



OMAN'S THAWANI RANKS AMONG 50 MOST POWERFUL FINTECH FIRMS

Muscat: Omani company, Thawani Technologies, was included in the list of the 50 most powerful companies in financial technology (Fintech) in the Middle East for the year 2024. This was unveiled by Forbes Middle East. Thawani Technologies Company ranked 40th and is the only Omani company to be included in the list. — **ONA**



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SORROWFUL SUNDAY

Nine students among 12 dead as heavy rains hit Oman



The 12 deaths also include two citizens and one expatriate. Search efforts are ongoing for eight individuals, according to NCEM

Times News Service

MUSCAT: It was a sorrowful Sunday for Oman as nine students were among 12 reported dead amid widespread flooding across the country.

The dead included 11 citizens (two adults and nine pupils) and one expatriate in Samad A'Shan.

Search is still going on for the other five missing citizens in the Wilayat of Al Mudhaibi, Governorate of North A'Sharqiyah.

The National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM) reported that most of the fatalities occurred due to vehicles being swept away in overflowing wadis and flash floods.

The Royal Oman Police (ROP) shared that the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate Police Command rescued stranded students from a bus breakdown in an overflowing wadi in the Wilayat of Ibra, transporting them safely home.

HEAVY RAINS

Classes to be suspended in several parts of Oman today



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education announced the suspension of work in schools on Monday, 15 April, 2024—in all government, private and foreign schools in the Governorates of Muscat, North A'Sharqiyah, South A'Sharqiyah, A'Dakhiliyah, A'Dhahirah and

South Al Batinah due to the current weather condition (heavy rains). Study will be made online through available means, and it will resume at schools on Tuesday, 16 April 2024, the Ministry added.

Educational directorates in other governorates will assess the situation and take decisions accordingly.

Eight sorties conducted

Additionally, the ROP Aviation Unit conducted eight sorties, rescuing over 35 individuals, providing medical aid, and aiding in search operations.

Multiple patrol and field teams, including those from the Royal Army of Oman and Civil Defence Authority and Ambulance (CDAA), collaborated to rescue students from Al Rawdha School in Al Mudhaibi.

Moreover, CDAA teams, in coordination with authorities, evacuated over 2,000 students from schools in Al Mudhaibi and facilitated the safe evacuation of 10 students from a school in Muscat Governorate.

21 students rescued

In Nizwa, CDAA teams rescued 21 students from a stranded school bus in an overflowing wadi.

The entire country grappled

with inundation following torrential rains, resulting in widespread flash floods.

More rainfall expected

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) cautioned that most governorates of Oman are likely to experience additional rainfall due to prevailing weather conditions.

Nasser Said Al Ismaili, Acting Director of the Weather Forecast Department and Early Warning System at the Civil Aviation Authority, warned that heavy rainfall, accompanied by thunderstorms, strong winds, and hailstones, is expected across several governorates on Monday.

Al Ismaili highlighted that rainfall amounts ranging from 30mm to 120mm are anticipated in the governorates of Musandam, Al Buraimi, South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah, A'Dhahirah, A'Dakhiliyah, Muscat, South A'Sharqiyah, and North A'Sharqiyah, in addition to the northern parts of Al Wusta Governorate.

The adverse weather conditions are likely to persist until Wednesday night or Thursday morning (17-18 April 2024).

He emphasised the issuance of weather alerts via cell phones and advised the public to exercise caution, especially avoiding wadis, low-lying areas, and maritime activities due to hazardous sea conditions caused by persistent winds.

Al Ismaili underscored the importance of heeding weather warnings disseminated by the CAA to ensure public safety during adverse weather events.

ESCALATING MILITARY SITUATION

Oman calls for self-restraint to spare region risks of war

MUSCAT: Oman reiterated its commitment to closely monitor the escalating military situation in the region, expressing grave concern over its potential repercussions.

Oman urged all parties to exercise self-restraint to prevent the region and its people from being drawn into the dangers of war.

Oman emphasised its stance on upholding international laws and stressed the importance of the UN Security Council fulfilling its responsibility in maintaining global peace and security.

In a statement released by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday, Oman reiterated the urgent need for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip. It also underscored the necessity of establishing humanitarian corridors to ensure unimpeded delivery of relief aid to all areas of the Gaza Strip.

Also, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) stressed the paramount importance of preserving regional and global security and stability amidst the recent and escalating developments in the Middle East.

It emphasised the imperative for all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avert any further escalation that could jeopardise the region's stability.



Jassim Mohammed Al Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said, "The Cooperation Council underscores the criticality of upholding regional and global security and stability amidst the recent and accelerating developments in the Middle East, urging all parties to exercise utmost restraint to prevent escalation, which poses an additional threat to the region's stability and the safety of its people."

Al Budaiwi highlighted the necessity for collective efforts and diplomatic approaches to resolve disputes effectively and ensure the region's security and stability. He reiterated the international community's role in supporting peace and stability initiatives to mitigate any repercussions that may lead to further escalation.

Al Budaiwi urged all concerned parties to commit to maintaining regional and global security and peace. (With inputs from ONA)

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of April 14, 2024

Deaths
33,729

Injured
76,371

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

ROHM to premiere La Bohème on April 23

1 ROHM will host the regional premiere of the film La Bohème on 23 April, 2024. This screening will mark the beginning of three weeks of activities leading up to the highly anticipated co-production of Puccini's opera La Bohème, presented by ROHM in collaboration with Monte Carlo Opera on 16 and 18 May 2024. **>A2**

OMAN

Social Protection Law programme

2 The General Federation of Oman Workers began implementing the first stage of a field programme on the Social Protection Law. **>A3**

SPORTS

Hosts Oman defeat Cambodia by 63 runs

3 Naseem Khushi and Aqib Ilyas propelled Oman to a commanding 63-run victory against Cambodia on Sunday. **>A8**

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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:12pm
Asr.....	3:39pm
Maghrib.....	6:33pm
Isha.....	7:46pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:27am

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Regional premiere of La Bohème movie at ROHM kicks off Puccini celebration

The event has already sparked significant interest in Oman as it got sold-out in less than a week since its announcement on the ROHM website

MUSCAT: The Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) will host the regional premiere of the award-winning film *La Bohème*, directed by esteemed Italian filmmaker Mario Martone, on 23 April 2024.

The event has already sparked significant interest in Oman as it got sold-out in less than a week since its announcement on the ROHM website.

This screening will mark the beginning of three weeks of activities leading up to the highly



anticipated co-production of Puccini's timeless opera *La Bohème*, presented by ROHM in collaboration with Monte Carlo Opera on 16 and 18 May 2024. The film will be introduced by a word from the production team of RAI.

The screening of *La Bohème* represents a notable milestone for ROHM as it integrates film screen-

ings into its educational activities, in line with its core mission of enhancing accessibility to the performing arts for a wider audience.

Martone's film has garnered international acclaim, earning the Grand Prix at the Golden Prague Festival for its innovative approach, blending film and stage performances seamlessly. An in-

ternational sensation, the film was screened across the world including in Australia, Portugal, Italy, France, the Czech Republic, and Finland.

In a special message to ROHM audience, Mario Martone, the director, extends a warm invitation to all to discover *La Bohème*, envisioning its characters not as mere



artifacts but as vibrant, living individuals captured through Puccini's extraordinary music.

The Movie Night at ROHM kick-starts three weeks of educational activities surrounding Puccini's masterpiece, culminating in the opera's staging on the 16 and 18 May 2024.

The opera *La Bohème*, a co-

production between Monte Carlo Opera and ROHM will welcome leading opera singers including Mariangela Sicilia, Liparit Avetisyan, Hasmik Torosyan and Riccardo Zanellato and will be accompanied by the Italian Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by the immensely talented, Leonardo Sini. — **ONA**

READYMIX MUSCAT

‘Women on Wheels’ initiative launched



Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a ground breaking move towards fostering diversity and inclusivity, ReadyMix Muscat a member of Holcim group has proudly introduced its innovative initiative – ‘Women on Wheels’ in Oman.

Huda Salim Al-Mahrouqi, one of the first Omani heavy duty truck driver who has been honoured to successfully join Ready Mix Muscat, ‘Women on Wheels’ initiative, expressed her genuine gratitude for the training programme and subsequent work opportunity. Her experience stands as a clear indication of the positive influence of the programme on the lives of Omani women seeking unconventional career paths. Huda's journey reflects the broader vision of ReadyMix Muscat – to empower women and create a more inclusive workforce.

New opportunities

This initiative seeks to create new opportunities and integrate Omani women into various career sectors, particularly focusing on breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields. One of the key aspects of this programme is to provide Omani women with unconventional work experiences, opening doors to professions that were previ-



Daniel Mendible announced the launch of ‘Women on Wheels’ in Oman, an initiative aimed to support and empower women's capability in all carriers. ReadyMix Muscat is honoured to be the first Gulf country to introduce such a programme, reflecting its commitment to pioneering innovative solutions

ously considered beyond their capabilities.

Daniel Mendible, the general manager of ReadyMix Muscat, Lafarge Holcim, has underscored the significance of the “Women on Wheels” initiative in Oman.

Fostering diversity

He noticed a recent increase in female representation within the organisation, affirming the company's belief in the compe-



tence approach toward fostering diversity.

With a great pride, he announced the launch of “Women on Wheels” in Oman, an initiative aimed to support and empower women's capability in all carriers. ReadyMix Muscat is honoured to be the first Gulf country to introduce such a programme, reflecting its commitment to pioneering innovative solutions.

Ultimately, Shameem Mansoor Al-Mahrizi, Quality Control Engineer at ReadyMix Muscat, Lafarge Holcim, mentioned that upon joining the company in August 2023 as an intern, she had conceived the idea of Women on Wheels.

However, when she proposed the idea to her General Manager, she learned that Holcim had already introduced this initiative in other countries like Kenya, Nigeria, Jordan.

As a result Shameem Al-Mahrizi had the privilege to take lead and launch this programme successfully in the Sultanate of Oman, despite facing some obstacles in tackling non-stereotypical workforce for women in the Arab society.

She expressed gratitude to Lafarge Holcim, Ready Mix Muscat and team for giving such an opportunity to execute and successfully roll out this programme.

NEW YEAR FESTIVAL OF KERALA



PHOTO: SHABIN E.

Keralites in Oman celebrate Vishu

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Thousands of Keralites living in Oman woke up to a colourful arrangement in their homes on Sunday morning to celebrate Vishu, the New Year festival of the south Indian state of Kerala.

The celebration started with ‘Kani kaanal,’ meaning first sight, for which they had made arrangements the previous night. On the auspicious day of Vishu, Keralites believe that one should see good things in the morning as this determines their fortunes for the entire year. Hypermarkets across the country displayed traditional items brought from Kerala to arrange the ‘Kani kaanal’. People were seen making a beeline for the special sections at hypermarkets to buy items for Vishu.

People woke up to see ‘Vishukkani,’ the ceremonial sighting of auspicious articles, such as rice, fruits, gold, money and flowers tastefully arranged in brass vessels, symbolising hope and promise.

“Every year, we do our best to celebrate Vishu just like in India. Every year, we make it a point to celebrate it because we want to keep our traditions and culture alive,” said Madhu B Nambiar, a resident in Ruwi.

“I miss the celebrations back in India because it is so much more vibrant and the entire family gets together,” he further added.

