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CAMPAIGN ON RAISING AWARENESS ON ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

Nama Supply Company, in partnership with Nama Distribution Company and Nama Dhofar Services Company, organised a media conference to unveil their programmes on enhancing customer satisfaction. The conference covered initiatives aimed at raising awareness on electricity consumption and efficiency, as well as campaigns to strengthen the partnership between service providers and the community. **>B1**



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HIS MAJESTY, EMIR OF KUWAIT DISCUSS WAYS TO MEET ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE



The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries

KUWAIT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait held on Tuesday a fraternal meeting at His Majesty's residency in Bayan Palace in the capital city, Kuwait.

During the meeting, the two leaders continued discussing aspects of the bilateral cooperation between the two countries to serve

the fraternal relations between the Omani and Kuwaiti peoples and meet their aspirations towards further prosperity, progress and welfare.

The fraternal meeting was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Bilal bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid

HM returns after visit to Kuwait >A2
HM the Sultan visits Al Salam Palace Museum in Kuwait >A4

Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal

Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Dr. Saleh

bin Amir Al Kharousi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Kuwaiti side by Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hammad Al Sabah (Head of the Mission of Honour) and Dr. Mohammed bin Nasir Al Hajri, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Sultanate of Oman. **-ONA**

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of May 14, 2024



Deaths
35,173
Injured
79,061

EMERGENCY SPECIAL SESSION

Only creation of a Palestine state will bring ME peace, says Oman

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman has said that the end of the Middle East region's conflicts could only be achieved through the long-overdue establishment of the Palestinian state and by granting it full membership in the United Nations.

A statement to this effect was delivered before the UN General Assembly's 10th emergency special session. In Oman's speech at the resumed UN session, Sayyid Ahmed Hamoud Al Bu-



saidi, member of the Sultanate of Oman's permanent delegation to the United Nations in New York,

described the setting up of the Palestinian State as "a strategic necessity for the next stage of UN action and a global demand supported by the international community".

Oman urged the Security Council to reconsider granting the State of Palestine full membership in the United Nations. Oman asserted that "rejecting such a request does not serve security and peace in the Middle East or the world at large". **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Wife fails to meet dying Muscat school teacher

1 At just 42 years old, Rajesh leaves behind a family - a wife, a son, and a daughter. Yet, amidst the collective mourning, a tale of profound injustice unfolds, highlighted by the callous indifference of airlines, deepening the agony for Rajesh's grieving kin. **>A3**

OMAN

UN Secretary-General arrives in Oman

2 António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations arrived in Oman, on an official visit lasting three days. **>A5**

WORLD

450,000 forcibly displaced from Rafah

3 The UN agency for Palestine refugees revealed that 450,000 people have been forcibly displaced from Rafah. **>A7**



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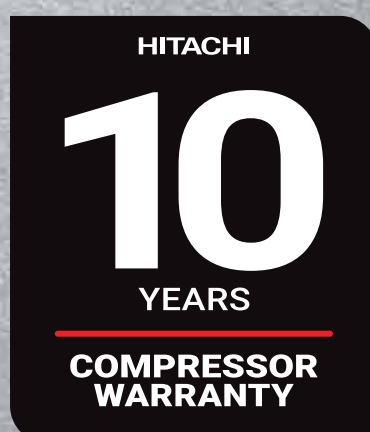
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TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:08pm
Asr.....	3:31pm
Maghrib.....	6:47pm
Isha.....	8:05pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:01am



His Majesty the Sultan returns home after a two-day state visit to Kuwait

Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait led the farewell ceremony for His Majesty Haitham bin Tarik at the Amiri Airport in Kuwait



MUSCAT : His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home yesterday after a two-day visit to Kuwait.

The visit was made in response to an invitation by Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait.

His Majesty the Sultan was received at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs and Special Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education, Sheikh Al Fadl bin Mohammed Al Harthy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nassir Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force.

HM leaves Kuwait

Earlier in the day, Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait led the farewell ceremony for His Majesty the Sultan.

His Majesty was also seen off at the Amiri Airport by Sheikh



Ahmed Abdullah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Prime Minister, Sheikh Sabah Khalid Hamad Al Sabah (Head of the Mission of Honour), Sheikh Fahad Yousef Saud Al Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Interior, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al Mubarak Al Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sherida Abdullah Saad Al Maousherji, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

State for Council of Ministers Affairs, Dr. Imad Mohammad Al Atiqi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil, Ahmad Fahad Al Fahad, Undersecretary of the Amiri Diwan, Dr. Mohammed Nassir Al Hajri, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Sultanate of Oman, senior Kuwaiti officials and members of the Omani Embassy in Kuwait.

Upon his departure, His Maj-

esty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik sent a cable of thanks to Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait.

Sincere appreciation

In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere appreciation to the Emir of Kuwait for the warm welcome and hospitality.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by a

high-ranking official delegation that comprised HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nuamani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad

Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Dr. Saleh bin Amir Al Kharousi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Kuwait. -ONA

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Wife fails to meet dying school teacher due to flight cancellation

At just 42 years old, Rajesh leaves behind a family - a wife, a son, and a daughter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In the serene halls of Indian School Wadi Kabir (ISWK) International, grief casts a heavy shadow as the news of the school's IT teacher Nambi Rajesh's sudden demise on Monday reverberates through the community.

At just 42 years old, Rajesh leaves behind a family - a wife, a son, and a daughter. Yet, amidst the collective mourning, a tale of profound injustice unfolds, highlighted by the callous indifference of airlines, deepening the agony for Rajesh's grieving kin. As Rajesh fought for his life in the hospital in Muscat, his wife, Amrita, yearned to be by his side in his final moments.



However, fate, coupled with the indifferent operations of Air India Express, thwarted her every attempt. Despite Amrita's desperate endeavours to traverse the distance from Thiruvananthapuram in the southern Indian state of Kerala, each effort was met with insurmountable obstacles.

Amrita's ordeal began when she booked tickets to fly to Muscat on May 8 upon learning of her husband's hospitalisation. However, her hopes were

dashed as her flight fell victim to the Air India Express crew strike, leaving her unable to reach her ailing husband. Subsequent attempts to travel were equally futile, with cancelled flights and impassable barriers hindering her path.

On the fateful Monday, news of Rajesh's passing reached Amrita, shattering her world irrevocably. "It was so unfair that she could not see him for one last time," lamented Amrita's mother to an Indian TV channel, echoing the pro-

found anguish of a wife robbed of the chance to bid farewell.

Kind person
ISWK International Principal D N Rao, said, "Rajesh was renowned for his warm and welcoming demeanour, always ready with a kind word whenever needed."

He added: "Throughout his tenure at ISWK, he exhibited unwavering dedication and compassion."

Such sentiments were echoed by former student Palak Singhvi,



Nambi Rajesh, ISWK International.

who fondly remembered her IT teacher as "a beacon of warmth and wisdom." Palak, who is a class 10th student in India, said, "His gentle way of dealing with us and dedication left an indelible mark on all of us as students. We will miss him."

The impact of Rajesh's departure extends far beyond the school walls, touching the hearts of par-

ents who recognised his unwavering commitment to student welfare.

"Mr. Nambi Rajesh was extremely helpful with any technology-related matter," lamented one parent, reflecting on Rajesh's invaluable contributions.

