

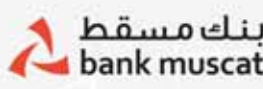


HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT OF PAKISTAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan on his country's Independence Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Zardari. He also wished the people of Pakistan further progress and welfare. — **ONA**

Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 115 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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

[Know More](#)

Launching Meethaq Equity Fund

Your Gateway to Sharia Compliant Equity Investment



Start with as low as OMR 50 monthly



Investments in Oman & the GCC Market



Managed by an experienced asset management team

2465 6666



C.R. No. 1/14573/8

FRAUDULENT ACCOUNTS

‘Times of Oman’ warns its readers on fake social media posts



MUSCAT: Fake social media accounts, posting news and attributing it to the *Times of Oman*, have been on the rise in recent days. Readers and followers of our online stories and social media accounts are warned against these accounts who mimic the newspaper's online presence to spread false news stories. These fraudulent accounts, designed to look like the official Times of Oman website, use the newspaper's logo and branding to mislead the public. We urge all internet users to be vigilant and avoid being deceived by these

scams as they could lead to dangerous links that might compromise personal information. To ensure that you are accessing authentic and reliable news, the *Times of Oman* advises readers to follow its verified social media channels on Twitter (@timesofoman), LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/company/times-of-oman), Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/timesofoman/), and Instagram (@timesofoman). We thank our readers for their continued trust and support during this time.

NEW PIPELINE PROJECT TO MEET DHOFAR GAS NEEDS

Worth OMR76 million, ‘Saib Project’ will be inaugurated on August 26

MUSCAT: OQ Gas Networks SAOG (OQGN), the exclusive operator of Oman's Natural Gas Transmission Network, is set to inaugurate OMR76mn worth ‘Saib Project’—a new 208 km gas pipeline in Dhofar Governorate on August 26. This was unveiled during a media meet held by the company at the W Hotel in Muscat on Tuesday. This strategic growth project aims to increase the gas network's capacity in Dhofar Governorate, addressing the growing demand for natural gas to keep pace with population increase, urban development and eco-



economic growth. As a result, the gas network's capacity will increase by 60% from 10 to 16 million cubic metres per day. The inauguration ceremony will be held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, along with government officials, community leaders, OQGN Board of

Directors and key stakeholders and contractors. The project consists of two loops: Loop 1 – 32 KM at Hubara, in the wilayat of Haima and Loop 2 – 175 KM from Harweel to Raysut station in Salalah with a total of 208 km of 32- inch pipeline alongside the existing 24-inch pipeline. — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Forum on artificial intelligence held

1 The Ministry of Labour has organised a forum titled “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Future of Work” to discuss the technological impact on the future of work. **>A2**

OMAN Fruits, vegetables import increases

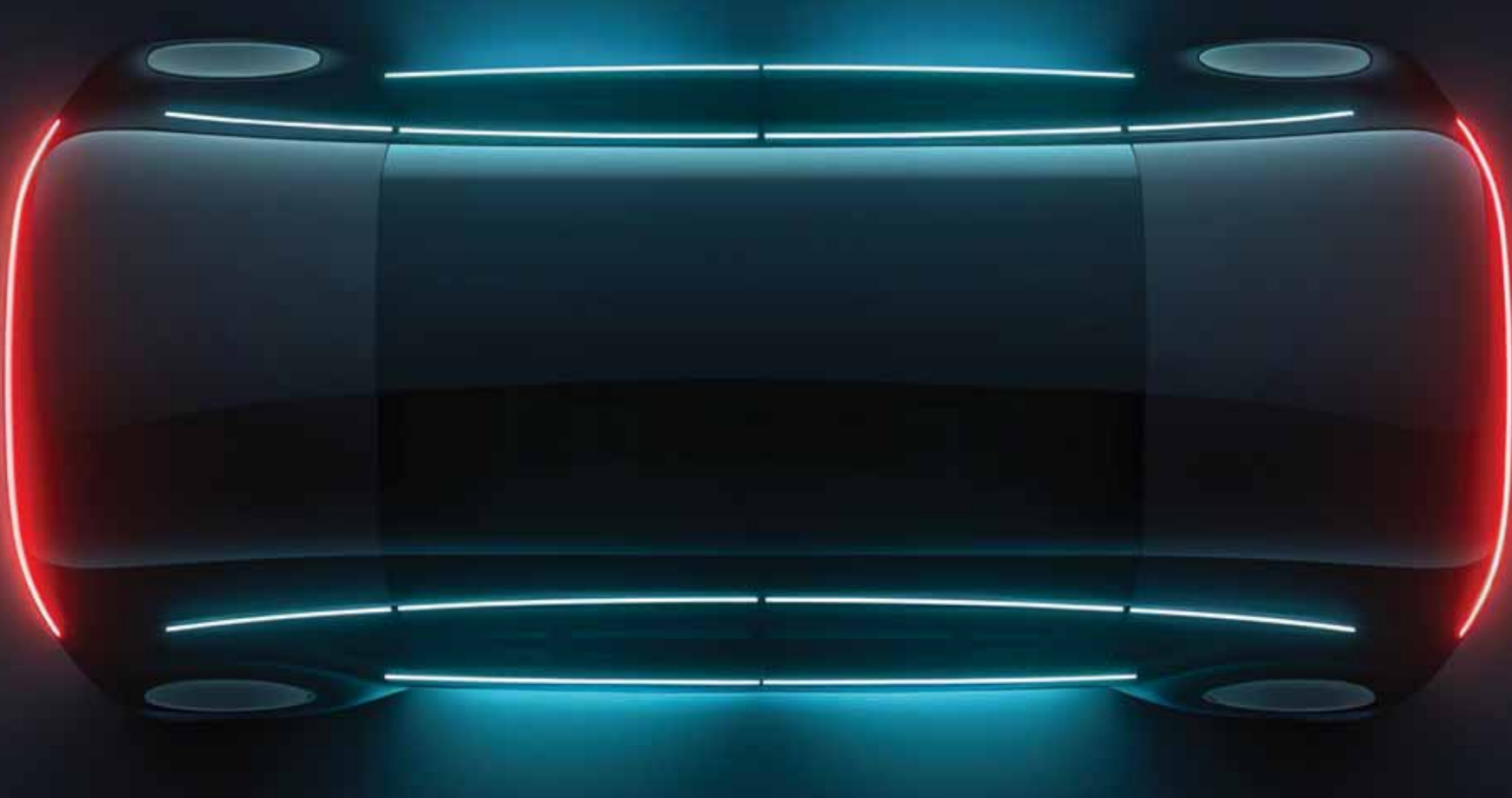
2 The Sultanate of Oman's total imports of vegetables and fruits by the end of May 2024 stood at OMR110,340,269. **>A3**

WORLD Abbas meets Putin in Moscow

3 President Mahmoud Abbas met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, in Moscow on Tuesday. Abbas briefed Putin on the latest developments in Gaza. **>A7**



EVERY JOURNEY - ON THE ROAD OR IN LIFE - BEGINS WITH THE RIGHT DECISION



This September, join MMG's "Love at First Drive" feature series and showcase your vehicles to a broad audience. Our daily features help customers choose the right car with expert reviews and comparisons. Gain unmatched exposure, build credibility, and attract potential buyers. Don't miss this opportunity to drive sales and enhance your brand.

* Special deals for Chinese car brands.

PLEASE CALL 99219268 /95511335 FOR MORE INFORMATION



CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Marijuana smuggling attempt thwarted

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Customs has successfully intercepted a drug smuggling operation involving marijuana. A quantity of the illicit substance was discovered concealed in a postal parcel.

Authorities have initiated legal proceedings against the individuals responsible for the smuggling attempt. This successful operation underscores the customs officials commitment to combating drug trafficking and safeguarding the nation.

Discussion on impact of AI on work environment

The two-day forum, held in Salalah, seeks to prepare manpower for rapid developments taking place in the work space

SALALAH: The Ministry of Labour has organised a forum titled “Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Future of Work” to discuss the impact of technological developments on the future of work, the challenges and opportunities introduced by new work patterns.

The two-day forum, held in Salalah, seeks to prepare manpower for rapid developments taking place in the work environment and augment the readiness of governments to accommodate AI and future skills. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar,



and attended by Dr. Mahad Said Ba'owain, Minister of Labour.

The objectives of the forum include: Increasing productivity and efficiency in the work environment, enhancing human capital in context of future challenges and updates in the digital age (that require increased competitiveness and improved quality of services), consolidating employee self-development by learning new

technologies and achieving professional growth.

The event, held on the sidelines of the Labour Forum, includes four working sessions.

The first session discusses the impact of technological developments on the future of work (the challenges and opportunities of new work patterns); the second session focuses on capacity building; the third looks into the prepa-

ration of the workforce for rapid developments in the work environment; while the fourth session elaborates on the role of AI in improving the work environment.

Working papers presented at the forum deal with a variety of related determinants: The importance of mastering “AI engineering”, the advantages of ongoing education in dealing with changing scenarios in the environment and using AI to improve employee productivity.

The participants also consider better ways of using the AI and data science platform, the significance of AI in achieving sustainable development and the role of government institutions in enhancing future skills and developing skills in a climate of renewable economy. -ONA

TRAINING PROGRAMME

Over 30 officials take part in trade union meeting

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the participation of more than 30 secretaries of trade unions, the General Federation of Oman Workers organised a training programme during August 12-13, 2024 at the Federation's headquarters.

The programme aimed to improve the performance of the administrative bodies of trade unions and their governance, simplify the administrative pro-

cedures carried out by secretaries and unify them within a clear framework, shed light on the mechanisms for managing and archiving trade union files.

It also aimed at employing available digital information and benefiting from the technical development to access information in an easy and effective way.

In addition, the training programme sought to introduce the methodological, practical and procedural skills for pre-

paring and controlling meeting minutes, periodic and annual reports on the work of trade unions, improving their quality and benefiting from them to improve union work.

Within the activities of the second day, the tasks of secretaries and their specialisations in labour unions.

The programme activities were concluded by trainer Alia Al Jardaniyah, by discussing the strategies for managing so-

cial media platforms for labour unions.

Rashida Al Balushi, Secretary of the Oman Post Workers Union, said: “Among the benefits I gained from this programme is acquiring the skill of preparing reports by employing appropriate vocabulary, the method of formulating meeting minutes, identifying the types of meetings and understanding their procedures, time management skills, as well as listening and listening methods.”

Free home delivery & timely service

oman OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Oasis Water Co. SAOC,
PO Box 87, Rasayt 124,
Sultanate of Oman.
www.omanoasis.com

CALL TOLL-FREE
800 71 222
or GSM: 9275 5522

Winner of
His Majesty's Cup Award
in 2012 & 2013
for Best Five Factories

CE No. 1386452

14 AUGUST

Congratulation to the Pakistani people on the occasion of the Pakistani National Day

STARS LIGHT LLC

P.O.Box, 2822, Ruwi, P.C. 112, Sultanate of Oman

H.O. Tel: 24697025, 24697026, Fax: 24600217, Muscat Showroom: Tel: 24595381, Fax: 24595829

Salaalah Showroom: Tel: 23291711, Fax: 23291707, Email: starmmail@omantel.net.om



BANKING THAT IS PROUDLY HUMAN

THE DIFFERENCE..
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU

With **120+** branches, More than **360** ATMs and CDMs we are always at your service.

bankdhofar 2479 1111 www.bankdhofar.com

بنك ظفار BankDhofar

Oman imports fruits, vegetables worth over OMR110.3 million

The overall value of imports grew by 11.6 percent as against the imports during the corresponding period in 2023

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's total imports of vegetables and fruits by the end of May 2024 stood at OMR110,340,269. The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) said that the overall value of imports grew by 11.6 percent as against the imports during the corresponding period in 2023. Giving a breakup about the value of imports, the NCSI explained the following: The value of vegetable imports went up by 44.9 percent by the end of May 2024 to OMR42,653,213.



The value of fruit imports by the end of May 2024 went down by 2.5 percent to OMR67,687,056. By the end of May 2024, the value of vegetable imports from the United Arab Emirates stood at OMR10,973,046 compared to OMR10,860,202 from Yemen and OMR4,659,093 from India. The value of fruit imports from the United Arab Emirates by the end of May 2024 stood at about OMR18,844,717 as against OMR9,491,909 from Egypt, and OMR9,275,432 from India. The total value of the Sultanate of Oman's exports of vegetables and fruits until the end of May 2024 stood at OMR13,592,096 compared to OMR11,923,406 by the end of May 2023.