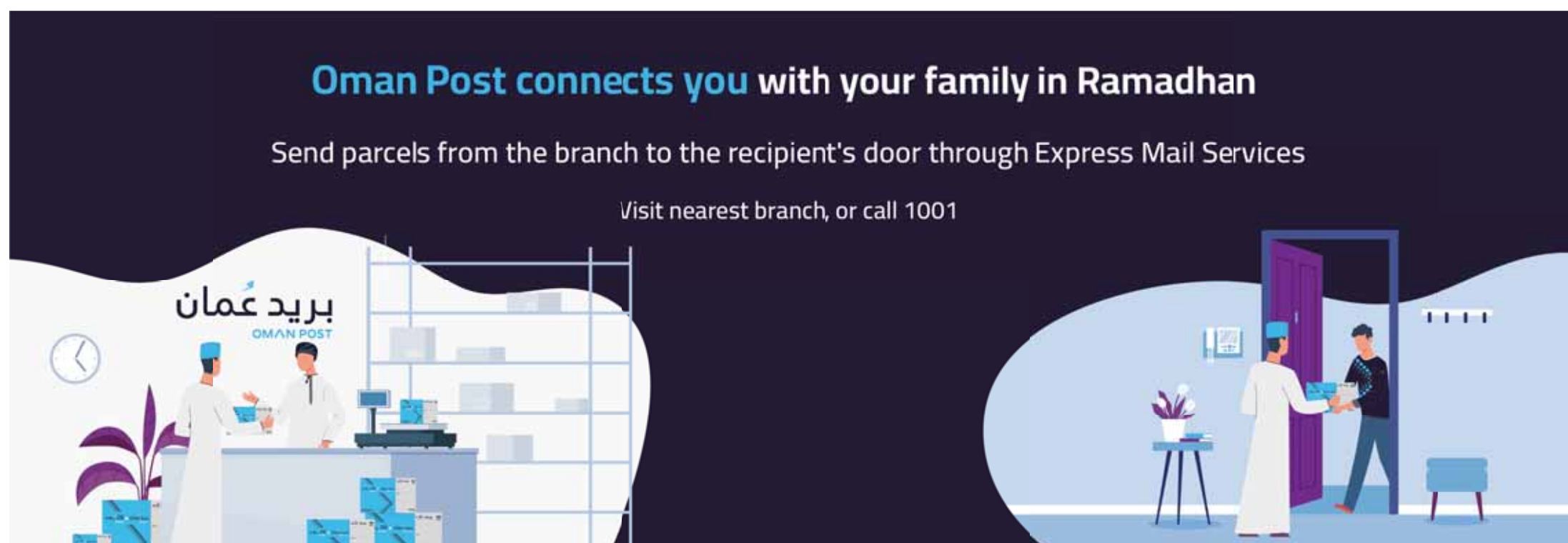
“Vishu is mostly a family affair. After the morning formalities, my wife and I prepared sadhya (traditional lunch) and celebrated it with our two sons and some other family members,” said long-time

Muttrah resident Janardhan Nitur. “I usually always take the day off for Vishu because I'm very keen on our children understanding our culture and where we come from.”

Heavy rush was witnessed in some of the top restaurants in Oman where people thronged to have ‘Sadhya’ a delicious meal prepared of rice, vegetables and fruits in the afternoon.

“As it was a working day, most of the people did not get time to celebrate Vishu at home so they had to depend on restaurants that were offering Vishu sadhya,” said manager of a restaurant in Ruwi.

“Most of the orders came from office-goers and our delivery boys had a tough time driving around to serve the Sadhya on time,” he added.



Tejarah Talks digs into Economic Gardening nurturing, cultivating stage II Omani companies

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Organised by Oman Business Forum in partnership with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) Tejarah Talks will host a session titled "Economic Gardening: Nurturing & Cultivating Second Stage Companies," 7:30pm Tuesday, 30 April at Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

Economic Gardening was first pioneered in Littleton, Colorado in the late 1980s where it focused on providing strategic information to help local second-stage businesses grow and create jobs.

It emphasised technical assistance like market and industry intelligence, search engine optimisation and social media marketing which

enabled growth-oriented companies with between 10 to 99 employees make strategic decisions.

The success seen in Littleton, with a 71 percent increase in employment and a tripling of the city's sales tax revenues without resorting to incentives or tax breaks has led to the adoption of similar Economic Gardening programmes across the US and Europe.

As an example, Florida's GrowFL initiative has created in excess of 10,000 new jobs, contributing over \$900 million to the state's economy, increasing state and local tax revenues by nearly \$82 million. GrowFL's cost efficiency has also been highlighted, showing that for every dollar of public investment there was a return of \$9.

Sowing the seeds for discussions between panellists Pankaj



Khimji, Foreign Trade & International Co-operation Adviser MoCIIP; Hussain Al Lawati, CEO Development Bank; and Masoud Al Rawahi, Co-founder & Partner Phaze Ventures will be moderators. Amal Al Asmi, Executive Producer, RealityCG.

Economic Gardening was first pioneered in Littleton, Colorado in the late 1980s where it focused on providing strategic information to help local second-stage businesses grow and create jobs

Adawi, Director, Oman Business Forum & PPP Office, MoCIIP and Tejarah Talks organiser: "Given the success of Economic Gardening programmes elsewhere we're looking forward to discussing its application in Oman and how it could support the ambitions of local companies that have the potential to scale-up, create jobs and enhance our global economic

standing.”

The MoCIIP Director added: "As we work towards building a more prosperous business ecosystem, the insights shared during the Tejarah Talks session will be invaluable. Indeed, engaging with and investing in local enterprises not only fuels entrepreneurship, innovation and economic growth but also fosters a sense of com-

munity and sustainability. If you are a business owner, policymaker, academic or simply curious about second-stage company development please come along. Tejarah Talks is open to all and always free-of-charge."

Tejarah Talks is generously sponsored by Jindal Shadeed, Nortal, Apex TransGulf Manufacturing and MHD and supported by Invest Oman Lounge, OCEC, JW Marriott and OmanFM.

Tejarah Talks is conducted in English, open to everyone and always free-of-charge. Each session is followed by the opportunity for informal networking and conversation. To reserve your seat, please email: tt@tejarah.gov.om For those unable to attend in person, a report and podcast are issued post-event.

Gfow organises programme on Social Protection Law, Labour Law

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with production parties and national authorities concerned, the General Federation of Oman Workers (GfOW) on Sunday began implementing the first stage of a field programme on the Social Protection Law and the provisions of the Labour Law.

The programme, which started in Muscat Governorate, will continue for several days.

The field programme seeks to consolidate the values of work and negotiation and to address the challenges that workers face when applying the provisions of the Social Protection Law and the Labour Law. It also highlights model practices based on the application of the provisions of the Social Protection Law and the Labour Law.

The programme introduces



the practical tools and skills necessary to help workers adapt to labour market transitions and challenges.

The programme's launch ceremony was held under the auspices of Faisal Abdullah Al Rowas, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

The programme organisers make stopovers in four locations and it targets labour syndicates

and human resources representatives at private sector companies.

Its first station covers the governorates of Muscat, South Al Batinah and South A'Sharqiya. Its second stopover will be in the governorates of A'Dakhiliya and A'Dhahira. Its third station covers the governorates of North Al Batinah and Al Buraimi. Its fourth station will be in the Governorate of Dhofar. — **UNA**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

THE TENDER COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING TENDER:

Tender No.	Subject	Document Fees	Tender Bond	Closing Date
MJN-KWM-PM-TED-00025	Invitation for submission of bids for Facilities management, Catering, Laundry, Waste management, Cleaning & Pest control services at the Karwa Motors Factory Portable Cabin Facilities	OMR 100/-	1% of Bid Value	9 th May 2024

CONDITIONS:

- The tender documents package can be obtained from the Finance Department of the company from the 14th of April 2024 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, upon payment of a non-refundable document fees to the following bank account and providing proof of deposit and signed authorization letter to collect tender document with company stamp.

- Payment should be processed by bank transfer or deposit to the following bank coordinates or by cash:

Account Name: **Karwa Motors**
Bank Name: **Meethaq Islamic Banking**
Bank Branch: **Al Khuwair Islamic Branch**
Account Number: **0625500193570001**
Swift Code: **BMUSOMRXISL**

- **KEY DATES:**

- o **Issue Tender Package** - 14th to 25th April 2024 (Weekdays)
- o **Compulsory Tender Briefing** - 28th April 2024 (Karwa Motors, Duqm Factory)
- o **Last Date for Queries** - 05th May 2024
- o **Last Date for Submission** - 09th May 2024

- Tender should be submitted not later than 12.00 Noon on the closing date and must be deposited at Karwa Motors Tendering Office located at Office No 5-25, 2nd Floor, Finaa Al Fardan Building No.254, Way 4204, Plot No 836, North Al Ghubra, Postal Code: 1115, Muscat, and should be in a sealed envelope addressed to 'Tender Committee, Karwa Motors', quoting the Tender No. and subject.

- Offers arriving after the closing date and time shall not be accepted.

- For queries please e-mail: tendercommittee@karwamotors.com

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SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

Now that the Eid is over and the holiday is well behind us, we all feel rested and eager to go back to work but it is not as smooth as it seems.

For those who went abroad for a break, it was fun to climb mountains, cruise the sea or just touring the countryside. Now we are back home and back to our routines. From the outdoor to the indoor and life is back to normal. The thing about holidays is that they leave memories that refuse to go away for a long while. If done properly.

In my case, I did not travel anyway but stayed back to relax and enjoy being closer to my family. But I did venture out in a more relaxed manner than usual. I looked at the same views in the areas I always go but this time, since I was in the holiday mood, I saw everything as if I had never seen them before. I now realize it is all in the mind and not what we see with our eyes.

Once we step in the root of the holiday trail, nothing can stop us and it does not matter where we are. We see things in new eyes and make up as we go. If holiday is a series of leisure than it should not be so hard. I tried to simplify it and make it as irresistible as possible. For example, I ventured out by walking six kilometers in the rain.

I ignored the car drivers when they splashed water on me as they drove past. It was as if they were trying their best to make sure I was not enjoying my holiday. Several of them even honked at me just to show their displeasure. I waved my hand as a sign that they could join me in the fun. But I don't think they understood the sign language.

Then in the middle of it, a friend called me to ask if I was going for coffee with him. I told him there was nothing that could change my mind to walk out from the pleasure of having raindrops falling on my bare head. He thought I was crazy that I was out walking in such weather. What kind of pleasure was I getting from it? He asked me. I told him the pleasure no money can buy and that it was all free. He sighed and disconnected the phone without saying a further word.

Many people make a mistake of organizing their holidays minute by minute and that is where they make a mistake. To go with the flow of things is part of the fun. Too many elaborated plans backfire along the way to leave you disappointed. Just dive into things and let yourself go. The rewards are much better. At least that is my view.

If you want to enjoy your holiday to the full than you must switch off the time. I do not mean literally. With the clock stopped ticking, you can do whatever turns on your lamp of adventure. It is just a different experience. The experience of letting yourself go and do what you feel right. It never fails. All you have to do is switch off what has been bothering you lately.

Now that the holiday is over, we can start by turning the clock back on. Back to the normal routine where every day has to be planned carefully before it dawns on us. In other words, the stress clock has been turned on again.



PICTURE BY PURUSHOTHAMAN K/TIMES OF OMAN

Oman players set for participation in first GCC Youth Games in UAE

The GCC Youth Games will kick start on April 16 and conclude on May 2

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman players are all set to take part in the first edition of the GCC Youth Games.

The GCC Youth Games, which is being hosted by the UAE, will begin on April 16 and conclude on May 2.

Oman U17 football team arrived in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, and went through a training session at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium under the guidance of national coach Anwar Al Habsi.

The players underwent light training ahead of their first match against the host UAE on Tuesday.

The technical committee meeting was held on Sunday for all the teams participating in the tournament.

The U17 football competition will witness participation from Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, and the UAE.

The taekwondo national team also participated in a training session in Fujairah ahead of their competition on Tuesday.

The technical committee meeting was held on Sunday to approve the final list of participants, and to get them acquainted with requirements and rules.

Meanwhile, the national swimming team are preparing for the Games with a domestic camp in Al Buraimi until April 24. The camp in Al Buraimi follows a similar training camp at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat



boos Sports Complex in Muscat under the supervision of coach Amer bin Ruqayh and his assistant Ayman Hamad Al Kulaibi.

Following the camp in Muscat, the final swimming squad was announced. The team includes Mohammed

Al Farsi (50m, 100m freestyle, 100m, 50m backstroke), Mohammed Al Wahaibi (50m freestyle, 50m individual medley, 50m butterfly), Meshal Al Shaibani (50m freestyle, 50m, 100m breaststroke, 50m butterfly), Meshal Al Kulaibi (100m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m butterfly, 50m freestyle), Hilal Al Mashari (100m, 50m and 200 backstroke). Ibrahim Al Wahaibi (1,500m, 800m and 400m freestyle, 200m butterfly), Hussein Taha (400m individual medley, 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke) and Ali Al Hassani (200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m freestyle). Elsewhere, the national athlete



ics team concluded their training camp. Eight men and women athletes will represent Oman in various events that include medium and long distance races, high jump, long jump, discus throw and hammer throw. The team includes Desam Al Dalhami, who will participate in 100m and 200m, Ahmed Al Jabri in 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay and Moayad Al Badri in 400m and relay. Mansour Al Farsi will take part in 800m and 1,500m and Al Harith Al Jabri will take part in 1,500m and 3,000m. Al Yakhan Al Abdali will take

part in high jump, long jump and relay while Al Ayham Al Fadili will participate in long jump and relay events. Mohammed bin Salah will be in fray in hammer throw. In the women's event, Azza Al Hinai and Samar Al Yarubi will be Oman's representation in 100m and 200m events while Ghaya Al Saadi will compete in 400m and Kaltham Al Jabri will participate in discus and hammer throw events. At the Games, Bahrain Have sent a delegation of 197 athletes, including 122 men and women competing while Saudi Arabia is participating with 178 players (145 men and 33 women).

