



HM THE SULTAN GREETES KING OF JORDAN

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to King Abdullah II of Jordan on the occasion of his birthday. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt sentiments along with his best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to King Abdullah II. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty for the return of this and similar occasions on King Abdullah II while the people of Jordan realise aspirations of further progress and prosperity. — **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 48 No. 233 | 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





Achieving excellence together with your trust

Bank Muscat Private Banking



Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

AMBITIOUS PLAN UNVEILED FOR GROWTH OF FINANCIAL SECTOR

The Financial Sector Development Plan is a vital step towards securing Oman's financial future, where efforts will be made to achieve the national goals of Vision Oman 2040

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has unveiled 'Etidamah' plan to effectively allocate financial resources and enhance their role in achieving economic, development and investment goals of Oman Vision 2040.

The plan consists of more than 74 initiatives with executable programmes based on six core themes, supported by four enablers, in addition to 10 strategic programme metrics.

Additionally, the plan seeks to



improve opportunities for obtaining financing, and collaborate with its stakeholders to implement these initiatives within the framework of the Tenth Five-Year Plan, with a focus on improving the state's public financial situation and sustaining its impact.

The National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability Financial Sector Development (Etidamah) on Monday announced the financial sector development plan cov-

ering both the banking and capital market sectors. Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Finance and the General Supervisor of the National Programme "Etidamah," stated, "The announcement of the financial sector development plan is a continuation of the government's efforts, given the positive results achieved through the implementation of the medium-term financial plan (2020-2024), which

led to a decrease in the average breakeven oil price in the state's general budget and a reduction in public debt, accompanied by a credit rating increase."

He emphasised that the government continues to improve financial conditions and develop the financial sector, with the National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development "Etidamah" being approved for a three-year period

starting from 2023, to be a key player in achieving the targets of Oman Vision 2040.

Al Jashmi said, "The financial sustainability phase will effectively direct financial resources towards economically viable projects to promote economic development. The programme will collaborate with public and private sector entities to create an advanced and vibrant financial sector contributing to the GDP." **>A2**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Al summit aims to boost investments

1 Oman Artificial Intelligence Summit 2024 kicked off yesterday. The two-day event is organised by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. The opening event was attended by over 200 specialists. **>A2**

WORLD

Israel continues to kill Gaza civilians

2 The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor affirmed that despite the issuance of the ICJ decision, which ordered Israel to take measures to prevent the genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza Strip, it documented that the Israeli army continued with its killing of civilians. **>A7**

MARKET

Rise in production of petroleum products

3 The Sultanate of Oman's production of refineries and petrochemicals recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent by the end of December 2023 compared to the corresponding period in 2022, according to statistics released by the NCSI. **>B1**

Oman make historic march into FIH Hockey5s World Cup quarters

A8



HELPING HAND

Global recognition for Oman Disabled Divers Project

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tariq Al Khabori, a distinguished advocate for the service of individuals with special needs in the Sultanate of Oman, continues to be a beacon of dedication at the age of 75.

His unwavering commitment to supporting the physically challenged has earned commendations from both government and private organisations over several decades.

The most recent accolade comes from the Erasmus+ programme, a European Union-backed initiative, shining a spotlight on Al Khabori's transformative project - Oman Disabled Divers (ODD).

In the intricate landscape of the Erasmus+ INSPIRE project,



TARIQ AL KHABORI: An advocate for physically challenged.

which delves into diverse case studies from Europe and beyond, Oman Disabled Divers (ODD) stands out prominently.

Founded by Al Khabori and Stephanie Trier in 2009, ODD is recognised as a social entity enjoying support from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, as well as the Ministry of Social Development.

Scuba diving

The core mission of ODD revolves around enhancing the physical and social well-being of people with disabilities through the exhilarating sport of scuba diving.

The report underlines that scuba diving, facilitated by ODD's trained professionals and state-of-the-art facilities, not only instils confidence in individuals with disabilities but also brings immeasurable joy to their families.

Al Khabori's visionary goal, as

echoed in the report, is to foster a society where individuals with physical and mental challenges are esteemed as effective contributors in their own unique capacities.

Erasmus+, the EU Programme encompassing education, training, youth, and sport for the 2021-2027 period, acknowledges the myriad forms of social entrepreneurship.

Al Khabori's experiences and practices, as a representative of social entrepreneurship, are highlighted in the report as a valuable learning resource.

ODD's impactful initiatives, including the 'Dive Challenge,' have successfully integrated individuals with physical challenges, low vision, blindness, and Down's Syndrome into the ODD family. **>A3**

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

28°
MUSCAT



OMR36 MILLION RESORT

Bandar Al Khairan project to boost Oman tourism

MUSCAT: A ceremony was held to celebrate the start of construction works of Bandar Al Khairan Resort on Monday.

The Resort is being built at a cost of OMR36 million over an area of 189,000 sqm.

The project has been designed to be a qualitative addition to the tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

The resort will include 121 hotel rooms, as well as various types of facilities, restaurants, spas and gyms.

Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, patron of the inauguration event, said that the project will support the tourism sector in Muscat.

Al Mahrouqi added that the resort will meet the aspirations of guests and residents. The Minis-



try, he affirmed, will follow-up on the implementation of the project to augment local added value and provide job opportunities for Omani youth.

In compliance with the techni-

cal and engineering standards for this type of resort, he explained that the Ministry will follow up on the implementation of the project to enhance community partnership and local added value

to provide job opportunities for Omani youth.

The project will provide various opportunities for small and medium enterprises in Al Khairan and adjacent areas to offer their

products and services.

In addition to employing the best Omani skills through 200 job opportunities, the resort will offer an Omanisation percentage of 30 percent in the first phase. **-ONA**



PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:25pm
Asr.....	3:34pm
Maghrib.....	5:57pm
Isha.....	7:09pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:30am

بريد عُمان
OMAN POST

Subscribe or renew your P.O Box easily

by visiting your nearest Post Office or any of our touchpoints,
or via our website

www.omanpost.om/po-boxes

MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Oman to strengthen scientific exchange with Peking varsity

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation explores means of enhancing scientific exchange and boosting cooperation with Peking University of the People's Republic of China.

This took place when Dr. Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation received in her office on Monday Qiao Jie, Executive Vice President of Peking University and her accompanying delegation.

Enhancing cooperation

The two sides discussed means of enhancing cooperation in training fields. They also highlighted the matter of connecting Omani universities with Peking University through the exchange of sabbatical leave programmes.

The two sides discussed providing opportunities for aca-



demic exchange between the Sultan Qaboos Chair for Arabic Studies at Peking University and Omani universities, so that Chinese students can be sent to learn the Arabic language in Omani universities, as well as discussing launching scientific courses to learn Chinese language during

the summer period for Omani students.

The meeting was attended by Nasser Mohammed Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the People's Republic of China and several specialists from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. -ONA

AI summit aims to encourage investments

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahd Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers



Information Technology.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Dr. Kamil Fahd Al Said, Secretary General at the Secretariat General of the Council of Ministers.

It is attended by over 200 specialists in the fields of AI and advanced technologies from all over the world, in addition to 40 speakers.

Further, the summit aims to ease the procedures of investing

and establishing foreign companies and encouraging investment in the AI sphere. It also targets supporting innovation.

The event discusses three main topics, particularly "AI and Governments", "AI and the Work Environment" and "AI and the Economy".

Moreover, an exhibition is held on the sidelines of the summit in which experts and engineers in the AI field showcase the latest technologies and solutions. -ONA

Haffa House Hotel
فندق بيت الحافة
Muscata

OUTDOOR Catering SERVICES

We offer our best services for all kinds of events

Wedding | Kitty parties | Birthdays |
Baby shower | Private Family
gatherings & Others

Contact Us

97859294 | 99416727

www.haffahousehotel.com

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Providing financial support to SMEs, entrepreneurs, investors



<FROM A1 Mahmoed Abdallah Al Aweini, Director of the National Programme for Fiscal Sustainability and Financial Sector Development, highlighted several objectives of the programme.

These include improving general financial indicators for the state, developing the financial sector system to empower individuals and institutions in various development paths, moreover enhancing the participation of the private financial sector to provide targeted financing options for various groups, such as small and medium enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurs, investors, start-ups, and economic diversification sectors.

The programme's working themes included providing financing options for SMEs, directing funding to targeted sectors, developing a sustainable green finance system, activating the role of the capital market, enhancing attractiveness for foreign investments, and activating the insurance sector. The programme also focused on four enablers: fintech, Legal & Regulatory Landscape, financial literacy, and



human capital development.

Identified challenges

During the study phase, the programme identified challenges such as limited financial services and products suitable for different groups, concentration of financing opportunities in traditional sectors, low liquidity levels in the capital market, and the absence of opportunities related to fintech and sustainable green finance.

Furthermore, there was limited qualified human resources in the financial sector.

Based on a detailed study conducted by the programme's team, several quick-win initiatives were implemented in 2023 to address tangible challenges. Clear



and applicable performance goals and indicators were set to monitor improvements and corrective initiatives were proposed for capitalising on the best global practices.

The Financial Sector Development Plan is a significant step towards Oman's financial future, where efforts will converge with various stakeholders to achieve the national goals of Vision Oman 2040.

In recent times, 'Estidamah' programme has completed several initiatives in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including Market Maker and Liquidity Providers Initiative, Green/Sustainable Financing Initiatives and Insolvency Law Initiative.

-With ONA inputs



Banking that grows with you

Apply for Minor Account today

2477 5777 | www.maisarah-oman.com

[f/MaisarahOman](#) [@MaisarahIslamic](#) [@MaisarahIslamic](#) [Maisarah-Islamic](#)

الخدمات المصرفية الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

MAISARAH
للخدمات المصرفية الإسلامية
Islamic Banking Services

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS

Oman, Zanzibar to boost relations



MUSCAT: Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs received here on Monday Othman Masoud Othman Sharif, First Vice-President of Zanzibar and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them in various spheres, especially in economic and cultural fields.

The meeting was attended by Saleh Mohammed Al Saqri, Head of the East Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, Fatima Mohammed Rajab, Ambassador of Tanzania to Oman and officials from both sides.

-ONA

MEETING

Oman, KSA to enhance ties in agriculture sector



MUSCAT: A meeting was held on Monday between the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources with the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The two sides underlined funding mechanisms of the two

funds in a bid to enhance agriculture development programmes and projects in both countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. Chairman of the Agricultural and Fisheries Development Fund and Munir Fahd Al Sahli, General Manager of the ADF.

-ONA

EXPANDING ODD'S REACH

Transforming lives of people with special needs

<FROM A1 Tariq Al Khabori's persistent efforts have played a pivotal role in expanding ODD's reach and impact, bringing forth positive transformations in the lives of those with special needs.

Expressing gratitude for this recognition, Al Khabori remarked, "I have always supported disabled individuals in society. In 2009, Stephanie Trier and I founded ODD with the vision of enabling such individuals to experience the joy of swimming. This acknowledgment underscores our efforts, and we are thankful to the INSPIRE and Erasmus+ team. Such recognition boosts our morale, and we remain dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by disabled individuals."

Omani project
Another notable Omani project acknowledged under the Innovation for Social Entrepreneurship (INSPIRE) project, co-founded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union (EU), is Ard Alloban.

Adventure
Founded by Mundhar Nasir Al Zaheen, Ard Alloban aims to cultivate a soul-soothing culture of free hiking and walking, promoting healthy and socialised lives within local communities.