"Be it online classes or access to the student portal, he ensured that all the academic information was easy to access. He was helpful and kind to students and often went out of his way to ensure students' welfare. His death is a profound loss for all of us."

However, the tragedy exposes deeper systemic failings within the airline industry, as Amrita's harrowing ordeal highlights the toll of logistical indifference and corporate apathy. "Despite her impassioned pleas, the airline remained obstinate," Amrita revealed to an Indian news agency, underscoring the urgent need for empathy and accountability.

As Muscat mourns the loss of a cherished educator, Rajesh's story serves as a poignant reminder of the need for greater compassion and responsibility, particularly in moments of profound vulnerability."

FORUM



MEETING: The Sultanate of Oman's delegation participating in the forum was headed by Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance. - ONA

Oman participates in Fourth Qatar Economic Forum

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Finance, participated in the Fourth Qatar Economic Forum held under the theme "A World Remade: Navigating the Year of Uncertainty" during the period from 14 to 16 May 2024 in Doha.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation participating in the forum was headed by Sultan Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance.

A number of leaders, experts, decision-makers and economists from more than 50 countries participate in the forum, which was opened under the patronage

of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

The event addresses an array of current economic issues, explores ways of cooperation, and exchanging knowledge and experiences.

The forum also discusses multiple topics, including geopolitical and trade impacts, shifting investment flows, resetting supply chains, and business and investment leaders' expectations for global economic growth, in addition to discussing the transition to clean energy and the future of liquefied natural gas (LNG). - ONA

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HM the Sultan visits Al Salam Palace Museum in Kuwait



His Majesty the Sultan toured the Museum's galleries

KUWAIT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq yesterday visited Al Salam Palace Museum in Kuwait City as part of his current state visit to the State of Kuwait. Upon his arrival at the museum, His Majesty the Sultan was received by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Mubarak Al Sabah, Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs, Sheikha Muna Al Jaber Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Head of the Centre for Historical Documents and Amiri Diwan Museums and Libraries, Supervisor-General of Al Salam Palace Museum, and other Kuwaiti officials. His Majesty the Sultan went on tour of the Museum's galleries. He listened to a technology-enhanced briefing about the Museum's artefacts and manuscripts

that highlight important aspects of the history and civilization of the State of Kuwait. His Majesty the Sultan took note of exhibits in the main halls showcasing salient features of civilizations and events that took place in Kuwaiti, symbolised by a diverse range of selected antiques. At the end of the tour, His Majesty the Sultan signed the VIP Visitors Book, in which he expressed his delight at visiting Al Salam Palace Museum, as well as his admiration over the precious archaeological collections and antiques that indicate the historical legacy of the State of Kuwait and its deep-rooted culture. He thanked those in charge of the edifice for their efforts in perfectly documenting Kuwait's history. Then, His Majesty the Sultan accepted a commemorative gift from the museum's officials. During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by Sheikh Sabah Khaled Hamad Al Sabah (Head of the Mission of Honour) and members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty during his state visit to Kuwait. **-ONA**



UN Secretary-General António Guterres visits Youth Centre in Muscat



Guterres and the delegation were briefed about the centre’s experience, its mechanism of functioning and the activities undertaken

MUSCAT: United Nations Secretary General António Guterres today visited the Youth Centre in Muscat as part of his current official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Visual presentation
Guterres and the delegation accompanying him were briefed about the centre’s experience, its mechanism of functioning and the activities it undertakes.
He also watched a visual presentation that highlighted key indices and statistics of the centre, as well as the programmes conducted by the centre since its establishment.

The UN official toured the centre’s facilities, which include shared work spaces, a 3D printing laboratory, a drone laboratory, a virtual reality space, training halls, multi-purpose halls, and other facilities.
During the visit, the UN Secretary General also listened to a briefing about the experiences of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) showcased at the centre’s business incubator as part of partnership with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED).

— ONA



Sheikh Khalifa receives UN Secretary-General

MUSCAT: António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations arrived in the Sultanate of Oman, on an official visit lasting three days.
Upon his arrival at Muscat International Airport, the guest was received by Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy, Un-

dersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Political Affairs, Ambassador Mohammed Awad Al Hassan, the Sultanate of Oman’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), and some officials from the Foreign Ministry. — ONA

Oman and Netherlands discuss joint cooperation in ports, green hydrogen

ROTTERDAM: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Tuesday held a meeting with the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
The meeting was held on the

sidelines of the Sultanate of Oman’s participation in the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, currently being held in Rotterdam. The meeting explored aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries in fields of ports, hydrogen techniques, maritime affairs and infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Dr. Abdullah Salim Al Harthy, Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to the Netherlands and Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Transport. — ONA

ROYAL ARMY OF OMAN



RAO attends competition in the UK

GRANTHAM: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) is taking part in the 2024 subsistence competition (codenamed 2024 Army Sustainer) in the city of Grantham in the United Kingdom (UK). Catering crews of armed forces from various countries of the world are contesting the trophy of the competition, which runs until 18 May 2024.
Through its participation in the international competition, the RAO seeks to enhance the efficiency of its catering crews and hone their technical skills in logistical and administrative fields. The drill helps augment armed personnel’s ability to subsist during various circumstances in military operations, which also requires high readiness of related administrative systems.
It is worth noting that the RAO’s sustainment team won first place at the global level during its participation in the same event in 2023. — ONA

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FULL MEMBERSHIP

<FROM A1> UN vote for Palestine hailed

It added that failure to grant the State of Palestine full UN membership “damages the credibility of the Security Council due to the application of double standards when it comes to the Palestinian cause”.
Oman welcomed the UN General Assembly members’ vote, by an overwhelming majority, in support for the albeit vetoed resolution on the the State of Palestine’s right to obtain full membership in the United Nations. Oman also expressed deep concern over the Israeli occupation forces’ persistent military escalation, war crimes and genocide carried out with impunity against unarmed civilians in the Gaza

Strip and the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories.
Oman added its voice to statements made by four countries representing four international groups supporting the State of Palestine’s legitimate demand to obtain full membership in the United Nations, like the rest of the countries of the world.
The statements were made by the delegation of the UAE (on behalf of the Arab Group), the delegation of Mauritania (on behalf of the OIC) and the delegation of Uganda (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), all of which affirmed the international community’s support for the State of Palestine’s demand. — ONA

Tender Announcement

The Oman Cancer Association invites the experienced and specialized, Excellent and First Grade Contractors to participate in the tender process and submit their best offers, for the construction of the Oman Cancer Association’s New Headquarters at Airport Heights (“Project”). The Project encompasses a full built-up area of approximately 30,200 square meters, and the selected bidder will assume the role of the main contractor.

The following are the tender purchase details in relation to the Project:

Tender No	Tender Name	Last Day for purchase of the Tender documents	Last Day for Proposal Submission	Tender Document Fee
LV2024/OCA/IT/01	Construction of Oman Cancer Association’s New Headquarters	16/05/2024	30/06/2024	1,000 OMR

- Interested bidders are to submit an official “Expression of Interest” letter (EOI) to the following email addresses, indicating their willingness to participate in the said tender:
• To: **Tender@linesandvisions.com**
• Cc: **info@oca.om**
- Interested bidders shall transfer the aforesaid Tender Fee to the following bank account and must attach the fee transfer receipt with the EOI letter and NO CASH will be accepted:
• Account Number: 0315004093350018
• Bank: Bank Muscat
• Account Name: Oman Cancer Association
- THE BID SUBMISSION AND ANY INQUIRIES AND CLARIFICATIONS, please contact:
• Technical Inquiries: **Tender@linesandvisions.com**
• Submission: **tender@oca.om**
- Full Tender Documents will be issued to the interested bidders via email as a link (digital copy) and the bidder must acknowledge the receipt of the same. Bidders to note that the Oman Cancer Association is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- Interested bidders will be requested to sign an NDA after purchasing the tender.

Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development** hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)	
					Small and Medium companies	Local companies
200/2024	Providing cleaning services to the Child Care Center at Al-Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of cleaning, laundry and pest control services and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Friday 24-5-2024 02:00 PM	Monday 3-6-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
201/2024	Furnishing works for the building of the Cerebral Palsy Center and the Early Intervention Center at the General Directorate of Persons with Disabilities at Al-Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of furniture supply and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree	Friday 24-5-2024 02:00 PM	Monday 3-6-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O
202/2024	Supplying tools and consumables for the Al-Aman Rehabilitation Center building at Al-Khoud	Companies specialized in the field of supplying medical supplies and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first, second, third or fourth degree.	Friday 24-5-2024 02:00 PM	Monday 3-6-2024 10:00 AM	10 R.O	25 R.O

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (**https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om**), on **Wednesday 15/5/2024**
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry, please contact through the e-tendering website (**reg@tenderboard.gov.om**) **Tel. (24402200)**

“The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry”

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ALL-TIME RECORD SET

Indian school students in Oman excel in CBSE 10th and 12th board exams

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Class 10th and 12th students of Schools in Oman have braved all odds to come out with flying colours in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) results announced recently.

The 2024 results of the CBSE Board have set an all-time record for the Indian Schools in Oman with an increased percentage of high achievers as compared to previous years, thereby setting another benchmark of excellence in academics.

Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman congratulated the students who have made their alma mater and parents proud with outstanding results. He lauded the unflinching support of the principals who rolled out creative measures to enhance and improve the results and the efforts of the School Managements that have made all efforts to set higher benchmark of success in the Board Exams.

“All stakeholders in education have pulled together to ensure that students did their best by providing



a very positive educational environment. It is the efforts of the teachers in doing the continuous follow-up; and parents with their unstinting support that helped the students perform to their best,” said Dr. Sivakumar Manickam while congratulating the students and the schools for the stupendous results.

The Oman toppers in Class 12 Science stream are as follows: The first position is claimed by Yadu Krishna Balakrishnan of Indian School Darsait with 99%. Sadiya Khatoon (Indian School Salalah) and Aman Saji (Indian School Sohar) have claimed the second position with 98% marks. The third place is also claimed by two students with 97.8% marks: Nity-

ant Kaarthik Rao of Indian School Muscat and Ojas Pandey of Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir.

In the Commerce Stream, Gunjan Karwani of Indian School Al Wadi Al Kabir (98.6%), Jamiehitesh Ramaiya of Indian School Sohar (97.4%) and Devika Balakrishnan of Indian School Al Ghubra (96.6%) secured the first, the second and the third positions respectively.

The three positions in the Humanities stream are as follows: The first position is claimed by Kiara Denise Frank of Indian School Al Ghubra with 98.6%; Bhumika Gulani and Hansi Thakur of Indian School Muscat have claimed the second position with 98%; and

Rithika Chandramohan of Indian School Al Ghubra secured the third position with 97.8% marks.

Class X results of Indian Schools have been phenomenal; the toppers in Oman are as follows: In the first position are Riti Mithesh Patel of Indian School Muscat and Akshaya Alagappan of Indian School Al Maabela with 98.8%; the second position with 98.6% is claimed by three students: Bhargavi Vaidya of Indian School Al Maabela, Ann Sinu Kurian and Vishaka Rahul Shinde of Indian School Muscat. Ananditha Sashidar of Indian School Muscat has been placed in the third position with 98.4%.

The Indian Schools do not put any restriction on admissions and every child who seeks admission finds a place irrespective of academic performance. In addition to the lessons imparted during school hours, the schools have implemented multiple initiatives, as support mechanism for children. These include Remedial Classes, Virtual Learning Environment, and common pre-board examination aimed at ensuring well-being of children.



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FUTURE CITIES

Oman participates in Gulf Housing Week in Doha

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, is taking part in the activities of the second edition of Gulf Housing Week held in the city of Doha, the State of Qatar.

The event is showcasing projects for future cities, notably the Sultan Haitham City, Oman Mountain Front project, the Al Khuwair Downtown project and “integrated residential neighbourhoods” project.

As part of the activities, Eng. Hamad Ali Al Nizwani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for Housing, participated in a GCC senior housing officials panel discussion titled “Humanizing

National Housing Projects”.

The second housing week, which lasts several days, seeks to improve and develop housing and real estate sectors, promote a sustainable economy and contribute to achieving social and economic wellbeing. The event also encourages the exchange of expertise and successful experiences in the field of housing and urban planning.

Meanwhile, a committee comprising senior housing officials held a meeting in Doha today in preparation for the 22nd meeting of the GCC ministers of housing. The committee discussed the outcomes of the GCC Housing Action Plan 2024-2030, among other topics on the agenda. -ONA





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F. Supply of Sports items
Interested parties shall collect the Tender documents from the school admin office against the payment of RO 10/- each as a non-refundable Tender fee from 15 May 2024 to 22 May 2024 during the working days (Sunday to Thursday) of the school between 07:30 a.m. and 02:00 p.m.
The completed Tender shall be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the school office on or before 26 May 2024 by 2.00 p.m.
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.
The Tender document should be submitted in a sealed envelope, addressed to The Head Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Darsait, PO Box 1551, PC114, Darsait, Muscat.

Principal



DRIVE SLOWER LIVE LONGER
A TIMES OF OMAN PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT





INDIAN SCHOOL IBRI
Contact No:- 25690767, Fax:- 2569 1622,
Email:- indianschoolibri@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
I S IBRI/018/QUOTATION/2024-25
1. Invites Quotations for the following items of our Student uniform to be supplied in the school:
a. Sports uniform as per specific pattern and size.
b. Student winter sweater with school logo.
Please Note:-
a. Details of the item can be collected from the School Office during office hours.
b. Suppliers are requested to send the quotations clearly indicating the subject & Date of advertisement to:-
“Principal, Indian School Ibri, P.O. Box 160/511 Ibri, Sultanate of Oman” or email to indianschoolibri@gmail.com within 7 days from the date of Advertisement.



مسقط غاز
MUSCAT GAS

Muscat Gases Company SAOG
PO Box 11, PC 124, Rusayl, Sultanate of Oman. Tel: 22526900
Email: info@muscatgas.com

COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2024.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2024 is 4.679 million OMR compared with 6.193 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. a decrease of 24%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 31st March 2024 is 4.492 million OMR compared with 5.994 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. a decrease of 25%.