Somalia topped the list of countries that received the largest volume of vegetable re-exports from Oman

OMR3,319,789 by the end of May 2023. The value of vegetable exports to the United Arab Emirates by the end of May 2024 stood at OMR3,961,228 compared to OMR1,659,630 to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and OMR816,574 to the State of Kuwait. The value of fruit exports to the State of Qatar by the end of May 2024 stood at OMR1,473,319 compared OMR1,094,851 to the United Arab Emirates and OMR783,700 to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The total value of vegetable and fruit re-exports from the Sultanate of Oman until the end of May 2024

stood at OMR2,441,278 compared to OMR2,133,262 by the end of May 2023. The value of re-exports of vegetables alone by the end of May 2024 dropped by 19.2 percent to OMR460,369 compared to OMR569,842 by the end of May 2023. The value of re-exports of fruits by the end of May 2024 went up by 26.7 percent to OMR1,980,909 compared to OMR1,563,420 by the end of May 2023. Somalia topped the list of countries that received the largest volume of vegetable re-exports from Oman by the end of May 2024 (OMR76,135), followed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (OMR69,506). Meanwhile, the UAE received the largest volume of fruit re-exports by the end of May 2024 (OMR396,659), followed by the State of Kuwait (OMR297,301) and Vietnam (OMR267,124). As many as 654 establishments and facilities were operating in the retail business in Oman until May 2024 (using specialised stores for fresh fruits, vegetables and dates). -ONA



CS95 7 SEATER 4WD SUV

THE ALL-NEW 2024MY CS95
HIGH-PERFORMANCE INTELLIGENT 7 SEATER FAMILY SUV

2.0L Turbo Engine, 224 hp | 8 Speed AT
Manufacturer's Warranty - 6 YEARS / 250,000 KMS*

EMI OMR187* for 6 years

Forward Collision Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control, 540° HD Panoramic View, Easy Open Power Lift Gate, Remote Engine Starter, Driver Seat Massage Function, 12.3" Display with GCC Map Navigation, GPS with Voice Command, 3 ROW, 7 SEATER (Ultra Fiber - Leather Seats)

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms: Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180, Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930
Sales Centers: Nizwa 96628940, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800



August 14
Pakistan Independence DAY

PAK OMAN

PAK OMAN INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate • Investment • Treasury

A joint venture aimed to prosper both nations and its people.
To create opportunities and channel investments

Karachi: (+9221) 35630971-75, 35630985 - Muscat: (+968) 24125979, 24127413
Lahore: (+9242) 36622452-54 - Islamabad: (+9251) 2252241-42 - Gwadar: (+92864) 212020

www.pakoman.com



AE GENERAL

AI Hashar Electronics LLC

STAY COOL & BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT

Experience silent cooling and maximum comfort with our range of Split AC's

Quick Cooling, Temperature Control, Sleek Design

SCAN QR CODE FOR LOCATION

SHOP NOW +968-94202775

For more details, visit or call: Ruwi HO: 94584337 Sohar: 92228272
*Available in Hypermarkets and all dealers across Oman



HALWA MAKING IS NOT JUST A BUSINESS BUT PASSION FOR OMANI CITIZENS



Omani Halwa makers from the various governorates arrive in Dhofar Governorate to sell their products during the Khareef season



SALALAH: The shops selling Omani Halwa (sweet) are located at designated corners at Sahl Ateen in the Wilayat of Salalah, Dhofar Governorate.

These shops receive a large number of citizens and tourists during the Khareef Season from within and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

Omani Halwa makers from the various governorates arrive in Dhofar Governorate to sell their products during the Khareef season.

Halwa making is not just a business but it is also a passion, said one of the Halwa makers who spent over 30 years in this field. The traditional taste of the Omani Halwa is a priority in this field, he said, stressing compliance with the terms of using the healthy food substances in the making.

Khalfan Al Ghudhaib, owner of Al Ghudhaib Omani Halwa Factory, described his first participation in the Khareef Dhofar season as successful as his outlet received a large number of customers.

Such projects encourage the participation of traditional crafts and industries during the Khareef season.

He said that the factory offers five types of Omani Halwa with different tastes.

Hatim bin Mohammed Al Mahriqi, owner of the factory of Al Shuhra Omani Halwa and Al Jalilah sweet, said that the factory was established 35 years ago, in the Wilayat of Sinaw and later established 18 branches in various governorates.

Aarif bin Mohammed Al Kharousi, promotion and marketing manager at Al Diwaniya Omani Halwa making factory, said that they promote their products using Arabic cartography for writing the name of the customer or any other expression the customer may request on the product.

He said that their factory offers seven types of Omani Halwa. "We have 160 Omani employees in over 46 branches in the governorates of the Sultanate," he said.

Al Khattab bin Khamis Al Qasabi, Manager of the Salalah branch of Al Saifi Omani Halwa factory, said that the factory was established in 1973 and offers various types of Omani Halwa.

The Omanisation percentage at all branches of the factory is 100% and that they deal in making and sale of Halwa. -OMA



Oman imposes six-month ban on hiring expats in some professions

This decision is aimed at promoting employment opportunities for Omani nationals, the Ministry of Labour said on Tuesday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has imposed a six-month ban on issuing work permits for expatriates in 13 specific professions. This decision is aimed at promoting employment opportunities for Omani nationals. Based on the Labour Law issued by Royal Decree No. (53/2023), and to the service guidelines provided by the Ministry of Labour for trading permits issued under Ministerial Decision No. (180/2022), and in pursuance of work inter-

est. It has been decided that the issuance of trading permits for the temporary employment of expat workers in private sector establishments for the professions listed in the attached annex is suspended for a period of six months. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, permits may be issued for the employment of expat workers in the professions listed in the annex, provided that the request for renewal or transfer of services is submitted from within the Sultanate of Oman.

This decision shall come into effect on 1 September 2024, and the concerned authorities are responsible for implementing its provisions. The decision covers roles primarily in construction, services, and trade sectors, including: Construction workers, cleaners, loaders, bricklayers, steel fixers, tailors (women's clothing / general), tailors (men's clothing / general) electricians / general electrical installations, waiters, painters, chefs, electricians, barbers.



AL DHAHIRAH GOVERNORATE



Rains and overflowing wadis reported in Ibri and Yanqul

IBRI: Rainfall of varying intensity fell on the Wilayats of Ibri and Yanqul in Al Dhahirah Governorate on Tuesday evening as a result of thunderstorm activity in areas near the Al Hajar Mountains. The villages of the Wilayat of Ibri witnessed thunderstorms of varying intensity, which led to the overflow of valleys and ravines in the villages of Al-Hijr, Wadi Al-Ain, Labana, Al-Aridh, Al-Ainain, Al-Iraqi, Al-Haw-

maniyah and Al-Aridh. The towns of Al-Duraiz and Al-Wahrah were also affected by hail showers accompanied by active winds. The villages of Yanqul Wilayat also witnessed moderate to heavy rainfall in the villages of Al-Shu'iyah, Al-Mari, Ghayda, Al-Jabal Al-Abyad, Al-Mishk and the villages surrounding them, accompanied by active winds, which led to the valleys flowing and the ravines flowing. — **ONA**



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tenders: -

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2024/096	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot- 07H/2024	27 August 2024	05 September 2024	105/-
DISC/2024/097	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot- 07K/2024	27 August 2024	05 September 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/098	UTILITY NETWORK EXTENSION – Lot- 07J/2024	27 August 2024	05 September 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/099	11KV & LV NETWORK IMPROVEMENT WORKS OF 2023 IN ZONE-1 & ZONE-2(LOT-10)	27 August 2024	17 September 2024	52/500
DISC/2024/100	Procurement of SMS Engine and Bulk SMS	27 August 2024	17 September 2024	52/500

- To purchase the tender document website via the link or the Barcode below:
https://supplier.nama.om:4443/OA_HTML/OA.jsp?OAFunc=XXTEN_TENDER_FLOAT_DISC_F
- Every company wishing to participate in this tender must attach with its bid a bid bond in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate of Oman. Any bid that does not contain the bid bond will be disqualified.
- The original bid bond must be submitted in an envelope sealed with red wax and addressed to the chairperson of the minor tender committee and written on outside the Tender name and the Tender number and it should be paced in the tender box in Nama Dhofar Services in Salalah before 10:00 am of the last day for submitting Bids.
- Bids shall be submitted online through using “**supplier portal**”. No hard copies are accepted.
- The Tender fees are not refundable. However, Tenderers who are holding “Riyada” card issued from public authority for SME development will be exempted from providing the tender fee and the Bid bond.
- The company is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



nama
DHOFAR SERVICES

Dhofar Integrated Services Company s.a.o.c.
CR Number 2185229 , PO Box 2609
PC 211 , Salalah - Sultanate of Oman
Phone Number 23232523 , Fax 23201183
www.dhofarservices.nama.om





Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in The following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date To Submit The Tender	Tender Documnet Price
SUPPLY OF HEAVY DUTY EQUIPMUNT FOR MOD INFORMATION PRESERVATION AND DESTRUCTOR CENTER	22/2023	03/10/2023	10/10/2023	78 OMR

- Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
- Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.

SALALAH MILLS COMPANY SAOG

Salalah-Sultanate of Oman



REPORT OF MATERIAL EVENTS

Dear Shareholders,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to present to you the Unaudited Financial Statements of Salalah Mills Company for the first half year ended on 30 June, 2024.

Sales

The total sales quantity in local market had increased by 23% during the first half of the current year compared to the first half of the year 2023. While the export quantity increased by 25%. The total quantity sold by macaroni factory decreased by 9% due to competition in the export markets, and the quantity sold by poly propylene bags factory decreased by 22% compared to the same period of last year due to the lower demand as a result of the economical situations and competition from regional factories.

The total sales value during the first half of 2024 was RO 46.4 million, showing an increase of RO 15.6 Million that is about 51%, compared to the same period of 2023.

The Wheat Subsidy

The Government decided to halt the Wheat subsidy in the local market with effect from 1st of May 2024.

The Industrial Bakery

The production lines installations have started and trial production is expect to start in December 2024.

Net Profit

The parent company made a net profit of RO 314 Thousand during the first half of the current year compared to a net loss of RO 739 Thousand made in the same period of last year, as a result of higher sales.

The group made a net profit of RO 265 Thousand during the first half of the current year compared to a loss of RO 739 Thousand made in the same period of last year.

Ahmed bin Abdullah Saeed Al Rawas
Chairman

Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests the company in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of receipt of the request at P.O. Box No. 67, Al Awqadain, P.C. 217, Sultanate of Oman.



@salalahmillsco

SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

Expressed in Omani Rial

	Parent company		Group	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	32,497,472	25,243,765	32,757,367	25,243,765
Right of use assets	3,510,394	3,634,413	3,510,394	3,634,413
Investment in subsidiaries and associates	4,375,179	50,000	4,325,179	-
Total non-current assets	40,383,045	28,928,178	40,592,940	28,878,178
Current assets				
Inventories	8,709,465	34,355,971	18,709,465	34,355,971
Trade and other receivables	26,484,301	20,454,974	26,768,486	20,454,974
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	366,276	354,578	366,276	354,578
Amounts due from related parties	1,590,370	1,082,685	1,590,370	1,082,685
Cash and cash equivalents	2,092,269	2,056,922	2,435,690	2,106,922
Total current assets	49,242,682	58,305,129	49,870,287	58,355,129
TOTAL ASSETS	89,625,727	87,233,308	90,463,227	87,233,308
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Capital and reserves				
Share capital	4,996,306	4,996,306	4,996,306	4,996,306
Share premium	3,587,782	3,587,782	3,587,782	3,587,782
legal reserve	2,089,103	2,089,103	2,089,103	2,089,103
General reserve	2,891,826	2,891,826	2,891,826	2,891,826
Retained earnings	19,358,792	18,123,787	19,152,683	18,123,787
Total capital and reserves	32,923,809	31,688,804	32,717,701	31,688,804
Non-current liabilities				
Lease liability- Long term	3,292,153	3,405,554	3,292,153	3,405,554
Borrowings-non current	14,945,048	8,778,410	14,945,048	8,778,410
Staff terminal benefits	717,965	604,816	719,182	604,816
Deferred tax	914,846	914,846	914,846	914,846
Total non-current liabilities	19,870,013	13,703,626	19,871,230	13,703,626
Current liabilities				
Lease liability- Short term term	150,943	113,443	150,943	113,443
Borrowings	30,733,051	37,221,679	30,733,051	37,221,679
Trade and other payables	4,613,804	4,344,927	4,669,256	4,344,927
Amounts due to related parties	1,263,926	160,828	2,250,867	160,828
Provision for tax	70,181	-	70,181	-
Total current liabilities	36,831,906	41,840,877	37,874,298	41,840,877
Total liabilities	56,701,918	55,544,504	57,745,527	55,544,504
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	89,625,728	87,233,308	90,463,228	87,233,308
Net assets per share	0.659	0.634	0.655	0.634
SEPARATE AND CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024				
	Parent company		Group	
	30 June 2024	30 June 2023	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
Revenue	46,373,465	30,706,213	49,645,267	30,706,213
Cost of sales	(42,961,134)	(28,259,706)	(46,190,590)	(28,259,706)
Gross profit	3,412,332	2,446,506	3,454,677	2,446,506
Other income	43,788	16,756	55,345	16,756
General and administrative expenses	(2,371,885)	(2,317,619)	(2,471,187)	(2,317,619)
Operating and distribution expenses	(53,580)	(41,819)	(53,580)	(41,819)
Operating profit for the year	1,030,655	103,825	985,255	103,825
Finance expense	(672,845)	(843,143)	(675,786)	(843,143)
Net profit before tax for the year	357,810	(739,318)	309,468	(739,318)
Income tax expense	(44,064)	-	(44,064)	-
Net profit after tax/Other Comprehensive Income	313,746	(739,318)	265,404	(739,318)
Earnings per share - basic & diluted	0.006	-0.015	0.005	-0.015

Musk and Trump’s chat on X hit by tech issues

Musk said X, formerly Twitter, was the recipient of a ‘massive DDOS attack.’ Many X users were unable to access the livestream for the interview and it was delayed for over 40 minutes

WASHINGTON DC: Elon Musk’s scheduled interview with Republican candidate Donald Trump, whom he supports, was severely delayed on his platform X, after the social media site ran into technical difficulties.

Musk said X, formerly Twitter, was the recipient of a “massive DDOS attack.” Many X users were unable to access the livestream for the interview and it was delayed for over 40 minutes.

“Working on shutting it down. Worst case, we will proceed with a smaller number of live listeners and post the conversation later.”

He later added: “We will proceed with the smaller number of concurrent listeners at 8:30 ET and then post the unedited audio immediately thereafter.”

But the conversation was eventually accessible when the glitches appeared to clear.

What do we know about the disruption?

Some 878,000 users were con-



nected to the conversation over 40 minutes after the scheduled start time, with no interview being broadcast. Many users received a message reading: “Details not available.”

Trump’s team posted that the “interview on X is being overwhelmed with listeners logging in.”

“We tested the system with 8 million concurrent listeners earlier today,” Musk said.

When it did eventually go live, just over a million were able to tune in, though Donald Trump at one point congratulated Musk on attracting more than 60 million people to the Space, which was

met with a lengthy silence from the X owner.