IN PICTURES: HEAVY RAINFALL IN OMAN



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Oman Development Bonds

On behalf of the Government of Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Oman announces an issue of Government Development Bonds to be sold by auction. The 70th Issue of Government Development Bonds will be issued on Thursday, 25/04/2024, carrying a coupon rate of 4.85% per annum for a maturity period of 2 years (maturing on 25/04/2026). These Bonds will be auctioned and priced on Tuesday, 23/04/2024. Investors may apply for these Bonds through licensed commercial banks by completing the application form.

Security of Capital

The Bonds are direct and unconditional obligations of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman.

Fixed and Attractive Returns

Interest shall accrue from the date of issue, and will be paid semi-annually on 25 April and 25 October of every year until maturity. The first payment will be made on 25 October 2024. Interest payments will cease once the Bond matures.

Liquidity

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MSX Investor Code

Anyone who does not have MSX Investor Code, can obtain it from Muscat Clearing and Depository Co. (MCD) through their website (www.mcd.gov.om) or via Oman Stocks app at least one day prior to submitting the application to the commercial bank.

For any enquiries:

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Bank Account Details

The investor must provide the same Bank Account details registered with MCD.



Opens on Sunday, April 14th, 2024
Closes on Sunday, April 21st, 2024
Auction on Tuesday, April 23rd 2024

The minimum subscription amount is RO 100.

To view the 70th Issue of Government Development Bonds, please visit the following websites:
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Hamas rejects Israel’s ceasefire proposal

Palestinian sources said that the mediators presented a new proposal in the Cairo talks, including a three-stage ceasefire, without specifying a complete withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV: Hamas on Saturday submitted its response to Israel’s hostage deal negotiations and ceasefire and rejected the latter’s proposal, sticking to its original demands, Xinhua reported. The group said it was sticking to its original demands for a permanent ceasefire, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the entirety of Gaza, the return of Palestinians to northern Gaza and other areas, a surge in humanitarian aid and the start of the Strip’s reconstruction.



According to Xinhua, Hamas, in its statement, emphasised its readiness to conclude a “serious and genuine” prisoner-hostage exchange deal with Israel that the faction had received on April 8. Later, the Israeli Prime Minister’s office said it rejected the ‘unfounded demands’ of Hamas for an end to the Gaza war and a complete withdrawal of its troops from the enclave. In an immediate response to Hamas’ remarks, the office noted that the Israeli cabinet and the security forces were united in their opposition to these demands, Xinhua reported. The office said political instruction given to negotiations focuses on “achieving the release of our hostages and maintaining Israel’s

security”. It argued that the only obstacle to obtaining the release of the Israeli hostages is Hamas and “not any factor on the Israeli side,” and that Hamas “has refused any deal and any compromise proposal.” On Monday, Cairo hosted a new round of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas, in a new attempt to reach agreements leading to a ceasefire and a prisoner exchange. Palestinian sources said that the mediators presented a new proposal in the Cairo talks, including a three-stage ceasefire, without specifying a complete withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip. The first stage enables the return of ‘non-armed’ displaced

civilians to the northern Gaza Strip, without specifying their numbers, the opening of the Rashid and Salah al-Din streets with Israel’s forces stationed 500 metres away. It also includes entering 500 aid trucks daily into all areas of Gaza and releasing 900 Palestinian prisoners, including 100 with life sentences. The proposed second stage initiates the release of all Israeli prisoners and the conclusion of negotiations for a sustainable calm. Qatari and Egyptian mediators, in addition to the US, seek to reach a deal for a prisoner exchange and a second truce between Israel and Hamas, following the first one that lasted a week until the beginning of December, last year. -ANI

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MUMBAI’S BANDRA

Firing outside filmstar Salman’s residence



MUMBAI: Two unidentified persons opened fire outside the house of superstar Salman Khan in Mumbai’s Bandra at around 5 am on Sunday, police said. According to police officials, three rounds were fired. The Mumbai Police’s Crime Branch has reached the spot for investigation, they said. “Today at around 5 am, two unidentified people opened fire outside the house of actor Sal-

man Khan in Bandra. Police have received information about 3 rounds of firing. Mumbai Police’s Crime Branch has reached the spot for investigation,” according to Mumbai police. The security has been beefed up outside the actor’s residence, and a forensic team is also present at the spot. We are checking the CCTV footage from the area to identify the accused, the police added. -ANI

ISRAELI COLONISTS

Rising violence in West Bank echoes Gaza’s war crimes

RAMALLAH: Residents of the village of Al-Mughayyir, northeast of Ramallah, recount a night of terror, marked by unprecedented attacks carried out by Israeli colonists under the protection of the Israeli army, reminiscent of the atrocities unfolding in Gaza. The inhabitants of this village, situated on the eastern foothills of the West Bank, appear shell-shocked. They endured a night where young Jihad Affif Abu Alia, 25, was killed, and dozens were injured while homes and vehicles were set ablaze. Since dawn on Saturday, Israeli occupation forces imposed a siege on the village with military checkpoints. At the main entrance connecting Al-Mughayyir to the nearby village of Abu Falah, the charred remains of 11 vehicles torched by settlers litter the road. The situation is no better in the



eastern neighbourhoods of the village, where vehicles and homes were partially burnt. At dawn, residents ventured out to assess the damage to their properties, finding some vehicles partially damaged. Kazem Al-Hajj Muhammad, an anti-colonialism activist in Al-Mughayyir, recounts the harrowing events: “We endured a horrific

and catastrophic night, facing colonist attacks under the protection of the Israeli army.” “Over 15 vehicles were torched, homes partially burnt, and sheep pens destroyed by colonists, with the full backing of Israeli forces,” he tells Anadolu Agency. Al-Hajj Muhammad emphasises that colonists are executing

the Israeli government’s agenda of displacing Palestinians and seizing their lands. “They control everything, preventing citizens from accessing their lands and shepherds from grazing their livestock.” **Life in the village is perilous** Life in the village, he says, is perilous and fraught with complexity. Meanwhile, Osama Jabr Abu Alia inspects his home and those of his brothers in the town, remarking, “Nearly 1,500 armed colonists attacked us. What can we do?” He adds, “We’re no better than our brethren in Gaza; our homes and vehicles were destroyed, and three of my brothers were shot, along with four of our children who were hospitalized.” “What happened is beyond imagination; everything is targeted, from humans to rocks and trees, even animals, some of which were

slaughtered,” Abu Alia remarks. He reveals that colonists seized 50 sheep belonging to his cousins. Abu Aliaa inspects the burnt homes, noting, “We barely managed to evacuate our family, or else we would have lost them.” In the village, Tamer Abu Alia surveys his home and two vehicles, remarking, “Thank God, wealth can be replaced, but the safety of the family is paramount.” He points out that colonists burnt two of his vehicles and parts of his home, while he rescued his family and a herd of sheep from the colonists’ gunfire. On Saturday evening, colonists renewed their attack on the village, injuring six civilians with live ammunition, one critically. They set ablaze a home in the village belonging to Khamees Abu Alia and torched a fire truck heading to extinguish the flames. Additionally, they fired upon the

funeral procession of the martyr Jihad Affif Abu Alia. Simultaneously, with Israel’s ongoing and intensified onslaught on Gaza, Israeli occupation forces and colonist militias have been taking turns attacking defenceless Palestinian villages and communities in the West Bank, killing 463 Palestinians, injuring 4,750 and arresting 8,215 others since October 7, 2023. Despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and its unprecedented appearance before the International Court of Justice on charges of genocide, the Israeli onslaught persists. The aggression on the Gaza Strip has left over 100,000 Palestinians killed and wounded, mostly children and women, alongside immense destruction and famine, claiming the lives of many innocents. -WAPA

FLOODING

Flood waters peak in Russia’s southern Orenburg region



SPRING FLOODING: Water has begun draining from more than 1,500 homes and 1,400 gardens, the regional administration said.. -ONA

MOSCOW: The spring flooding that has hit the Russian region around Orenburg - some 1,200 kilometres to the south-east of Moscow - has passed its peak, local authorities in the region reported on Sunday. Water has begun draining from more than 1,500 homes and 1,400 gardens, the regional administration said. Water levels in the Ural River have fallen sharply in the city of Orsk, near the border with Kazakhstan. The city was hit by flooding some 10 days ago. In the regional capital of Orenburg, also on the Ural, levels reached a peak of 11.87 metres last Saturday, almost 2.5 metres

above the critical level. A slight decline of some five centimetres was recorded today in the city of around half a million residents. Water levels on the Tobol river in Siberia’s Kurgan region were continuing to rise, however. The spring floods in the region have been more marked than usual this year after heavy winter snowfall. Kazakhstan to the south has also been badly hit. Damage to homes in the region has affected hundreds of thousands of people, with the authorities reporting the evacuation of 16,500 people up to today, according to the Russian TASS news agency.

HIJACKED SHIP MV ABDULLAH

Somali pirates free Bangladesh cargo ship after ransom paid

CHITTAGONG: Somali pirates released the hijacked ship MV Abdullah on Sunday after its Bangladeshi owners reportedly paid a \$5 million (€4.7 million) ransom. Meherul Karim, CEO of shipping company KSRM, said the 23 crew members had been released unharmed. “The pirates called us when they reached near the Somalia coast” and one of them spoke English, Karim told reporters in Chittagong, Bangladesh, on Sunday. “He communicated with us till we finalised the negotiation,” he added. “We will not discuss or reveal the amount of ransom money.” The wife of the ship’s master told the AFP news agency that an airplane dropped three sacks filled with US dollars onto the ship. News agency Reuters reported that the ransom was \$5 million, citing two of the Somali pirates on the ship. “The money was brought to us two nights ago as usual... we checked whether the money was fake or not. Then we divided the money into groups and left, avoiding the government forces,” Abdirashid Yusuf, one of the pirates, told Reuters. The MV Abdullah is a bulk carrier that was transporting more than 55,000 tonnes of coal from Mozambique to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

SYDNEY MALL

No ideological motivation in Sydney stabbing, say police

SYDNEY: The man who fatally stabbed six people in a Sydney mall had previous mental health issues, the authorities said on Sunday, clarifying that there was no ideological motivation behind the incident. The police have spoken to the attacker’s family, New South Wales Police Assistant Commissioner Anthony Cooke told a press conference. He was known to the police in the neighbouring state of Queensland. “We are continuing to work through the profiling of the offender but very clearly to us, at this stage, it would appear that this is related to the mental health of the individual involved,” Cooke said. Terrorism did not emerge as a motivation. “There is still to this point, nothing that we have, no information we received, no evidence we have recovered or intelligence that we have gathered that would suggest that this was driven by any particular motivation, ideology or otherwise.” The attacker had recently moved to Sydney. The police searched a small storage facility he had recently rented but found no major evidence to indicate an attack was imminent. The 40-year-old assailant fatally knifed six people and injured at least 12 before he was shot dead by Inspector Amy Scott, who confronted him solo while he was on the rampage.



Those injured include a nine-month-old baby, who was in a serious but stable condition, according to the police. The baby’s mother, Ashlee Good, died in hospital from her injuries, her family said in a statement. Witnesses described how the assailant – wearing shorts and an Australian national rugby league jersey – ran through the Westfield Bondi Junction mall with a knife and randomly attacked people. “This was a terrible scene,” Cooke said. By Sunday, more accounts of the incident emerged. Several individuals attempted to stop the attacker who was finally shot by

Scott. “We have seen the footage of ordinary Australians putting themselves in harm’s way in order to help their fellow citizens. That bravery was quite extraordinary,” Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Sunday. “It’s the best of Australians amidst this tragedy.” New South Wales state Premier Chris Minns also tried to comfort the masses. “The individual stories of those who have been killed, the complete strangers rushing in to help as well as acts of courage and bravery mean that – whether you know the individuals who have been killed or not – you’re grieving today,” he said. -DW

Iran launches drones, missiles on Israel for Syria consulate attack

The Israeli military said that it and its allies intercepted many of the projectiles

TEHRAN: In a major escalation amid the ongoing military offensive on Hamas in Gaza, Iran launched several drones and missiles towards Israel in retaliation to the air strike on its consulate in Syria that resulted in the killing of three top generals.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issued a statement confirming its launch of an attack on Israel, saying it was in response to the Israel Defence Force's (IDF) strike on a consular compound in Damascus in which several IRGC members were killed, including two generals, earlier this month.

The IRGC says it will hit specific targets in Israel with dozens of drones and missiles, apparently cruise missiles.

This comes nearly two weeks after Israel carried out an air strike on the Iranian consulate in the Syrian capital Damascus, killing seven members of IRGC, including three top generals.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) also confirmed the launch of Iranian drones towards their territory, saying they were on high alert.

"Iran launched UAVs from its territory towards the territory of



the state of Israel," Israel's army's spokesman, Daniel Hagari, said on Saturday, Al Jazeera reported.

"We are on high alert and ready," he added, speaking in a televised address, saying the drones would take several hours before reaching Israel's airspace.