At the group level, net loss after tax for the period ended 31st March 2024 is OMR 11,791 compared with net profit of 83,368 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2024 is 32,127 OMR compared with net profit of 74,794 OMR for the same period of the last year.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	31st March 2024		31st March 2023	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	4,492,101	4,679,250	5,993,932	6,193,150
Cost of sales	(4,247,018)	(4,405,009)	(5,700,963)	(5,877,896)
Gross Profit	245,083	274,242	292,969	315,254
General and administration expenses	(223,407)	(294,203)	(228,611)	(239,847)
Investment and Other Income	16,120	16,120	23,635	23,635
Profit for the period before tax	37,797	(3,840)	87,993	99,042
Provision for Income tax	(5,670)	(7,950)	(13,199)	(15,674)
Net Profit for the period after tax	32,127	(11,791)	74,794	83,368
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	32,127	(11,791)	74,794	83,368
Earnings per share	0.001	(0.000)	0.002	0.003

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	2,815,533	3,086,617	3,175,182	3,401,380
Right of use assets	214,694	214,694	232,020	232,020
Deferred Tax Asset	-	-	-	2,635
Investment	2,004,118	-	1,901,475	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	-	-	249,912	249,912
Total Non-current Assets	5,034,346	4,298,111	5,558,589	4,882,747
Current Assets:				
Inventories	746,002	870,119	1,024,681	1,119,725
Trade and other receivables	5,348,689	4,578,719	4,352,684	3,863,008
Cash and cash equivalents	1,182,083	1,251,635	2,504,048	2,520,132
Total Current Assets	7,276,774	6,700,473	7,881,413	7,502,865
TOTAL ASSETS	12,311,119	10,998,584	13,440,002	12,385,612
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,013,094	1,000,000	1,012,670
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	807,666	807,666	807,666	807,666
Retained earnings	(209,115)	(286,844)	(97,315)	(25,166)
Total Equity	6,055,618	5,990,983	6,167,418	6,252,237
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	126,138	134,948	83,961	86,914
Non current portion of Term Loan	-	-	163,608	163,608
Non current portion of lease liabilities	234,920	234,920	230,702	230,702
Deferred tax	133,189	139,690	147,149	147,330
Total Non-current Liabilities	494,247	509,558	625,420	628,554
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	5,212,963	3,946,482	6,038,309	4,891,185
Bank overdraft	361,401	361,401	409,433	409,433
Current portion of Term Loan	123,838	123,838	141,505	141,505
Current portion of lease liabilities	24,574	24,574	24,500	24,500
Income Tax	38,478	41,748	33,417	38,198
Total Current Liabilities	5,761,253	4,498,043	6,647,164	5,504,821
Total Liabilities	6,255,501	5,007,601	7,272,584	6,133,375
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	12,311,119	10,998,584	13,440,002	12,385,612
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.202	0.200	0.206	0.208

450,000 Palestinians have been displaced from Rafah since 6 May

People face constant exhaustion, hunger and fear. Nowhere is safe. An immediate ceasefire is the only hope, UNRWA said

RAMALLAH: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on Tuesday that 450,000 Palestinian civilians have been forcibly displaced from the city of Rafah since 6 May due to the ongoing Israeli military operation.

“Empty streets in #Rafah as families continue to flee in search of safety,” said the Agency in a post on X.

“UNRWA estimates that nearly 450,000 people have been forcibly displaced from Rafah since 6 May,” it added.

“People face constant exhaus-



tion, hunger and fear. Nowhere is safe. An immediate ceasefire is the only hope.”

UNRWA reported earlier that more than 150,000 pregnant women face dire health conditions amid displacement and war in Gaza.

Israel continues to shut down Gaza's main crossings

The Israeli occupation forces continue to shut down the Rafah land crossings across the border with the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Karm Abu Salem, the only commercial crossing in the Gaza Strip.

For the eighth day in a row, the occupation forces continue to close the Rafah crossing, which led to a complete halt to the movement of passengers, especially the sick and wounded, and the entry of humanitarian aid, or the transfer of accumulated aid to the people of the Gaza Strip in the southern and northern areas.

The Rafah land crossing is considered a lifeline for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, and the only land crossing for the entry of aid and the evacuation of the injured individuals.

According to local sources, this incursion and its tight control means deprivation of food and medical aid.

The occupation forces also continue to close the Kerem Abu Salem crossing for the twelfth day in a row, with a complete halt to the entry of aid.

A few days ago, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the occupation authorities to reopen the Rafah and Kerem abu Salem crossings “immediately” to allow the entry of humanitarian aid the Gaza Strip,



and called on them to stop this escalation.

“Closing the two crossings at the same time is particularly harmful to the already desperate humanitarian situation, and they must be reopened immediately,” Guterres said.

Jordan condemns colonists' storming of Al-Aqsa mosque

Jordan on Tuesday strongly denounced the Israeli extremists colonists' storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, raising the Israeli flag inside its courtyards under the heavy protection of the Israeli occupation police.

Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Sufyan Qudah said in a statement

that the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by the extremists and their obstructing the entry of Muslim worshippers into the holy shrine and the frequent escalations are blatant and unacceptable violations of international law and the historical and legal status quo in Jerusalem and its sanctities.

He emphasized that the holy compound, which covers a total area of 144 dunums, is a solely Muslim place of worship, and Israel has no sovereignty over it or over occupied East Jerusalem and its Islamic and Christian holy sites.

Additionally, he called on Israel, as the occupying power, to cease all practices and violations against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to respect its sanctity. — Agencies

FRANCE

Campaign urges men to 'Drive like a woman!'

PARIS: A new campaign aimed at having men reflect upon their driving behaviour is now online in France. The Victimes et Citoyens association has issued a plea for men to “Drive like a woman!”

Victimes & Citoyens provides support to victims of traffic accidents and tries to create awareness about road safety.

What is the main cause of traffic accidents in France?

According to the French road safety observatory 84% of fatal car accidents in 2022-2023 were caused by men. The annual report also noted that men were responsible for 93% of accidents under the influence of spirits.

To the campaigners this refutes the common sexist notion of men being the safer drivers. Their solution: Adopting the driving style of women will help people “stay alive.” — dw

Cohen says Trump told him to pay hush money

NEW YORK: Star witness Michael Cohen on Monday appeared at a New York criminal court to testify at former President Donald Trump's hush money trial.

Cohen told jurors that Trump personally approved a hush-money payment to bury a porn star's story of a sexual encounter before it could derail his 2016 campaign.

“Just do it,” Cohen said Trump told him, instructing him to figure out the best way to pay adult film actress Stormy Daniels \$130,000 (€120,000) to keep quiet about an alleged 2006 liaison, which he denies.

Cohen worked as an executive and lawyer at Trump's New York-based real estate company and also served as the former president's personal lawyer after the start of Trump's term in 2017. He has since become an outspoken critic of Trump.

At the start of his testimony Cohen said it was “fair” to describe him as Trump's “fixer” throughout his tenure at the Trump Organization.

Cohen testified that Trump was angry that adult actress Stormy



Daniels was planning to sell a story about an alleged sexual encounter she had with him.

“He said to me, ‘This is a disaster, a total disaster. Women are going to hate me,’ Cohen testified, citing what he said were Trump's remarks at the time. “Guys, they think it's cool, but this is going to be a disaster for the campaign.”

Cohen said that he learned that Daniels was considering selling the story after an audio recording surfaced of Trump bragging about grabbing women's genitals.

He said that Trump told him that there would be “a lot of

women coming forward” after he announced his campaign for president. Asked whether he had lied and bullied people on behalf of Trump, Cohen told the court: “Yes.. It was what was needed in order to accomplish the task.”