Trump lashes out at Biden, dismisses climate change

The former US president’s interview was largely one-sided, appearing to be merely a platform for Trump to share his rhetoric.

Trump vented about a “zombie apocalypse” of immigration, repeatedly attacked President Joe Biden as “stupid” and talked about developing a new missile defense system based on the one that defends Israel. He also dismissed climate change, arguing that sea-level rises would create more real estate opportunities.

“The biggest threat is not global warming, where the ocean is going to rise one-eighth of an inch over the next 400 years,” he told Musk.

“You’ll have more ocean front property, right? The biggest threat is not that. The biggest threat is nuclear warming, because we have five countries now that have significant nuclear power, and we have to not allow anything to happen with stupid people like Biden.”

Musk aims to boost Trump’s campaign

Though he says he had previously voted for Democrats, Musk has thrown his weight, and his money, behind Trump since the latter’s assassination attempt last month.

Trump had been banned from Twitter after his supporters stormed the US Capitol in January 2021. But following his takeover of the platform and renaming it X, Musk reinstated the former president in November 2022.

When the interview eventually started, Musk began by asking Trump to describe his assassination attempt. The Republican candidate and former president said he intended to go back in October to Butler, Pennsylvania, where he was shot while addressing a rally.

— DW



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



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

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



NASA announces end of WISE space telescope mission

WASHINGTON: NASA announced that experts have commanded the WISE spacecraft to turn off its transmitter for the final time, signalling the official end of its mission.

This decision was made because increased solar activity is heating the upper atmosphere, causing it to expand and create additional drag on the spacecraft, making it difficult for it to maintain its orbit.

NASA said in a statement that the telescope had stopped working after its orbit began to decline rapidly under the influence of increased solar activity. The last information collected was on 31 July 2024.

The Aeronautics agency added that the NEOWISE mission has

collected a vast number of infrared images of the night sky, which will be studied in detail by astronomers over the coming decades.

The agency also highlighted that this mission has laid the foundation for a new infrared space observatory dedicated to planetary defence.

It is worth noting that the WISE space telescope discovered during its period of operation in orbit (from 2009 to the current year 2024) more than 44,000 small celestial bodies in the solar system, including three thousand near the Earth, including 200 previously unknown and 20 comets, and drew a detailed map of the universe in infrared rays. — ONA

FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

How do we fight wildfires as temperatures rise?

ALBERTA: Fire has burned through forests for hundreds of millions of years, but now unprecedented wildfires are burning hotter and longer, partly due to climate change.

Declining rainfall and longer droughts are making forests so dry that localised lightning can spark a small fire that transforms into an inferno before firefighters can limit the damage.

Firefighters are currently battling wildfires in Greece’s high Mediterranean summer heat. Less than three weeks ago, major blazes also ripped through forests in western Canada and the United States, forcing tens of thousands of people to evacuate.

The Canadian town of Jasper in the province of Alberta was devastated in late July, with fire destroying at least a third of the town’s buildings. The neighbouring Jasper National Park, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and known for its Rocky Mountain landscape, was also damaged, with critical routes in the park only opening in the past few days.

“Any firefighter will tell you there is little to nothing you can do when a wall of fire like that is coming at you,” said Mike Ellis, Alberta’s public safety minister. “Nobody anticipated the fire to come so fast, so large.”

Climate-change fuelled fire also ravaged Canada in 2023. Some 18.4 million hectares (45.5 million acres) were scorched, sending gigantic clouds of smoke over parts of the US. Summer 2023 also saw large fires break out in Italy, Greece and Spain.

On the other side of the world, so large was the scale of the Australian Black Summer mega fires of 2019-20 that burnt nearly 60 million acres (24 million hectares) that once fire-resistant wet forests also went up in flames.

And as we continue to heat the planet by burning fossil fuels, those fires are set to worsen, endangering more people and wildlife.

“We are not on track to reduce risk now,” said Hamish Clarke, senior research fellow at the school of ecosystem and forest sciences at the University of Mel-



bourne in Australia, speaking with DW in August 2022. “We need to change course urgently and seriously reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

Clarke co-authored an article in January 2022 on bushfire risk in Australia that argued “climate change is exceeding the capacity of our ecological and social systems to adapt,” and that fire management is now at a “crossroads.”

Here are three key areas through which fire management is attempting to adapt to a new climate reality.

Fighting fire with fire

Controlled or “prescribed” burning of forest vegetation, most often in the cooler months of the year, helps lessen wildfire hazards

in the summer by reducing the amount of kindling available to fuel fires. In fire-prone nations like the United States, Australia, Portugal, Spain, Canada, France and South Africa, it’s been a tried and tested fire management strategy for decades.

Also known as hazard reduction, these back-burning strategies “are very effective at reducing the intensity and severity of fire,” according to Victor Resco de Dios, an associate professor of forest science at Spain’s University of Lleida.

But to be an effective antidote, controlled burning under cool conditions now needs to be done across a “very large spatial scale to become effective,” said the forest engineer.

With Europe, and especially countries around the Mediterranean like Greece, experiencing more severe summer wildfires, Resco de Dios said “substantial hazard reduction” will demand prescribed burning across 1.5 million hectares (3.7 million acres) of land.

One problem with prescribed burning now, though, is that climate change has started to increase the risks.

After a controlled burning operation in New Mexico in May 2022 transformed into one of the worst wildfires in the state’s history, the US Forest Service announced a pause in planned burning operations in national forests across the country — even if this was a very rare case.

Low-intensity burning used by First Nations in US, Australia

First Nations people in the United States and Australia were using a form of controlled burning to reduce flammable vegetation for thousands of years before Europeans invaded.

They used “frequent low-intensity” burning in the cooler months to reduce the wildfire threat, creating a grassy, park-like wooded terrain that also maintained biodiversity. That’s according to the authors of a February 2022 report, who also describe “the catastrophic risk created by non-Indigenous bushfire management approaches” whereby fire is suppressed rather than managed.

The neglect of Indigenous fire management techniques means “Australia’s forests now carry far more flammable fuel than before [the] British invasion,” said the researchers.

Since regaining ownership of native lands in the 1990s, Indigenous people have successfully practiced traditional fire management in the Kimberly region of northern Australia during the cooler dry season.

Putting drones on the fire front line

While prevention is the best cure, technology has become increasingly important when trying to fight mega blazes.

Satellites managed by the likes of NASA are already helping firefighters keep track of moving fires across the planet. More recently, however, drones have become a more localized high-tech fire suppression gadget.

A project in Finland — where 75% of the land is covered in forest — is making it easier to track emerging forest fires with the help of drones.

“We’re developing a new AI-based drone technology to quickly detect forest fires and provide situational awareness when extinguishing the fires,” said Eija Honkavaara from the Finnish Geospatial Research Institute and a member of research group undertaking the project, the FireMan consortium.

After 400,000 hectares of European forest burned in 2019, that number jumped by 25% the following year. Victor Resco de Dios told DW in August 2022 said that a hotter and drier Central Europe and even Scandinavia “will start experiencing mega fire in the next few decades.”

“Drones can help us in providing real-time information on how the fire front is progressing, and how high and hot the flames are,” said Honkavaara in a statement.

As the drones provide remote data in real time, they are also fitted with sensors that can see through smoke to detect the exact scale of the fire.

The only catch is the need for a strong mobile internet connection in remote areas.

How to climate-proof forests

“Wildfires have been on Earth for 420 million years and vegetation is adapted to them,” said Resco de Dios.

Nonetheless, the regenerative properties of forests may no longer be sufficient. Newly vulnerable forest ecosystems need to be adapted to frequent wildfires through the planting of more climate and drought resilient plant species, say experts.

“We must consider future climates and plant with species from drier places,” said Resco de Dios. “That is, we should not plant with native species, but with those growing elsewhere in warmer locations, so they will be adapted to the climate of the next decades.”

Following an inquiry into the Black Summer wildfires in Australia, researchers found that “effective regeneration” was becoming less likely for over 250 plant species due to the increasing frequency of fires across their habitat.

“We must consider that the climate will be unsuitable for many of the species currently growing by the turn of the century and start planning for that,” Resco de Dios added.

This will require the close management of regenerating forests for decades after they burn.

“If we just plant trees and then forget about them, we are planting the future wildfires,” he said. — DW

Israeli occupation forces continue to murder, injure Palestinian civilians

The Israeli occupation has been committing a relentless genocide on the Gaza Strip since October 2023, through airstrikes and bombardment from all sides (air, land and sea), leaving behind tens of thousands of slaughtered, wounded and missing Palestinian civilians

GAZA: The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) murdered and injured several Palestinian civilians through nonstop airstrikes and bombardment shot since until dawn on Tuesday, on the Israeli occupation's 312th day of relentless genocide against the Gaza Strip.

The Civil Defence Authority in Gaza stated that ten Palestinian civilians were murdered after the IOF shelled a house in Wadi Saber area in the town of Abasan Al-Kabira, east of Khan Younis.

In Gaza City, the IOF bombed a house in Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, murdering several Palestinians and injuring six others,

who were transferred to Al-Maamadani Hospital afterwards.

The IOF also bombed two houses in Al-Maghazi and Bureij refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip, slaughtering several Palestinians and wounding others.

The occupation army continued its intensive artillery and air shelling of several areas in the southern Gaza Strip, carried out an airstrike targeting Al-Mahata area in the center of Khan Younis, and blew up residential buildings west of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli occupation has been committing a relentless genocide on the Gaza Strip since October



ber 2023, through airstrikes and bombardment shot from all sides (air, land and sea), leaving behind tens of thousands of slaughtered, wounded and missing Palestinian civilians.

The 75th anniversary of Geneva Conventions is observed this year amidst unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip and other occupied Palestinian territories due to the Israeli brutal, barbaric and heinous aggression

and genocide committed against defenceless civilians in the strip.

The ongoing onslaught in the Gaza Strip left nearly 40,000 dead and the injury of more than 100,000 civilians while thousands remain under the rubble as the Israeli occupation forces prevent ambulances and medical crews to perform their roles.

The ongoing aggression in the Gaza Strip causes horrible health conditions following the persis-

tent, deliberate attacks on medical buildings, hospitals and civil infrastructure, deliberately denying the entry of medical supplies and fuel needed by medical complexes, as well as preventing the access of aid convoys to the Strip in a flagrant violation of the International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Conventions and resolutions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) amidst paralysis of the international community. — **ONA**

Abbas meets Putin in Moscow

RAMALLAH: President Mahmoud Abbas met with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Moscow on Tuesday.

President Abbas briefed his Russian counterpart on the latest developments in the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including Jerusalem, including the targeting of defenseless civilians, the full destruction of infrastructure and the war of starvation.

He reiterated the Palestinian position calling for an immediate and urgent ceasefire. — **WAFA**

TO BATTLE WILDFIRES

GREECE'S NATIONAL OBSERVATORY

EU to support Greece and Albania

BRUSSELS: The European Commission on Tuesday announced that it was activating a system for European countries to help Greece and Albania battle ongoing wildfires.

At a press conference held today, a commission spokesman said the support to Greece includes: two planes from Italy, two helicopters from France and Serbia, and ground firefighting crews from the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Romania and Serbia. Romanian, Maltese and Moldovan firefighters were already in Greece, the spokesman added.

Military plane

According to a commission statement, Albania will receive a military plane from Romania capable of carrying 6 tonnes of water. The plane will be deployed tomorrow (on Wednesday), the commission said.

— **ONA**

One dead as wildfires bear down on Athens

Athens: Greece's National Observatory said on Tuesday that at least 10,000 hectares (24,700 acres) of land had been devastated after two days of wildfires that continued to rage. At least one person has died and dozens have been treated for injuries as tens of thousands of people flee their homes north of Athens.

Dozens of evacuation orders were issued, after the blaze scalled Mount Pentelicus overlooking the capital.

The fire has already destroyed an unknown number of homes and businesses in Nea Penteli, Palaia Penteli, Patima Halandriou and Vrilissia.

Authorities said they found the badly burned body of a woman in her 60s in the ruins of a factory.

Blankets of black smoke could be seen over Athens, and residents reported several power outages.

There was hope however that Athens might be spared the worst of the disaster after strong winds that had pushed the blaze through the suburbs began to die down.



Moreover, Greece was expecting international help from fellow EU members such as France, Italy, and the Czech Republic to arrive later on Tuesday. Neighboring Turkey also said it would assist Greece's fleet of water-dropping aircraft.

The European Commission also announced that it was activating a system for European countries to assist not only Greece

but also Albania, which is battling wildfires as well.

PM slammed by the press

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis was lambasted by the Greek press on Tuesday. The conservative leader was seen visiting the Civil Protection Ministry on Monday but has yet to comment on the disaster.

"Enough is enough," declared

the front page of top-selling centrist daily Ta Nea, while the liberal Kathimerini said the "out of control" inferno "had left huge destruction (and) unanswered questions."

Pro-government daily Eleftheros Typos decried the situation as a "nightmare."

Mitsotakis will chair a Cabinet meeting later on Tuesday, after which he is expected to announce

a series of relief measures for those who have lost their homes or property in the fires.

Firefighters 'working full tilt for months'

Fire Department spokesperson Colonel Vassileios Vathrakogiannis said hundreds of firefighters were no longer battling a single fire but "many active localized blazes," mostly around Marathon and Pendeli.

The most recent fires come after an unusually warm winter in Greece, and record-setting heat in June and July.

"Firefighters have been working at full tilt for months," said Nikos Lavranos, head of Greece's main firefighters' union. "They are exhausted."

Scientists have warned that man-made climate breakdown will increase the number and intensity of wildfires during dry periods. Last year, 28 people died and 75 were injured in some 80 wildfires that swept the popular tourist island of Rhodes. — **DW**

ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHES

Climate change in India: Ignoring environmental warnings?