WE PROVIDE COMPLETE PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

HEALTH INSURANCE

LIFE INSURANCE

DISABILITY INSURANCE

REPATRIATION COVER

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE INSURANCE SOLUTIONS SINCE 1985
FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
24477300 | info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com

Oman United Insurance Co. SAOG

Oman: A Renewed Renaissance

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
Drive your Ambition

NOW AT AN AMAZING PRICE
STARTING FROM
RO 11,995/-
INCLUDING VAT



OUTLANDER 4WD
MADE IN JAPAN

6 YEARS UNLIMITED KMS WARRANTY

For more information call **24500500** or WhatsApp / SMS **93800925**

www.mitsubishi-motors.com.om

Vehicle image used for illustrative purposes only

الشركة العامة للسيارات
General Automotive Company
CR. No. 130147/2

SHANGRI-LA
BAER AL USAN
MUSCAT

SHANGRI-LA
AL HUSN
MUSCAT

FROM SHANGRI-LA
with love

29 - 31 JANUARY
72 HOURS STAYCATION FLASH SALE

AL WAHA OMR 55++	AL BANDAR OMR 70++	AL HUSN OMR 95++
---------------------	-----------------------	---------------------

For two adults and up to 1 kid with breakfast

For two adults with breakfast and inclusive of:
Daily replenished mini bar, afternoon high tea, pre-dinner drinks

Valid for stays until 30th September 2024 inclusive

☎ 2477 6262 📞 79269247

Price is exclusive for residents in Oman



Extra savings for Shangri-La Circle members in Oman:
20% discount on food and beverages
30% discount on spa and selected water sports activities



Embassy of India in Muscat commemorates the 75th Republic Day with grand reception

The evening also featured an elegantly curated Jugalbandi between Indian and Omani artists

MUSCAT: To mark the 75th Republic Day of India, Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, hosted a National Day Reception on the evening of January 28, 2024, at the Embassy of India in Muscat. Qais Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion of the Sultanate of Oman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Khalid Almuslahi, Undersecretary for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Foreign Ministry; Pankaj Khimji, Advisor for Foreign Trade and International Co-operation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion; Faisal bin Abdullah bin Saeed Al-Rawas, Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI); Members of Majlis Dawla and Majlis Shura; senior government officials; ambassadors in Muscat, as well as prominent members of the Omani and Indian community attended the reception.

Chief Guest of the day along with Sayyid Nasr Albusaidi, Postmaster of Oman and Amit Narang, unveiled a replica of the joint commemorative postage stamp released during the State Visit of His



Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to India in December 2023.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Amit Narang spoke of India as 'VISHWA MITRA.'

He expounded upon India's pivotal role on the global stage, embodying qualities of youthful energy, innovation, inclusivity, and rapid growth making India into an indispensable force for global good.

The evening also featured an elegantly curated Jugalbandi between Indian and Omani artists. Ms Aishwarya Hegde and team performed Indian classical dance Odissi set to the tunes of Vande Mataram played by the Omani musical group "Scales Ensemble," led by Yousef Al Foori.

"Scales Ensemble" also delighted the audience with harmonious tunes of various Indian melodies.



The festive atmosphere was elevated by a diverse array of Indian delicacies, offering guests a gastronomic journey through the rich culinary heritage of India. Additionally 'Selfie with India' corners, featuring life-size exhibits provided attendees with the opportunity to capture memorable moments against the backdrop of India's cultural and scientific landmarks.



BIDIYA PUBLIC PARK

Over 72,000 people visit North Al Sharqiyah Governorate to watch winter activities



Times News Service

BIDIYA: Over the last eight days, more than 72,000 people from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman have visited the North Al Sharqiyah governorate to watch the winter activities.

The events of North Al Sharqiyah Winter 2024 are continuing in Bidiya Public Park for the eighth day in a row.

The functions, which started from January 20 of this year, will continue until February 10, with the participation of a number of entities from the public and private sectors, civil society institutions and individuals.

The activities include the establishment of heritage village, which includes three pillars of the Omani Women's Association, the agricultural sector and desert life, in addition to holding a consumer exhibition for small and medium enterprises sponsored by the Small and Medium Enterprises

Authority, football and volleyball competitions, the sand challenge, mobile vehicle projects, productive families and a championship for drone races.

It also includes a theatre for children and families, the toy village that includes electronic games and entertainment activities for children, the heritage states competition, and the Sinaw state village, which varies between social, commercial and daily life aspects, in addition to many cultural and entertainment events and programmes, children's competitions and evenings, poetry sessions, scientific and entertainment performances with wide participation of specialists from inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

The events include the triathlon challenge race in the Wilayat of Wadi Bani Khalid, bicycle racing and motorcycle shows in the wilayat of Dima Wattayeen, sand play competitions, paragliding displays, an inter-community cricket

tournament, and cultural and artistic events, most notably the holding of the First International Film and Desert Festival and the Omani Coffee Championship.

Oman Desert Tourism

During the first week, the festival activities witnessed the holding of the Oman Desert Marathon with the participation of more than 700 participants from the Sultanate of Oman and a number of countries around the world, and the first Oman Desert Tourism Forum, organised by the branch of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, focused on the investment aspects of the desert tourism sector and its development in all aspects.

A meeting of the Saudi trade delegation was held with Omani entrepreneurs for the establishment of the Future Real Estate Opportunities Forum in the North Al Sharqiyah Governorate.





FIRST MEETING FOR 2024

Development Bank approves loans worth OMR14.4mn

MUSCAT: The Board of Directors of the Development Bank today held its first meeting for 2024 under the chairmanship of Eng. Mohammed Abubakr Al Ghassani, Chairman of the Board.

During this meeting, the board approved development loans worth OMR14.4 million for projects in the fields of food security, education, converting industries

and fisheries.

Further, the board approved the closing accounts for the year 2023, in which a growth rate of 86 percent was achieved in terms of approval for loans (a total of OMR128 million) by the end of December 2023. The bank's lending portfolio reached OMR236.3 million, constituting a rise by 26 percent compared to 2022. —ONA



Over 400,000 invasive birds eliminated: EA

The Environment Authority (EA) emphasised the launch of many projects to protect, preserve and sustain natural resources to save and rehabilitate wildlife of all kinds

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of the national campaign to combat invasive bird species, more than 400,000 birds were eliminated as of January 23, 2024, the Environment Authority said.

In its press conference entitled 'Environmental Harvest for the Year 2023', the Environment Agency reviewed the most prominent projects, initiatives, achievements, environmental performance indicators, and numbers achieved during the past year.

The Environment Authority emphasised the launch of many projects to protect, preserve and sustain natural resources to save and rehabilitate wildlife of all kinds, and projects to propagate it in the local environment through modern scientific methods.

The EA said that the project to establish a gene bank to preserve the genetic assets of wild animals of economic value will be done by freezing off-site to ensure their sustainability for 3 years.

"The number of sites surveyed in the National Biodiversity Survey Project is 714, the number of



species documented is 40, and the area surveyed is 26,600 sqkm," the Authority said.

"There has been a noticeable 5.09 percent improvement in the tree cover in the Dhofar Governorate compared to 1994, and the land area within the forest percentage survey study project reached 6.8 percent."

The Environment Authority said that 442,440 invasive birds, including 369,576 mynas and 72,864 crows, were eliminated as of January 23, 2024.

According to the Authority, the "National Annual Programme for Monitoring Pollutants in the Marine Environment" project aims to assess the quality of seawater and bottom sediments and identi-

fy sources of pollutants, in 19 sites in coastal governorates. Among its most prominent results is a slight increase in the element mercury in the bottom sediments (Muscat and Al Wusta). The monitoring also registered a small percentage of the concentration of cadmium in the Wilayat of Duqm (less than the global standard concentration by a small percentage), and an increase in the concentration of the elements chromium, aluminium, nickel and iron in the bottom sediments in the north of the Sultanate (ophiolite flow).

The EA said, "The "Marine Mammal Species Survey in Musandam Governorate" aims to determine their types and areas of distribution in the governorate. Two types were seen 19 times, and 3 awareness campaigns and two introductory workshops were held for the project, which lasted 3 years. 17 individuals were also trained in the survey work."

"Eight projects were implemented in the category for protecting the environment from pollution. They are: Inventorying radioactive sources and all those dealing with them and preparing a complete database regarding them, National Chemicals Management Strategy, National

Waste Management Register Project, and Study of Mercury and its Compounds Project, National Inventory Project for Hazardous and Non-hazardous Waste, Establishing a Water and Soil Monitoring System, Study of Noise Levels in Public Places in the North and South Batinah Governorates and Study and Evaluation of the current status of the efficiency of combustion burners in industrial establishments and concession areas (first phase)".

The EA confirmed that the National Zero Neutrality Programme (for the projects category) monitors main sectors, namely oil, gas, electricity, industry, transportation, cities, and buildings, to reach zero neutrality balance between environmental sustainability and social and economic impact, and ensure a reduction in the cost of energy and security of supplies.

"Within the framework of the 10 million tree plantation project, the number of wild trees planted reached over 132,980, and the total number of seeds planted reached 11,126,876, while the total number of environmental violations reached 603, complaints 518, and 88 reports to the Environmental Emergency Centre," the EA added.

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Four arrested for smuggling khat in Dhofar Governorate

Times News Service

Muscat: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested four people for attempting to smuggle more than 30 boxes of the khat drug into Dhofar Governorate.

30 boxes

ROP said in a statement: "Coast Guard police boats led by the Dhofar Governorate Police arrested four people of Arab nationality while trying to smuggle more than 30 boxes of the khat drug. The legal procedures were completed against them."



Indian School Muladha
(Affiliated to the CBSE, New Delhi, No. 6130007)
P.O. 42, P.C. 314, Al Muladha, Sultanate of Oman
Ph. 26811234 / 26811184, Email: ismloman@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Description
1.	Functioning of School Canteen
2.	Stationery Items
3.	Printing of School Calender, Certificates & Examination Materials
4.	Medals & Trophies
5.	Pest Control Service
6.	Lab Requirements
7.	Sports Requirements

- Tender details and the list of items required for the Academic Year 2024-25 will be received from the School Office.
- Menu & rates to be submitted in advance for Canteen.
- Sealed quotations are invited from the suppliers.
- A nominal charge of R.O 10/- will be collected with tender.
- Last date of tender submission - 7th February 2024
- The School reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason whatsoever.



SULTANATE OF OMAN
Governorate of Muscat
Wilayat Seeb | Wali Office

FOR RENT

A residential/commercial building located in the commercial market at south Ma'bella, block (NE/46) consisting of:

FIVE SHOPS – SIXTEEN APARTMENTS – GUARD ROOM

Those interested to rent the whole building should contact Khalifa Ahmed Al Mazroui within 30 days, Phone 24420000, 92595901.

The Committee is not bound to accept the biggest of any other tender offer



INDIAN SCHOOL AL MAABELA
Post Box No 134, Postal Code 122, Al Maabela, Sultanate of Oman
GSM: 968- 92458498/93219687/93218921

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Competitive tender is invited from the service provider for
“SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICE FROM AUTHORIZED PRIVATE TRANSPORT SERVICE PROVIDERS”

The collection of basic documents from the school will start from **01 February 2024** after a payment of **R.O. 10/-**. The tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to **“The Chairperson, Purchase Subcommittee, ISAM”** on or before **15 February 2024**.

The school reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



INDIAN SCHOOL BOUSER
P.O Box 2886, P.C 130, Al Awabi, Al Ansab, Muscat, SULTANATE OF OMAN
Tel. No. +968 91401167, purchase@isboman.com, www.isboman.com

TENDER NOTICE

Ref: ISB/Tender/2023-24 dated 30/01/2024

Bids are invited from interested parties for the following tenders:

Sl. No	Name of Tender	Tender No.	Tender Documents available from	Tender Submission Date	Tender Fee. (R.O.)
01	Group General Insurance: - Group life Policy with WC Top up. - Property All Risks including Fire. - Fidelity Guarantee Insurance. - Money Insurance. - General Public Liability Insurance. - Group Personal Accident for Students.	A0012/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	10.000
02	Classroom Accessories: - Student Furniture - Interactive Panels-65 Inches - Smart TV- 65 inches - Teacher Table, Metal Almrah, Whiteboard, and Tack Boards. Etc.	A0013/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	10.000
03	Sports Items Supply	A0014/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	Nil
04	Safe School Transport AY 2024-25	A0015/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	10.000
05	Pantry Items Supply – (Annual)	A0016/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	Nil
06	Parcel and Buffet Lunch – (Annual)	A0017/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	Nil
07	School Events - Videography & Photography	A0017/ 2023-24	30/1/2024	06/02/2024	Nil

Tender documents can be collected from the ISB office, till a day before the date of submission. Inquiries and requests for clarifications regarding the above Tenders shall be submitted through emails to **PURCHASE@ISBOMAN.COM**

Sealed tenders, inscribing the tender **Name and Number only**, on the envelope to be dropped in the tender box placed in ISB, on/before 01.00 PM of the tender submission date; along with all necessary details and supporting documents. ISB reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.