The launch of Tehran's promised reprisal for the consulate strike, citing viral footage circulating on social media, purportedly showing an Iranian Shahed 136 drone streaking the skies over Iraq en-route to Israel.

Israel has been on heightened alert since its strike on Damascus on April 1, while not issuing any public or official statement on the attack.

Iran vowed revenge, raising fears of a further escalation in tensions in West Asia amid the fierce offensive on Hamas in response to the terror attacks in southern Israel on October 7, last year.

Earlier, on Saturday, Iranian armed forces seized a container ship linked to Israel near the Strait of Hormuz.

Responding to the incident, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country was prepared for a "direct attack from Iran".

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel was "closely monitoring a planned attack" against it by Iran and its allies in the region.

Attack 'achieved all its objectives,' says Iranian army

The drone and missile attack on Israel by the Iranian army was a complete success, according to the Iranian armed forces' chief of staff.

"Operation Honest Promise... was completed successfully from last night to this morning and achieved all its objectives," Mohammad Bagheri told state TV.

99% of Iranian missiles and drones intercepted: Israeli military spokesman

Israel and its allies intercepted 99% of the more than 300 Iranian drones and missiles sent toward Israeli territory, according to Israeli military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari.

Hagari said that the interceptions represented "a very significant strategic success" and that "the Iranian attack was foiled."

He added that Israeli armed forces remained fully functional and were discussing follow-up options.

He said Iran fired 170 drones, more than 30 cruise missiles and more than 120 ballistic missiles.

Several ballistic missiles made it through to Israeli territory, causing minor damage to an air base, he said. Hagari described Iran's actions as "very grave".

Response will be 'stronger, more resolute' if Israel attacks again, says Iran

TEHRAN: Following its attack on Israel with drone strikes in the late hours on Saturday, Iran, in a letter to the United Nations, emphasised that it will not hesitate to exercise its inherent right of self defense when required, adding that if Israel commits any military aggression again, their response will be "stronger" and "more resolute."

The Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN confirmed that the Iranian attack was in response to Israeli recurring military aggressions, particularly its armed attack on April 1 against Iranian diplomatic premises, killing seven members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including three top generals.

"This action was in the exercise of Iran's inherent right to self-defence as outlined in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and in response to the Israeli recurring military aggressions, particularly its armed attack on 1st April 2024 against Iranian diplomatic premises, in the defiance of Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations," the Permanent Mis-

sion of Iran to the UN stated.

Iran, in its letter, further said that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) failed in its duty to maintain international peace and security.

"Regrettably, the United Nations Security Council has failed in its duty to maintain international peace and security, allowing the Israeli regime to transgress red lines and violate the fundamental principles of international law," it added in its letter.

Iran stressed that these violations have exacerbated tensions in the region and threatened regional and international peace and security.

"As a responsible Member of the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and international law, and reiterates its consistent position that it does not seek escalation or conflict in the region," Iran said.

It further reaffirmed its unwavering determination to defend its people, national security and territorial integrity against acts of aggression. **-ANI**

IRAN'S ATTACK

US President to convene G7 leaders to coordinate 'diplomatic response'

WASHINGTON, DC: In its support for Israel, US President Joe Biden condemned Iran's attack on Israeli soil, adding that he will convene G7 leaders on Monday to coordinate a united diplomatic response.

"Earlier today, Iran--and its proxies operating out of Yemen, Syria and Iraq--launched an unprecedented air attack against military facilities in Israel. I condemn these attacks in the strongest possible terms," Biden said, according to the White House statement.

The US had already moved his aircraft and ballistic missile defense destroyers to Israel over the past week, that helped Israel take down almost all the incoming drones and missiles.

"At my direction, to support the defense of Israel, the U.S. military moved aircraft and ballistic missile defense destroyers to the region over the course of the past week. Thanks to these deployments and the extraordinary skill of our servicemembers, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles," he added.

US President Biden also held talks with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and reaffirmed the



US's "ironclad" commitment to Israel's security.

"I've just spoken with Prime Minister Netanyahu to reaffirm America's ironclad commitment to the security of Israel. I told him that Israel demonstrated a remarkable capacity to defend against and defeat even unprecedented attacks - sending a clear message to its foes that they cannot effectively threaten the security of Israel," he said.

"Tomorrow, I will convene my fellow G7 leaders to coordinate a united diplomatic response to Iran's brazen attack. My team will

engage with their counterparts across the region," he highlighted.

The Group of Seven (G7) countries include the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Moreover, Biden reaffirmed that the US will be in close touch with Israeli leaders.

"And we will stay in close touch with Israel's leaders. And while we have not seen attacks on our forces or facilities today, we will remain vigilant to all threats and will not hesitate to take all necessary action to protect our people," he added.

NATO calls Iran's attack an 'escalation,' urges restraint

NATO on Sunday condemned Iran's overnight attack on Israel as "escalation" of regional unrest and urged restraint on all sides.

"We condemn Iran's overnight escalation, call for restraint, and are monitoring developments closely. It is vital that the conflict in the Middle East does not spiral out of control," spokesperson Farah Dakhllallah said.

China 'deeply concerned' about Mideast situation

China has said it is "deeply concerned" about escalating tensions in the Middle East after Iran's retaliatory strike against Israel, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Sunday.

"China calls on relevant parties to remain calm and exercise restraint to avoid further escalation of tensions," the spokesperson said in a statement to reporters that was also posted on the ministry's website.

"China calls on the international community, especially influential countries, to play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace and stability," the spokesperson said in the statement. **-Agencies**

MOHAJER 10 DRONES



'Israel equipped for Iran's drones, but 'every system is breachable'

BERLIN: Marina Miron, a researcher at the War Studies Department at King's College London, told DW that it was likely Iran used Mohajer 10 drones for its attack.

Miron said these were "the only drones that Iran could use, at least from what we know Iran has in its arsenal, which would have the necessary equipment to reach Israel."

"These are long-range drones which can fly up to 24 hours," Miron said, but not at very high speeds. The Mohajer 10 is only capable of speeds of just over 200 kilometres or 120 miles per hour.

"It seems to be that these drones have been spotted very early on, they are fairly slow," Miron said. "So the IDF is aware of the fact that they are coming. ... It's not an unexpected move."

Miron said it was "absolutely" possible for Israel to intercept Mohajer 10's, but that the questions would ultimately be how many were launched, what else Iran might fire, and whether Tehran's proxies would try to saturate Israel's air defences.

Israel has well-developed missile interception systems, often referred to as its "Iron Dome," but Miron warned that no systems could guarantee total coverage.

"It is breachable and we have

seen it after the October 7 attacks," she said. "Every air defense system is to a certain extent breachable."

From a military perspective, Miron said, it was "surprising that Iran, knowing the potential consequences, has actually gone for an attack from its own soil."

Had its goals been to maximize damage in Israel — and to shield itself from potential ramifications — using its proxies might have made more sense, Miron said.

"They can act much faster. And they would rob Israel, and the United States, of the possibility to launch a counterattack on Iranian soil," she said.

France major contributor to Israel's defence: Military spokesman

France was one of the allies that helped ward off the Iranian attack overnight, according to Israeli military spokesman.

"France has very good technology, jets, radar — and I know they were contributing in patrolling airspace," he said.

He added, however, that he had no concrete information on whether French jets had shot down any of the missiles launched by Iran.

France has vehemently condemned the Iranian attack. **-DW**

STRONG CONDEMNATION

UN chief condemns Iranian drone strikes

NEW YORK: Coming out with a strong condemnation of the Iranian drone strikes on Israel in reprisal for the earlier attack on its embassy in Syria, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for an immediate cessation of hostilities on Sunday.

Seized of the further escalation in the continuing tensions in West Asia, the UN chief said he was deeply alarmed by the events, while urging both the countries to exercise restraint.

"I strongly condemn the serious escalation represented by the large-scale attack launched on Israel by the Islamic Republic of Iran this evening. I call for an immediate cessation of these hostilities. I am deeply alarmed about the very real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation," Guterres



said in a statement.

"I urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avoid any action that could lead to major military confrontations on multiple fronts in the Middle East. I have repeatedly stressed that neither the region nor the world can afford another war," he added.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor

Olaf Scholz came out in support of Israel, saying the drone strikes by Iran were 'unjustifiable' and 'high irresponsible'.

"The attack on Israeli territory that Iran launched tonight is unjustifiable and highly irresponsible. Iran risks a further escalation in the region. Germany stands by Israel and we will discuss the situation with our allies," the German Chancellor posted from his X handle.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry also expressed concern over the "recent military escalations" in the region and their "potential severe repercussions", following Iranian drone and missile attacks directed at Israel, according to a statement published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on X.

"The Ministry reaffirms the

Kingdom's position that stresses the need for the (UN) Security Council to take responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, especially in this highly sensitive region for global peace and security," the Saudi Foreign Ministry added in an official statement.

The ministry stressed the need for "preventing any further exacerbation" of the crisis, warning of "dire consequences" should the situation worsen.

According to CNN, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez also expressed his 'utmost concern' following Iran's reprisal attack on Israel.

"Sanchez said his country was in touch with its embassies in the region "to serve Spaniards in the area." **-ANI**

T

SPORTS

IPL 2024



Salt, Starc star in KKR's thumping victory over LSG



KOLKATA: Phil Salt's hitting and Mitchell Starc's tight spell powered Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to an easy eight-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Starc picked up important LSG wickets to finish with 3 for 28, his best figures of the season, while Salt led the charge in the chase with an unbeaten 47-ball 89 along with an unbeaten 38 from skipper Shreyas Iyer. KKR now sit second on the points table, having begun a string of five straight home games in fabulous fashion.

KKR were also left chasing a comfortable target courtesy their spinners' efforts in the middle overs; they did not let LSG break away despite having wickets in

hand. Sunil Narine took 1 for 17 in four while Varun Chakravarthy claimed 1 for 30. Together, their eight overs went for only 5.88 per over.

As for LSG, there were two silver linings, provided by Nicholas Pooran and Mohsin Khan. From No. 6, Pooran struck four sixes and two fours to make a 32-ball 45 to give LSG a competitive total while Mohsin picked up the only two KKR wickets to fall, both in the powerplay.

Brief scores: Lucknow Super Giants 161/7 (KL Rahul 39, Nicolas Pooran 45, Ayush Badoni 29; Mitchell Starc 3-28) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 162/2 in 15.4 overs (Phil Salt 89*, Shreyas Iyer 38*; Mohsin Khan 2/29). - Agencies

Khushi and Ilyas lead Oman to dominant win over Cambodia



The rain-shortened game in the ACC Premier Cup saw Khushi hit a quick half-century and Ilyas bag a hat-trick at the Oman Cricket Academy ground

MUSCAT: In a display of formidable batting prowess and masterful spin bowling, Naseem Khushi and Aqib Ilyas propelled Oman to a commanding 63-run victory against Cambodia at the Oman Cricket Academy ground in a rain-shortened Group B match of the ACC Premier Cup at the Oman Cricket Academy ground on Sunday.

With back-to-back victories Oman, captained by Zeeshan Maqsood, are top of the table on better net run-rate (+2.129) than UAE (+1.642), who too have four points from two wins.

After two games each by the five teams in the group, Kuwait have two points while Bahrain and Cambodia have yet to open their accounts.

Despite a delayed start and a truncated game reduced to 11 overs per side due to inclement weather, Oman asserted their dominance early on.

Put to bat first after Cambodia won the toss, Oman posted a challenging total of 154/6, with Khushi leading the charge with a scintillating innings, supported by valuable contributions from Ayaan Khan, Khalid Kail, and Rafiullah.

In reply, Cambodia faced an uphill task chasing a target of 155 runs. Despite a promising start from their openers, they faltered against the spin of Aqib Ilyas, who



claimed a mesmerising hat-trick and finished with figures of 4/17 runs. Despite a promising start from their openers, they faltered against the spin of Aqib Ilyas, who

lone battle for Cambodia with an unbeaten 41, but lacked support from his team-mates as Oman's bowlers kept a tight rein on the scoring.

Cambodia openers, Uday Hathinjar and Ram Sharan, began well but Mehran Khan claimed his first of the two victims as he sent back Sharan. Butt and Hathinjar then steadied the ship but Mehran castled latter in the fifth over with Cambodia 41/2.

It was the next over that derailed the chase as Ilyas picked his hat-trick. Off the fourth delivery, he had Vimukthi Viraj caught by Kashyap Prajapati. The next ball, he clean bowled Etienne Beukes, and off the final ball also cleaned up Sharwan Godara to leave Cambodia reeling at 44/5 in the sixth over.

Maqsood then removed Lakshit Gupta in the next over as the team struggled to finish at 91/7.