NEW DELHI: Prasanna Kumar, a survivor of the deadly landslides that struck Kerala's Wayanad district on July 30, saw his sister and her family being swept away by the swirling and powerful muddy waters. Several others who were sleeping were caught unaware and were also washed away.

"I have seen many landslides in this region but this was devastating. The ground shook and the earth under my feet gave way in the blink of an eye. There was a trail of death and destruction after," Kumar told DW from a relief camp.

Fragile ecosystems

Rescue operations are winding down in the search for some 200 people who are still missing, including Kumar's relatives. The natural disaster took the lives of over 300 people and caused damage to property and infrastructure. It has also prompted soul-searching over whether India should be taking more steps to avoid environmental catastrophes in the future.

Sunita Narain, director at the Center for Science and Environment in New Delhi, highlighted natural disasters in the Himalayan region as examples of the environment being unable to withstand damaging activities such as deforestation and ill-considered construction.

Last year, Joshimath town in the state of Uttarakhand was reported to be "sinking," with cracks in the town's buildings and streets. In



October, a dam containing a glacial lake in Sikkim burst. The following month, a cave-in left over 40 Indian workers trapped in the Silkyara tunnel of the Himalayas for 17 days.

"It is just one example of the mindless way we are making hydroelectric projects in the fragile Himalayan zone. Should there not be better planning to decide what is good for people and good for the ecology? What is important is that we should have viable livelihood options for people in these fraught areas," Narain told DW.

Officials ignored recommendations from ecologists

In Kerala, the Western Ghats region where the landslides occurred is also an ecologically sensitive region where suggestions from environmentalists have been ignored. Quarrying and deforestation is carried out in unsuitable or dangerous locations.

An expert panel led by environmental scientist Madhav Gadgil recommended in 2010 that 75% of the 129,037 square-kilometre (49,821 square-mile) area of the Western Ghats be declared envi-

ronmentally sensitive, citing its dense forests and the presence of many endemic species. But this was reduced to 50% just three years later based on recommendations by a second panel.

There are 5,924 quarries in Kerala, including in the most ecologically fragile zones, according to online outlet Mathrubhumi, citing a report by Gadgil. While not all quarrying is government-sanctioned, there is a lack of enforcement to crack down on quarrying without permits.

Gadgil attributed the landslide

tragedy to the Kerala government's failure to implement crucial ecological recommendations, telling Indian media: "There is a direct link between hard-rock quarrying and slope failures in the form of landslides, especially in a place like Wayanad."

Should India update its weather warning system?

Nearly half of Kerala comprises hills and mountainous regions with slopes exceeding 20 degrees. A recent risk assessment, based on nearly 81,000 landslides cov-

ering 17 states in the country between 1998 and 2022, showed that Kerala witnessed 6,039 landslides and was the worst hit among non-Himalayan states, according to the Landslide Atlas of India.

Human-induced climate change is already intensifying weather extremes in India, including heat waves and flooding. Such events are likely to exacerbate disasters in already sensitive areas, such as on the steep slopes of Kerala. Ahead of the disaster, an unusually large 572 millimeters (22.5 inches) of rainfall was reportedly recorded in Wayanad in just 48 hours, triggering the massive landslides.

Akshay Deoras, a meteorologist from the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and the Department of Meteorology at the UK's University of Reading, called for India to adapt its current warning system to reflect the dramatic changes in climate the country is experiencing.

"The efficacy of the current color-coded warning system and the language used in alerts or forecasts must be re-examined by consulting all stakeholders in the country, including the media, citizens, disaster relief forces and state governments. Traditional ways of managing disasters are not going to work for such events," said Deoras.

He suggested that early warning systems in India be made more robust by exploiting the use of Doppler radars, satellites, real-time observations and direct communications with people. — **DW**

SPORTS

It’s going to be a competitive series: Ponting on Border-Gavaskar trophy

The First Test of the series begins at Perth Stadium from November 22

NEW DELHI: Former Australian skipper and batter Ricky Ponting on Tuesday opened up on the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy between India and Australia and said that it would be a “competitive series”.



The much-awaited Border-Gavaskar Trophy will begin with the First Test, a day match that sets the tone for the series, at Perth Stadium from November 22 to November 26. India has won its last two series in Australia, held in 2018-19 and 2020-21. Speaking on the latest episode of The ICC Review, Ponting said that the Aussies have a lot to prove against India since it will be their home series. “It’s going to be a competitive series and as I said I think Australia’s got a bit of a point to prove against India in Australia on the back of what’s happened the last two series here,” Ponting was quoted by ICC as saying.

He added that the Border-Gavaskar Trophy will be a five-match series for which it will be important. “We are back to five Tests as well, which is the other really important thing about this series. It’s only been four Tests the last couple of times. Five tests, I think everyone’s really excited by that and I don’t know if there’d be too many drawn games,” he added. “I’m obviously going to tip Australia to win and I’m never going to tip against Australia. There will be a draw somewhere and there will be some bad weather somewhere, so I’m going to say 3-1 to Australia,” the former Aussie skipper further added.

The First test is scheduled for November 22 in Perth. The Second Test, which will take place at Adelaide Oval from December 6 to 10, will have an exciting day-night format under the lights. After that, fans will focus on The Gabba in Brisbane, where the third Test will be held during the day on December 14-18. The customary Boxing Day Test is set for December 26-30 at Melbourne’s storied Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Fifth Test, which will take place at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney from January 3 to 7, will serve as the series’ climax and promises to be a dramatic conclusion to an exciting series.

HONoured

DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY

PKR100mn cheque, car gifted to Arshad

MIAN CHANNU: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif honoured Paris Olympics gold medallist Arshad Nadeem with a PKR100 million cheque and a four-wheeler with the registration number plate “PAK 92.97,” as reported by Geo News.

In the men’s javelin throw final, Arshad set an Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters, winning the gold medal and defeating his rival, Neeraj Chopra. Maryam Nawaz presented the cheque to Arshad on Tuesday in his hometown, Mian Channu. She also awarded him an additional cheque for PKR 5 million. Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Sports Minister Faisal Ayub Khokhar, Special Assistant to the CM Zeeshan Malik, and MPA Sania Ashiq were present at the event. Maryam Nawaz met Arshad’s mother, Razia Parveen, congratulating her on her son’s success and having a lengthy conversation with her, Geo News reported. Following his triumph at the Paris Olympics, Arshad received a hero’s welcome upon arriving at Lahore’s Allama Iqbal International Airport on Sunday. His family, along with provincial and federal ministers, greeted him with a memorable welcome, including a water cannon salute.



Federal Planning and Development Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Prime Minister Youth Program Chairman Rana Mashhood, Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima, and Khawaja Saad Rafique were among those who welcomed Arshad at the airport. The 27-year-old athlete won Pakistan’s first Olympic medal since the 1992 Barcelona Games and its first in an individual sport. Arshad’s historic gold throw of 92.97 metres set a new Olympic record, surpassing Denmark’s Andreas Thorkildsen’s mark from Beijing 2008. Grenada’s Anderson Peters won bronze with a throw of 88.54 metres. **-ANI**

Graham Thorpe ‘took his own life’, confirms England batter’s family

LONDON: Former England batter Graham Thorpe died by suicide following a long battle with depression and anxiety, confirmed his family in a newspaper interview. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) last week announced that Thorpe, one of the finest batters from England, had died at the age of 55. His wife and daughters have confirmed to his long-time teammate Michael Atherton in an interview that the batter died by suicide. Thorpe had not been involved with the sport since being removed as one of the assistant coaches after England’s Ashes 2021-22 debacle, where they lost 4-0 to Australia in Australia. He was at one point set to become Afghanistan’s head coach but never did after an attempt at taking his own life during May 2022. At that time, he was said to be “seriously ill” in hospital. “For the past couple of years, Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety,” Amanda, Thorpe’s wife, told the Times as quoted by ESPNcricinfo. “This led him to make a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit. Despite glimpses of hope and of the old Graham, he continued to suf-



fer from depression and anxiety, which at times got very severe. We supported him as a family and he tried many, many treatments but unfortunately, none of them really seemed to work.” “Graham was famous as someone who was very mentally strong on the field and he was in good physical health. But mental illness is a real disease and can affect anyone. Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better. He was so unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him and we are devastated

that he acted on that and took his own life,” said Amanda. Amanda described Thorpe as a “free spirit” and recalled her favorite memory of him. “He had his own mind and his own way of going about things. My favorite memory of him is in Barbados, which he loved, enjoying a rum punch and listening to his favorite reggae after a swim... He was funny and he made We all laugh so much,” she concluded. Thorpe made his international debut in 1993 and was the mainstay of the English batting throughout the late 90s and early 2000s. The southpaw played 100

Tests and scored 6744 runs at an average of 44.66, with 16 hundreds and 39 fifties to his name. His highest score was 200*. In ODIs, the gritty batter scored 2380 runs at an average of 37.18 with 21 fifties. He appeared at two ICC Men’s Cricket World Cups, scoring 254 runs in the 1996 edition in Sri Lanka and then contributing 125 runs three years later at the event in England, Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. In the ICC batting rankings, Thorpe peaked at No.3 in Tests ahead of England’s tour of the West Indies in 1998. His peak in the ODI rankings was No.10, the release added. After retiring from cricket in 2005, Thorpe held coaching positions with New South Wales, Surrey and England Men’s side. The legendary player was involved with the England setup as a coach for the majority of the 2010s and was part of the coaching hierarchy in the role of batting coach that netted the European side of the 2019 World Cup on home soil in thrilling fashion. Thorpe was recently England’s assistant coach up until the 2021/22 Ashes tour of Australia. He was subsequently appointed as Afghanistan’s head coach in March 2022, but couldn’t take up the position due to his illness. **-ANI**

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

How Paris 2024 Olympic Games redefined limits

PARIS: The Paris 2024 Olympic Games isn’t just about winning medals. It’s about pushing boundaries, redefining what is possible, and inspiring millions around the world. From veteran athletes competing at the highest level to young prodigies making their Olympic debuts, Paris has shown that the Olympic spirit knows no age, gender, or societal limits.

Age is just a number One of the most compelling stories from Paris 2024 is that of Ni Xia Lian, a 61-year-old table tennis player representing Luxembourg. Competing in her sixth Olympic Games, Ni has become the oldest competitor in the history of Olympic table tennis. In her Paris debut, Ni defeated a much younger Turkish opponent Sibel Altinkaya. “I’ve completed my task. I’m so glad I get to face Sun Yingsha in the next round. It’s a rare opportunity to learn from her,” Ni said with a smile after her victory. Despite eventually losing to the world No. 1, Ni’s performance was nothing short of inspiring. “You can never truly appreciate how good she is until you face her,” Ni admitted. “Auntie Ni’s sportsmanship is something I admire deeply,” said Sun, who was equally moved by the experience. “No matter how much she’s trailing, she’s always fighting, always thinking of ways to improve.” Similarly, skateboarding icon Andy MacDonald, 51, charmed his way out of the park despite missing the Olympic park event final. “You don’t stop skating because you get old,” MacDonald said. “You get old because you stop skating.” MacDonald’s journey to the Olympics was driven by a late-



blooming dream after a 30-year professional career. Competing against athletes half his age, he emphasized that the Olympic Games are not just about competition but about the joy of sport and camaraderie. “Skateboarding is about pushing each other to do our best. It’s about fun, passion, and friendship,” he said. Another veteran to watch is Timo Boll. The 43-year-old German table tennis legend also captured the hearts of fans during his seventh and also final Olympic appearance. Boll’s Olympic finale was a far cry from a happy ending as his team was defeated by Sweden in a tense quarterfinal match, in which Boll, as always, stayed calm and composed and fought until the final point. But he ultimately failed to hold his tears back when he was given a standing ovation by the Paris crowd. His long-time rival and friend, China’s Ma Long, paid tribute to Boll’s influence on the sport. “Boll is a player that all table tennis athletes respect,” Ma said. “His skills, his character - everything about

him is admirable.” On the other end of the spectrum, Paris 2024 also featured athletes who are just beginning their Olympic journeys. At only 11 years old, Chinese skateboarder Zheng Haohao became the youngest member of China’s Olympic team. Competing in the women’s park, Zheng demonstrated not only her immense talent but also a level of poise and maturity beyond her years. During the preliminary rounds, Zheng’s first run earned her a solid score, but her attempts to execute more difficult tricks in the subsequent runs didn’t go as planned. Still, her enthusiasm was undimmed. “Out of 10, I’d only give myself 3 or 4 points because I messed up the last two runs,” Zheng said. “But when I get back to school and if my classmates ask me about my summer vacation, I could say I just took some time to drop by and participate in the Olympics,” the teen said, proudly. **Determination, triumph** In Tahiti, 15-year-old Yang Siqu

made waves as China’s first Olympic surfer. Facing challenging conditions and seasoned competitors, Yang finished an impressive top 16, despite uncertainty and nerves against American rival Caroline Marks. Yang and her coach, Luo Yang, viewed this experience as a stepping stone for future challenges, with sights set on national and international competitions. On the tennis courts of Roland Garros, a groundbreaking moment came when China’s Zheng Qinwen captured gold in the women’s singles, becoming the first Asian woman to do so. Her journey was characterized by fierce competition and significant wins over top-tier opponents, including a dramatic match against world No. 1 Iga Swiatek. Zheng’s victory was celebrated with immense national pride, as she laid on the clay with the Chinese flag draped proudly beside her, marking a historic achievement for Asian representation in global tennis. In the swimming pool, Pan Zhanle made headlines by setting



a new world record in the men’s 100m freestyle, seizing gold and cementing his status as a breakthrough athlete for China, breaking the longstanding western records and signifying a leap forward for Chinese swimming on the Olympic stage. The narrative of triumph extended to the Chinese men’s 4x100m medley relay team, as Xu Jiayu, Qin Haiyang, Sun Jiajun, and Pan clinched China’s first gold in this event and set a new benchmark in a competition long dominated by the United States. The Olympic spirit was also embodied by British shooter Amber Rutter, who competed in the women’s skeet event shortly after giving birth. Her silver medal was a testament to her determination and ability to balance new motherhood with elite athletic performance. **Beyond the field of play** Chinese manufacturing and technology innovations are subtly changing aspects of the Olympic Games while athletes vie for gold. Leading the technological

charge is Alibaba’s digital cloud services. Their AI-powered Cloud 3.0 and multi-camera replay systems have transformed the way how spectators experience the Olympics. These developments, developed in partnership with the Olympic Broadcasting Service (OBS), allowed spectators to witness slow-motion replays from a variety of perspectives, offering a more immersive viewing experience. Yiannis Exarchos, OBS Chief Executive, noted, “With approximately half of the world’s population watching the Games, technologies like Alibaba Cloud help us tell the stories of the best athletes in the world and bring the world together in more exciting and inspirational ways.” On a more tangible aspect of China’s presence in Paris Games arena, there was the Hebei Zhangkong barbell Manufacturing Co., Ltd, a key player in the provision of weightlifting equipment. From a tiny rural workshop, this business has grown to become a household name in sports equipment in 31 years, an epitome of China’s growth over the past three decades. Leading a team to Paris, the company’s deputy manager-general, Zhang Yi, underlined their dedication to quality, saying, “We hope our products and team will perform well, showcasing the ‘Chinese strength’ in another form.” Elsewhere, Taishan Sports has grown into a leading manufacturer of judo mats, setting industry standards in many aspects. “We’ve learned to speak through technology and rules after moving into this niche,” said Lin Longjiang, head of Taishan’s foreign affairs department. **-Xinhua**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES
The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by October 2024 reaching \$80.03, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.31 from the price of Monday, which was \$78.72. - **ONA**

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER
The MSX index closed at 4,660.05 points, down by 0.56% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.54% at 442.77 points. Majan College, up 4.55%, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 7.69%, was the top loser.