Al Ahlam Hotel Management LLC

NOTICE: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE CHANGE OF BRAND

Please be informed that Park Inn Hotel Muscat (Address: P.O. Box 1635 PC 133 Sultan Qaboos Street, Al Khuwair Muscat – Sultanate of Oman) will be operating under the new Brand name Golden Tulip Muscat from 1st February 2024.

Please note that our company name, Al Ahlam Hotel Management LLC, registered under Commercial Registration Number 1049941, will remain the same.

In case of any inquiry, please call on
Telephone no. +968 24507888/Telefax +968 24507889
or email: info@goldentulipmuscat.com

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to hosting you with the same warmth and hospitality under our new identity.

FEBRUARY 1 TO FEBRUARY 12

Sohar to host West Asian volleyball championship

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sohar in North Al Batinah will host the 2nd West Asian Club Volleyball Championship, which will be held from February 1 to February 12, 2024.

Sohar Club revealed in a press conference that it has completed its preparations to host the Second West Asian Club Volleyball Cham-

pionship, which will be held from February 1-12, with the participation of 11 clubs from eight Arab countries that are members of the West Asian Volleyball Association.

During the conference, the tournament mascot was announced, in addition to clarifying the location of the tournament matches, which will all be in the main hall of the Sports Complex in Sohar.

While the Majis Club and Al Salam Club halls were designated for training for the club teams participating in the tournament.

A number of accompanying events will be held during the tournament period in cooperation with a number of government and sports institutions in the North Al Batinah. The teams participating in the tournament are divided

into two groups. The first group includes: Al-Rayyan of Qatar, Al-Ibtisam of Saudi Arabia, Al-Seeb of Oman, Baniyas of the Emirates, and Al-Qadisiyah of Kuwait, while the second group included the clubs: Khaibel Al-Mahra of Yemen, Al-Arabi of Qatar, Shabab Al-Hussein of Jordan, Al-Ahly of Bahrain, and Al-Kuwait of Kuwait, in addition to the host Sohar Club.

Times
OF OMAN

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

Ain Short Film Festival award winners announced in Muscat

The event was organised under the patronage of Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information

MUSCAT: Names of winners of the awards of Ain Short Film Festival, organised by the Ministry of Information, were announced on Sunday, at the conclusion of the activities of the festival.

The awards covered the categories of fiction, documentary and children films. The event was organised under the patronage of Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information.

The film Al Banjari, for director Moosa Al Kindi, won the best fictional film award and the film Al Nahr Al Omani (The Omani River) for director Ayman Al Nuamani won the best documentary film award and the film Arwah Multa-



hiba (Burning Souls) for director Faisal Al Khanjari won the best children film award.

The film 'Fi Makaniha' for director Wafa Al Rashidi won the best scenario award and Arwah Multahiba won the Award for Best Cinematography while Wafa Al Rashidi won the best actress award and Hood Al Hinai won the award for the best child actor and the award for the best film production for children film went to

Mohannad Mardhi for the film 'Fi Makaniha'.

The award for best prosthetic makeup went to Shahd Al Balushi and Layan I Khatri for the film 'Arwah Multahiba' while the award for the best soundtrack music went to Faisal Al Shibli for the film 'Fi Makaniha'.

In the short fiction category Ismail bin Hilal secured the award for the best scenario for film A'dam Al Yaqin (Uncertainty), while Am-

jad Al Nuamani secured the award for the best cinematography for film Al Sandoq Al Akhdar (The Green Box), Wafa al Rashidi won the award for the best actress for film Al Banjari.

Ra'eid Al Ameri won the award for the best actor for film A'dam Al Yaqin (Uncertainty) and Ibrahim Al Jassasi and Rehab Adel secured the award for the best prosthetic makeup for film Al Banjari and the award for the best production



went to Said Al Wahaibi for the film 'Roub'. The award for the best soundtrack music went to Faisal Al Shibli for the film Al Banjari.

In the documentary category, film Al Ardh Al Murawiya (Wet Land) of director Abdullah Al Raisi secured the best scenario award and film Lun Taghous Wahidan (You Will Not dive Alone) for director Fahd Al Maimani secured the award for the best cinematography for film Sihir Al Rimal (The

Magic of Sands) for director Walid Al Kharousi and the award of arbitration committee went to director Maryam al RASbi for film Hajan.

Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information said that the festival's activities, programmes and awards fall within concern and attention of the Ministry of Information according to this vital sector under clear vision for its development

— ONA

كاسابيللا
casabella

Renewed Renaissance Day Sale

عُمان نهضة متجددة

Wishes from Casabella Team أجمل التمنيات من فريق كاسابيللا

From 30%

Upto 70% OFF

Validity: From Jan-11th to Feb-11th

@casabella.oman

@casabella_oman

@casabella.oman

Israel continues violations in Gaza Strip at same pace after ICJ ruling

The Human Rights Monitor indicated that it documented the killing of more than 373 Palestinians by the Israeli army, including 345 civilians, in addition to more than 643 injuries, since the ICJ decision was issued

GENEVA: The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor affirmed that 48 hours after the issuance of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision, which ordered Israel to take measures to prevent the commission of the crime of genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza Strip, it documented that the Israeli army continued at the same pace to kill civilians, forcibly displace them, and starve them.

The Monitor indicated that it documented the killing of more than 373 Palestinians by the Israeli army, including 345 civilians, in addition to more than 643 injuries, since the ICJ decision was issued.

The Israeli entity continues to ignore the decision of the highest court in the world, and violate its

international obligations, including the rules and principles of international law, by insisting on continuing to commit grave violations that equates to war crimes and crimes against humanity, including genocide against the Palestinians, it added.

The Monitor explained that in addition to the non-stop Israeli bombardments, including the destruction of residential homes on the heads of their inhabitants and the forcible killing of displaced people after terrorizing them and responding to illegal Israeli evacuation orders, Israel continues its attack on what remains of the health system in Gaza, besieging and directly targeting hospitals that remained partially operational in Khan Yunis in southern



Gaza, and targeting them directly, as both Nasser Medical Complex and Al-Anal Hospital affiliated with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) are close to stop-

ping completely as a result of the siege and repeated targeting.

The Human Rights Monitor said that the Israel entity is still deliberately obstructing the ar-

rival of humanitarian aid to Gaza Strip in general, and placing more stringent restrictions on its entry into the northern Wadi Gaza in particular, where the famine

situation worsens 114 days after the start of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

The Euro-Mediterranean Monitor pointed out that these developments require the international community to expedite the adoption of a binding executive decision for the decision of the ICJ, work on an immediate ceasefire, ensure the protection of civilians and their return to their homes, intensify work by international and UN institutions to monitor and document Israel's violations of the ICJ decision, and report those violations and disseminate them on the widest scale, so that the Republic of South Africa and the countries supporting the case can submit a detailed and evidence-based report on the grave and widespread violations that continue to be committed against civilians.

The Monitor stressed that the ICJ recent ruling regarding the existence of "reasonable doubt" that Israeli entity is breaking its obligations as a State party to the Genocide Convention, and the practices taking place on the ground require decisive and immediate international pressure in all forms is needed to stop the ongoing Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians and protect them from the threat of genocide. — ONA

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS



Protests as bullfighting resumes in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY: Animal rights activists protested outside the world's largest bullring in Mexico City on Sunday, as bullfighting resumed following a nearly two-year hiatus due to a court suspension.

Dozens of protesters marched to the city's Plaza de Toros Mexico bullring, decrying the event. Chants included: "Torture is not art, it is not culture," and "Yes to bulls, no to bullfighting."

"We are completely against the fact bullfights have returned, and that these events continue to be held where only pleasure is sought through the torture of an animal," Jeronimo Sanchez, director of the NGO Animal Heroes, told the French AFP news agency.

Mexico has hosted bullfights since the 16th century. But in recent years, animal rights activists have intensified their fights

against the practice.

Only a handful of Mexico's 32 states have thus far banned the practice.

Ranchers, businessmen and bullfighting fans argue that a ban would risk tens of thousands of jobs linked to the activity, which they claim generates some \$400 million (€369 million) annually.

In May 2022, a local court ordered an end to bullfighting activities at Plaza México in response to an injunction presented by the civil organization Justicia Justa.

But the nation's Supreme Court temporarily revoked the suspension in December 2023.

Mexican media reported that the court only ruled on technical aspects rather than the case's merits, with activists hoping for a final ban later this year.

— DW

EU'S 2023 NATURE RESTORATION LAW

France pushing for EU law change to address grievances of farmers

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron is to push for changes to European Union (EU) legislation to address grievances being expressed by farmers in France and across the bloc, the country's farming minister Marc Fesneau said on Monday, with protests set to continue.

Many farmers are unhappy about the EU's 2023 nature restoration law which requires member countries to introduce environmental measures on a fifth of their land and sea by 2030. To reach this goal, around 4% of farmland has to remain fallow, cutting into farmers' production capabilities. "Our target is not to annoy French people or to make their lives difficult, but to put pressure on the government," Arnaud Rousseau, head of the FNSEA union, said on RTL radio. "What we have understood though is that as long as the protest is far from Paris, the message is not getting through."

On Friday, the French government abandoned controversial plans to reduce state subsidies on agricultural diesel and promised a reduction in red tape and an easing of environmental regulations.

But Rousseau demanded further concessions, promising industrial action would continue nationwide "with the aim of securing emergency measures about the core of our business."

On Sunday, two activists hurled



soup at the glass protecting the Mona Lisa painting at the Louvre Museum to draw attention to the agriculture industry. "What is more important? Art or the right to healthy and sustainable food?" the activists asked.

Traffic was also disrupted by angry Belgian farmers around Brussels, where French President Macron is set to attend an EU leaders' summit this week at which he will push for more pro-farming policies.

Farming minister Fesneau added he would also travel to Brussels

this week in his bid to soften EU regulations regarding fallow land.

Elsewhere in Belgium, kick-off in the top-division football match between Sint-Truiden and KRC Genk on Sunday was delayed by 30 minutes due to farmers protesting outside the stadium.

EU regulations aren't the only thing upsetting some European farmers. Last week, Polish farmers blocked over 160 roads across the country in protest at "uncontrolled" Ukrainian imports which they say are undercutting Polish production.

Disruption on the roads

Back in France, disruption on the roads could also be compounded by taxi drivers protesting against new tariffs on the transportation of medical patients.

Politically, the protests represent the first major challenge for France's new prime minister, Gabriel Attal, appointed by President Macron in the hope of freshening up his government's image.

Meanwhile, Marine Le Pen has been attempting to portray her far-right National Rally as being on the side of the protesters. — DW

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION

Pioneering grassroots energy project bears fruit in Bulgaria

SOFIA: Several years ago in Belozem, a wisp of a village in south-central Bulgaria, two unlikely young energy pioneers set out on a mission: Even though it was not yet feasible according to Bulgarian law, they wanted to launch a clean energy collective like the ones they'd heard about elsewhere in the European Union.