Earlier, opting to field first after winning the toss, Cambodia hoped to capitalise on the overcast conditions and made a perfect start as Oman opener Kashyap Prajapati was dismissed in the first over.

Khushi and No.1 batter Ilyas then stitched a first-wicket stand as Oman scored 40 in the power-play (three overs).

Khushi led the charge with a scintillating innings, reaching his fifty off just 22 balls and equalling his career-best T20I score of 69 off just 27 deliveries in the process. His belligerent knock was peppered with six sixes and six boundaries.

Ayaan Khan (16 off 7 balls, 2x6), Khalid Kail (19* off 9 balls, 2x4, 1x6), and Rafiullah (23 off 8 balls, 2x4, 2x6), who played cameo innings, helped the hosts put up a challenging total.

Oman's next challenge awaits against UAE on Monday, with the victor poised to secure the group's top spot.

Meanwhile, Nepal leads Group A with four points from two matches.

Brief scores: Oman 154/7 in 11 overs (Naseem Khushi 69, Ayaan Khan 16, Khalid Kail 19*, Rafiullah 23; Sharwan Godara 2/25, Utkarsh Jain 2/26, Vimukthi Viraj 2/32) beat Cambodia 91/7 in 11 overs (Luqman Butt 41*, Aqib Ilyas 4/17, Mehran Khan 2/10).

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GERMAN PORT STRATEGY
Growing threats and the need to bolster competitiveness have prompted the German government to start work on a national port strategy. Germany's largest port Hamburg is known as the country's "gateway to the world." However, this has fundamentally changed.

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,700.59 points, up by 0.08 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.68 per cent at 452.50 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Gases, down 9.66 per cent, was the top loser.

Bank Muscat Money Market Fund registers strong performance

With Assets Under Management (AUM) at over OMR91 million at the end of February 2024, the Fund retains its top position as the largest open-ended mutual fund in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat Money Market Fund, Oman's first money market fund, registered a strong performance with net annual returns of 5.20% realised for investors by the end of February 2024.

With Assets Under Management (AUM) at over OMR91 million at the end of February 2024, the Fund retains its top position as the largest open-ended mutual fund in Oman. The superior performance and growth in the Fund's assets are also recognition of the popularity of the Fund amongst investors.

The fund offers an attractive cash management tool for investors to invest their short-term cash surpluses at an attractive return with relatively low risk (for details, please refer to the Prospectus Chapter 7: Risk factors and mitigation available on www.bankmuscat.com). The current annualized rate of return on the Fund exceeds 5 per cent (as 29th February 2024), which is higher than the interest rates typically available on alternatives that provide short to medium term investment opportunity with relatively low risk. Accordingly, investors can benefit from higher returns on their cash surpluses by investing

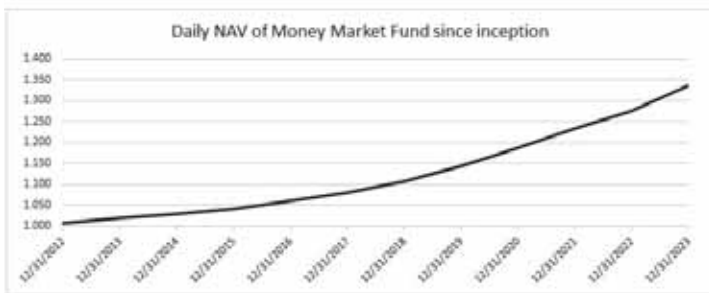


in the Bank Muscat Money Market Fund. The table below illustrates the rates of return realised from the Fund across different periods:

Period	Annualised returns
1 month	5.20%
3 months	5.19%
6 months	5.12%
12 months	4.89%

As on 29th February, 2024

The Fund offers daily liquidity with one day minimum holding period, i.e., the investment period can be as short as one day. Further, investors have the flexibility to withdraw their investments, fully or partly, together with returns earned for each day of their investment in the Fund and the total proceeds of their investments



would be credited in their bank account within two days from the date of submission of the redemption request. Investors can subscribe to the Fund with a minimum subscription amount as low as OMR500 per transaction for both individuals and institutions investors. Further, the Fund does not charge any subscription or redemption fees and it has had a track record of consistent performance for more than 11 years. The chart below depicts the steady

growth in the fund's NAV since its inception in June 2012.

Bank Muscat Money Market Fund predominately invests in deposits and fixed-income instruments of leading financial institutions in Oman and GCC region and its investments are primarily held in Omani Rials or US Dollars. The Fund is regulated by the Capital Market Authority and is an open-ended fund with its Net Asset Value (NAV) being published on a daily basis on Bank Muscat's

website as well as Muscat Stock Exchange's website, so that investors can track the value of their investments on a regular basis.

The Fund provides the added facility of convenient sweep-in and sweep-out from investors' bank accounts with Bank Muscat. This enables investors to invest and redeem from the Fund in a simple way, through an email instruction to the Fund's designated team. During 2023, the Fund was also made available on Bank Muscat's Internet Banking and Mobile Banking (IBMB) platforms – another first in Oman, making it convenient for Bank Muscat's customers to subscribe into and redeem out of the Fund by using their existing IBMB platforms. Alternatively, application forms can be downloaded from Bank Muscat's website www.bankmuscat.com or can be obtained from the Fund's Investor Servicing Desk which can

be contacted at 24768064.

Bank Muscat's Asset Management business has a proven track record of successful operations for almost 30 years and today the business is the largest asset manager in Oman and one of the leading asset managers in the GCC region, with approximately \$2.9 billion of AUM. It offers tailored investment solutions across asset classes including equity, fixed income, real estate and private equity investments.

Please refer to the prospectus of Bank Muscat Money Market Fund available on www.bankmuscat.com to understand the Fund's details including key terms and conditions. Investors are also requested to refer to the key risk factors highlighted in the prospectus. It should be noted that the mutual fund returns are subject to market performance and past performance doesn't guarantee future performance.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES



India forex reserves rise for seventh week to reach fresh peak

NEW DELHI: India's foreign exchange reserves rose for the seventh straight week to hit a fresh all-time high of \$648.562 billion in the week ending on April 5, as per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The foreign exchange kitty was at \$645.583 billion prior to the week that ended on April 5.

India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the biggest component of the forex reserves rose by \$549 million to \$571.166 billion, the central bank's weekly statistical data showed.

Gold reserves during the week rose by \$2.398 billion to \$54.558 billion.

In the calendar year 2023, the RBI added about \$58 billion to its foreign exchange kitty. In 2022, India's forex kitty slumped by \$71 billion cumulatively.

Foreign exchange reserves have risen about \$28 billion, on a cumulative basis, in 2024 so far.

Forex reserves, or foreign exchange reserves (FX reserves), are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary

authority. It is generally held in reserve currencies, usually the US Dollar and, to a lesser degree, the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling.

The country's foreign exchange reserves last touched their all-time high in October 2021. Much of the decline after that can be attributed to a rise in the cost of imported goods in 2022.

Also, the relative fall in forex reserves could be linked to the RBI's intervention, from time to time, in the market to defend the uneven depreciation in the rupee against a surging US dollar.

Typically, the RBI, from time to time, intervenes in the market through liquidity management, including through the sale of dollars, to prevent a steep depreciation in the rupee.

The RBI closely monitors the foreign exchange markets and intervenes only to maintain orderly market conditions by containing excessive volatility in the exchange rate, without reference to any pre-determined target level or band. **ANI**

REPORT

Green hydrogen electrolyser market in key Asian nations set to reach \$180bn by 2050

NEW DELHI: The green hydrogen electrolyser market is projected to reach \$180 billion in key Asian markets by 2050 with India among the countries set to drive the growth, according to a new report.

India's green hydrogen market is set to reach \$78 billion by 2050, up from \$4 billion in 2030, as per the study to reach \$180 billion by 2050 for key industrial applications, said the report High-level Policy Commission on Getting Asia to Net Zero convened by the Asia Society Policy Institute.

Titled 'Green Hydrogen for Decarbonizing Asia's Industrial Giants', the report released on Friday in New Delhi forecasts a substantial expansion in the green hydrogen market, particularly in key industrial applications to meet Net Zero targets.

The report assesses the future potential and trajectory for electrolyzers needed to meet green Hydrogen (H2) demand in China, India, Japan, and South Korea.

The study, carried out by Global Efficiency Intelligence, looks at the role of green H2 in three priority industries—steel, ammonia, and methanol—under various decarbonization scenarios. In these sectors, green H2 can significantly reduce emissions by replacing carbon-intensive processes with renewable energy-powered electrolysis.

"Net zero targets in Asia's four largest economies could substantially expand the market for green hydrogen (H2) electrolyzers, with the combined potential in these countries projected to reach USD180 billion by 2050 for key industrial applications," the report said.

The analysis projects massive



growth in the market potential of green H2 electrolyzers for the three industries by 2050- China will grow to USD 85 billion by 2050, up from USD 22 billion in 2030; India to USD 78 billion by 2050, up from USD 4 billion in 2030; Japan: USD 9 billion by 2050, up from USD 1 billion in 2030 and South Korea: USD 8 billion by 2050, up from USD 1 billion in 2030.

Ali Hasanbeigi, Founder, CEO, and Research Director at Global

Efficiency Intelligence, said, "Using green H2 in H2-DRI steelmaking, and producing green ammonia and methanol is essential to decarbonize these key sectors. Our analysis shows there is a massive electrolyzer market potential in these major Asian countries and those who capitalize on it stand to gain substantially."

Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, said that India, with its vast renewable energy resources, also has the opportunity to produce Green

Hydrogen for the world."

"I congratulate the Asia Society Policy Institute for releasing the Green Hydrogen for Decarbonising Asia's Industrial Giants report, which showcases the need to transform the hard-to-abate sectors of the economy, including steel and fertilizers. As India has set its sights on becoming energy-independent by 2047 and achieving Net Zero by 2070, we recognise the critical role of Green Hydrogen," he said. **ANI**

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Gases, down 9.66 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,700.59 points, up by 0.08 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.68 per cent at 452.50 points. Barka Water & Power Company, up 9.80 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Gases, down 9.66 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Cables Industry were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 1114 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR3.6 million, with more than 17.91 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded securities, 10 advanced, 24 declined, and 17 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR307,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR231,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR76,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,661.77 points, up 0.47 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, Bank Nizwa, Ominvest, Al Madina Investments, Financial Corporation were up by 6.67 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 2.00 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.70 per cent respectively. Prices of United Finance, Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, National Bank Oman, Al Madina Takaful were down by 3.23 per cent, 3.13 per cent, 2.35 per cent, 1.88 per cent, 1.21 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,810.60 points, down 0.78 per cent. Prices of Oman Cement, Gulf Mushroom Products, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 2.86 per cent, 1.70 per cent, 1.17 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, Gulf International Chemicals, Raysut Cement, Voltamp Energy were down by 9.50 per cent, 4.14 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 0.79 per cent, 0.37 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.77 per cent before closing at 1,854.28 points. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company were up by 9.80 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, Oman National Engineering, Dhofar Generating, Al Jazeera Services, Ooredoo were down by 9.66 per cent, 4.07 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.96 per cents respectively – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,706.46	4,682.36	4,700.59	4,696.81	3.78	0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,673.37	7,612.08	7,661.77	7,625.61	36.16	0.47
Industry Index	5,848.31	5,785.61	5,810.60	5,856.29	-45.69	-0.78
Services Index	1,869.86	1,854.28	1,854.28	1,868.62	-14.34	-0.77
MSX Shariah Index	454.97	452.05	452.50	455.62	-3.11	-0.68
MSX TR INDEX	6,508.00	6,474.68	6,499.89	6,494.66	5.23	0.08
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,656.61	8,587.47	8,643.53	8,602.73	40.80	0.47
SERVICES TR IDX	2,160.59	2,142.58	2,142.58	2,159.15	-16.57	-0.77
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,733.64	6,661.45	6,690.22	6,742.83	-52.60	-0.78
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,025.49	1,025.49	1,025.49	1,025.49	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
17,910,798	3,601,957	1,114	24,082,871,245	10	24	17	51