OQEP rebrands with vision for growth and global leadership

Created in close collaboration between the company and its partners, the company's visual identity will solidify OQ Exploration and Production's position as an industry leader both domestically and on the global stage



Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ Exploration and Production (OQEP), the only fully government-owned exploration production company in the Sultanate of Oman, announced the launch of its new brand identity. As Oman's national company for oil and gas exploration and production, OQEP announced distinct branding that embodies the company's commitment to sustained growth and to the economic, environmental and social progress of the Sultanate of Oman.

Created in close collaboration between the company and its partners, the company's visual identity will solidify OQEP's position as an industry leader both domestically and on the global stage. OQEP's new logo features a clean, modern typography and incorporates the logo of its parent company OQ Group – the global integrated energy company-, while creative lettering establishes a distinct identity for OQEP as its dedicated Exploration and Production (EP) unit. The company's colour

palette combines orange, symbolising energy, enthusiasm and creativity and paying tribute to OQEP's legacy as part of OQ, and blue, representing trust, reliability, and professionalism – values that lie at the heart of OQEP's operations. Ahmed Al Azkawi, Chief Executive of OQEP, commented, "Today marks an important milestone in OQEP's journey as we underline our strategic vision for driving investment, growth, and value creation to Oman. Through our track record of delivering affordable

energy and reputation as a trusted partner for international energy companies, OQEP is helping to position Oman as an attractive investment destination on a global scale – this new branding more dutifully embodies the ambition and commitment that define our business and are enabling us to deliver on this goal." Said Al Hashmi, Chief Executive of People, Technology and Culture of OQEP, added, "Launching the new brand identity for OQEP is part of an important strategic evolution designed to accelerate our growth and progress towards sustainability goals and reinforce the commitment to advancing Oman's national agenda. The branding honours both the legacy and the commitment to operational excellence and energy innovation. It has been developed in a way to ensure it embodies the vision and aspirations of all our stakeholders." As its dedicated upstream company exclusively focused on the exploration, drilling, and extraction of oil and gas, OQEP plays a central

role in the energy ecosystem of OQ, the largest integrated energy company in Oman. Leveraging its excellent financial fundamentals, experienced and entrepreneurial management team, and expansive global network of leading international oil company (IOC) partners, OQEP is committed to maximising the use of Oman's energy resources in a sustainable way to bridge the energy transition and drive economic growth to all corners of Oman for the benefit of its local communities.

BRIEFS IEA maintains oil demand growth forecast for 2024



PARIS: The International Energy Agency (IEA), headquartered in Paris, maintained today that its forecast for oil demand growth this year (2024) at 970,000 barrels per day. However, it revised its forecast for 2025, from 980,000 barrels to 950,000 barrels a day, attributing this change to the impact of weaker Chinese consumption on economic growth. In its monthly report, the IEA stated that the end of the post-COVID-19 economic recovery in China has limited global oil demand. However, advanced economies, particularly the United States which consumes a third of the world's gasoline have offset this loss. The report also noted that the US summer driving season is expected to be the strongest since the pandemic, against the backdrop of supply cuts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC participants (OPEC+). The Agency mentioned that oil is currently struggling to meet peak summer demand, resulting in a market deficit. - **ONA**

Gold dips as investors book profits, US inflation data in focus



SINGAPORE: Gold prices eased yesterday as profit-taking kicked in after bullion hit a more than one-week high, while market players awaited key US inflation data that could provide further insight into the Federal Reserve's next policy decision. Spot gold fell 0.4% to \$2,462.19 per ounce, after hitting its highest level since 2 August 2024 earlier in the session. Prices rose more than 1% in the previous session. US gold futures were little changed at \$2,502.40. Traders are waiting for July US producer price figures due later in the day and consumer price numbers on Wednesday to gauge the chance of outsized rate cuts. The CPI data is expected to show that headline and core prices rose 0.2% month-on-month. Among other metals, spot silver fell 1.2% to \$27.67 per ounce, platinum edged 0.3% lower to \$933.96 and palladium shed 0.6% to \$914.25. - **ONA**

REPORT Regional IPOs raise \$2.64bn in second quarter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: IPO activity in the MENA region remained resilient with 14 IPOs raising \$2.64 billion in proceeds during the second quarter of this year, according to the EY Mena IPO Eye Q2 2024 report. The number of initial public offerings (IPOs) increased from the 13 listings in the second quarter (Q2) 2023, with a corresponding increase in proceeds of 45.3 percent against the comparative quarter. During Q2 2024 Dr. Soliman Abdul Kader Fakeeh Hospital Co. was listed on the Tadawul main market, raising the highest proceeds of the quarter – \$764 million – and contributing 29 percent of the overall IPO proceeds. This was followed by Alef Education Consultancy with its listing on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX), which contributed 19.5 percent of proceeds with the \$515m raised. Brad Watson, EY Mena Strategy and Transactions Leader, said: "Whilst the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) equity markets continue to face challenges, Q2 2024 was a stronger quarter with a total of 14 IPOs raising \$2.6 billion. Eleven of the companies listed were in the KSA region (five of which were on the Tadawul main market). The most significant fund raiser was by Dr. Soliman Abdul Kader Fakeeh Hospital Co. (\$764 million)." "Increased liquidity driven by higher oil prices, economic recovery, and positive market sentiment has kept the IPO activity in the region buoyant with a strong pipeline for the second half (H2) 2024," he further added. Eight out of the 14 Mena IPOs listed in Q2 2024 had shown a positive return as of the 30 June, 2024 share price in comparison with their IPO price, with Miahona Company achieving the highest gain of 90.4 percent within the period. Stock exchanges across the Mena region exhibited varied performances. MSCI Emerging Markets Index ended Q2 2024 with a gain of 4.2 percent, making it the top-performing market in the GCC, followed by the gain of one percent from Qatar Exchange (QE) general index.

Saudi Arabia continues to lead regional IPO market
As with Q1 2024, the Kingdom of



“There is a continued focus on economic diversification away from oil and gas, with the Mena region continuing to see listings from a variety of sectors including health care, education, consumer goods and professional services. As we enter a phase of declining interest rates and continue to witness major country elections around the world, we will monitor the subsequent impact on regional markets and IPO activity.”

Gregory Hughes
EY Mena IPO Leader

Saudi Arabia (KSA) stood at the forefront of the region's IPO activity in terms of the number of listings – 11 out of 14 – in Q2 2024. A total of \$1.6 billion was raised, with the highest proceeds from Dr. Soliman Abdul Kader Fakeeh Hospital Co. at \$764 million, followed by Saudi Manpower Solutions Company (SMASCO) at \$240 million and Rasan Information Technology Company at \$224 million. Five out of the 11 IPOs were listed on the Tadawul main market, including the top three contributors, with the remaining six taking place on the Nomu market with total proceeds of \$85.4 million. Funds raised originate from a number of different sectors including health care, equipment services, commercial and professional services, materials, mineral resources, and finance and insurance services. The Kingdom also leads in the IPO pipeline activity, with 14 Saudi companies announcing their intention to list by the end of the year.

UAE strong contributor
The United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s Alef Education Consultancy, listed on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, raised \$515 million in the academic and education services sector with its IPO. The listing of Spinneys 1961

Holding, a family business, on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) raised \$375 million. Together, these two IPO listings in the UAE accounted for 33.8 percent of the quarter's total proceeds. Marking the first listing in Kuwait since Q4 2019, Beyout Investment Group (BIG) Holding Co. raised \$147 million on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE). The remainder of 2024 is set to see robust activity in the IPO market, with an additional 16 private companies and seven funds across various sectors intending to list on the MENA exchanges. Of the companies intending to list, 14 are in KSA, including Riyad Capital, United International Holding Co. and Arabian Mills for Food Products, among others. One company in the UAE has also obtained approval to list, alongside Go Bus in Egypt. Gregory Hughes, EY Mena IPO Leader, said: "The Mena IPO market continued to be led by the KSA and the UAE markets. However, the Kuwait Bourse welcomed their first listing since 2019. There is a continued focus on economic diversification away from oil and gas, with the Mena region continuing to see listings from a variety of sectors including health care, education, consumer goods and

professional services. As we enter a phase of declining interest rates and continue to witness major country elections around the world, we will monitor with interest the subsequent impact on regional markets and IPO activity." Globally, IPO activity declined in comparison to Q2 2023; the number of IPOs dropped by 15 percent from 317 to 271, and proceeds decreased by 31 percent falling from \$40.4 billion to \$27.8 billion. The EMEIA region, however, made a remarkable comeback, with inflation approaching 'normal' levels, interest rates falling, stock markets rallying to hit all-time highs, and volatility remaining low. This comeback saw the region regain the top global IPO market share by number – 45 percent of deal volume and 46 percent of value – for the first time in 16 years. **Development in sustainable reporting** The International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) sustainability disclosure standards were applied for annual reporting periods beginning January 2024, marking a major step towards the full integration of sustainability reporting into the broader financial reporting process both globally and in the Mena region.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Majan College, up 4.55%, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 7.69%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,660.05 points, down by 0.56% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.54% at 442.77 points. Majan College, up 4.55%, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 7.69%, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 520 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 1.5 million, with more than 9.48 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 8 advanced, 15 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for RO 63K while domestic investors were net buyers for RO 56K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 7K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,583.94 points, down 0.37%.

Prices of Bank Muscat were up by 0.40% respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Al Madina Investments, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank, Bank Nizwa were down by 4.26%, 3.39%, 2.67%, 1.50%, 0.96% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,850.25 points, down 0.26%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics were up by 2.29% respectively. Prices of Oman Cables Industry, Construction Materials, Al Maha Ceramics, Galfar Engineering were down by 2.98%, 2.13%, 1.94%, 0.70% respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.6% before closing at 1,801.28 points. Prices of Majan College, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, Renaissance Services were up by 4.55%, 1.72%, 1.33%, 0.80% respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Ooredoo, National Gas, Abraj Energy, OQ Gas Networks were down by 7.69%, 2.08%, 1.89%, 1.67%, 1.40% respectively—United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,686.19	4,656.66	4,660.05	4,686.19	-26.14	-0.56
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,611.93	7,583.27	7,583.94	7,611.93	-27.99	-0.37
Industry Index	5,869.08	5,842.00	5,850.25	5,865.41	-15.16	-0.26
Services Index	1,812.14	1,797.04	1,801.28	1,812.14	-10.86	-0.60
MSX Shariah Index	445.96	442.35	442.77	445.18	-2.41	-0.54
MSX TR INDEX	6,513.06	6,472.03	6,476.73	6,513.06	-36.34	-0.56
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,647.93	8,615.37	8,616.14	8,647.93	-31.80	-0.37
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,771.53	6,740.28	6,749.80	6,767.29	-17.49	-0.26
SERVICES TR IDX	2,108.70	2,091.13	2,096.07	2,108.70	-12.63	-0.60
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,483,112	1,497,093	520	24,373,635,866	8	15	20	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,500	269	1	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.175	0.004	2.286	0.179	0.173	0.179	0.100	39,380,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	161,890	12,166	8	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.074	0.079	0.100	54,294,882
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	140,660	53,181	10	0.378	0.380	0.378	0.380	0.377	0.003	0.796	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.100	89,835,800
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	312,383	78,831	14	0.251	0.252	0.251	0.251	0.250	0.001	0.400	0.251	0.251	0.252	0.100	18,841,056,693
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	225,080	16,078	14	0.071	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	8,775,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	12,000	4,800	3	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.100	132,345,084
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,960	1,599	1	0.816	0.816	0.816	0.818	0.818	0.000	0.000	0.816	0.810	0.816	0.100	7,710,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	182,280	182,009	29	0.997	1.000	0.996	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.996	1.000	0.100	750,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	336,132	25,210	11	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000004735	SEMCORP SALALAH	350	36	1	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.099	0.103	0.100	98,320,911
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	62,850	4,777	7	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	13,300,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	127,137	9,401	6	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.071	0.075	0.100	48,941,670
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	778,836	109,952	92	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.143	-0.002	-1.399	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.100	610,617,973
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	3,884,968	510,069	92	0.133	0.133	0.131	0.131	0.133	-0.002	-1.504	0.131	0.131	0.136	0.100	730,619,261
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	565,300	166,980	28	0.289	0.289	0.285	0.285	0.300	-0.005	-1.667	0.285	0.287	0.297	0.100	227,209,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	118,913	33,874	7	0.285	0.285	0.283	0.283	0.289	-0.006	-2.076	0.283	0.283	0.288	0.100	194,217,217
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO	63,900	4,669	7	0.075	0.075	0.073	0.073	0.075	-0.002	-2.667	0.073	0.073	0.082	0.100	6,370,000
Total		17	6,976,829	1,213,711	331											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	3,500	403	2	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.110	0.005	4.545	0.115	0.103	0.000	0.100	10,350,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	23,480	2,747	5	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.115	0.002	1.739	0.117	0.114	0.124	0.100	59,448,115
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	500	30	1	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.001	1.724	0.059	0.058	0.060	0.100	86,293,486
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	58,533	3,863	5	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.001	1.538	0.066	0.063	0.066	0.100	32,395,201
OM0000001806	MUSCAT INSURANCE	2,485	746	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.285	0.300	1.000	3,307,514
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SERVICES	3,950	1,106	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.000	0.280	0.100	50,354,472
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	61,800	9,888	16	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.150	0.175	0.100	479,416,230
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,000	1,608	1	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.804	0.000	0.000	0.804	0.791	0.804	0.100	49,285,100
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	4,000	280	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	15,556,800
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	7,700	739	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.090	0.098	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	96,300	13,579	9	0.143	0.143	0.141	0.141	0.142	-0.001	-0.704	0.141	0.137	0.141	0.100	28,621,089
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	324,261	33,401	24	0.103	0.104	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.102	0.109	0.100	230,406,162
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	208,137	21,747	12	0.106	0.106	0.103	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.101	0.104	0.100	8,840,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	15,338	2,370	3	0.155	0.155	0.152	0.152	0.155	-0.003	-1.935	0.152	0.152	0.155	0.100	8,360,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	10,000	460	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.047	-0.001	-2.128	0.046	0.044	0.043	0.100	2,875,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	1,500	4,350	1	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.900	2.989	-0.089	-2.978	2.900	2.700	2.900	0.100	260,130,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	995,219	57,716	32	0.058	0.058	0.055	0.057	0.059	-0.002	-3.390	0.057	0.055	0.058	0.100	4,845,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	271,307	12,214	10	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	0.047	-0.002	-4.255	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	289,247	65,440	44	0.240	0.267	0.234	0.240	0.260	-0.020	-7.892	0.240	0.240	0.260	0.100	38,400,000
Total		19	2,358,257	232,684	170											