Several thousand of these grassroots community energy projects are dotted around the EU, mostly in northern Europe. In these DIY endeavours, not only do townspeople invest together in renewables, but they also democratise the clean energy transition by actively participating in it.

At first, Belozem's interest in renewable energy had nothing to do with climate protection or income generation but with basic material needs. The country has one of the highest levels of energy poverty in the EU, with a quarter of the popu-



lation unable to adequately heat their homes.

In Belozem, as in much of rural Bulgaria, frequent power outages stop the village cold for hours a day, laying low even the power-driven well pumps, cutting off access to water. "We wanted to find our own solutions to our problems as a community," Mihail Georgiev told DW. With his brother Tsvetan, who, like Mihail, is in his early 30s, he started looking for ways to make that happen.

Mihail became interested in en-

vironmental issues while studying in the United Kingdom. In 2018, he and Tsvetan, an engineer, started their own consultancy. Today, they live in Plovdiv, a large city close to Belozem, where they own property. The brothers' background as entrepreneurs didn't help much with their endeavor because Bulgarian law didn't allow for energy communities at the time. Although Bulgaria, like every EU member state, must pass legislation that provides a legal basis for energy communities by 2024, civic ener-

gy cooperatives only became legal in October 2023. In need of advice, the Georgievs reached out to a Europe-wide popular movement pushing for energy democracy. NGO experts in Bulgaria's capital, Sofia, and Brussels also urged them to forge ahead, regardless of the legal vacuum.

Critical to the project was REScoop.eu, a European federation of citizen energy cooperatives based in Brussels, which has worked with hundreds of start-up energy communities across the continent. "A lot of initiatives elsewhere have gone through this process, so they have the know-how to support newcomers," explains Stavroula Pappa of REScoop.eu. The brothers first had to establish a company to register as an energy producer. This meant they could bolt solar panels onto their roof and sell electricity back to the grid authorities. — DW

NASA STUDY WARNS

Moon is shrinking

WASHINGTON: A recent NASA study reveals that the moon has undergone a significant contraction, shrinking more than 150 feet in circumference over the past few hundred million years as its core cools.

Published on January 25, the study explains that this continu-

ous shrinkage has led to the development of faults, resulting in moonquakes.

The research, conducted by NASA, the Smithsonian, Arizona State University, and The University of Maryland, detected evidence of surface changes around the Lunar South Pole. — ONA

FOR RENT

OPEN SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT IN BARKA. 5 UNITS AVAILABLE WITH AREA 1350 SQM EACH (TOTAL 10,620 SQM)

CONTACT: 9945 3198, 9906 9777

SPORTS

History-makers: Oman enter FIH Hockey5s World Cup quarters

The hosts wrote a new chapter in the Sultanate's sporting history as the debutants reach the last eight of the inaugural FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup

MUSCAT: It was a memorable Monday for the hosts Oman as Siegfried Aikman's daring boys wrote a new chapter in the Sultanate's sporting history. No team from Oman has ever reached the quarterfinals of a World Cup in Olympic sports till the latest achievement at the Hockey Oman Stadium in the inaugural edition of the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup.

Debutants Oman defeated the USA 6-4 to top Pool D and book a spot in the quarterfinals.

On Monday, Oman led 2-1 at half-time and the scorers in the win in the final league match of the pool were Rashad Al Fazari (11'), Aiman Madit (14'), Khalid Al Shaaibi (20' and 29'), Mahmood Bait (22'), and Fahad Al Lawati (25'). The USA fought back with three goals in the second half.

Earlier on Sunday night, Aikman-coached boys capped a stellar opening day with a 8-3 win over Fiji in the concluding match after earlier playing a 3-3 draw against Malaysia. It was the maiden win for the hosts and served the perfect boost as they overcame the challenge of the USA on Monday.



Oman topped the Pool D with seven points, level with Malaysia, but the hosts edged the latter on goal-difference with Oman scoring a total of 17 goals and conceding 10 while Malaysia hit 14 goals and conceded six.

In the quarterfinals, Oman will meet Pool C runner-up Kenya on Tuesday. The East African nation finished behind Trinidad & Tobago in the pool with two wins and one loss (six points).

The Caribbean nation topped the pool with two wins and one draw (seven points). They will take on Pool D runner-up Malaysia for a place in the semifinals.

Egypt with three wins in Pool B was the topper with nine points and were followed by India with six points. India will take on Pool A leader the Netherlands in the quarterfinals while Egypt will meet Poland in the other quarterfinals.

The Dutch were the only other team besides Egypt to march into the quarterfinals with an all-win record in the pool stage.

On Monday, the day's action began with India walloping Jamaica 13-0 and Egypt keeping their 100 percent win record with a dominating 9-1 win over Switzerland in Pool B.

Both the Pool A matches were well-fought and the Netherlands struggled to get past Nigeria 8-6



and Poland edged past Pakistan 8-7 in a thriller to confirm their last-eight spot.

In Pool D, Malaysia outplayed Fiji 8-3 to secure their spot in the last eight while Oman emerged winners against the USA.

In Pool C Kenya were 7-4 winners over Australia while Trinidad & Tobago recorded an easy 11-4 win over New Zealand to complete the pool engagements and confirm the quarterfinal line-up.

Quarterfinals lineup: Oman vs Kenya, Netherlands vs India, Egypt vs Poland, Trinidad & Tobago vs Malaysia.

Monday's results (till 6pm): Pool C: Trinidad & Tobago 11 New Zealand 4, Kenya 7 Australia 4.

Pool D: Oman 6, USA 4, Malaysia 8 Fiji 3.

Pool A: Poland 8 Pakistan 7, Netherlands 8 Nigeria 6.

Pool B: Egypt 9 Switzerland 1, India 13 Jamaica 0.

HANKOOK 24H DUBAI

Technical issues mar Al Zubair's podium bid at 24H Dubai race



MUSCAT: Oman's Al Faisal Al Zubair's Get Speed Mercedes-AMG GT3 Evo team looked good for a podium finish in the Hankook 24 H Dubai race on the weekend until their car suffered technical issues forcing them to retire.

Al Zubair had teamed up with Austria's Dominik Baumann and Martin Konrad, Germany's Fabian Schiller and America's Anthony for the 19th edition Hankook 24H Dubai at the Dubai Autodrome. The team was in second place after 15 hours of the race, before fuel pump and transmission issues forced them to quit the race.

Al Zubair said: "The weekend started off quite strong and we felt very positive with the car in testing. We led up to qualifying and a bronze (driver) had to qualify for the first session. It was open for the second two. Martin (Konrad) was slightly slower than the other drivers in his qualifying, so when Dominik (Baumann) and Fabi (Schiller) did a great job, it was difficult to get the average down. We started the race from P4 overall and P1 in the Pro class.

"Leading into the race, we had a great strategy and the car felt quite good. The Audis were fast but, I think with our strategy of having the pros drive the last six hours, we had an advantage in the pocket. But, unfortunately, with nine hours to go we got a fuel pump issue and a gearbox failure as well. We weren't able to continue the race while running in P2. Honest-



ly, we had a good chance to win this year. That's racing. This will make victory at a future Dubai 24 feel even better."

Victory, after 603 laps, fell to the Eastalent Racing Team Audi R8 LMS GT3 EVO II, crewed by Christopher Haase, Simon Reicher, Markus Winkelhock, Mike Zhou and Gilles Magnus. Sven Müller brought the Proton Huber Competition Porsche 911 home in second place and Jack Barlow pushed the Century Motorsport BMW M4 GT3 onto the bottom step of the podium.

The Getspeed crew started the race strongly and led through the first hour mark after 29 laps. Al-Zubair was in the hot seat in third behind the Proton Huber Competition and MRS GT-Racing Porsche 911s with the race approaching the two-hour mark. The Omani then pitted for fuel and slipped to fourth.

The team climbed to second place behind the Eastalent Racing Audi after four hours and ran in third for the next two hours.

After seven hours, and with

Schiller at the wheel, the Getspeed car was running in fifth place behind the three Eastalent Racing, HAAS RT and Attempto Racing Audis and the Herberth Motorsport Porsche. The car moved up to second place behind the eventual winners after nine hours and held that position for three hours before slipping back to third. But they had regained second place at the 14-hour mark.

Sadly, the dream of winning the race ended when Baumann suffered technical issues and was forced to pit the Getspeed Mercedes after 360 laps.

Earlier the crew finished fourth in the first official practice session on Friday morning with a best run of 1min 59.990sec in a stint won by the Manamauri Energy by Ebimotors Porsche 911 GT3 R with a lap of 1min 58.940sec.

The Getspeed car was placed sixth in the first of three qualifying sessions and a best lap of 2min 00.559sec with Konrad at the wheel. The Leipert Motorsport Lamborghini claimed the early bragging rights from the HAAS RT Audi and Audi.

Baumann took the wheel in Q2 and finished the five-lap stint in fourth position with a best run of 1min 59.630sec. The Getspeed crew achieved a similar position in Q3 with Schiller carding a best tour of 1min 59.893sec in a stint won by the Dragon Racing Ferrari from the HAAS RT Audi and the Eastalent Racing Team Audi.

INDIA VS ENGLAND

Stokes: Greatest triumph since I became captain

HYDERABAD: England captain Ben Stokes hailed England's 28-run Test victory over India on Sunday as their best since he became captain as it was lauded by pundits and fans alike as "extraordinary" and "phenomenal".

Ollie Pope's 196 set India 231 to win but Tom Hartley spun England to victory as he took 7-62 on his Test debut. "We've had a lot of fantastic moments as a team, great wins," Stokes said.

"But given where we are, and who we are playing, I think it's our greatest triumph since I have been captain."

Stokes said England were "proud" to have scored such a memorable victory on Indian soil but cautioned his players not to ensure the result is just a one-off.

England's second Test of their five-match series starts in Visakhapatnam on 2 February.

"Before the series started, we knew how much of a beast India are at home," Stokes said.

"But the way we responded to being so far behind, it was testament to everything we have said and lived and breathed over the last two years.

"But we've got four Tests left. It's about backing up this performance now. We know that India are going to come back harder at us.

"They are an incredibly tough team but if we can keep standing up to them, it's a good sign for us. We are very proud to be 1-0 up but there is a long way to go."



Jadeja and KL Rahul ruled out of second Test

Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul have been ruled out of the second Test against England starting in Visakhapatnam.

Jadeja suffered a hamstring injury on the fourth day, while Rahul complained of pain in his right quadriceps, the BCCI said in a statement.

Middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan, left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar and allrounder Washington Sundar have been added to India's squad.

India slip to fifth on WTC table

India dropped three spots to fifth place in the World Test Championship (WTC) points table after their 28-run loss in the series opener against England in Hyderabad.

The two-time WTC finalists were second, behind Australia, before the Test. But the result saw

them slide below South Africa, New Zealand and Bangladesh, as their points percentage dropped from 54.16 to 43.33.

India were briefly table-toppers too, when they had beaten South Africa inside two days in Cape Town earlier this month to draw the series 1-1.

But their stay at the top was cut short when Australia completed their series sweep against Pakistan two days later to claim the top spot.

India have so far won two and drawn one of their five Tests in the 2023-25 WTC cycle, while losing once each to South Africa and England.

England, however, dropped a place despite beating India, as West Indies got a massive boost in their points percentage thanks to their stunning victory against Australia at the Gabba.

West Indies overtook England to go seventh with their first win of this cycle. - Agencies

FOR BREACHING ICC CODE OF CONDUCT

Bumrah reprimanded, handed demerit point

HYDERABAD: India's fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has been reprimanded for breaching level one of the ICC Code of Conduct in the opening Test between India and England in Hyderabad. He was found guilty, and as a result, handed a demerit point.

Article 2.12 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, relates to "inappropriate physical contact with a Player, Player Support Personnel, Umpire, Match Referee or any other

person (including a spectator) during an International Match".

It was Bumrah's first offence in 24 months, and he accepted the sanction proposed by the match referee Richie Richardson, which meant there was no need for an official hearing.