He said that his duties included renegotiating bills from business partners, threatening to sue people and planting positive stories in the press. Cohen claimed the former president did not have a personal e-mail address as he feared that a paper trail could be used to prosecute him.

“He would comment that

emails are like written papers, that he knows too many people who have gone down as a direct result of having emails that prosecutors can use in a case,” Cohen testified.

In his testimony, Cohen said that Trump had approved payments made to buy and then suppress news stories, including allegations he had had an affair with Playboy model Karen McDougal and a separate false claim that he had fathered a child out of wedlock.

Cohen spent just over 13 months in jail and a year and a half under house arrest after he was handed a three-year prison sentence for lying to Congress and financial crimes.

What is Trump accused of?

The lawyer says that he made a \$130,000 payment to Daniels before the 2016 election to prevent her from speaking publicly about a sexual encounter she had with Trump in 2006.

Prosecutors have accused Trump of falsely labelling reimbursement payments to Cohen as

legal expanses in his real estate company's books.

Trump's defence lawyers have argue that Cohen acted alone when paying Daniels.

Trump has been hit with 34 counts of misdemeanors and felonies over allegedly altering business records, which could land him up to four years in prison if he is convicted.

The former president has pleaded not guilty to all the charges and denies having had a sexual encounter with Daniels.

Trump's legal troubles

Besides the criminal case in New York, Trump is facing a number of other legal battles that could complicate his bid to be elected president in November in a rematch with incumbent President Joe Biden.

Trump had been accused of illegally keeping classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida. However, the trial was indefinitely suspended earlier this month and is unlikely to resume before the presidential election. — dw

NEW INITIATIVE

Berlin museum pokes fun at German bureaucracy

BERLIN: Germany is notorious for its bureaucracy. One of the central pledges of the centre-left government was to slash through the thicket of laws and rules. But many feel the new legislation due to be agreed by parliament at the end of June falls far short of what is necessary.

Now, the Initiative for a New Social Market Economy (INSM), a market-liberal lobbying organisation, has created a pop-up museum designed to turn up the heat on the German government — complete with a marketer's take on an S&M bondage-style dark room.

“There is bureaucracy in all countries, but this has become the No. 1 disadvantage for Germany as a business location — ahead of taxes and energy prices,” said Thorsten Alsleben, managing director of the INSM, which is financed by the employers' associations of the metal, electrical and automotive industries.

Alsleben said that was reason enough for 58% of companies to decide against investing in Germany, accusing German politics and bureaucracy of killing innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

A waiting game

German bureaucracy is time-consuming — for companies and for individuals. Many services, such as applying for a driver's licence or an identity card, involve in-person appointments, and just getting a slot can be difficult.

According to the Bureaucracy



Museum, visits such as these take 2 hours and 21 minutes on average. And overall, small and medium-sized businesses devote on average 13 hours a week to their paperwork.

The word paperwork is well-chosen here. Museum visitors enter through a display resembling a hollowed-out tree, to symbolize the 52 trees felled each day for the paper to feed the central government's administrative machine.

Delays and dizzying digital diversity

Germany is a laggard in terms of digitalisation compared to other European nations, and e-government is one of its worst-performing areas. The continued prevalence of fax machines in government offices has become a symbol of this failure.

In response to an EU ruling, a law was introduced in 2017 obliging authorities to make some 580 services digitally accessible by

the end of 2022. But only 81 were fully up and running at the start of 2024, with 96 partially up. Why so little, so late?

Blaming federalism is too easy, Corinna Funke, from the agency GFA Public, told DW. Canada and other federal nations are outperforming Germany in the digital competitiveness rankings.

Germany's approach, she said, remains too decentralised, spawning a dizzying variety of software and hardware for similar services in different places and rival platforms.

“In the digital space, quality depends heavily on having a single platform everyone knows, with the same templates, design, one-stop shops and common standards,” Funke said.

She also blames the slow pace of digitalisation on a lack of public service culture, adding that this had historical roots. While the rule of law and efficient administration processes were established un-



der Prussian rule, in Anglophone countries, the Nordic states and the Netherlands, democracy came first.

“This is where these different self images come from — of public servants on the one hand and bureaucrats, or state servants, on the other,” Funke said. “The most important values and norms in the administrations of bureaucratic countries are not so much efficiency or being citizen-friendly or saving taxpayers money. It is very often about implementing the law.”

Number of laws out of control

Sometimes there are bewildering contradictions, said Alsleben. “The work health and safety office might tell a bakery that they need to install tiles with non-slip ridges, then the health office says smooth ones are needed for the sake of hygiene,” he added.

And the number of laws and regulations has spiraled out of hand,

he added. At the Bureaucracy Museum visitors can pick out their least favorite ones and have them put through the paper shredder.

Alsleben said risk aversion and distrust of businesspeople were to blame. “That leads to the attempt to try to cover every single possible case in regulation,” he said. Alsleben believes there are too many lawyers and legal experts in parliament and the administrative apparatus and not enough people with business experience.

The INSM is calling for workshops in which policymakers and small and medium-sized enterprises test the practicability of planned legislation.

Lobby groups and creative bureaucrats

Ines Mergel, professor of public administration at the University of Konstanz, said the private sector was partly responsible for so many laws itself.

“Lots of lobbying goes into poli-

cy-making,” she said. “Often, civil servants and policymakers have created a rather broad policy and then every time something goes wrong we also need an addition to that policy — to also capture all the exceptions. Lots of laws have evolved over time, and it was never the intent to regulate as much as possible, but it is a societal process that happens between all these different actors.”

Better communication and less top-down government would also help the functioning of the public sector, Mergel said. “I would like more conversation and co-operation across the levels of government.”

German bureaucracy can drive people mad but perhaps it's just a bit too easy to make civil servants into the nation's whipping girls and boys. Johanna Sieben, the head of the Creative Bureaucracy Festival, said that, at the local level in particular, under-funding and staff shortages are also obstacles to change.

The festival is an international event held in Berlin that was set up to encourage change from within the government. It showcases good practice examples.

The wheels of German bureaucracy may move slowly, but the pop-up museum will not be around for long. It will be consigned to history on June 25 and hopes to take a large chunk of red tape with it. Only time will tell if that €500,000 investment was well spent.

— dw

SPORTS

Treble delight for Seeb Club



The newly-crowned Omantel League champions lifted their third title of Oman's domestic 2023-24 football season with a shootout win over Bahla in the OFA Cup final on Monday



MUSCAT: Newly-crowned Omantel League champions Seeb capped a successful season on Monday night with yet another title to complete a season treble as they lifted the OFA Cup at the Seeb Sports Stadium.

Up against Bahla in the summit clash, the teams remained locked in a goalless stalemate to force the title to be decided in a shootout.

In the penalty shootout, Seeb edged past Bahla 5-4 to retain the crown and lift the OFA Cup for the third time.

The OFA Cup triumph meant that the Muscat-based heavyweights completed a treble in the 2023-24 domestic football season after earlier title wins in Super Cup and the Omantel League.

On Monday night, Seeb goalkeeper Ahmed Al Rawahi turned

out to be the hero of the victory as he saved the spot kick of Bahla's Nasser Al Sagri.