MARKETS

Global stocks steady while yen slips in calm

LONDON: European stocks and US futures held steady on Monday, while the yen slipped as a holiday in Japan removed one source of recent volatility, and investors a looked ahead to US and Chinese economic data.

Stock markets tumbled on Monday last week, driven by a plunge in Japan, on the back of weak US jobs

numbers and the unwinding of a highly popular Japanese yen trading strategy.

Yet some stronger-than-expected US data helped allay fears of a global slowdown and stocks recovered almost all of their losses by Friday.

Markets were calmer on Monday, with Europe's STOXX 600 in-

dex down 0.1 per cent after finishing last week 0.3 per cent higher. Germany's DAX index <GDAXI> was flat and Britain's FTSE 100 was up 0.3 per cent.

Looking ahead

Investors were looking ahead to US consumer price index data for July on Wednesday, which is ex-

pected to show month-on-month inflation ticked up to 0.2 per cent after a minus 0.1 per cent reading in June. Retail sales data is due on Thursday, according to Reuters.

Futures for the US S&P 500 ticked up 0.1 per cent. The index ended broadly flat for the week on Friday, recovering from a 3% drop on Monday. -BNA

POLICY INITIATIVES

Europe's Green Deal: More money needed for carbon transition

BRUSSELS: Ribera, however, has set her sights on a different portfolio than that of her predecessor, Josep Borrell, who has headed the bloc's foreign policy office — a portfolio that is even more important and controversial in EU politics.

Reportedly, Ribera is keen on leading the 27-member bloc into a greener future as EU vice president in charge of the so-called European Green Deal — a set of policy initiatives initiated by the European Commission with the aim of making the EU climate neutral by 2050.

As Spain's minister for ecological transition since 2018, Ribera is widely respected in the international environment-activist community. In a recent post on social media platform X, she said she was honored to head Spain's list of candidates for the EU Commission and wanted a more "just and green" Europe.

Celia Nyssens-James, policy manager for agriculture and food systems at the European Environmental Bureau, thinks Ribera "deserves" to be charged with implementing the EU Green Deal. "What's key for us is to have someone in the commission who is committed to the Green Deal, like Frans Timmermans," she told DW, referring to Dutch politician who was seen as instrumental in driving the EU's pro-climate agenda.

"But we have one big question and that is whether she will be tough enough on the farming industry. Spain has a big one and the farmers' lobby there is very strong, too," she added.



even reverse a key regulation on slashing the use of pesticides.

But dealing with farmers will be just one of the many daunting challenges that Ribera is likely to face if she indeed gets to lead the EU's green-transition team.

Carlo Fidanza, of the far-right Brothers of Italy party, said the nationalist European Conservatives and Reformists group in the EU Parliament aims to "renegotiate" the most important parts of the Green Deal, "starting with the ban of conventional fuel and diesel engines by 2035."

"We need less ideology and more pragmatism, keeping together the environmental sustainability with the competitiveness of our businesses," he said.

Apart from the traditionally euroskeptic far-right members of the European Parliament, more and more center-right lawmakers, who make up the largest parliamentary group, are also gearing up to oppose key provisions in the Green Deal.

Green activists now fear that the center-right European People's Party (EPP), the most influential group in parliament, may also come under pressure to reverse green policies.

Anna Cavazzini, a German politician with the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance in the EU, told DW that there were concerns over the EPP "backsliding" on their assurances to the Green Deal.

The Greens are not ready to discuss any reversals on any of

the legislation already passed, she said, but EPP chief Manfred Weber has said he will push for rolling back the EU ban on the use of combustion engines planned for 2035.

So far, the EPP has supported the Green Deal objectives, but some members don't agree with all aspect of the legislation. Their main concern is how to garner enough green-transition funding and mitigate the policy's impact on vulnerable communities at the same time.

EU struggles with social cost of green transition

<



LIFESTYLE

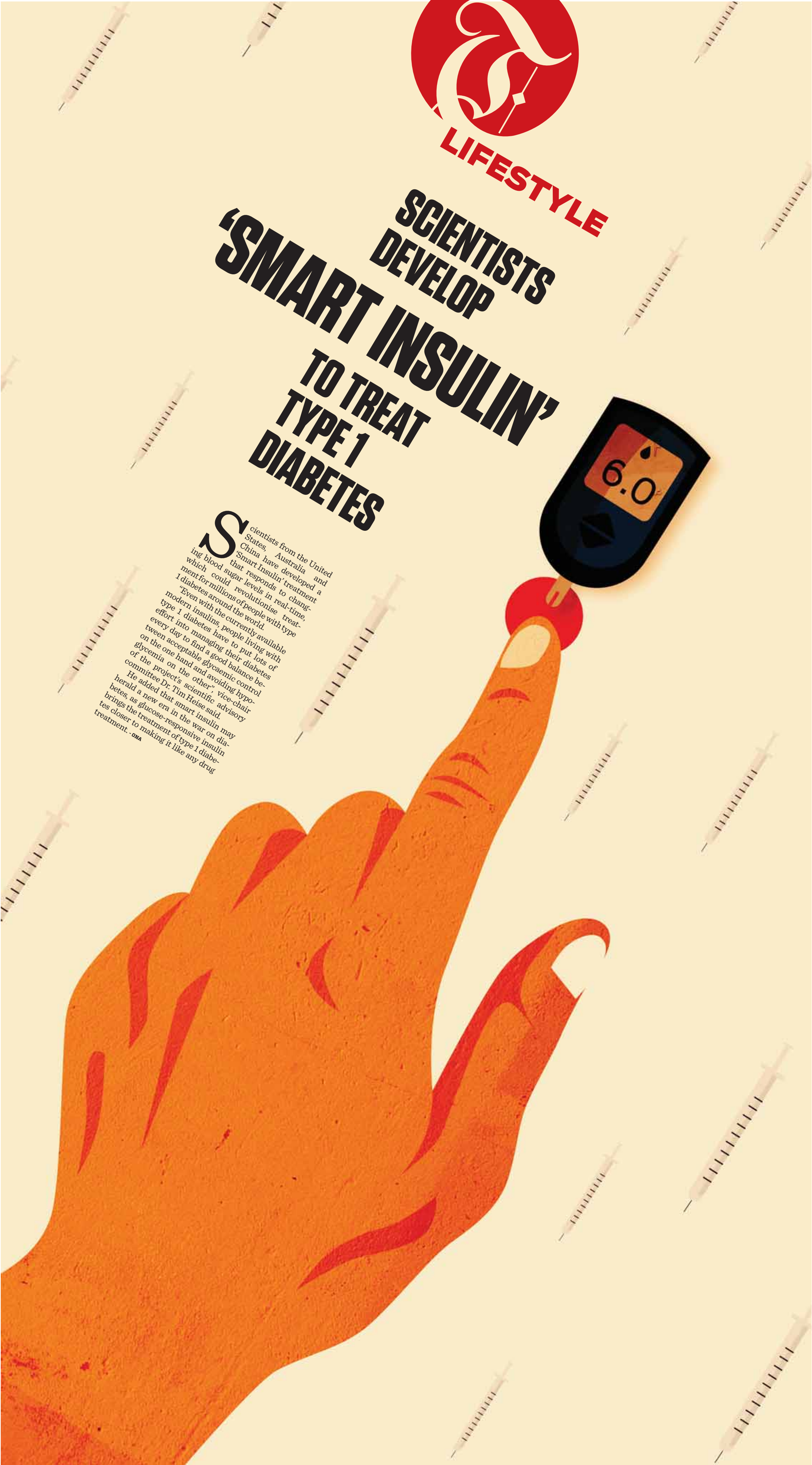
SCIENTISTS DEVELOP 'SMART INSULIN' TO TREAT TYPE 1 DIABETES



Scientists from the United States, Australia and China have developed a 'Smart Insulin' treatment that responds to changing blood sugar levels in real-time, which could revolutionise treatment for millions of people with type 1 diabetes around the world.

"Even with the currently available modern insulins, people living with type 1 diabetes have to put lots of effort into managing their diabetes every day to find a good balance between acceptable glycaemic control on the one hand and avoiding hypoglycemia on the other", vice-chair of the project's scientific advisory committee Dr. Tim Heise said.

He added that smart insulin may herald a new era in the war on diabetes, as glucose-responsive insulin brings the treatment of type 1 diabetes closer to making it like any drug treatment. -DNA



Mbappe and Endrick signings make Real Madrid favourites in new season

Real Madrid won the league by 10 points in the 2023-24 campaign

MADRID: If last season was a virtual stroll for Real Madrid in La Liga, this season should also be relatively comfortable for the European champions. Real Madrid won the league by 10 points in the 2023-24 campaign and the win would probably have been even more comfortable but for easing off at the end of the season as they chased their 15th Champions League title. Carlo Ancelotti's side lost just one game (against Atletico Madrid) and won the title with 87 goals in their favor and just 26 against. The bad news for other clubs is that this season, Real Madrid (with one exception) look to be even stronger, after finally signing



Kylian Mbappe from Paris Saint Germain, along with 18-year-old Brazilian forward, Endrick. Mbappe has dominated French football and his pace and power will make an already fearsome Madrid attack even more threatening. Last season saw Real Madrid at times happy to see rivals have the ball, before hitting them with a counter-attack led by Fede Valverde, Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo. If you add Mbappe to the mix, the threat on the break is even more potent, although there is a slight doubt about where he will play. Both the Frenchman and Vinicius like to start and cut in from the left, but obviously, they can't both do that, so either Vinicius moves to the right or Mbappe plays more through the center - which seems likely. Toni Kroos' retirement has left a hole in midfield and his ability to keep the ball, with a pass accuracy of well over 90 percent will be missed, but Madrid have shown that with their forwards, they need very little to create clear chances and the fitness of Turkish teenage Arda Guler gives them further options up front and also with shots

from outside of the penalty area. Veteran central defender Nacho Fernandez has moved to Saudi Arabia, and David Alaba's knee injury means Madrid currently look a bit light at the back, but expect them to make a new signing in that area before the end of August, with Spain international Aymeric Laporte thought to be a target. Thibaut Courtois has also recovered to play in goal and although Andriy Lunin filled in effectively last time around, Courtois is an upgrade between the posts. Lunin's future is uncertain, and he may opt to leave this summer, leaving the club to sign a backup goalkeeper. Carlo Ancelotti remains a calming influence on the bench and his stability is a factor in Real Madrid's success. He may have to work hard to keep some egos in check over the season but with Real Madrid's spending ceiling almost three times that of their nearest rivals (Atletico Madrid) and three and a half times that of Barcelona, it would need disaster for them not to retain the league title - and that will allow them to again focus on Europe. **Xinhua**