The incident occurred in the 81st over of England's second innings. Ollie Pope, who scored 196, pushed a delivery through the off side and went for a run, but Bumrah was reported to have

intentionally stood in the way, a move which led to physical contact. Pope was not pleased, and was seen taking it to the on-field umpires even as Bumrah put his hands up in apology.

Bumrah picked up six wickets in the game, including 4 for 41 in the second innings. He bamboozled Ben Stokes for 70 in the first innings, and dismissed Ben Duckett and Joe Root in successive overs in an inspired spell in the second dig. - Agencies

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by March 2024 reaching \$83.12, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.56 from the price of Friday, which was \$81.56. -**ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,591.89 points, down by 0.09 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.41 per cent at 441.17 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.82 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's production of refineries and petrochemicals rises by 1.2%

The production of regular gasoline (91) witnessed a 13.7 per cent increase by the end of December 2023, resulting in an 11.2 per cent rise in sales

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman's production of refineries and petrochemicals recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent by the end of December 2023 compared to the corresponding period in 2022, according to preliminary statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). The production of regular gasoline (91) witnessed a 13.7 per cent



increase by the end of December 2023, resulting in an 11.2 per cent rise in sales. Additionally, exports of liquefied petroleum gas, paraxylene, and benzene products increased by 82.8 per cent, 163.8 per

cent and 76.8 per cent, respectively. Statistics indicate that the production of gasoline (91) by the end of December 2023 stood at 15,705,600 barrels while its sales reached 14,640,900 barrels. Mean-

while, the production of gasoline (95) went down by 25.6 per cent to reach 11,044,300 barrels as its sales also dropped by 3.9 per cent to reach 12,087,500. Further, the production of die-

sel fuel (gas oil) decreased by 0.4 per cent, reaching 32,425,900 barrels, with sales amounting to 14,353,700 barrels. The production of jet fuel increased by 25.3 per cent, totalling 9,866,500 bar-

rels, with sales of 4,429,200 barrels. The production of liquefied petroleum gas went up by 13.9 per cent, reaching 7,861,000 barrels.

Regarding petrochemicals, the production of benzene increased by 59.1 per cent, reaching 138,200 metric tonnes, while the production of paraxylene reached 494,900 metric tonnes, representing a 162.4 per cent increase. The production of polypropylene dropped by 11.1 per cent, amounting to 222,900 metric tonnes.

Oman's exports of gasoline (91) reached 1,221,900 barrels (falling by 23.9 per cent), while the exports of premium gasoline (95) amounted to 580,400 barrels (a decrease of 81.3 per cent). Exports of diesel fuel (gas oil) reached 18,448,500 barrels, and the exports of jet fuel reached 5,531,900 barrels. Additionally, the exports of liquefied petroleum gas reached 449,200 barrels.

The exports of paraxylene amounted to 493,150 metric tonnes, while the exports of benzene reached 142,240 metric tonnes. The exports of polypropylene dropped by 4.9 per cent, reaching 208,700 metric tonnes. -**ONA**

GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION EXHIBITION

Ghedex 2024: Gateway to future careers and academic excellence

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a significant initiative fostering educational excellence, the Global Higher Education Exhibition (Ghedex 2024) is set to launch on February 4, 2024, under the patronage of His Highness Dr Kamil Fahad Al Said, Secretary General at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

Organised by the Arabian Research Bureau, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour, the event will be held from February 4 to 6, 2024, at Oman Exhibition and Convention Center, Muscat. Ghedex 2024 will see participation from different regional and international educational institutions.

The Global Higher Education Exhibition (Ghedex 2024) and its concurrent sub-events highlight the latest academic programmes and educational opportunities available. The exhibition provides a platform where students, parents, officials and regional and international academic representatives connect and communicate with colleges, regional and international universities, aca-



demic institutes and other stakeholders in the field of education.

Ghedex 2024 features include the Human Capital Development Expo, the Technical Education and Vocational Training Exhibition (TrainEx), Oman Innovation Oasis, Counselling Zone, Ghedex Workshops, Student Enterprises Zone, Sports Activities Zone, the Ghedex Awards for Excellence in Education and Human Capital Development and the International Conference on Career and Higher Education Counselling. The exhibition also provides an opportunity for students to attend and benefit from occupational and professional workshops that assist them to make informed educational and career decisions.

LAND LEASE AGREEMENT

Sohar Freezone signs pact with Green Data City to develop Data Computing Centre

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a strategic move to fortify its position as a key player in the digital economy, Sohar Port and Freezone has officially signed a landmark land lease agreement with Green Data City (FZC).

This collaboration is set to pave the way for the development of an advanced Data Computing Centre within Sohar Freezone, dedicated to hosting, processing, and data mining.

With a total investment of \$210 million, the Green Data City project is set to strengthen the technological landscape, bringing forth a state-of-the-art facility that houses approximately 20,000 servers from leading manufacturers. Hosted in 40-foot containers, these servers will be connected to immersion and hydro systems with dry coolers, ensuring efficient and sustainable cooling for data processing and other computing processes on the Internet.

Covering a land area of 45,000 sqm, this project is considered a vital facility for modern companies. It provides the necessary infra-



structure for storing, processing, and managing data. Additionally, this project is a fundamental initiative towards digital transformation, economic development, and the enhancement of communication and information technology services in general.

Commenting on this agreement, Olivier Ohnheiser, CEO of Green Data City stated: "Collaborating with Sohar Freezone is a strategic

move for Green Data City. Our infrastructure not only transforms Sohar into a global hub for innovation but strategically reinforces our geographical diversification, adding significant value to our business footprint. This agreement reflects our commitment to pioneering solutions and ensures mutual success in the dynamic digital landscape."

Omar bin Mahmood Al Mahrizi,

CEO of Sohar Freezone, DCEO Sohar Port said, "Our agreement with Green Data City represents a step forward for Sohar in the digital realm. While emphasising our commitment to technological innovation, this agreement contributes to our broader goal of supporting Oman's economic diversification and sustainable development, placing us as a participant in the nation's digital future."

SIX-MONTH PROGRAMME

Omantel Innovation Labs selects 6 startups for Cohort 3 of its accelerator programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omantel Innovation Labs has announced the six startups selected for Cohort 3 of the Omantel Accelerator programme, following a rigorous selection process, which included bootcamps and interviews with experts.

Under the prestigious Omantel Accelerator programme, the startups will undergo an intensive six-month acceleration program, during which they will receive mentorship from both local and international mentors, as well as Omantel experts.

The Cohort 3 will consist of the following startups: Adeeb, a platform that supports teachers in creating interactive lessons for students using a library of ready-made graphical assets; Bidbid, a B2B Fintech & E-Procurement platform that features live bidding and data analytics; Bon Plus, a SaaS-enabled B2B Marketplace for the hotel, restaurant, and catering Market; DarkSniper, an AI-driven cybersecurity platform that provides visibility into potential threats, predicts attacker behaviours, and halts network attacks in real-time; Decoil which provides a



suite of AI agents for task automation; and Decree, a digital platform to access Arabic and English language regional legislation.

Talal Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, commented, "The Omantel Accelerator is an exciting and ambitious programme aimed at propelling the startup ecosystem in Oman to boundless horizons. We take pride in carefully selecting and supporting the most promising startups that have the potential to create innovative solutions for a better world.

"The startups from the first two cohorts have already made remarkable progress and we have full confidence that the new cohort will continue to make significant strides, walking along the same path of success."

Her Highness Al Sayyida Ghada Al Said – Senior Manager of Omantel Innovation Labs said: "We are pleased to welcome the new cohort of innovative startups to the Omantel Accelerator. Our extensive selection process ensures that only the most promising startups

are selected for our programme and they have all demonstrated exceptional skills and qualities that align with our ambition. We look forward to working with them to help them reach their potential."

The Accelerator programme, which will take place within the Omantel Innovation Labs located in Omantel HQ in Madinat Al Irfan, will offer the selected startups a free coworking space within Omantel, access to international perks that includes a global network of over 100,000 mentors, corporates, and investors. Startups will also be assessed for potential investment by the Omantel Innovation Labs.

The Omantel Accelerator is one of the many initiatives offered by Omantel, through the Omantel Innovation Labs, to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in new and emerging technologies.

With a focus on 5G, IoT, Cybersecurity, CX technology, Big Data and Fintech, the Omantel Innovation Labs has quickly grown to be one of the leading startup support entities in the Sultanate in providing some of the most promising local startups with access to funding, experts and testing environments within Omantel.

TECHNOLOGY

Apple to make major changes for upcoming iPhone iOS 18

WASHINGTON: Apple is planning to make major changes in the operating system for the upcoming iPhone, iOS 18, as the upcoming system is considered as one of the biggest upgrades to the iOS system.

The company is expected to reveal many advantages based on artificial intelligence (AI), which is the current trend in operating systems for consumer devices, the American Bloomberg agency reported.

Apple had previously revealed its intention to support the RCS messaging standard, as it will work with (iMessage) messaging application, allowing users to exchange messages between Android phones and iPhones easily; as an alternative to traditional SMS and MMS messages. RCS messages also allow the sending of high-quality texts, images, video clips, voice messages and large files. Besides supporting emojis, message writing indicators, bet-



ter encryption than traditional messages and other features.

The agency indicated that the iOS 18 operating system will include generative artificial intelligence technologies that will improve the performance of the voice assistant (Siri) in interacting with users, in addition to including these technologies in applications such as Messages, Pages, and Keynote, including its various platforms such as Apple Music and Xcode. -**ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman Education & Training, up 9.82 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,591.89 points, down by 0.09 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.41 per cent at 441.17 points. Oman Education & Training, up 9.82 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 909 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR2.82 million, with more than 12.36 million shares changing hands. Out of 41 traded securities, 15 advanced, 8 declined, and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR940,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR531,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR409,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,455.37 points, up 0.37 per cent.

Prices of Al Madina Investments, Global Financial Investments, Al Madina Takaful, United Finance, Bank Nizwa were up by 9.30 per cent, 3.39 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.05 per cent respectively. Prices of Taageer Finance, Sohar International Bank, National Bank Oman were down by 1.89 per cent, 0.92 per cent, 0.37 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,465.40 points, up 0.06 per cent. Prices of Galfar Engineering were up by 0.65 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.28 per cent before closing at 1,559.50 points. Prices of Oman Education & Training, Barka Water & Power Company, Oman National Engineering, Phoenix Power, National Gas were up by 9.82 per cent, 5.00 per cent, 3.54 per cent, 1.96 per cent, 1.30 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Renaissance Services, Abraj Energy, Muscat Gases, Oman Telecom were down by 9.09 per cent, 1.90 per cent, 1.88 per cent, 1.04 per cent, 0.93 per cent respectively – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,603.95	4,586.42	4,591.89	4,595.93	-4.03	-0.09
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,458.02	7,430.65	7,455.37	7,427.85	27.52	0.37
Industry Index	5,465.40	5,465.40	5,465.40	5,462.16	3.24	0.06
Services Index	1,566.44	1,559.50	1,559.50	1,563.84	-4.34	-0.28
MSX Shariah Index	441.17	438.99	441.17	439.38	1.79	0.41
MSX TR INDEX	6,071.06	6,047.94	6,055.16	6,060.47	-5.32	-0.09
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,138.07	8,108.21	8,135.18	8,105.15	30.03	0.37
SERVICES TR IDX	1,747.69	1,739.94	1,739.94	1,744.79	-4.85	-0.28
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,838.41	5,838.41	5,838.41	5,834.95	3.46	0.06
FIXED INCOME INDEX	992.59	992.59	992.59	992.59	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,367,419	2,823,782	909	23,838,268,544	15	8	18	41