For the winners, Abdulaziz al Miqbali, Mohammed Al Musalami, Mohammed Ramadan, Omar Al Fazari and Mohsin Al Ghassani converted their spot kicks. For Bahla, Olivera, Mazin, Mohammed and Locki Fezmi converted their penalty kicks.

For Seeb, it was the 2021-2022 season that will be etched in the annals of the football history of Oman as they became the first club to achieve the quadruple as they won the Super Cup, HM's Cup, Omantel League and the coveted AFC Cup.

Seeb are the only club in the Sultanate of Oman to have won the continental title, AFC Cup.

This season, the club once again

came close to repeating but for their exit in the HM's Cup.

In his exclusive remarks to *Times of Oman* on Tuesday, Yousuf Al Wahaibi, the club's vice-chairman said: "We are proud of our achievements. To complete a domestic treble underlines our team's dominance."

"The club's board under the guidance of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said and HH Sayyid Melek bin Shihab Al Said congratulates the players and the coaching staff for their hard work and their title wins,"

Al Wahaibi said: "In the recent years, Seeb has been a force to reckon with in domestic football and also brought home the only continental title with the AFC Cup glory in 2022. We are proud winners of His Majesty's Cup four

times, including a hat-trick of titles from 1996 to 1998. The last title was in 2022 when we had a dream season."

"Even in the top-flight league, we won back-to-back titles in the 2019-20 and 2021-22 season before taking this year's title."

Al Wahaibi said that the latest OFA Cup title was the third for the club and the team has also won OFA's Super Cup three times.

"The trophies only underscore our team's strength and we would like to continue the winning momentum in the new season too," said the long-serving senior club functionary.

On Monday, Seeb repeated their title win over Bahla last season, a result that too came through spot kicks.

Later, chief guest HH Sayyid



Nadir bin Al Julanda bin Majid al Said, Secretary-General at the Diwan of Royal Court, presented the trophy to Seeb captain Eid al Farsi in the presence of officials from Oman Football Association (OFA) and representatives from both clubs.

Washout seals top-two spot for Kolkata Knight Riders



AHMEDABAD: A combination of lightning and rain forced the first abandoned game of IPL 2024 in Ahmedabad on Monday, and in the process confirmed two things: Kolkata Knight Riders' top-two finish in the league stage and Gujarat Titans' elimination from playoff contention.

Only a win could've kept eighth-placed Gujarat Titans (GT) in the hunt, but rain did not even allow for a toss. Such was the storm's intensity that some floodlights were also affected; banners in the stadium that got torn earlier ended up wrapping the floodlights in such a way that they needed to be manually removed.

GT's task was uphill anyway. With the season's lowest net

run-rate of -1.063, they were only mathematically alive as even two big wins in their last two games could've still left them short. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) were almost assured of a top-two finish courtesy their dominating net run-rate of 1.428 after 12 games, but a 19th point in their tally sealed that.

This is the first time that GT have not qualified for the IPL playoffs since they joined the competition before the 2022 season. They have a consolation game against Sunrisers Hyderabad next on May 16.

For KKR, their next aim is to finish the league stage at No. 1, something they have never achieved before. If they beat Rajasthan Royals

in their last league game on Sunday, they are assured of that. They would also be assured of No. 1 if RR fail to collect two wins in their last two matches, which includes the KKR fixture. Even if KKR do not finish first, they wouldn't mind it much. The only two times they finished second on the IPL points table (2012 and 2014), they ended up as IPL champions.

(With inputs from ESPNcricinfo.com)

TODAY'S MATCH

Rajasthan Royals
vs
Punjab Kings
Guwahati, 6pm



First Oman Clubs Badminton Championship from May 16

MUSCAT: The inaugural edition of the Oman Clubs Badminton Championship (for men), organised by the Oman Racket Sports Committee (ORSC), will be held at the AMM Arena in Muscat from May 16-19.

According to a press release from ORSC, the maiden tournament will feature players from a total of 12 clubs representing five governorates across Oman - Muscat, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah Al Sharqiyah South and Dhofar.

The clubs, which have confirmed their entries in the championship are Al Amerat, Al Kamil Wal Wafi, Bausher, Oman, Seeb, Al Shabab, Saham, Majees, Salalah, Masirah, Qurayat, and Ibr.

It may be mentioned that ORSC had organised the first edition of badminton tournaments for girls as part of the Women's Sports activities in October 2023 in collaboration with the Women's Sports



Department at the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth.

At the first clubs' championship for men, there will be three events. The senior category has a field of 30 players while 19 players are registered in the doubles category and 17 players will vie for the U15 title.

Top-four players in the three categories will receive cash prizes along with medals and trophies.

International umpire Seyed Omid Moghadaszadeh from Iran, has been invited to officiate as chief tournament referee. He will be assisted by eight umpires including five Omanis. Oman's Ahmed Al Mafaraji has been named the assistant tournament umpire.

Dr. Abdulrahim bin Musallam Al Droushi, ORSC chairman, said: "We are happy with the response from the clubs as we have got 12 in our first edition. It reflects the interest of players and clubs in the sport."

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2024 reaching \$83.97, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 9 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$83.88. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,757.89 points, down by 0.24 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.40 per cent at 448.31 points. National Aluminium, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 3.33 per cent, was the top loser.



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Forum reviews tax developments, challenges and modern systems



Omani Tax Forum aims to exchange experiences and opinions to enhance the development of the tax system in the Sultanate of Oman and meet the desires of taxpayers through their experiences in the tax field internally and externally

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman Tax Forum, organised by the Tax Authority in cooperation with Ernst & Young company, one of the leading accounting companies, was launched in Muscat yesterday under the patronage of Nasser Khamis Al Jashmi, Chairman of the Tax Authority. As many as 300 persons representing major companies operat-



ing in Oman attended the forum. The forum opened with a speech delivered by Said bin Ahmed Al-Shanfari, Director-General of the Second Directorate-General of Taxes on behalf of the Tax Authority. He welcomed the attendees and confirmed that the Tax Authority always seeks to strengthen ties and community partnerships. Therefore, he emphasised that this forum is one of these partnerships which aim to exchange experiences and opinions to enhance the development of the tax system in the Sultanate of Oman and meet the desires of taxpayers through their experiences in the tax field internally and externally. Then the



vision and mission of the Tax Authority were inaugurated. Three working papers were reviewed during the forum: the first paper was presented by Ahmed Al-Aisari - Head of Tax Consulting Services in the Middle East Region and North Africa at Ernst & Young - under the title "The Most Important Updates to Tax Practice," during which he reviewed the global and regional tax trends and developments, Gulf initiatives and international commitments. The first paper also discussed "Main Challenges Regarding Tax Practices in the Sultanate of Oman", presented by Alkesh Joshi - Tax Leader at Ernst & Young -; and



included several topics, most notably the Omani tax environment and tax assessment procedures. The second paper was presented by Mtiul Patel - Director General of Indirect Taxes, and Muzoon Al Jabriya - Assistant Director in the Indirect Taxes Department, entitled "Developments in Indirect Taxes and Electronic Invoicing." This paper reviewed the most prominent updates in the field of applying indirect taxes in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and updates to VAT and excise tax in the Sultanate of Oman. In addition to reviewing the tax departments in taxable institutions and how taxes are managed.