CRICKET

Bangladesh is scheduled to play Test series against Pakistan this year

DHAKA: Star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been confirmed to play the remaining Test matches in 2024, with chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain affirming his availability for the remainder of the year. Bangladesh is scheduled to play eight Test matches - four two-match Test series against Pakistan, India, South Africa, and the West Indies - in 2024, all of which are part of the World Test Championship (WTC) cycle, as per the ICC. "Probably at the end of July, we talked to Shakib and there were discussions with me regarding his fitness," Hossain said ahead of the ICC World Test Championship series against Pakistan, as quoted by the ICC. "He assured us that he would play all the Tests and attend all practice sessions before each series," he added. Shakib has only played one Test match for Bangladesh in the current World Test Championship cycle and had earlier not confirmed his availability for matches beyond the upcoming Pakistan series. "There is international cricket, and there is a series against Pakistan, and I am planning until that point in time, not beyond

that," Shakib said in July ahead of his commitments in the Major League Cricket and Global T20 League in Canada. Shakib was named in the Test squad for the Pakistan series and is confirmed to play an all-round role. "Globally, Shakib is one of the best all-rounders over the past years, and I maintain that opinion. I cannot dare to consider him only as a bowler," Hossain said. "It was important to know whether he would be available for all the practice sessions before the series, and that was a criterion for selection from our point of view. We were supposed to go [to Pakistan] a bit later. He will probably join the side on the 14th or 15th and practice with the team." The WTC series against Pakistan begins on August 21, with the second match starting on August 30. Bangladesh Test squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Syed Khaled Ahmed. **ANI**



FOOTBALL

Upgrades in defence and attack as Atletico look to make amends



MADRID: It has been a busy summer for Atletico Madrid as the team coached by Diego Simeone has undergone a revamp with the hope of bringing more youth into the side and improving on a defense that last season made too many costly errors. The club with the second-highest spending ceiling in Spain finished fourth in La Liga last season to ensure a place in this season's Champions League, but for much of the campaign that was in the balance and it was only when Athletic Club Bilbao's Copa del Rey commitments caught up with them, that Atletico were able to pull clear. A quick look at the numbers makes it easy to see where the problems were, with Atletico losing eight of their 19 matches away from home, while conceding 43 goals over the season. The defence that in recent years was so effective under Simeone, began to leak alarmingly, with players such as Mario Hermoso, Stefan Savic and Jose Gimenez below their best (although in Gimenez's case, a continued run of injuries didn't help). Atletico have moved to solve

those questions, with Hermoso and Savic both leaving, along with Gabriel Paulista, who arrived from Valencia in January only to play a very small bit-part role. Spain international Robin le Normand has arrived from Real Sociedad and should provide power in the air and ability with the ball at his feet, although maybe they still need another center-half. It's not just in defence, where Atletico have been active, and next season will see big changes in attack with the big-money signings of Alexander Sorloth (the second-highest goalscorer in La Liga last season) and Julian Alvarez from Manchester City for a club record fee. They look like a considerable upgrade on Memphis Depay and Alvaro Morata, whose confidence dropped after a good first half to the season, with Alvarez providing trickery in and around the area, while Sorloth offers the power that Atletico has lacked in attack. Antoine Griezmann will continue to contribute hard work and talent, while Angel Correa shows year after year that he is a useful player to come off the bench. It's so far uncertain what will

Atletico Madrid sign Alvarez from Man City

MADRID: Atletico Madrid have completed the £81.5m signing of Manchester City striker Julian Alvarez on a six-year deal. Diego Simeone's Spanish side will pay an initial £64.4m (£75m euros) with a further £17.1m (£20m euros) in potential add-ons for the Argentina striker, BBC sports reported. The 24-year-old's departure is a record sale for City, eclipsing the £50m they received from Chelsea for Raheem Sterling in 2022. They paid Argentine side River Plate £14.1m for Alvarez in January 2022. He won the treble during his debut season at the club, as well as the 2022 World Cup midway through the season with Argentina.



The striker departed Manchester having scored 36 goals in 106 appearances for City. Atletico Madrid visit Villarreal on 19 August 2024 on the opening weekend of the Spanish La Liga season. **ONA**

happen with the powerful Samu Omorodion, who returns after a successful loan at Alaves, but looked likely to join Chelsea before the deal fell through. The collapse of that deal means Atletico are still waiting to close the purchase of Conor Gallagher from Chelsea, although the England international has been training with them. Gallagher looks to be a perfect player for Simeone, with a high work rate and an eye for goal, and when that deal is closed, he too should be an upgrade on Saul Niguez, who has joined Sevilla. The summer looks to have left Atletico in a good position, with a

stronger and more balanced squad than last season, and although Real Madrid look a step ahead of everyone else in La Liga over the course of the season, Atletico will fancy their chances in a head-to-head game with their neighbors. With Barca struggling financially and Girona losing key players, Simeone's side (who have the second highest spending ceiling in La Liga) should target at least second place, and they have the players to entertain. The problem with Atletico so many times is that when things go wrong, Simeone reverts to type and prefers to defend. If he does that, it will be a shame. **Xinhua**

BIG SPORTING EVENTS

India can organise Olympics 2036: French President Macron

PARIS: As India looks forward to bidding for the Olympics 2036, French President Emmanuel Macron said that India has the "capacity" to organise such events. Speaking to Jio Cinema, Macron said he believes in India's future. He added that the Olympics is fierce competition. "First of all, I am a strong believer in your country and the future of your country. And what you can build and your capacity to organise such events. I think this is a fierce competition. You should not underestimate that fact. I remember that seven years ago when we went to Lausanne, we did compete with the US at that time - Los Angeles. And we found this agreement at the end, it was,

it is still a great cooperation. So, competing, by itself, is clearly a great preparation," Macron said. Earlier, PM Modi also expressed that India will make efforts to host these big sporting events. Speaking to the para-athletes contingent in Delhi following a successful Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, PM Modi said the approach of the government is "athlete-centric". He said India is growing in terms of its sporting culture and also as a "sporting society". The Prime Minister said there is another reason that India has gained the self-confidence to move forward. "We are trying to host the 2030 Youth Olympics and 2036 Olympics." move forward. "We

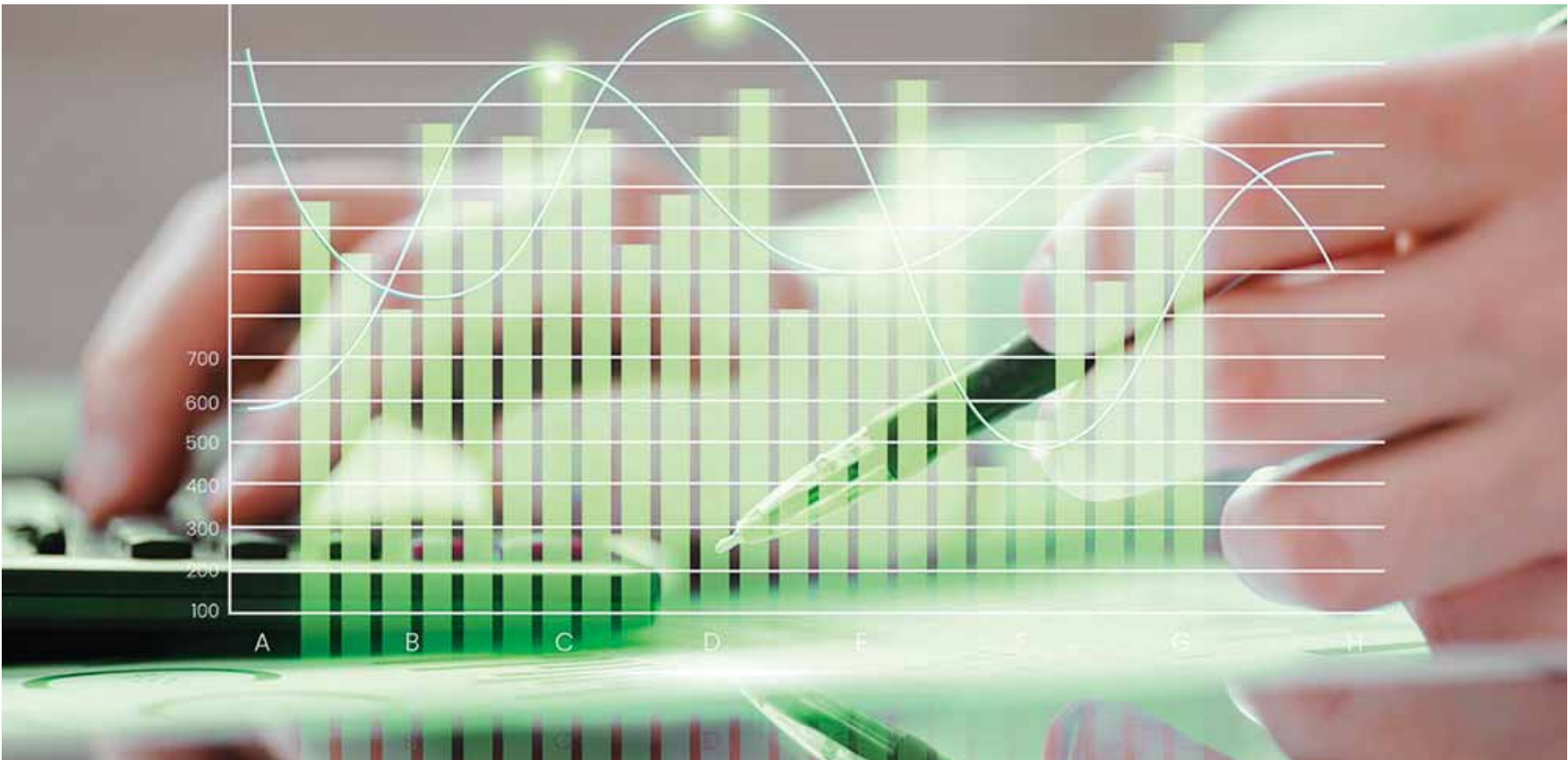


Last year in the Asian Games and Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, India crossed the 100-medal mark for the first time ever, ending with 107 and 111 medals respectively

are trying to host the 2030 Youth Olympics and 2036 Olympics." India is slowly taking giant steps in multi-sporting events over the years. Last year in the Asian Games and Para Asian Games in Hangzhou, India crossed the 100-medal mark for the first time ever, ending with 107 and 111 medals respectively. India had also captured 61 medals in the Commonwealth Games back in 2022 in Birmingham, though their best medal count was 101 at home in 2010. India finished in the 71st place on the Paris Olympics medals tally, while, the United States of America ended in top place with a total of 126 medals. **ANI**

BankDhofar seeks opportunities to invest and capitalise on power of artificial intelligence systems

BankDhofar seeks to adopt artificial intelligence systems and integrate financial technologies into its services to provide an enriching and cost-efficient customer experience to ensure that it remains at the forefront of the banking services sector



MUSCAT: BankDhofar the leading financial institution in the Sultanate of Oman - invested in modern technologies to keep pace with the technological transformations that appear in the world from time to time, especially in the banking sector, in addition to supporting the goals of Oman Vision 2040 of building a sustainable knowledge society and developing the Information Technology industry in Sultanate of Oman.

BankDhofar seeks to adopt artificial intelligence systems and integrate financial technologies into its services to provide an enriching and cost-efficient customer experience to ensure that it remains at the forefront of the banking services sector.

Dr. Tariq Saleh Taha, Chief Information Officer at Bank Dhofar said: “Technology has brought about a major change in the framework of the banking sector and in various financial institutions, and has even contributed to increasing the intensity of competition between them to provide the best reliable products and services to customers.” Pointing out that artificial intelligence systems are among the most widespread systems that can contribute to bringing about many fundamental transformations in the banking sector. He explained that these systems allow bank officials to communicate with customers through “chat

bots” that will be linked to popular social messaging platforms such as Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp, which in turn contributes to solving customers’ problems and complaints efficiently, as well as responding to their inquiries related to detailed information about Products, ATMs, foreign exchange rates, branch hours, etc.

Artificial intelligence systems contribute to reducing the bank’s operational costs, reducing errors, increasing revenues, and improving the efficiency and productivity of employees. These systems also help bank employees make safe loan and credit decisions, which ensures achieving more profits, as well as

making investment decisions, supporting research in this aspect, writing reports based on financial data, and combating money laundering and fraud. Artificial intelligence is a very effective and powerful tool to reduce such types of crimes.

He added: “Bank Dhofar is one of the first banks in the Sultanate of Oman to implement a business process management platform and automate robotic processes that cover a large number of operations across the bank. This has led to positive developments in customer service, reduced human errors, and enhanced internal controls. The bank has benefited from the applications of artificial

intelligence technologies in the “know your customer” thru digital onboarding , and is currently in the early stages of exploring the application of generative artificial intelligence and enhancing office automation.

The bank recently launched an innovative service, “Dhofar Pay,” which is the first of its kind in the Sultanate of Oman. The service allows customers to pay via smartphones running the Android system easily and securely without the need to use the debit card.

BankDhofar has been able to expand its digital scope by providing customers with the opportunity to open bank accounts through

smartphones and other digital channels that enable them to complete their banking transactions with complete ease at the appropriate time and place, which has led to an increase in the total number of transactions through digital channels in 2023 to approximately 85.5%, in addition to an increase in the value of completed transactions by 55.3%.

BankDhofar also allows customers, through the mobile banking application, to manage their accounts, pay bills, transfer money, and open a new account online easily through the “Intilaqah” application without the need to visit any branches.

ACHIEVEMENT



Indian School Bousher student represents India in World Schools Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship

MUSCAT: M.A. Sriiyukthaa, a 4-D student at Indian School Bousher in Oman, represented India in the “World Schools Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship” for the Under 9 (girls) category held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from August 1-8, 2024.

This international event, co-ordinated by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the Uzbekistan Chess Federation, had over 250 participants from more than 18 countries.

Admission to this tournament is based solely on each country’s

national chess federation. As a result, a restricted number of national players from various countries fought against one another in separate age groups for boys and girls.

We are delighted to announce that Sriiyukthaa won the gold medal (1st place) in the Rapid Chess Tournament with 7.5 out of 9 points and won a bronze medal in Blitz Chess Championship

Staff, students, parents, and school management of ISB family congratulated her on the milestone achievement.

APPAREL GROUP

R&B launches its Back-to-School collection

MUSCAT: Apparel Group, a global leader in the retail industry, has unveiled R&B’s newest Back-to-School collection that blends character and fashion designs with functionality, fulfilling the diverse needs of students from preschool to high school at affordable prices.