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 29

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST DR.	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	510,287	59,352	56	0.114	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.113	0.004	3.540	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.100	17,550,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	10,500	631	3	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.061	0.059	0.002	3.390	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	12,200,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	147,205	12,849	17	0.086	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	32,000	1,824	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.057	0.060	0.100	20,289,256
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	3,035,102	818,796	122	0.270	0.270	0.268	0.270	0.268	0.002	0.746	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	2,026,727,207
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	333,006	99,853	27	0.298	0.300	0.298	0.300	0.298	0.002	0.671	0.300	0.300	0.310	0.100	195,283,269
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	167,000	27,221	11	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.100	35,860,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	16,319	3,306	6	0.202	0.204	0.202	0.204	0.204	0.000	0.000	0.204	0.202	0.204	0.100	12,485,672
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	109,450	8,209	8	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	14,972,670
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	87,670	23,723	21	0.271	0.271	0.270	0.270	0.271	-0.001	-0.369	0.270	0.270	0.280	0.100	439,006,516
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	2,097,884	228,785	100	0.109	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0.917	0.108	0.108	0.109	0.100	590,531,858
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	814,407	872,962	171	1.079	1.079	1.064	1.070	1.080	-0.010	-0.926	1.070	1.070	1.077	0.100	802,500,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	17,610	7,285	13	0.413	0.416	0.413	0.414	0.422	-0.008	-1.896	0.414	0.414	0.413	0.100	97,873,740
Total	13	7,378,440	2,164,805	556												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV.	5,000	2,125	1	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.425	0.387	0.038	9.819	0.425	0.390	0.000	0.100	23,750,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	1,000	47	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.043	0.004	9.302	0.047	0.045	0.047	0.100	3,995,000
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	256,023	10,907	23	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.040	0.002	5.000	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.100	6,720,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	45,000	2,340	3	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.051	0.001	1.961	0.052	0.050	0.053	0.100	76,055,276
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	38,315	3,072	4	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.001	1.299	0.078	0.078	0.079	0.100	6,630,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,562,225	149,833	37	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	8,600	1,334	4	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.001	0.645	0.156	0.151	0.160	0.100	31,665,886
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	22,000	3,530	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.001	0.629	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	375,945,195
OM0000000879	OMAN QATAR INSURANCE	51,090	9,605	1	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.187	0.001	0.535	0.188	0.170	0.187	0.100	30,309,091
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	36,198	4,337	8	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.118	0.120	0.100	24,000,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	31,728	2,316	3	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.000	0.000	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	15,038,000
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	650	44	1	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	1,407,000
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	21,782	1,310	4	0.060	0.064	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.060	0.064	0.100	964,359
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	1,920	451	1	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.000	0.000	0.235	0.235	0.237	0.100	10,754,963
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	20	17	1	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.830	0.000	0.000	0.830	0.000	0.830	0.100	78,850,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	171	25	1	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.146	0.132	0.160	0.100	11,884,802
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	250	22	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.100	84,002,332
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	17,000	816	3	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.045	0.048	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATAINAH POWER	30,000	600	1	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.000	0.000	0.020	0.019	0.021	0.100	15,497,749
OM0000005072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	1,895,166	283,382	199	0.149	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.149	0.150	0.100	649,593,588
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	1,000	95	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.095	0.090	0.100	2,850,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	525,182	166,495	35	0.318	0.318	0.314	0.314	0.320	-0.006	-1.875	0.314	0.314	0.315	0.100	241,842,800
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	5,209	542	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.103	0.116	0.100	27,438,844
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	367,900	7,426	13	0.021	0.021	0.020	0.020	0.022	-0.002	-9.091	0.020	0.020	0.021	0.100	14,288,127
Total	24	4,924,429	650,661	348												

ENERGY CONFERENCE

Energy ministers from 17 countries to participate in India Energy Week

NEW DELHI: India Energy Week 24, scheduled for February 6-9 in Goa, is expected to see the participation of 17 energy ministers from different countries, over 35,000 attendees, and more than 900 exhibitors, said Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri at a curtain presser here on Monday.

This year, six dedicated country pavilions - Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, the UK and the US - will be installed at the event site.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a roundtable with oil and gas CEOs and India-US investment roundtables.

Further, a special Make in India Pavilion is being organised with more than 300 exhibitors to showcase innovative solutions Indian MSMEs are spearheading in the energy sector. With the number of domestic and international participants, this annual event gives

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a roundtable with oil and gas CEOs and India-US investment roundtables

platform to demonstrate their abilities to both domestic and international markets.

India Energy Week has, in a short span of two years, differentiated itself from the other global energy conferences and exhibitions underpinned by India's strong economic credentials, large and growing consumption base and salubrious investment climate.

Building on the incredible success, the duration and number of strategic sessions of IEW-24 have been increased from three to four

days. More dedicated sessions are being planned for this year, including 46 strategic sessions and 46 technical sessions, which is more than double the technical sessions held last year. Under the technical sessions, the papers submitted in the run-up to the event have doubled to about 2,000.

As a build-up to India Energy Week 2024, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas hosted an event, "Energy Startups: Driving the Energy Future," at ONGC Deendayal Urja Bhawan, New

Delhi. The session was aimed at giving an impetus to energy independence and showcasing India's robust startup ecosystem.

An energy startup challenge called 'Avinya' was organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Out of the approximately 120 applications received after a tiered selection process, five startups were selected.

The winners of the startup challenge will be provided, inter alia, with mentorship opportunities by industry leaders and an opportunity to exhibit their startup ideas at India Energy Week'24, showcasing their cutting-edge solutions to a global audience.

Building on India's G20 priorities, a number of side events are being planned on the sidelines of IEW covering important themes like Global South Cooperation, Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCUs). -ANI

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

HELLO
Winter
SEASON'S SPECIAL DEAL

50% OFF

HOT & COLD DISPENSER

PLUS 2 FULL BOTTLES

PLUS 30 REFILL COUPONS

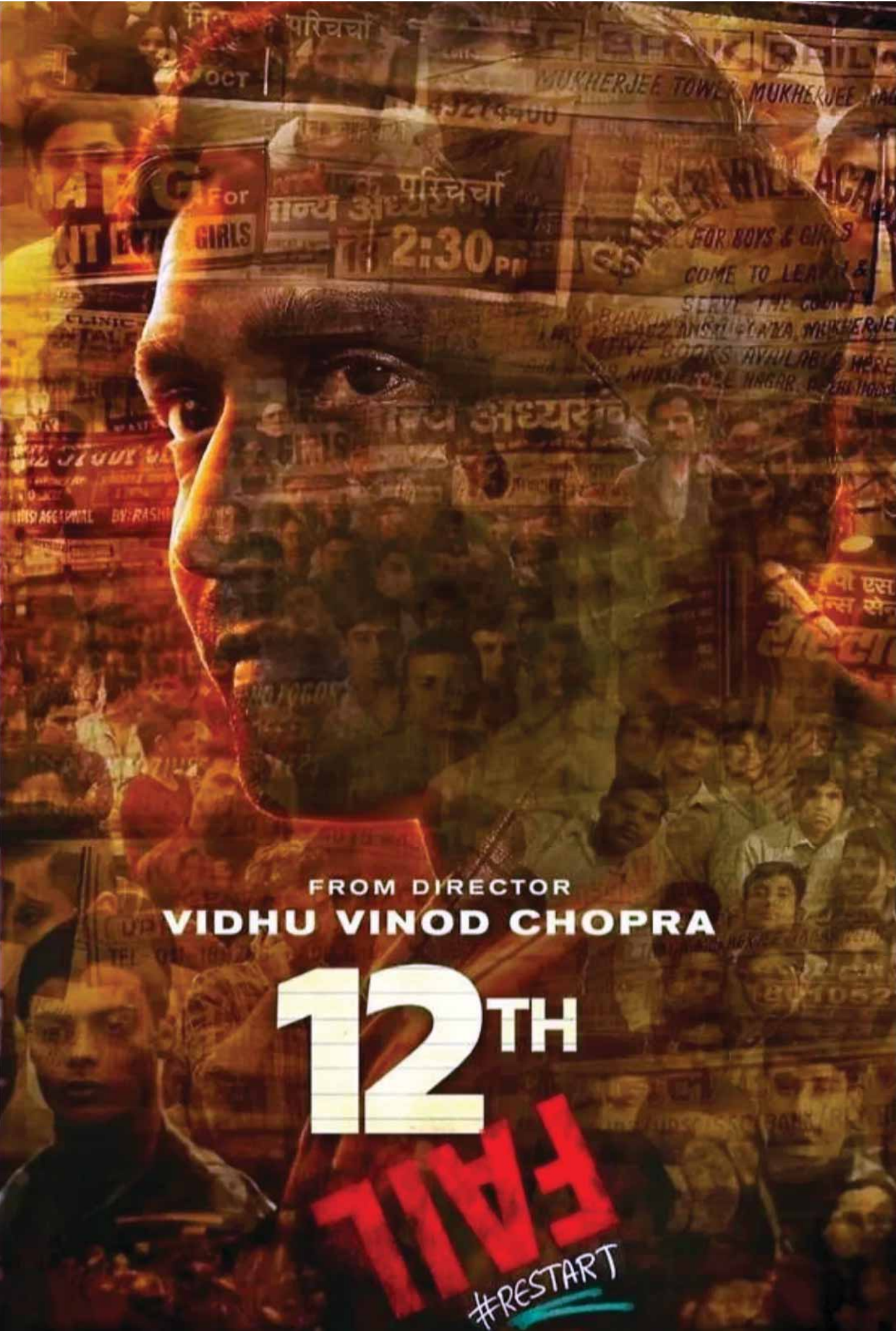
20% OFF

WHITE TAP DISPENSER OR TAP DISPENSER OR MANUAL WATER PUMP OR CRADLE WITH TAP

PLUS 2 FULL BOTTLES

PLUS 15 REFILL COUPONS

Offer valid from 1st



FILMFARE AWARDS 2024

Bollywood's Alia Bhatt is Best Actress, Ranbir Kapoor Best Actor, 12th Fail Best Film



LIFESTYLE

MUSCAT: The Filmfare Awards returned to honour the finest performances, filmmaking, storytelling and technical excellence in the Hindi film industry.

This year, the two-day celebration in Gujarat, India opened with a Curtain Raiser, leading up to the Filmfare Awards ceremony.

The 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism was held in GIFT City, Gujarat.

Hosted by Karan Johar, Ayushmann Khurrana and Maneish Paul, the star-studded night saw dazzling red-carpet appearances, breathtaking performances and inspiring winning moments.

The industry's finest talents took home the prestigious Black Lady, the epitome of credibility and success in the realm of Indian cinema.