In the second paper, Sarah Al-Harathi, Manager of the Indirect Taxes Department at Ernst & Young, discussed the rapidly changing e-invoicing tax landscape, and global and regional electronic invoicing systems. The third paper was entitled "Transfer Pricing and BEPS 2.0 Rules," presented by Guy Taylor - Partner in the Middle East Region and North Africa at Ernst & Young, Transfer Pricing Section in the International Tax and Transaction Services Department - and Qasim Talajwala - Manager of International Tax and Transaction Services at Ernst & Young, where they discussed transfer pricing develop-

ments across Middle East region and North Africa as well as transfer pricing developments in Oman. In addition to a review of combating tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS 2.0) as the second pillar, and the developments of the second pillar for GCC countries. The forum concluded with an exchange of views and proposals to develop the tax work by taking advantage of modern systems to implement them in the next stage. Al Jashmi thanked the attendees for accepting the invitation and starting meaningful discussions, valuing their permanent cooperation with the Tax Authority as a major partner in the success of tax work.

FIRST QUARTER OF 2024



Branch managers' meetings discuss ahlibank's strategies and achievements

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a recent gathering aimed to discuss and highlight key points, achievements, operations, and overarching strategy, ahlibank held its Branch Managers Meeting for the first quarter of the year 2024. The meeting acted as a unique platform for employees to share thoughts, opinions, and insight on various topics regarding the performance of ahlibank. The gathering highlighted discerning topics such as branch control, product development, customer experience, central operations, audit, marketing, and more. Powered by its extensive branch network established nationwide, the branch managers provided insight into their joint efforts, exploring new avenues to boost customer experience and address the various strategies to implement. During the gathering, Muneer Al Balushi, AGM - Head of Re-

tail Distribution, commended the various team's efforts, saying, "Our commitment to excellence remains steadfast, as we gather to highlight our journey over the past three months and plan for our future in delivering unparalleled service, thereby instilling trust and adding value to our customers. Through our collaborative efforts and shared vision, we will seize opportunities, and continue to elevate our customer's banking experience; meeting their needs and surpassing their expectations. ahlibank will continue to be the partner in excellence by setting new standards and enhancing its presence throughout the country." The meeting ended with a rewards distribution to the best-performing branches. Several ahlibank teams received recognition for their efforts in propelling the bank forwards, further exemplifying its commitment to excellence and success during the first quarter of 2024, and beyond.

NAMA GROUP PRESS MEET

Nama Distribution Company announces fixed payment service for subscribers

MUSCAT: Nama Supply Company, in partnership with Nama Distribution Company and Nama Dhofar Services Company, held a press meet on Tuesday to unveil their programmes focused on enhancing customer satisfaction. At the conference, Nama Distribution Company announced the launch of 'fixed payment service' that would enable subscribers to pay a fixed monthly throughout the year to avoid financial difficulties related to high electricity bills during the summer season. Speaking at the conference, Salim Said Al Kemyani, CEO of Nama Supply said: "The company introduced 'Thabit' service, designed to help customers avoid financial difficulties arising from high electricity bills during the summer. This service allows customers to make fixed monthly payments throughout the year." The conference covered various initiatives aimed at raising awareness regarding electricity consumption and efficiency, as well as field campaigns to strengthen the partnership between service providers and the community. The meeting aimed to educate the customers about their rights to basic account tariff and how it positively impacts electricity bills. During the media conference, the companies' representatives provided detailed information about the eligibility for the National Electricity Subsidy (additional subsidy) emphasising the reliability of the electricity network and its readiness to address any emergency outages, particularly during the summer season. Al Kemyani reiterated the company's commitment to delivering the highest level of service quality and continuous development.



He highlighted the Nama Supply programme to forge partnerships with various segments of the community and institutions through field visits and meetings with public organisations and local community institutions. He stressed that the company strives to provide appropriate solutions that contribute to service improvement and enhance customer satisfaction. Al Kemyani said: "The company had previously launched a smartphone application called "Nama Services. The application offers several features, including the monthly electricity bill, consumption comparison with previous periods, instalments payment details, and bill payments." On the other side, Eng. Alaa Hassan Al Lawati, CEO of Nama Electricity Distribution Company, emphasised the company's focus on ensuring the reliability of the electricity network. The recent efforts involved implementing and enhancing various stations and

electricity lines. Moreover, comprehensive contingency plans have been developed, equipping technical teams to effectively handle any emergency interruptions that may arise during the summer period. He affirmed that the company remains committed to adhering to the established procedures and standards related to the health and safety of the electricity network. Nama Distribution is also actively exploring the utilisation of modern technology in monitoring and managing electricity networks. Notably, the company has embarked on a significant deployment of smart meters, which offer substantial advantages for both customers and society as a whole. The company is currently evaluating a range of smart grid projects. Eng. Ali Essa Shammass, CEO of Nama Dhofar Services, highlighted the company's intensified efforts in preparation for the upcoming Dhofar Khareef season. Nama Dhofar Services is fully prepared to meet the rising demand



for electricity in the Governorate of Dhofar, ensuring a seamless and efficient supply, he added. Furthermore, the Nama Group companies provided an update on the progress of the smart meters project. The completion rate has surpassed 45%, and work is ongoing to extend coverage to all electricity accounts. This comprehensive deployment aims to maximize the benefits and leverage the project potential to the fullest extent possible. -**ONA**

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

National Aluminium, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 3.33 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,757.89 points, down by 0.24 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.40 per cent at 448.31 points. National Aluminium, up 8.00 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 3.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 662 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR5.75 million, with more than 42.69 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 13 advanced, 12 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR3071,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR2073,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR998,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,690.56 points, down 0.21 per cent. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Global Financial Investments, Oman & Emirates Invest-

ment, National Bank Oman were up by 2.90 per cent, 1.45 per cent, 1.22 per cent, 0.73per cent respectively. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Al Madina Takaful, Al Anwar Investment, Ominvest, Bank Muscat were down by 1.90 per cent, 1.22 per cent, 1.14 per cent, 0.54 per cent, 0.38 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,908.57 points, up 0.08 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement, Muscat Thread Mill, Voltamp Energy were up by 8.00 per cent, 2.60 per cent, 1.65 per cent, 1.10 per cent, 0.71 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Galfar Engineering were down by 0.89 per cent, 0.59 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.03 per cent before closing at 1,798.40 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Muscat Desalination were up by 1.94 per cent, 1.28per cent respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, Al Jazeera Services, Oman Telecom, Abraj Energy were down by 3.33 per cent, 3.23% per cent, 0.76 per cent, 0.33 per cent respectively. – **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,782.58	4,756.19	4,757.89	4,769.56	-11.68	-0.24
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,734.32	7,685.63	7,690.56	7,706.79	-16.22	-0.21
Industry Index	5,910.83	5,900.32	5,908.57	5,903.60	4.98	0.08
Services Index	1,805.18	1,793.46	1,798.40	1,798.91	-0.51	-0.03
MSX Shariah Index	452.20	448.31	448.31	450.11	-1.80	-0.40
MSX TR INDEX	6,636.03	6,599.41	6,601.77	6,617.97	-16.20	-0.24
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,767.53	8,712.34	8,717.93	8,736.32	-18.39	-0.21
SERVICES TR IDX	2,085.85	2,072.31	2,078.01	2,078.60	-0.59	-0.03
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,819.70	6,807.57	6,817.09	6,811.35	5.74	0.08
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,068.20	1,068.20	1,068.20	1,068.20	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
42,694,976	5,754,229	662	24,361,193,539	13	12	21	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, MAY 14