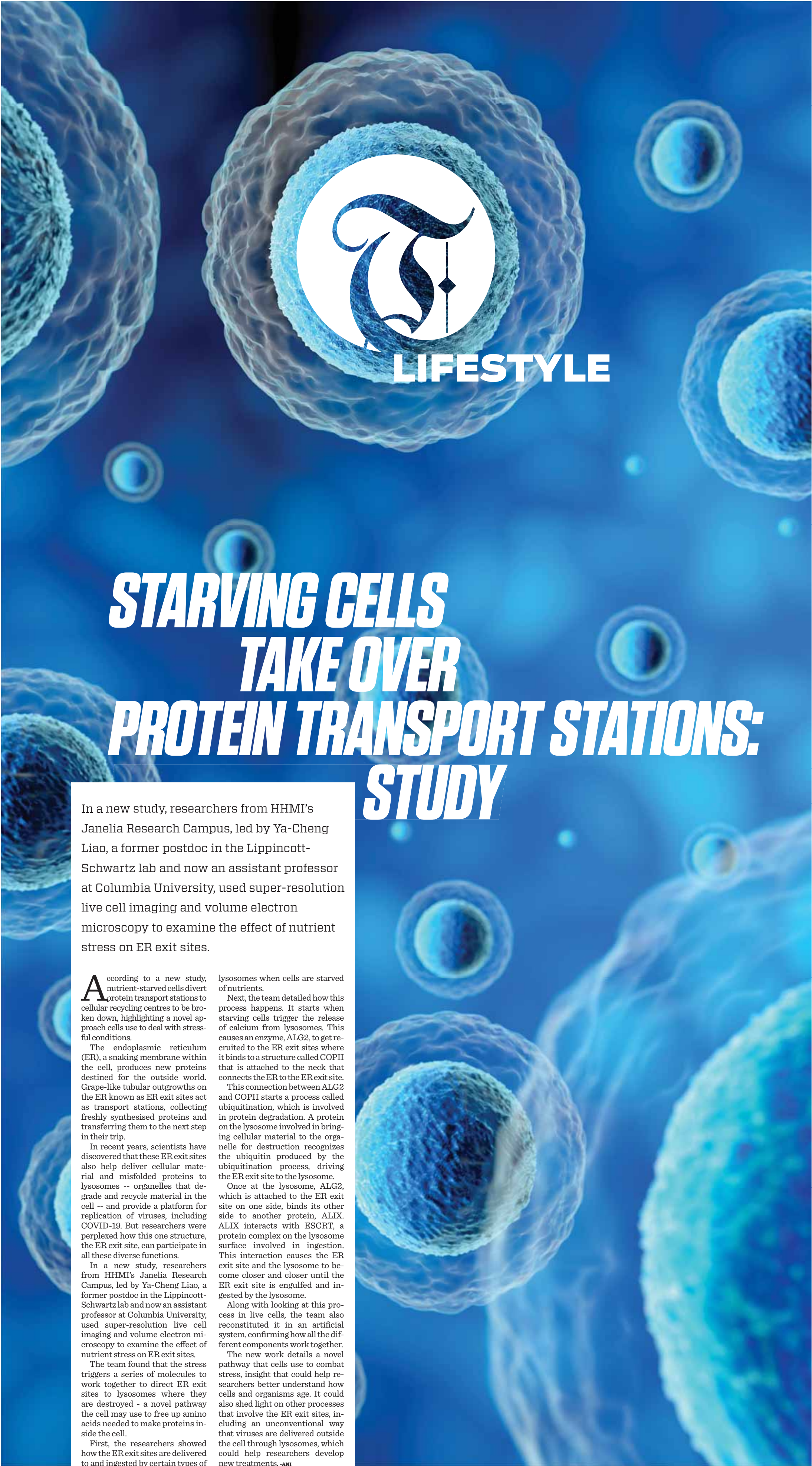
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 14

REGULAR MARKET

SEC. NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP	
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	12,300	4,428	5	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.350	0.010	2.857	0.360	0.353	0.360	0.100	119,114,176	
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	67,341	27,522	13	0.405	0.409	0.405	0.409	0.008	1.995	0.409	0.409	0.409	0.100	273,361,459	
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	48,527	12,824	12	0.259	0.260	0.258	0.260	0.257	0.003	1.167	0.260	0.260	0.272	0.100	32,473,470
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,330,607	353,913	50	0.265	0.267	0.265	0.265	0.000	0.000	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.100	1,888,195,221	
OM0000003396	SCHAH INTERNATIONAL BANK	1,508,806	168,109	41	0.112	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	624,651,562	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	247,000	76,254	22	0.310	0.311	0.306	0.310	0.311	-0.001	-0.322	0.310	0.295	0.311	0.100	61,887,036
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	565,812	46,415	46	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.082	0.084	0.100	14,350,000
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	13,642	5,466	8	0.402	0.402	0.400	0.400	0.406	-0.006	-1.478	0.400	0.400	0.430	0.100	94,564,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	45,433	47,277	31	1.055	1.055	1.039	1.039	1.055	-0.016	-1.517	1.039	1.039	1.039	0.100	779,250,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	15,869	4,152	8	0.261	0.262	0.261	0.261	0.266	-0.005	-1.880	0.261	0.261	0.270	0.100	424,371,999
OM0000003988	OOREDOO	940,515	282,921	61	0.305	0.305	0.299	0.300	0.306	-0.006	-1.961	0.300	0.299	0.300	0.100	195,263,269
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	12,000	2,880	2	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.245	-0.005	-2.041	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	14,689,026
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	41,900	3,478	4	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.085	-0.002	-2.353	0.083	0.083	0.085	0.100	10,115,625
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	174,625	11,175	10	0.064	0.064	0.062	0.062	0.064	-0.002	-3.125	0.062	0.062	0.064	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	163,280	9,797	9	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.062	-0.002	-3.226	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	21,367,638
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	43,572	5,177	6	0.120	0.120	0.118	0.118	0.123	-0.005	-4.065	0.118	0.118	0.121	0.100	17,700,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	375,596	60,491	35	0.162	0.162	0.160	0.162	0.169	-0.007	-4.142	0.162	0.162	0.162	0.100	5,910,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	494,391	89,953	68	0.180	0.184	0.180	0.181	0.200	-0.019	-9.500	0.181	0.181	0.181	0.100	39,820,000
Total	6,102,218	1,212,233	461													

Parallel Market

OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	1,866,162	609,348	104	0.310	0.336	0.310	0.336	0.306	0.030	9.804	0.336	0.336	0.336	0.100	53,760,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	26,649	4,194	7	0.158	0.160	0.153	0.160	0.150	0.010	6.667	0.160	0.153	0.160	0.100	375,945,195
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	1,700	133	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.003	4.000	0.078	0.074	0.080	0.100	38,285,238	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	111,583	11,065	24	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.098	0.002	2.041	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.100	223,695,303
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	89,231	5,175	5	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	4,930,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	64,957	15,460	14	0.239	0.239	0.235	0.239	0.235	0.004	1.702	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.100	10,938,026
OM0000002911	FINANCIAL CORPORATION	1,060	64	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.001	1.685	0.060	0.060	0.064	0.100	4,201,798
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	9,000	4,500	1	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.480	0.500	0.100	78,750,000	
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	4,368	297	3	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.072	0.100	1,114,799
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	2,845	498	1	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.160	0.175	0.100	100,398,249
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	7,539	2,940	3	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.390	0.380	0.390	0.100	46,800,000	
OM0000004669	SHARIQAH DESALINATION	105,896	14,064	3	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.125	0.133	0.100	15,007,687
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	131,083	14,476	7	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.119	0.100	105,002,915
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	11,700	632	3	0.056	0.056	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.054	0.057	0.100	13,500,000
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	28,100	1,714	7	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.000	0.000	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.100	88,216,689
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	49,800	3,837	6	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.079	0.100	11,977,381
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	370	107	1	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.000	0.000	0.288	0.288	0.300	0.100	20,272,320
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	1,200	146	2	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.000	0.121	0.100	61,988,633
OM0000008894	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	353,123	108,775	51	0.307	0.310	0.306	0.308	0.308	0.000	0.000	0.308	0.290	0.308	0.100	237,221,600
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	254,820	639,598	8	2.510	2.515	2.510	2.510	2.515	-0.005	-0.199	2.510	2.300	2.510	0.100	225,147,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	109,750	29,693	16	0.279	0.285	0.269	0.269	0.270	-0.001	-0.370	0.269	0.270	0.270	0.100	21,897,340
OM0000009672	QAGAS NETWORKS	3,342,456	481,301	140	0.144	0.145	0.143	0.144	0.145	-0.001	-0.690	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.100	623,639,944
OM0000004118	RAYSUT CEMENT	38,177	4,897	6	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.126	-0.001	-0.794	0.125	0.123	0.126	0.100	25,000,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	400	38	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.092	0.098	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAB INVESTMENT	2,346,995	211,245	96	0.090	0.091	0.089	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	18,540,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	720,400	59,422	22	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.082	0.083	-0.001	-1.205	0.082	0.080	0.100	54,841,230	
OM0000004825	ALBATHINAH POWER	1,872,661	146,852	96	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.078	0.084	0.100	53,316,107
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	20,000	1,800	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.093	-0.003	-3.228	0.090	0.085	0.090	0.100	1,890,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	176,000	15,945	17	0.090	0.093	0.090	0.090	0.093	-0.003	-3.228	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	20,001,600
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	4,140	381	2	0.148	0.148	0.131	0.131	0.145	-0.014	-9.655	0.131	0.131	0.137	0.100	3,930,000
Total	30	11,753,145	2,388,868	649												



LIFESTYLE

**STARVING CELLS
TAKE OVER
PROTEIN TRANSPORT STATIONS:
STUDY**

In a new study, researchers from HHMI's Janelia Research Campus, led by Ya-Cheng Liao, a former postdoc in the Lippincott-Schwartz lab and now an assistant professor at Columbia University, used super-resolution live cell imaging and volume electron microscopy to examine the effect of nutrient stress on ER exit sites.

According to a new study, nutrient-starved cells divert protein transport stations to cellular recycling centres to be broken down, highlighting a novel approach cells use to deal with stressful conditions.

The endoplasmic reticulum (ER), a snaking membrane within the cell, produces new proteins destined for the outside world. Grape-like tubular outgrowths on the ER known as ER exit sites act as transport stations, collecting freshly synthesised proteins and transferring them to the next step in their trip.

In recent years, scientists have discovered that these ER exit sites also help deliver cellular material and misfolded proteins to lysosomes -- organelles that degrade and recycle material in the cell -- and provide a platform for replication of viruses, including COVID-19. But researchers were perplexed how this one structure, the ER exit site, can participate in all these diverse functions.

In a new study, researchers from HHMI's Janelia Research Campus, led by Ya-Cheng Liao, a former postdoc in the Lippincott-Schwartz lab and now an assistant professor at Columbia University, used super-resolution live cell imaging and volume electron microscopy to examine the effect of nutrient stress on ER exit sites.

The team found that the stress triggers a series of molecules to work together to direct ER exit sites to lysosomes where they are destroyed - a novel pathway the cell may use to free up amino acids needed to make proteins inside the cell.

First, the researchers showed how the ER exit sites are delivered to and ingested by certain types of

lysosomes when cells are starved of nutrients.

Next, the team detailed how this process happens. It starts when starving cells trigger the release of calcium from lysosomes. This causes an enzyme, ALG2, to get recruited to the ER exit sites where it binds to a structure called COPII that is attached to the neck that connects the ER to the ER exit site.

This connection between ALG2 and COPII starts a process called ubiquitination, which is involved in protein degradation. A protein on the lysosome involved in bringing cellular material to the organelle for destruction recognizes the ubiquitin produced by the ubiquitination process, driving the ER exit site to the lysosome.

Once at the lysosome, ALG2, which is attached to the ER exit site on one side, binds its other side to another protein, ALIX. ALIX interacts with ESCRT, a protein complex on the lysosome surface involved in ingestion. This interaction causes the ER exit site and the lysosome to become closer and closer until the ER exit site is engulfed and ingested by the lysosome.

Along with looking at this process in live cells, the team also reconstituted it in an artificial system, confirming how all the different components work together.

The new work details a novel pathway that cells use to combat stress, insight that could help researchers better understand how cells and organisms age. It could also shed light on other processes that involve the ER exit sites, including an unconventional way that viruses are delivered outside the cell through lysosomes, which could help researchers develop new treatments. -ANI

SPORTS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Haaland scores as City thrash Luton

LONDON: Manchester City moved top of the Premier League for at least a day with a predictably dominant 5-1 victory over struggling Luton Town on Saturday.

City led after only 65 seconds at Etihad Stadium when Erling Haaland's wayward volley hit Luton's Daiki Hashioka before flying into the net.

It took City more than an hour to double their lead through Mateo Kovacic's sweet, rising strike from near the edge of the area.

Haaland put the game beyond any doubt with a penalty after Jeremy Doku was fouled by Fred Onyedinna.

Just after City made a double change, Ross Barkley took advantage of a Matheus Nunes mistake to pull one back for the Hatters.

But Doku cut in from the left to slot a fine solo goal into the bottom corner.

The impressive Doku set up City's fifth as he picked out Josko Gvardiol, who slammed a beauty into the top corner - the defender's second goal in a week having not scored for City before that.

City are two points clear at the top, although Liverpool - at home to Crystal Palace - and Arsenal, who host Aston Villa, can move back above them on Sunday. Luton remain in the relegation zone.