Here's the full list of winners at the 69th Hyundai Filmfare Awards 2024 with Gujarat Tourism:

- BEST FILM**
12th Fail
- BEST DIRECTOR**
Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12Th Fail)
- BEST FILM CRITICS'**
Joram (Devashish Makhija)
- BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (MALE)**
Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- BEST ACTOR CRITICS'**
Vikrant Massey (12Th Fail)
- BEST ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE (FEMALE)**
Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- BEST ACTRESS CRITICS'**
Rani Mukerji (Mrs. Chatterjee Vs. Norway)
Shefali Shah (Three Of Us)
- BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (MALE)**
Vicky Kaushal (Dunki)
- BEST ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE (FEMALE)**
Shabana Azmi (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- BEST LYRICS**
Amitabh Bhattacharya (Tere Vaaste - Zara Hatke Zara Bachke)
- BEST MUSIC ALBUM**
Animal (Pritam, Vishal Mishra, Manan Bhardwaj, Shreyas Puranik, Jaani, Bhupinder Babbal, Ashim Kemson, Harshwardhan Rameshwar, Gurinder Seagal)
- BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (MALE)**
Bhupinder Babbal (Arjan Vailly - Animal)
- BEST PLAYBACK SINGER (FEMALE)**
Shilpa Rao (Besharam Rang - Pathaan)
- BEST STORY**
Amit Rai (Omg 2)
Devashish Makhija (Joram)
- BEST SCREENPLAY**
Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12Th Fail)
- BEST DIALOGUE**
Ishita Moitra (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- BEST BACKGROUND SCORE**
Harshavardhan Rameshwar (Animal)
- BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY**
Avinash Arun Dhaware (Three Of Us)
- BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN**
Subrata Chakraborty, Amit Ray (Sam Bahadur)
- BEST COSTUME DESIGN**
Sachin Lovelekar, Divvyra Gambhir, Nidhi Gambhir (Sam Bahadur)
- BEST SOUND DESIGN**
Kunal Sharma (Mpse) (Sam Bahadur) Sync Cinema (Animal)
- BEST EDITING**
Jaskunwar Singh Kohli- Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12Th Fail)
- BEST ACTION**
Spiro Razatos, Anl Arasu, Craig Macrae, Yannick Ben, Kecha Khamphakdee, Sunil Rodrigues (Jawan)
- BEST VFX**
Red Chillies Vfx (Jawan)
- BEST CHOREOGRAPHY**
Ganesh Acharya (What Jhumka?- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- BEST DEBUT DIRECTOR**
Tarun Dudeja (Dhak Dhak)
- BEST DEBUT MALE**
Aditya Rawal (Faraaz)
- BEST DEBUT FEMALE**
Alizeh Agnihotri (Farrey)
- LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
David Dhawan

SPORTS

Mpasi is hero as DR Congo knock out Egypt to reach quarterfinals

Leopards won 8-7 on penalties in the AFCON round of 16 to set up a last eight clash against Guinea

ABIDJAN: Goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi scored the 18th penalty of a nerve-shredding shoot-out as DR Congo produced the latest shock at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) by knocking seven-time champions Egypt out 8-7 to reach the quarter-finals following a 1-1 draw after extra-time on Sunday.

DR Congo went ahead for the first time at the finals when Meschack Elia nodded in Yoane Wissa's cross to put the team ranked 67th in the world on course for the latest surprise result at a tournament which has been illuminated by underdog success in Ivory Coast.

Their lead lasted nine minutes before Mostafa Mohamed converted a penalty on the stroke of half-time after Ahmed Hegazi was caught by a flailing arm from Dylan Batubinsika.

Egypt finished with 10 men after left-back Mohamed Hamdy was shown a second yellow card seven minutes into extra time for a mistimed lunge on Simon Banza.

And, after Pharaohs keeper Gabaski had clipped the top of the crossbar in the ninth round of the shoot-out, Mpasi stepped up to win it 8-7 on penalties.

In the absence of injured captain Mohamed Salah, Rui Vitoria's team ended the tournament



The move which broke the deadlock eight minutes before the break started with a piece of quick thinking by Masuaku, releasing Wissa on the left with a throw-in which allowed the Brentford attacker to enter the penalty area and clip a cross via a deflection into the path of Elia to head in on the line.

The North Africans may have been lacking the talismanic Salah in attack, but Mohamed initially proved his reliability again from the spot to equalise with his fourth goal of the finals.

Hegazi had gone down in a heap following Batubinsika's aerial challenge, leading South African referee Abongile Tom to book the crestfallen centre-back for a stray arm following a VAR review and check on his pitch-side monitor.

Bayo nets dramatic winner

Mohamed Bayo headed a 98th-minute winner as Guinea reached the quarter-finals of the Africa Cup of Nations with victory over 10-man Equatorial Guinea, who had earlier missed a penalty.

Equatorial Guinea midfielder Federico Bikoro was dismissed 10 minutes after the break for catching Bayo in the ribs with his studs.

The National Thunder were awarded a spot-kick midway through the second half after Sekou Sylla caught Iban Salvador, but captain Emilio Nsue hit the base of the right-hand upright.

And, with the game set to head to extra time, striker Bayo stooped to guide Ibrahim Diakite's cross from the right flank just inside the near post in the final minute of added time.

The West Africans have made the last eight for the first time since 2015.

Equatorial Guinea had reached at least the quarter-finals on their previous three appearances at AFCON. - Agencies

THE FA CUP FOURTH ROUND

Klopp appreciates 'emotional' reception as Reds beat Norwich

LONDON: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp on Sunday said that he does not want "the old man on the sidelines" to become a distraction now that he has revealed he will be leaving Liverpool at the end of the season.

Klopp stunned the football world on Friday by announcing his impending departure, saying he is "running out of energy".

And he appreciated the "emotional" reception afforded to him by Reds supporters prior to Sunday's FA Cup victory over Norwich, but hopes there will not now be too much focus on him.

The German's team made light work of the Championship play-off hopefuls, booking their place in the fifth round with a 5-2 win on a day of heightened emotions at Anfield.

"I have to make sure I don't get on that side of it," Klopp, who has won six major trophies since his appointment over eight years ago, told *BBC Match of the Day*.

"I said the fans don't have to [do anything special] because I know our relationship already. In games, we need to be warriors and not celebrate the old man on the sidelines. "This was the first match after the news - [now] we can get used to it."



Goals from Curtis Jones, Darwin Nunez, Diogo Jota, Virgil van Dijk and Ryan Gravenberch ensured victory for the Premier League leaders, who are also in the final of the Carabao Cup and the last 16 of the Europa League.

Speaking to ITV before kick-off, former Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler said Reds supporters will want to give Klopp a fitting send-off, given his achievements since his arrival in October 2015.

"He will be a huge miss, not just to this country but to football,"

he said. "The fans will want to do their utmost."

"Jurgen came in and the team has progressed every single year to where they are now - the youth and younger players in this squad are incredible."

"We all want them to win the Premier League [this season], and a Europa League final in Dublin would be the icing on the cake."

Klopp's team, beaten 3-1 by Sevilla in the 2016 Europa League final, will discover their last-16 opponents on 23 February, with this year's showpiece being held in

Cameroon two years ago.

DR Congo will play Guinea in the quarter-finals at Abidjan's Alassane Ouattara Stadium on Friday after the Syli National beat Equatorial Guinea 1-0 earlier on Sunday.

Meschack Elia gave DR Congo

the lead when he nodded in Yoane Wissa's deflected cross

If a knockout-stage meeting between two sides who had drawn all three of their group games is a rarity, it was less of a surprise when the contest ended all square after 90 minutes.

ITALIAN SERIE A

Martinez goal seals win for Inter Milan



MILAN: Lautaro Martinez's goal gave Inter Milan a narrow 1-0 win at Fiorentina as they returned to the top of Serie A on Sunday.

The Argentine striker scored a near-post header from Kristjan Asllani's corner in the first half.

Fiorentina were awarded a penalty 15 minutes from time after Inter keeper Yann Sommer collided with M'Bala Nzola but Nicolas Gonzalez's weak effort was easily saved.

Inter are a point ahead of second-placed Juventus.

A super flying save from Som-

mer denied Giacomo Bonaventura in the 33rd minute, while Nzola's fierce strike was well blocked just before the break.

Luca Ranieri also headed wide from Rolando Mandragora's corner in the closing stages as La Viola fell to defeat.

Meanwhile, defending champions Napoli were held to a goalless draw at Lazio and remain ninth in the table, four points off the Champions League places.

Other results: Genoa 2 Lecce 1, Hellas Verona 1 Frosinone 1, Monza 1 Sassuolo 0. - Agencies

FRENCH LIGUE 1

PSG held by Brest

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) are six points clear at the top of Ligue 1 despite letting a two-goal lead slip against Brest (2-2) on Sunday. Goals from Marco Asensio and France forward Randal Kolo Muani looked set to give Luis Enrique's side their sixth consecutive win in all competitions.

But Mahdi Camara's deflected effort and Mathias Pereira Lage's clever flick gave Brest a deserved point.

Forward Bradley Barcola's red card for two late bookings summed up a frustrating evening for the hosts.

Nice, who won 1-0 against Metz



on Saturday, are second in the table, with Eric Roy's Brest in third, three points further back.

Other results: Montpellier 0 Lille 0, Clermont 1 Strasbourg 1, Lorient 3 Le Havre 3, Reims 0 Nantes 0, Toulouse 0 Lens 2. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Portu strike sinks Celta Vigo, Girona back to the top

MADRID: Girona returned to the top of La Liga as Cristian Portu's first-half finish earned them a 1-0 win at Celta Vigo on Sunday. They leapfrogged Real Madrid, who defeated Las Palmas 2-1 on Saturday.

Portu finished emphatically past Vicente Guaita within the first 20 minutes to set the visitors on their way back to top spot.

Paulo Gazzaniga then denied the hosts on several occasions to secure victory for Girona, who sit one point above Real having played a game more.

Rafael Benitez's side enjoyed plenty of pressure but goalkeeper Gazzaniga - formerly of Totten-



ham and Southampton - stood firm for the visitors.

As Celta Vigo pushed hard for a leveller, the Argentinian acrobatically turned Jorgen Strand

Larsen's header on to the crossbar before also denying Oscar Mingueza.

Girona held out for a clean sheet that ensured they returned to winning ways following their midweek Copa del Rey elimination at the hands of Mallorca.

Girona head coach Michel has guided the club to 16 league wins and just one loss so far this season.

Meanwhile, Samuel Lino and Memphis Depay scored as Atletico Madrid beat Valencia 2-0 to move up to third in the table, above Barcelona on goal difference.

Sevilla rose to 16th in the table, one point above the relegation

zone, after a 1-1 draw at home to Osasuna.

Isaac Romero gave the hosts the lead after 23 minutes, wriggling away from his defender and finishing clinically, before Ante Budimir scored from close range in the second half to restore parity.

Sevilla's former Liverpool and AC Milan winger Suso was dismissed four minutes from time but Quique Sanchez Flores' side managed to hold out for a valuable point.

Cadiz, who sit two places and a point below Sevilla, remain in the bottom three after their 0-0 draw with Athletic Bilbao earlier in the day. - Agencies

Bank Muscat wins JP Morgan Chase awards for excellence in STP rates

The bank has been recognised for its best-in-class STP rate of 99.46 per cent on MT103 category and of 99.92 per cent on MT202 category for its excellent STP technique in 2023

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial service provider in the Sultanate of Oman, was awarded by the global banking giant JP Morgan Chase; one of the top institutions that provide financial solutions to important corporates around the world, for its best-in-class Straight-Through Processing (STP) rates for US dollar clearing operations.



The bank is proud to be recognised for its best-in-class STP rate of 99.46 per cent on MT103 category and of 99.92 per cent on

MT202 category for its excellent STP technique in 2023. Speaking about this outstanding achievement, Talal Abdul Hameed

al Zadjali, Deputy General Manager – Operations, Bank Muscat, said: “The bank prioritises excellence in managing its operations

and services, evident through consistent recognition from financial institutions and international banks. The awards received highlight the bank’s operational efficiency, particularly in electronic payment services, showcasing its commitment to technological advancements and delivering exceptional services to both individual and institutional customers. The bank is keen to adopt high efficiency standards in fund transfers and transactions that minimise manual intervention, ensuring quality and preventing payment delays. We will continue to apply the lat-

est practices that save time and effort of our valued customers.” The STP Award is a global testimony of Bank Muscat’s commitment to the highest levels of quality by meeting strict standards in the field of money transfer. It recognises the bank’s advanced internal system for sending commercial payments and money transfers, while maintaining the highest standards of the “SWIFT” system and achieving high rates of direct transfers. The exceptional quality of the Bank in providing payments and trade transfers has led to a high percentage of direct processing. Bank Muscat has established more than 500 correspondent banking relationships across the world, most prominent of which is JP Morgan, Wells Fargo, Standard Chartered, BNY Mellon and Citibank. The Bank’s performance has also been lauded by the international financial and banking community for decades, with prestigious awards from international publications like Global Finance, Euromoney, The Banker and EMEA Finance, amounting to 35 awards in 2023.

