opening doors.

The Semi Automatic Parking (SAP+) system takes the stress out of parking with its advanced detection and assistance capabilities, ensuring that even tight spots are easily managed.

Drive away in the Lynk & Co 05 with an exclusive EMI starting at just 146 OMR/month. This exceptional offer makes owning a luxury SUV more accessible than ever, even for young professionals.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sohar International provides advanced ultrasound machines to Directorate General of Health in Muscat

MUSCAT: In line with its unwavering commitment to social responsibility and support for national initiatives, Sohar International, Oman's Best Bank, recently visited Al Seeb Polyclinic as part of its efforts to support national healthcare initiatives.

The visit follows the bank's strategic contribution to the Directorate General of Health in Muscat, providing two state-of-the-art Ultrasound machines to Al Seeb Polyclinic, specifically for the women's and maternity clinic. The initiative aims to enhance the clinic's capacity for early detection of fetal abnormalities and pregnancy-related health conditions, thereby elevating the quality of healthcare services delivered to the community.

Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer of Sohar International, expressed his enthusiasm for the partnership with the Directorate General of Health in Muscat, stating, "Our paramount objective has always been to promote comprehensive well-being within the community by supporting initiatives that cater to all segments of society. We are thrilled to collaborate with the Directo-



rate General of Health in Muscat to address societal welfare. Sohar International's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy is rooted in the bank's conviction that the private sector has a duty to positively impact society through sustainable business practices. This partnership exemplifies Sohar International's proactive efforts to make a meaningful contribution to societal welfare."

Recently, Sohar International paid a visit to Al Seeb Polyclinic, led by Mazin Mahmood Al Raisi, Chief Marketing Officer of Sohar International. They were welcomed by Dr. Thamra Al Ghafri, Director General of Health in

Muscat. This visit underscores the bank's ongoing support for Oman's healthcare sector and reinforces the pivotal role of the private sector in enhancing and advancing the nation's healthcare infrastructure.

Dr. Thamra Al Ghafri, Director General of Health Services in the Muscat Governorate, highlighted the strategic impact of Sohar International's contribution, stating, "The advanced Ultrasound machines will greatly enhance the Al Seeb Polyclinic's capacity to deliver comprehensive and efficient medical care, particularly in the area of women's and maternity health."





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