The collection includes a variety of pieces including Pinafore dresses, skirts, school shirts and pants are wrinkle-resistant fabrics which ensure students look polished throughout long and tiring school days.

Moreover, R&B’s wide range of Back-to-School footwear includes ballerinas & sneakers designed for all-day comfort. These shoes



incorporate the latest cushioning technology while maintaining a sleek, modern aesthetic that appeals to style-conscious juniors.

The cornerstone of the collection is a range of 5 in 1 character

trolley set OMR9.9; these bags feature Batman, Spiderman, Superman, Stitch, Frozen, Hello Kitty and more character designs. Each set includes a trolley backpack, lunch bag, tiffin box, water bottle, and accessory pouch. Complementing these, R&B offers character backpacks OMR7 fashion trolleys at OMR16 & backpacks at OMR6.5 and stationery, with items ranging from pencil cases, notebooks and much more.

The Back-to-School Collection is available across all R&B stores in GCC and online. As students prepare to return to the classroom, the latest collection promises to start their school year in style!

FOR BANK EMPLOYEES

Alizz Islamic Bank hosts global motivation speaker to conduct course on ‘Ikigai’

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently hosted international motivational speaker Manoj Anchan to conduct a course on the ancient Japanese framework ‘IKIGAI’ for the bank employees.

The term ‘IKIGAI’ is formed from two Japanese words: iki (meaning ‘alive’) and kai (meaning ‘effect’) to translate to Purpose of happiness. It is a framework for finding purpose in life. The philosophy combines four fundamental components that represent passion, profession, mission and vocation. This is where passion, skills, societal contributions and financial rewards align. By identifying ‘IKIGAI’ the individual can find a deeper sense of meaning and satisfaction in both life and work.

Manoj Anchan is a renowned motivational speaker, purpose researcher and a happiness advocate. He studied happiness concepts namely Ikigai from Japan, Hygge from Denmark, Lagom from Sweden, Sisu from Finland and the Gross National Happiness from Bhutan. Passionate about bringing out a positive change in society through happiness, he launched



HQGPL, a venture promoting mental health, well-being and happiness. He is a Gross Global Happiness Summit Presenter, board member of the startup school Indus Bangalore international as their mentor, a part of the education committee of the IMC Chamber of Commerce and an adjunct professor at a leading business school. Speaking about the session, Sumaya Al Nabhani, Head of Learning & Development at Alizz Islamic Bank said “At Alizz Islamic Bank - employee wellbeing is of

utmost priority which is why we believe in educating them on the best global practices with regards to work life balance. We are honoured to have hosted Manoj and to have such an esteemed speaker touch upon the importance of people pursuing their passion, focusing on the strength of professional skills, contributing and helping others are all considered key to success and happiness”.

Alizz Islamic Bank underlines the importance of the critical role that skill development plays in

overcoming challenges and promoting economic growth and aims to bridge the gap between education and employment, promoting economic growth and social inclusion. The bank continuously strives to develop the future leaders of Oman; placing great importance on education, training and development, empowering future generations and equipping them with the skills and capabilities needed to contribute their creative potential towards serving their communities.

ROUND-UP

ahlibank continues reinforcing its relationship with Al Nukhba clients

The exclusive gatherings, held across various governorates in the Sultanate of Oman, aim to strengthen relationships with ahlibank’s premium clientele and express gratitude for their continued trust

MUSCAT: In its ongoing commitment to providing a top-notch banking experience, ahlibank continues hosting a number of gatherings for its Al Nukhba clients across the Sultanate. These exclusive events, held across various governorates in the Sultanate, aim to strengthen relationships with ahlibank’s premium clientele and express gratitude for their continued trust. The gatherings also serve as a venue to introduce the latest tailored products and offerings exclusively designed for this esteemed segment. Al Nukhba gathering kicked off with great enthusiasm in a few governorates of the Sultanate and is to be continued across ahlibank branches in all governorates. This strategic initiative reflects ahli-



bank’s unwavering commitment to fostering strong connections with its premium clients and delivering unparalleled banking experiences. Muneer Al Balushi, Assistant General Manager - Head of Retail Distribution at ahlibank, emphasized the bank’s commitment to its exclusive clients, stating, “We believe in exceeding traditional banking services by recognizing the unique requirements of our premium clients. As partners, we provide distinctive and innovative solutions that surpass their expectations. Moreover, we are attuned to the evolving preferences and premium lifestyles of our clients, striving to deliver innovative solutions that align with their needs. By actively collecting market insights and client feedback, we continuously solidify our position as one of the most preferred banks in Oman.” Al Balushi further added, “Our efforts exemplify our dedication to understanding the individual needs of our clients and enhancing our product and service offerings accordingly. Through the Al Nukhba banking ac-

count, premium clients enjoy an array of exclusive benefits that elevate their banking experience.” Each Al Nukhba account holder is assigned a dedicated Relationship Manager, ensuring personalized attention and assistance. In addition, Al Nukhba lounges offer a private and comfortable setting for conducting banking transactions. Complimentary debit and Signature credit cards provide convenient access to funds and a host of additional benefits. With preferential pricing on deposits and

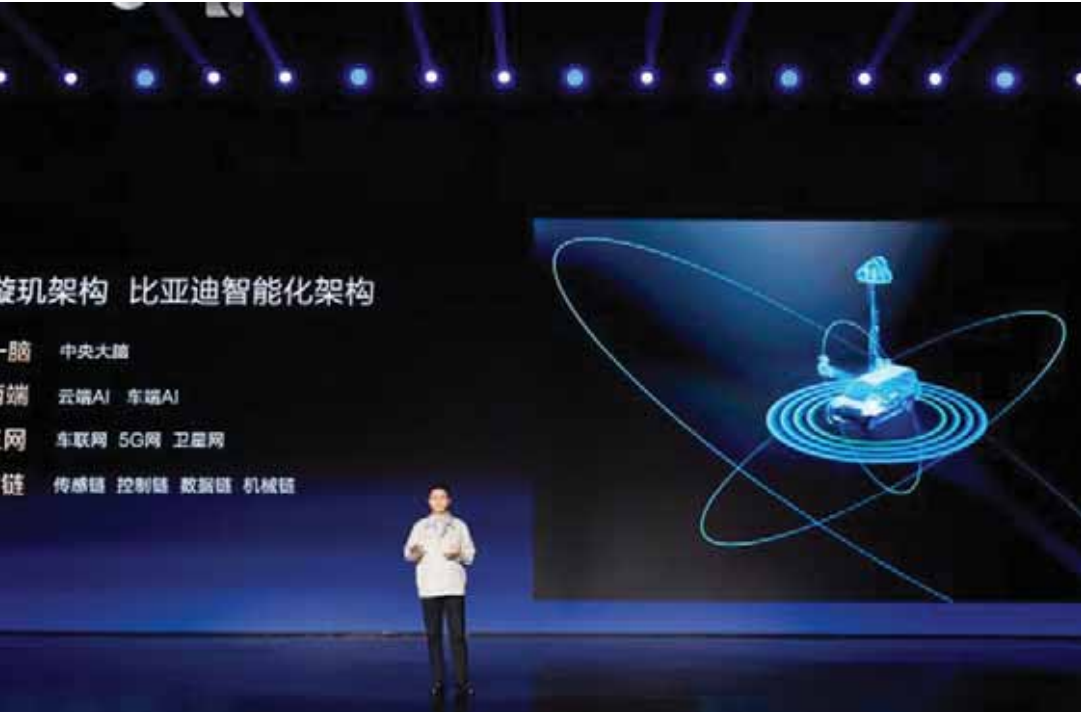
loans, Al Nukhba clients can seize competitive rates and maximize their financial opportunities. Furthermore, special discounted tariffs on bank charges translate into savings on transaction fees. Exclusive discounts and offers from selected premium merchants grant Al Nukhba clients unique privileges and savings. They also receive personalized concierge service, purchase protection, and extended warranty coverage on their purchases, ensuring peace of mind and added value. These comprehensive

benefits make the Al Nukhba banking account the premier choice for customers seeking a superior banking experience tailored to their unique needs and aspirations. ahlibank’s successful hosting of the Al Nukhba gatherings further solidifies its position as a premium bank in Oman. The bank remains committed to continuously enhancing its offerings, ensuring that Al Nukhba clients receive unrivaled service and access to exclusive benefits that enhance the value of their wealth.

IMPRESSES WITH ADVANCEMENTS

BYD unveils ambitious strategy for Integrated Vehicle Intelligence

MUSCAT: BYD, the world’s leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles, has recently unveiled an ambitious strategy for Integrated Vehicle Intelligence, accompanied by the launch of its ground-breaking XUANJI Architecture. This innovative move sets a new course in the evolution of intelligent new energy vehicles, highlighting BYD’s commitment to revolutionizing the industry. The XUANJI Architecture, a state-of-the-art vehicular intelligence system, functions as both the brain and neural network of the vehicle. It seamlessly integrates electrification and intelligence, allowing the vehicle to perceive and respond to changes in its environment in real-time. By consolidating information at the millisecond level and feeding it back to the central “brain” for rapid decision-making, the system significantly enhances driving safety and comfort. BYD also introduced the XU-



ANJI AI Large Model, a pioneering multimodal vehicular artificial intelligence system. As the first AI technology applied across all vehicular domains, it boasts the largest data foundation in the industry, covering over 300 vehicular scenarios. This extensive data and high computational power enable the Integrated Vehicle Intelligence system to continuously adapt and evolve. In the realm of intelligent driving, BYD leads the charge in China with over 4,000 dedicated engineers. The company is at the fore-

front of L2-level intelligent driving deployment and holds the distinction of being the first automotive brand to receive the L3-level test license. Looking ahead, BYD aims to lower the barriers to Intelligent Driving, making advanced technologies more accessible and accelerating their adoption in the global market. In a notable partnership with DJI, BYD has created the world’s first vehicle-integrated UAS (Unmanned Aerial System). This pioneering innovation features an integrated automotive-grade drone

bay, complete with intelligent storage, automatic battery swapping, and charging management. With the ability to take off and land with a single click, and support for high-definition, high frame rate, and low-latency image transmission, this system promises to enhance travel experiences with stunning aerial views. Additionally, BYD announced plans to construct professional all-terrain test drive sites in China, signalling a new era for Chinese automotive culture within the new energy landscape. As the world’s leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles, BYD is committed to leveraging “technological innovations for a better life.” With its Integrated Vehicle Intelligence strategy, BYD continues to spearhead the evolution of new energy vehicles, aspiring to transform the global automotive industry and provide users with a more comfortable and efficient mobility experience. In Oman, the BYD range of electrifying vehicles will soon be distributed by Saud Bahwan Group.

CELEBRATING NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Meethaq Islamic Banking to organise Back to School initiative

MUSCAT: Embracing the joy of new beginnings, Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat is excited to host a special Back to School initiative for children on August 15-16 from 6-10 p.m. at Muscat City Centre.

Entertaining activities This initiative aims to celebrate the new school year with children through a variety of entertaining activities, competitions and games.

Exciting gifts During the two-day event, all families can visit Meethaq’s stall at Muscat City Centre, where they and their children can participate in numerous fun activities. The initiative will include stage activities, fun games, a dedicated kids’ area, math and science games and exciting gifts. Visitors will also have an opportunity to know more about Meethaq’s wide range of products and services, including various accounts, cards, financing products and more.

Social responsibilities As the leading Islamic financial institution, Meethaq is committed to engaging with the community through events like Back to School, reinforcing its dedication to social responsibilities. On this occasion, Sami Bait

Rashid, Assistant General Manager - Meethaq Personal Banking, said, “Meethaq is delighted to carry out this initiative, enhancing communication with community and introducing them to our comprehensive suite of services and products designed to meet their needs and aspirations. Meethaq is committed to continuously developing its products and engaging with the community through diverse events and activities. I invite all visitors to stop by Meethaq’s stall at Muscat City Center and enjoy the various fun activities with their families. We extend our sincere appreciation to our valued customers for their continuous trust in Meethaq’s products and services.”

Customer-centric vision Meethaq remains dedicated to its customer-centric vision, understanding evolving needs and aligning services with global trends to achieve both present and future goals. Every Meethaq product undergoes Shari’a compliance certification by the Shari’a Supervisory Board and is adhered to the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman. Meethaq’s alignment with AAOFI standards (Accounting & Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions) further distinguishes its products, ensuring a world-class Islamic banking experience.





pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

📍 OmanOasis 📱 OmanOasisOfficial 🌐 OmanOasisWater



HYDRATE SMARTLY

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



800 71 222

9275 5522

U.A.E. No: 1750452

Elevate your driving experience with the UNI Series.

Choose your favourite UNI series model and avail low monthly installments.



EMI
OMR **199***
for 6 years



UNI-K

2.0L Turbo Engine, 233 hp,
8-Speed AT, 4WD

EMI
OMR **128***
for 6 years



UNI-V

1.5L Turbo Engine, 188hp,
7-Speed Dual Clutch Transmission



EMI
OMR **132***
for 6 years



UNI-T SMART

1.5L Turbo Engine, 175 hp,
7-Speed DCT, 2WD

EMI
OMR **155***
for 6 years



UNI-T SPORT

1.5L Turbo Engine, 175 hp,
7-Speed DCT, 2WD



SUPER WARRANTY 6 YEARS / UNLIMITED MILEAGE#

*Easy Monthly Installment is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. Subject to credit approvals from Banks only. Applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use. Images shown are for illustrative purpose only. Specification may vary as per the model variant. #Whichever is earlier. To know more, please visit the CHANGAN Showroom.

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms : Qurum 94641010, Mawaleh 97888180
 Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibri 96628930
 Sales Centers : Nizwa 96628940, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

 **800 50800**
  changanoman
 www.changanoman.com