REWARDING BENEFITS

ahli Islamic launches ‘Al Majd’ segment for its upper mass customers

MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing endeavours to appeal to its growing customer base, ahli Islamic, has introduced its exciting, all-new Al Majd segment. The launch event was held at ahlibank HQ and was attended by ahli Islamic’s top executives and key personnel. Al Majd, a service segment tailor-made for ahli Islamic’s discerning upper mass customers, comes with a host of greatly rewarding benefits, fully aligned with the principles of Sharia. As an exclusive launch offer, customers

will get 10% cashback on salaries as a onetime Hiba. Customers who have a salary between OMR 1,000 - 3,499 or who make a deposit of OMR 10,000 – 34,999 can join the Al Majd segment and enjoy the host of offers and benefits, such as, access to 25 airport lounges across the globe up to 6 times a year, and a bonus of 2,000 pearl points as a joining bonus. Moreover, in conjunction with the offers, Al Majd also provides a special service desk made available for customers in selected

branches for further assistance. Speaking on the launch of Al Majd, Noora Sultan, AGM - Head of Retail Banking at ahli Islamic, stated, “This new venture of bringing an exceptional banking experience that goes beyond the norm is a delight to us here at ahli Islamic. We strive to set benchmarks in what can be provided to our customers whilst catering to their specific needs. Al Majd further underscores our dedication to instil world-class services and products to our substantial portfolio, in con-

junction with our commitment of serving our customers with grace and efficiency.” **Platinum cards** Al Majd provides customers with a uniquely designed platinum credit card and debit card, fully secured with chip and PIN feature, in addition to the contactless tap & go technology. The card has worldwide acceptance at more than 30 million locations. Notably, the Bank also provides customers with a cheque book, as per their re-

quest. Internet and mobile banking services are at the disposal of Al Majd customers, alongside 3D-security verified by Visa for safe online transactions. The card has 24/7 direct access for withdrawals or purchases through POS terminals. Special finance rates and dedicated offers, among a host of products and services, are provided to Al Majd customers. And in the case of any queries, customers can contact customer services at ahli connect at any time of the day. Noora Sultan further stated, “At

ahli Islamic, we are confident that Al Majd will set a new standard in the Islamic banking scene. Serving our customers as the new harbingers of excellence is part of our objectives as we navigate the highly competitive Omani market.” ahli Islamic continues to set the standard for excellence in Islamic banking through its implementation of cutting-edge digital technology. The bank aspires to build relationships with customers, new or existing, and incorporate ethical principles in all of its operations.

ROUND-UP

Embark on mindful culinary journey at JW Marriott Hotel

Whether your heart desires international flavours, the art of fire-cooked perfection, the allure of seafood, or the comforting embrace of a pub experience, Culinary Week at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat invites you to savour each moment with appreciation, as you explore four distinct venues

MUSCAT: JW Marriott Hotel Muscat unveiled its inaugural Culinary Week, an enchanting exploration of world-class cuisine, set to take place from February 2 to 8, 2024. This seven-day celebration promises to transport you to a world where mind, body, and spirit unite in culinary harmony.

During this exceptional week of extraordinary dining, indulge in specially crafted set menus that

will not only tantalise your taste buds but also nurture your well-being, feed your soul and foster meaningful connections. Whether your heart desires international flavours, the art of fire-cooked perfection, the allure of seafood, or the comforting embrace of a pub experience, Culinary Week at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat invites you to savour each moment with intention and appreciation, as you



explore four distinct venues.

A journey of culinary excellence
KITCHEN 7 invites you to witness our skilled chefs in action while indulging in international cuisines, Middle Eastern grills, Asian woks, European breads, and Indian tandoors. PINK SALT beckons you with its warm, welcoming

atmosphere, where exclusive fire-cooked delights and fresh seafood in display await.

CATCH, the modern poolside oasis, entices you to indulge in the world of seafood as you experience Mediterranean vibes and exclusive entertainment. Meanwhile, the signature restaurant, BUTTER BUNS, promises a genuine and uplifting experience with



freshly crafted burgers.

The Culinary Week kicks off on February 2 with an outdoor brunch at CATCH Restaurant, featuring live DJ music, a magician, kids' activities, a kids' castle, a trampoline, and face painting, creating a vibrant and entertaining atmosphere for all ages. The week concludes with an unforgettable Omani Night at KITCHEN 7,

where you can savour traditional Omani flavours and immerse yourself in the rich culinary heritage of the region.

To make the experience accessible to everyone, all dining spots offer a special rate of just OMR19 net per person, ensuring that the delights of Culinary Week at JW Marriott Hotel Muscat are affordable and enjoyable for all.

FINANCIAL SOLUTION

NBO Privilege Banking offers premium services to elevate banking experience



MUSCAT: Marking a significant stride towards delivering an unparalleled banking experience to its customers, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) offers Privilege Banking, a bespoke financial solution curated for high-end clients.

This offering provides a personalised portfolio, unlocking financial opportunities through diverse saving and investment products to help clients realise their future aspirations. Specifically designed for individuals earning between OMR1,000 up to OMR2,999, or maintaining a deposit base of OMR 10,000, Privilege Banking underscores a commitment to delivering high-quality financial products.

Sharing his insights on the product, Ali Mustafa Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager – Head of Private & Segments Banking at NBO, stated, “Privilege Banking is not just a service; it’s a commitment to providing a superior financial journey to our valued customers. We understand their diverse needs and aspirations, and this product is designed to cater to them comprehensively.

Privilege Banking clientele enjoy exceptional services facilitated by advanced digital solutions, ensuring prompt and convenient access to banking services, ultimately saving time. NBO is dedicated to redefining banking experiences, with Privilege Banking standing as a testament to our unwavering zeal for excellence.”

Privilege Banking incorporates various features, including the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), which necessitates only a minimum monthly investment of OMR 100. Customers can benefit from advantageous pricing on financing options, receive a complimentary Credit Card for the first year, access higher limits for debit card withdrawals and spending, and enjoy the ease of instant local transfers with a nominal fee of 200 baisa.

Additionally, Privilege Banking offers an array of premium lifestyle benefits, allowing them to luxuriate in unique privileges. Customers can enjoy enticing discounts through Xperience from the Entertainer for dining, shopping, and leisure activities.

TIGGO 8 PRO MAX

Chery's hard-core technology facilitates building luxury land flight cabins

MUSCAT: Chery's flagship SUV, TIGGO 8 PRO MAX is a masterpiece of Chery's core technology. Whether in terms of intelligent cabin within reach, highly efficient power or leading safety configuration, TIGGO 8 PRO presents the brand connotation of “Technology Chery” to users with the most cutting-edge technology and the most comprehensive configuration.

When entering the interior of TIGGO 8 PRO MAX, the design of the duplex screen is particularly impressive with a size of 24.6 inches, integrated seamless design, curved structure, multi-touch, and smooth operation; it also features the W-HUD head-up display function, which can display various forms including speed, dynamic ADAS, navigation, phone, etc., and also allows users to be more focused, thus facilitating safe driving.

In addition, based on the large high-definition screen, TIGGO 8 PRO MAX also integrates 540° image function to achieve a dead-angle view of the outside environment, and achieves better vehicle machine interconnection by meeting the cell phone mapping of both Car play and Android Auto. Besides, it possesses 50W high-power wireless charging function, which is the most applicable mod-



el in the same class, and the charging status can be displayed on the center control screen, moreover, it adds the considerate cell phone forgetting reminding function; additionally, the intelligent voice control function is also extremely practical, you can make phone calls, start music and wake up navigation by just speaking, so that the driver will no longer be bothered

by the button operation and will not be distracted by the operation of the button during driving.

Since its establishment, Chery has been focusing on engine as its main business and has been maintaining continuous research and development on core technologies, which is the important credo for Chery to rank on the top list of Chinese passenger vehicles in terms

of export for 20 consecutive years. After more than 20 years of technology development, Chery has set up 5 R&D centres and organised an R&D team of more than 10000 talents worldwide, with its core R&D personnel coming from more than 10 countries, many of whom are top technical talents from well-known auto enterprises such as Jaguar Land Rover, GM and Ford. Up to now, Chery has obtained 17,000+ authorised patents, achieving the overtaking of European and American century-old brands.

TIGGO 8 PRO MAX has interpreted the connotation of “technological luxury” as a flagship SUV and won high recognition from global users. With the accelerating internationalization strategy of Chery, TIGGO 8 PRO MAX will be sold to more markets around the world as a flagship model, so that more users can experience the charm of intelligent technology.

Recently, Kantar and Google jointly released the 2023 Chinese Global Brand Builders Top 50. Chery is ranked as the best Chinese global brand builder in cars and 14th in the overall list and its brand power has achieved strong growth.

In Oman, Chery vehicles are distributed by Saud Bahwan Group.

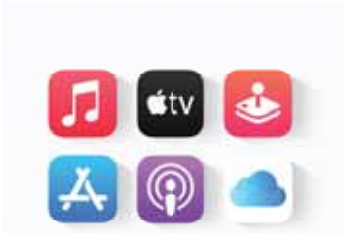
LATEST FEATURE

Vodafone Oman carrier billing now available for Apple content and services

MUSCAT: Offering yet another new digital experience with the start of the New Year, Vodafone Oman announced that customers are now able to pay for their favorite content and services from Apple via carrier billing directly from their mobile phone account.

This latest feature is available across all Apple products including App Store, Apple Music, Apple TV+, shows and movies on the Apple TV app, Apple Books and iCloud+.

The launch of the service will see Vodafone Oman take a dynam-



ic new step in meeting its customers where they are, while developing its financial services offerings. Vodafone Oman BLACK post-

paid and RED prepaid customers will have easier access to Apple content and services, further enabled by great value data from their packages.

New customers looking to join Vodafone Oman's digital-first experiences, can easily take advantage of a simple sign up to Vodafone BLACK Postpaid or RED prepaid packages through the My Vodafone App, which is available on all global app stores.

For more details customers are invited to visit any of the 75 Stores and eStores or any of +3,700 dis-

tributors across Oman.

Using the service is simple. Vodafone customers use a new or existing Apple ID OR Apple Account and select “Mobile Phone” as their payment method in account settings [on the App Store, in iCloud or within the Apple Music, Apple Books or Apple TV apps] from their iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Mac or on iTunes from their PC. The new payment option will be configured automatically and immediately allows for one-tap purchasing from any Apple product.

mai alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water

© OmanOasis © OmanOasisOfficial © OmanOasisWater

HYDRATE SMARTLY

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

oman OASIS

800 71 222
9275 5522

Call No: 1594452

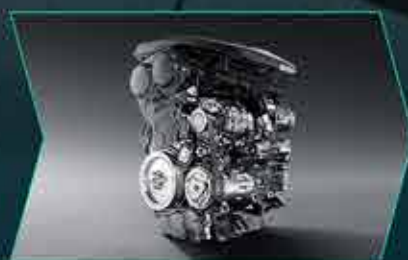
LYNK&CO

ULTIMATE COMFORT IS STANDARD

STARTING FROM EMI

RO 146/-

05



DRIVE-E 2.0TD T5 TURBO ENGINE
0-100KM/H 6.7S



FOUR DRIVING MODES
ECO | COMFORT | SPORTS | OFF ROAD



FINGERTIP TOUCH
ELECTRIC TAILGATE



SAP+
SEMI AUTO PARKING



Showroom - Ghala Heights, Muscat

EMI mentioned are of the base models, subject to 20% down payment & calculated @5.25% reducing interest PA from Bank Muscat for a tenure of 8 years (conditions apply) & subject to approval. Vehicle shown are for illustrative purposes. Specifications subjected to change without notice. For more details, please visit our showroom. Offer valid only for private vehicles. Not available on fleet. Ministry & Taxi / Rental / commercial car purchases.

☎ 71611137

🌐 lynkcooman.com

📱 @lynkcooman