Fernandes double earns point against Cherries

Erik ten Hag says it is "up to the fans" whether they remain patient after Manchester United's winless Premier League run extended to four games with their 2-2 draw



at Bournemouth on Saturday.

Captain Bruno Fernandes scored both goals as United twice came from behind to deny the hosts, who led through Dominic Solanke's opener before Justin Kluivert gave them a deserved half-time lead.

United, whose hopes of securing European football were further dented, dropped one place to seventh following Newcastle United's 4-0 win over Tottenham earlier on Saturday.

On the need for patience from supporters as Ten Hag attempts to turn United's fortunes around, the manager told Sky Sports: "It is up to them but it is the truth.

"At this moment with all the problems we have, we play to our levels. We can play very good when everyone is on top form but we have to do it for the whole 90 minutes."

Other results: Newcastle 4 Tottenham 0, Brentford 2 Sheffield United 0, Burnley 1 Brighton 1, Nottingham Forest 2 Wolves 2. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Tchouameni goal maintains Real's La Liga title push



MADRID: Aurelien Tchouameni scored his third La Liga goal of the season to give Real Madrid 1-0 victory over Mallorca on Saturday. Real Madrid warmed up for a pivotal week in their season with a hard-fought win with Tchouameni's long-range goal.

Real face Manchester City in the second leg of their Champions League quarter-final next Wednesday before El Clasico with Barcelona a week on Sunday. Tchouameni's powerful effort just after half-time took a slight deflection before it flew high into the net.

The result was a slightly scrappy performance as Mallorca, beaten by Athletic Bilbao in the final of the Copa del Rey last weekend, made life difficult for Los Blancos.

The contest was settled by Tchouameni's shot from 35 yards which skimmed off the leg of Manu Morlanes and gave Mal-

lorca goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic no chance.

England midfielder Jude Bellingham played 64 minutes for Real before he was withdrawn and, despite a few late nerves, the La Liga leaders held on.

Felix scores for Barca

Joao Felix scored a superb overhead kick as a much-changed Barcelona side battled to 1-0 victory over relegation-threatened Cadiz on Saturday.

The Atletico Madrid loanee's acrobatic effort put Barca in front late in the first half and it proved enough to secure three points for the visitors.

Victory leaves Xavi's side second, eight points behind leaders Real Madrid who earlier won 1-0 at Mallorca. Cadiz stay 18th, three points from safety.

Other results: Atletico Madrid 3 Girona 1, Rayo Vallecano 0 Getafe 0. - Agencies

Scheffler leads as Woods makes unwanted history

American world No.1 is one clear of Collin Morikawa ahead of the final round at the Augusta Masters

GEORGIA: American world No.1 Scottie Scheffler hung on to the Masters lead on an eventful third day where Tiger Woods shot his worst score at a major on Saturday.

Scheffler, who is the hottest favourite at Augusta since Woods in his 2000s pomp, shot a one-under 71 to move seven under and one clear of Collin Morikawa.

Morikawa carded a 69 for six under, with Max Homa (73) next on five under.

Bryson DeChambeau, who jointly led overnight, hit a 75 and is three under, while Woods is 11 over after an 82.

DeChambeau - a home hope like Scheffler, Morikawa and Homa - reignited his bid by holing out from the 18th fairway for a birdie on what had been a chastening day at Augusta National.

The 30-year-old moved back up to fifth on the leaderboard, a shot behind Swedish debutant Ludvig Aberg, who carded 70 after two bogeys in the final four holes.

Aberg, 24, only turned professional 10 months ago and, like his



European Ryder Cup team-mate Nicolai Hojgaard, is aiming to become the first man to win the Masters on his debut in a major.

Denmark's Hojgaard briefly led on Saturday but saw his card wrecked by five successive bogeys on the back half, ending with a 74 which left him two under.

England's Tommy Fleetwood, on one under after a 72, heads what has been a somewhat underwhelming challenge so far by home golfers.

The moment of magic produced by DeChambeau, playing in the final pair alongside fellow overnight leader Homa, was the last twist on a slow burner of a day at Augusta.

For a long period, as the leading players were approaching the turn, there was little sign of the drama about to unfold.

With DeChambeau making an early bogey, Scheffler escaped punishment for early errors to move into the outright lead ahead of Homa - who had 17 pars around a solitary bogey on the 12th.

Chipping in for birdie on the first was the perfect start for the 2022 champion and he added another birdie with a monster putt on the third after being allowed a free drop following a wild drive.

At that point it seemed Scheffler, who won two of his three previous tournaments, would move clear of the field.

However, more mistakes - a double bogey on 10 after missing a two-foot putt, followed by a bogey on 11 - was a curveball which allowed his playing partner Hojgaard to take over at the top.

Hojgaard had never even played in a major, let alone led one, un-

til three straight birdies around the turn completely changed the picture.

But it proved to be a brief lead. As Hojgaard faltered, Scheffler rallied with an eagle on 13 and another birdie on 15.

A bogey on 17 dropped Scheffler alongside Morikawa, before a birdie on the last re-established the 27-year-old's lead as he ultimately continued his majestic form.

Morikawa, the 2021 Open champion, had made a fast start with three birdies on the opening three holes and finished with 10 straight pars while the chaos was unfolding around him.

'Rusty' Woods tumbles down the leaderboard

Having made the cut for a record 24th consecutive year, Woods was one over at the halfway stage and, as we have seen so many times over the years, talked bullishly about his chances at the weekend.

The 48-year-old American struggled to find fairways - hitting only five of 14 - and that led to only the third time he had scored 80 or over at a major.

Successive double bogeys on seven and eight did the most damage, with Woods adding six more bogeys on the back half.

Woods had barely played coming into the Masters as he continues to recover from injuries sustained in a car crash in February 2021. Asked what he has learned about his game, Woods laughed and said: "It's rusty. I just haven't played golf, especially competitively." - Agencies

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA



Bayern delay Leverkusen celebrations

MUNICH: Bayern Munich kept Bayer Leverkusen's Bundesliga title celebrations on hold for at least one more day as the defending champions earned 2-0 victory over relegation-threatened Cologne on Saturday.

Bayern needed one point to avoid conceding the title. and goals from Raphael Guerreiro and Thomas Muller sealed victory.

The win leaves Bayern 13 points behind Bayer Leverkusen with five games to go. It means Xabi Alonso's unbeaten leaders, having played one game less, will be crowned German champions for the first time with victory over Werder Bremen on Sunday.

Leverkusen, in the relegation zone when Alonso took over in October 2022, remain on course for a remarkable treble this season, having reached German Cup final and winning the first leg of their Europa League quarter-final against West Ham 2-0.

Other results: Mainz 4 Hoffenheim 1, Borussia Moechengladbach 1, Borussia Dortmund 2, RB Leipzig 3 Wolfsburg 0, VfL Bochum 1 Heidenheim 1, Stuttgart 3 Frankfurt 0. - Agencies

IPL 2024

Hetmyer the hero as Royals clinch low-scoring thriller

MULLANPUR: A determined and entertaining knock by Shimron Hetmyer helped Rajasthan Royals (RR) secure a three-wicket win over Punjab Kings (PBKS) in a last-over thriller during the Indian Premier League (IPL) at Mullanpur Stadium on Saturday. It was Punjab Kings' second defeat on their home turf.

RR continue to be on the top of points table with five wins and a loss and 10 points. PBKS are in the eighth spot, with two wins and four losses.

Hetmyer came in with the Rajasthan Royals needing 35 from 20. Perhaps it should never have got this close, given Punjab Kings were restricted to 147 for 8.

Royals began well with a 56-run opening stand between Yashasvi Jaiswal and Tanush Kotian.

The stand ended with Kotian's stumps castled by Liam Livingstone He scored 24 off 31 balls.

Kagiso Rabada bowled his four overs for 18, and suddenly the back end of the match became tight. Rabada had taken two big wickets as well - of Jaiswal and Sanju Samson.

The final word, though, went to Hetmyer, who, despite an excellent penultimate over from Sam Curran and a good effort from Arshdeep Singh, won with a six off the penultimate ball. There had been two sixes from Hetmyer in the lead-up to that.

Curran dismissed Rovman Powell and Keshav Maharaj in the 19th over while conceding ten runs, and Royals needed another ten off the 20th over. Hetmyer



was on strike, so it always seemed likely, but then Arshdeep delivered two glorious yorkers first up, which the batter could not make anything of, and the equation came down to ten from four.

The key shot in the final over was Hetmyer's desperate wallop down the ground off the third ball. Arshdeep had not missed his length by much, but this was not quite in the blockhole. Hetmyer swung hard and managed to bully this ball into the boundary cushion - not over it - behind the bowler.

Hetmyer muscled the next ball towards long-on and got two, but the worst ball of Arshdeep's over was the fifth one, and almost anyone could have hit that for a boundary. This came juicy, knee-high, and on the stumps. Hetmyer shuffled across and thwacked it over deep fine leg, clinching a thriller.

In defence of a modest tar-

get, Rabada was intense and got Jaiswal with a short wide one the batter toe-edged, then claimed the prized wicket of Royals captain Samson when he jagged one back to hit the batter on the back leg.

Until the last two overs, in which Impact Sub Ashutosh Sharma made the most of a let-off and hit 20 off the last nine balls he faced, Kings never seemed capable of moving into high gear. Kings were 38 for 1 after the powerplay, 53 for 4 after ten overs, and 86 for 5 after 15.

From that point, Ashutosh, Rabada and, to some extent, Curran did well to make such a tight game out of this.

Brief scores: Punjab Kings 147/8 (Ashutosh Sharma 31, Jitesh Sharma 29; Keshav Maharaj 2-23) lost to Rajasthan Royals 152/7 in 19.5 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 39, Shimron Hetmyer 27*; Kagiso Rabada 2-18). - Agencies

MONTE CARLO MASTERS

Ruud stuns Djokovic to set up Tsitsipas final at Monte Carlo

MONACO: Novak Djokovic says he is "not having a great season at all" after losing to Casper Ruud in the semi-finals of the Monte Carlo Masters on Saturday.

The world No.1 lost to Norway's Ruud 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 and followed a third-round exit at Indian Wells and a semi-final loss at the Australian Open.

The 36-year-old Serb is still searching for his first title of the year.

"Not having a title is, compared to the last 15 years, not a great season at all," he said.

"There are positives to take away for sure, but I'm used to a re-

ally high standard in terms of expectations and results."

Djokovic, who has an 11-4 record this year, also lost while playing for Serbia in the quarter-finals of the United Cup in January.

He will hope to win a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title at next month's French Open.

Against Ruud in Monte Carlo he double-faulted on Ruud's match point to confirm the result and end a nail-biting deciding set.

World No. 10 Ruud will take on Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final, after the Greek player beat Jan-nik Sinner 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 earlier in Monaco.



Ruud cruised to victory in the opening set, ensuring Djokovic dropped his first set of the tour-



nament, but the top seed fought back well.

The third set swung back and

forth but having got himself back into the game on serve at 5-4 down, Djokovic double-faulted to hand Ruud victory.

Tsitsipas handed Sinner just his second defeat of the year

Tsitsipas, a two-time winner in Monte Carlo, booked his spot in the final after two hours 48 minutes of play against Sinner, who lost for just the second time this year.

The match swung in the deciding set when Sinner, who was on the brink of a double break at 3-1, saw an incorrect call go against him.

The line judge failed to call

Tsitsipas' shot as out and Sinner failed to stop in order to review the call, which would have put him 4-1 up.

The Italian failed to recover psychologically, and Tsitsipas won four games in a row from 4-2 down to earn his big win.

"It was tennis at its highest level that I have been able to play," said Tsitsipas.

"He is one of the toughest opponents I have faced so far and to find ways when there weren't that many, I am proud of that. He gave me a very difficult game and [the] way I overcame it is true excellence." - Agencies

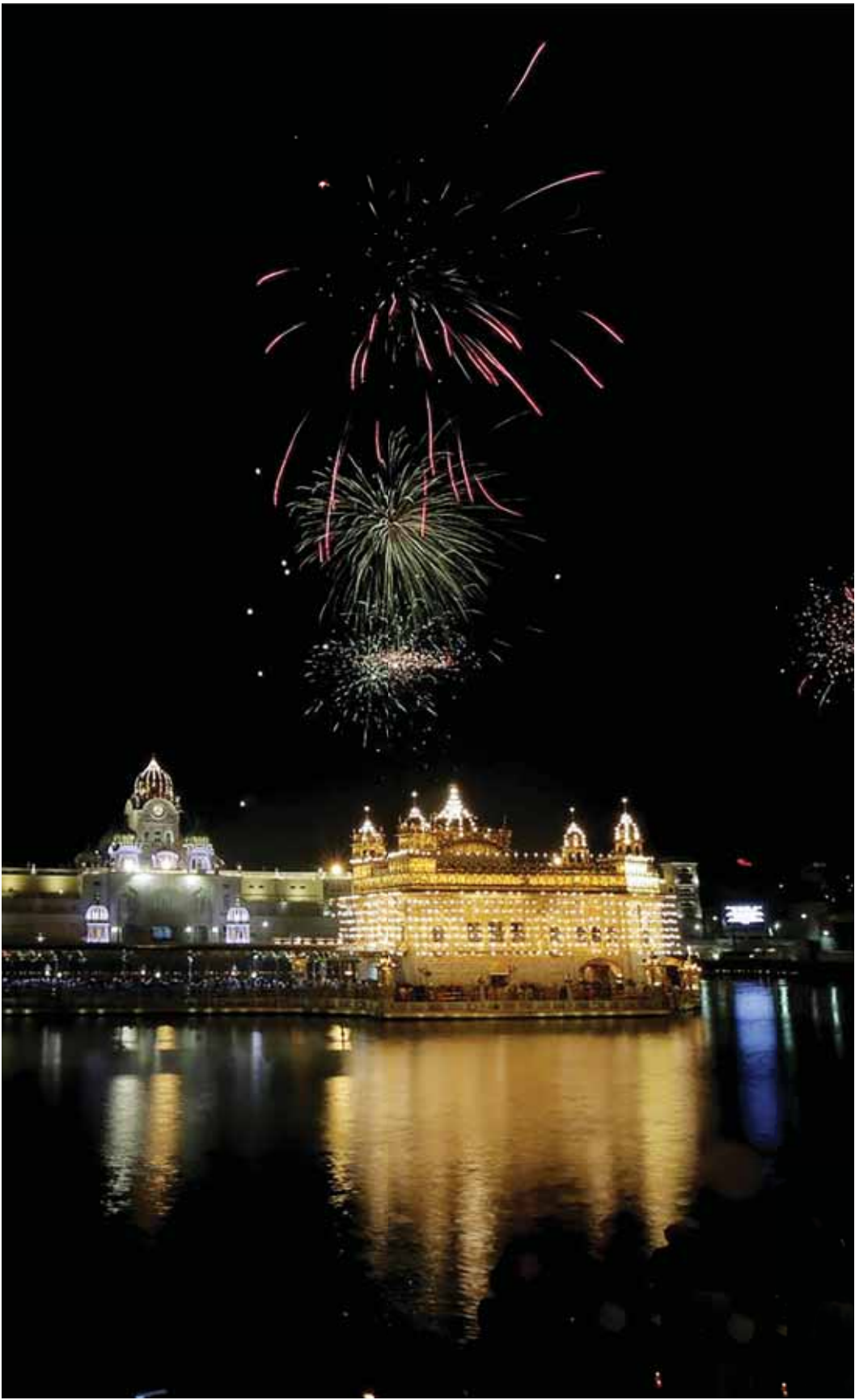
IN PICTURES



Celebration of Songkran festival kicks off in Thailand
A child splashes water on another child in celebration of the Songkran festival in Ayutthaya, Thailand. During the Songkran festival, the traditional Thai New Year, people express greetings by splashing water on each other. *Xinhua*



China's Tianjin port welcomes three int'l cruise ships within a week
An aerial drone picture shows the Silver Shadow cruise ship, operated by the Royal Caribbean Group, docking at Tianjin International Cruise Home Port in north China's Tianjin Municipality. *Xinhua*



Fireworks set off to celebrate Baisakhi festival in India
Fireworks are seen in the sky over the illuminated Golden Temple on the occasion of the Baisakhi festival in Amritsar district of India's northern Punjab state. Baisakhi is one of the most popular festivals celebrated in the Indian state of Punjab to mark the harvest. *Xinhua*



Anil Kapoor, Sonam Kapoor and Neha Dhupia pose for a photo
Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor, his daughter and actress Sonam Kapoor, and Neha Dhupia pose for a photo during the launch of the 7th edition of Ariel's 'Share the Load' campaign, in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



Songkran Festival celebrated in Vientiane, Laos
People participate in the celebration of the Songkran Festival in Vientiane, Laos. The Songkran Festival, or the Lao New Year is the most important festival in the country. *Xinhua*



People fly Kongming lanterns to celebrate New Year of calendar of Dai ethnic group
People fly Kongming lanterns, a kind of small hot-air paper balloon, by the Lancang River in Jinghong City, southwest China's Yunnan Province, to celebrate the New Year of the calendar of the Dai ethnic group. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

BankDhofar SME customers share their insights and experiences

BankDhofar SME Business Banking Account provides solutions to meet the day-to-day needs of customers and offers a range of investment solutions, including time deposits and financial products, to help businesses grow and maximise their surplus fund

MUSCAT: BankDhofar recently launched the SME Business Banking Account; a specialised bank account for small and medium enterprises that is easy and convenient, enabling the SME entrepreneurs with a rewarding experience. The account provides solutions to meet the day-to-day needs of customers and offers a range of investment solutions, including time deposits and financial products, to help businesses grow and maximise their surplus funds. Some of the key features of the



SME Business Banking account are; simplified account opening, POS connection support, wage protection system, that simplifies managing employees' salaries, remote cheque capture and deposit services, payment gateway and a customised credit and debit cards designed to meet the unique needs of SME's. **Reasonable transfer rates** Jaifar Al Khabouri, owner of

"Bindera" Village Foundation, confirmed that BankDhofar provided many facilities upon opening the "Bindera". He commended the money transfer fees in comparison to other banks, as well as e-payment services such as SoftPOS and internet banking services. Bindera Village is one of the successful Omani institutions in organising and managing exhibitions.

Competitive advantages Sarah Najeeb Al Balushi, owner of E.A.T. Co., highlighted the ease of procedures to open a SME account at BankDhofar, as it took only few minutes. She also mentioned that the Soft POS system is one of the great advantages for entrepreneurs who have a bank account for their company in BankDhofar, as it makes it easy to collect payments from customers via smart devices without the need for a specific device to do it.

E.A.T. Co. is one of the leading establishments in the Sultanate of Oman in organizing festivals and events, which started in 2017 and has dealt with more than 1,500 small and medium enterprises. **Loan with suitable interest rates** Mohammed Al Qasmi, owner of Araa Services and Trade, hopes to see his establishment grow in the coming years with the facilities

and support provided by BankDhofar to SMEs and various government and private entities. Al Qasmi has a bank account for his company at BankDhofar. Speaking about the nature of his business, Al Qasmi noted; "I provide maintenance services to government institutions and establishments in particular, and I did not use the media or various advertising means to promote, but social relations were my only way to introduce my establishment."

Various facilities One of the entrepreneurs who own a carpentry shop is very glad that he chose BankDhofar. He currently pays the salaries of his 15 staff who work in his company through the bank and is pleased to find the bank closer to the work place as well as close to his home. The facilities the bank offered were unmatched in comparison to other banks. Sharing his experience and the learning of being an SME entrepreneur in the local market, he says; "I opened the carpentry shop to make home furniture in the seventies, and it is still standing strong today. He explained that he promoted his establishment's work in a very traditional way, i.e. through friends and relatives, and did not resort to modern advertising methods to introduce the establishment's activity. His work is always recommended from his happy customers. To learn more about the SME banking account at BankDhofar, please visit any of our 118 branches spread throughout Oman or call the dedicated call centre on 24775773.

INDIAN SOCIAL CLUB



ISC hosts Ramadan Family Box Cricket tournament

MUSCAT: Indian Social Club Oman hosted its first edition of Ramadan Family Box Cricket tournament for its members recently at Oasis Cricket Academy Ghala. This tournament consisted of 16 teams which was played on knockout basis. The participating teams were Hindi wing, Goan Wing, Kerala Wing, Kachchi Wing, Malabar Wing, Uttranchal Wing, Sanskrit Wing, Bengali Wing, Bohra Wing, Tamil Wing, Deccani Wing, ISC parent body team, two teams from Gujarati Wing and Karnataka wing. The tournaments main purpose was to bring ISC family under one roof in large numbers. During the holy month of Ramadan cricket is played after magrib across the cities in Oman. ISC has taken this initiative to organise this tournament for the players and their family members. Many Families came together after the iftar to witness the tournament. More than 400 plus crowd was present throughout the tournament. The first round matches started at 7 pm in 3 different grounds the first round matches were played between Goan wing Vs Kerala Wing, Sanskrit Wing Vs Uttranchal Wing, Bengali Wing Vs Gujarati Wing 2. Kachchhi

Wing Vs Malabar Wing, Karnataka wing 2 Vs Tamil Wing, Karnataka wing 1 VS ISC Kings, Bohra wing Vs Gujarati wing 1, and last match of the 1st round was played between Hindi Wing Vs Deccani Wing. In the second round of the tournament the quarter final matches were played between Kerala Wing Vs Kachchhi Wing, Sanskrit Wing Vs Gujarati Wing 2, Gujarati wing 1 Vs Karnataka Wing 2 and Deccani Wing Vs ISC Kings. The third round matches were semifinals which were played between Kachchhi Wing Vs Sanskrit Wing and Gujarati Wing 1 Vs Deccani Wing. The final match was played between Deccani Wing and Kachchhi Wing where Kachchhi Wing won the toss and elected to bowl first. Batting first Deccani wing put up a huge score of 50 runs losing 5 wickets in 7 overs which was not an easy task for the opponents to chase down and Kachchhi wing was bundled out for 24 runs in 4.3 overs for Deccani wing. Ju-naid who was the captain of the team lead from front and scores 29 runs in 13 balls and took 2 crucial wickets for the team. Deccani Wing won the match by 26 runs to lift the Champions Trophy.

INCREDIBLE PRIZES

Exciting 'Test Drive Mazda & Win' campaign concludes with raffle draw

MUSCAT: Mazda Oman has successfully concluded its 'Test Drive a Mazda & Win' campaign, generating enthusiasm amongst Mazda fans across the Sultanate. The campaign ran from February 7 to March 7 and offered participants the chance to experience the thrill of driving a Mazda while also entering a raffle for a chance to win incredible prizes. The campaign concluded with a raffle draw at the Al Hail showroom, Mazda's flagship location in Oman, where Riyadh Ali Sultan, General Manager of Towell Auto Centre, revealed the winners. "The response to our campaign was astounding," expressed Sultan. "Witnessing the joy and enthusiasm of so many participants experiencing the Mazda difference was truly rewarding. At Towell, we aim to offer unparalleled experiences to our customers, and this campaign was a perfect representation of that commitment." The excitement was palpable across all seven Mazda showrooms in Oman, including Wattayah, Ni-zwa, Barka, Sohar, Sur, Salalah, and the central hub at Al Hail, each of which played a pivotal role in the campaign's success. The newly launched Mazda CX-90 and CX-60 models were at the forefront, receiving an overwhelming response for their cutting-edge features and superior driving dynamics, exemplifying Mazda's innovation in automotive engineering. One of the participants shared his views and said, "Driving the Mazda was an exhilarating experience; the car's performance and comfort exceeded my expectations. Winning a prize was the cherry on top of an already fantastic experience." The "Test Drive a Mazda & Win"



campaign was not just about winning prizes but also about creating memorable experiences. Five lucky people were selected as winners of premium Bose Soundlink Flex Bluetooth speakers, ideal for enjoying music on the move. In addition, 25 winners received free fuel cards worth RO 10 each, providing a welcome boost for their driving adventures. Every participant who took a test drive received a guaranteed Mazda-branded gift thanks to the exciting 'Scratch & Win' format of the campaign. This campaign was a strategic platform to demonstrate the allure and capability of Mazda vehicles, allowing potential customers to personally witness the exhilarating performance, exceptional comfort, and innovative features that are hallmarks of the Mazda brand.

Through the test drives, participants could truly understand the essence of Mazda's design philosophy, "Jinba Ittai," which signifies the unity and harmony between the car and its driver. The experience highlighted the responsive engines and luxurious interiors, providing a comprehensive appreciation of Mazda's commitment to quality and driver satisfaction. The success of the 'Test Drive a Mazda & Win' campaign highlighted the popularity of Mazda vehicles in Oman and reinforced Mazda's commitment to creating memorable experiences for its customers. This initiative strengthened the bond between Mazda and its audience, enhancing the brand's reputation for delivering innovative and customer-centric solutions. Mazda Oman extends its con-

gratulations to all the winners of the "Test Drive a Mazda & Win" campaign and expresses gratitude to every participant for their enthusiasm and support. This campaign is a testament to Mazda's ongoing commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction, demonstrating the brand's pledge to not only meet but exceed customer expectations. As Mazda Oman moves forward, it continues to focus on innovation, customer engagement, and the delivery of exceptional automotive experiences. The "Test Drive a Mazda & Win" campaign is just one example of how Mazda is driving forward, committed to enriching the driving experience in Oman and reinforcing its position as a leading automotive brand in the region.

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