SN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF. BD	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFF	PAV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	21,000	8,195	4	0.388	0.395	0.388	0.395	0.385	0.010	2.597	0.395	0.385	-0.395	0.100	47,400,000
OM0000004735	SEBMCORP SALALAH	600,405	61,417	32	0.104	0.105	0.102	0.105	0.103	0.002	1.942	0.105	0.102	-0.104	0.100	100,230,055
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO	7,637,797	528,293	64	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.070	0.075	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	8,363	694	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.220	0.083	0.083	0.085	0.100	10,115,625
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	5,000	1,375	3	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.273	0.002	0.733	0.275	0.274	-0.275	0.100	447,135,248
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	48,341	17,888	3	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.100	122,422,903
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	1,676	1,341	2	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.100	78,000,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	769,000	103,396	26	0.134	0.135	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.133	-0.135	0.100	747,251,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	13,650	4,119	5	0.302	0.302	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.299	-0.330	0.100	195,283,269
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	75,000	5,700	4	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	-0.076	0.100	51,291,445
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	171,417	13,428	13	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.077	-0.079	0.100	55,723,695
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	15,361,952	2,166,492	131	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.141	0.141	0.000	0.000	0.141	0.141	0.142	0.100	610,617,973
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	337,460	100,782	41	0.300	0.300	0.298	0.298	0.299	-0.001	-0.334	0.298	0.297	-0.298	0.100	225,519,690
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	150,250	39,311	10	0.261	0.262	0.261	0.261	0.262	-0.001	-0.382	0.261	0.261	-0.261	0.100	1,959,189,633
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	33,960	12,593	5	0.377	0.377	0.370	0.370	0.372	-0.002	-0.538	0.370	0.370	-0.376	0.100	247,295,200
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	92,251	96,346	27	1.040	1.047	1.040	1.042	1.050	-0.008	-0.762	1.042	1.042	1.042	0.100	781,500,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	105,661	8,559	5	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.082	-0.001	-1.220	0.081	0.080	-0.082	0.100	14,175,000
Total		17	25,433,183	3,169,926	377											
Parallel Market																
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	153,751	10,760	7	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.071	0.069	0.002	2.899	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	6,035,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	23,195	1,832	8	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.077	-0.079	0.100	12,288,482
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	13,629	1,254	4	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.091	0.001	1.099	0.092	0.091	-0.092	0.100	1,508,258
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	18,220	2,116	6	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.116	-0.117	0.100	59,448,115
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	3,246	917	5	0.280	0.285	0.280	0.285	0.283	0.002	0.707	0.285	0.285	0.285	0.100	23,199,784
OM0000001281	DHOFAR BEVERAGES	2,175	498	1	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.229	0.000	0.000	0.229	0.000	0.229	0.100	4,580,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	140,000	6,720	5	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	14,743,024
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	10,664,102	1,546,295	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.162	-0.165	0.100	385,343,824
OM0000002272	OMAN OIL MARKETING	1,000	800	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.855	0.100	49,020,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDUCATION & TRAINING INV.	1,000	513	1	0.513	0.513	0.513	0.513	0.513	0.000	0.000	0.513	0.513	0.000	0.100	35,910,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	60,000	9,890	6	0.165	0.165	0.164	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.159	-0.164	0.100	94,661,206
OM0000003000	AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	10,916	10,921	3	1.005	1.005	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.970	-1.000	0.100	69,000,000
OM0000002391	TAGEER FINANCE	2,000	298	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	28,193,412
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	733,500	242,049	35	0.328	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.345	0.100	65,879,748
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,275,184	128,802	30	0.102	0.102	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	10,000	1,650	1	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.158	-0.166	0.100	9,075,000
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	800,000	104,000	4	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.100	217,023,300
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	100,000	6,000	3	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.057	-0.060	0.100	87,756,988
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,699,608	286,037	66	0.170	0.170	0.168	0.168	0.169	-0.002	-0.592	0.168	0.167	-0.173	0.100	34,101,723
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	12,110	8,709	3	0.224	0.224	0.223	0.223	0.225	-0.002	-0.889	0.223	0.222	-0.224	0.100	10,205,773
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	352,455	30,956	18	0.088	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.088	-0.001	-1.136	0.087	0.087	-0.096	0.100	17,922,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	5,000	775	1	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.158	-0.003	-1.899	0.155	0.000	-0.163	0.100	464,434,073
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	33,800	8,427	6	0.248	0.255	0.240	0.240	0.248	-0.008	-3.226	0.240	0.240	-0.254	0.100	14,688,026
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	15,000	4,350	2	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.300	-0.010	-3.333	0.290	0.275	-0.290	0.100	46,400,000
Total		24	16,129,891	2,408,473	219											

IMF OFFICIAL

Asia to contribute 60% of global growth in 2024

TOKYO: Asia remains the engine of economic growth and it is on track to deliver 60 per cent of global growth this year, said IMF Deputy Managing Director Okamura.

The global economy has shown surprising resilience to successive shocks post-pandemic and the International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook expects global growth to reach 3.1 per cent this year.

Taming inflation

"And it (Asia) is ahead of the curve on taming inflation. Most countries in Asia are expected to reach central bank targets in 2024," said the IMF official, in his opening remarks at the Thirteenth IMF-Japan High-Level Tax Conference for Asian Countries.

But challenges remain.

The official asserted that providing extraordinary support in response to the pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine has left governments with fewer resources amid high debt and rising debt servicing costs.

Public spending

At the same time, demand for public spending is growing, including in Asia - which faces ageing populations and climate change.

"And the lowest medium-term global growth prospects in decades mean less tax revenues to pay for it all. In this difficult environment for government budgets, mobilising domestic revenues is essential to meet growing spending demands and build resilience against future shocks," said the IMF Deputy Managing Director.

He noted that emerging markets and developing economies can tap into their tax potential and boost their tax-to-GDP ratios by up to 9 percentage points on average.

Meanwhile, India is set to remain the fastest-growing among major economies in 2024, according to International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook. IMF, in its latest outlook, raised India's growth projections for 2024 from 6.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent. For 2025, the IMF has kept India's growth rate projection at 6.5 per cent.

Robustness

IMF attributed robustness and strength in domestic demand and a rising working-age population behind its growth projections.

Countries with a demographic dividend could help support growth

in the global workforce, in which nearly two in every three new entrants over the medium term will come from India and sub-Saharan Africa, IMF noted in its latest World Economic Outlook

Aston Villa stage late comeback to draw with Liverpool in a thriller

The crucial point for Villa kept them in race for a fourth place in the Premier League

LONDON: Aston Villa staged a dramatic late comeback against Liverpool to play out a 3-3 draw at Villa Park to earn a vital point in the race for fourth place in the Premier League on Monday.

Villa could have confirmed Champions League football for the first time with victory and there was a carnival atmosphere before kick-off as Hollywood legend and celebrity supporter Tom Hanks addressed the crowd.

Unai Emery's side looked to be leaving the door open for rivals Tottenham as they trailed 3-1 with five minutes left but two goals from substitute Jhon Duran snatched an unlikely draw.

The early party mood was punctured inside two minutes after a horrendous error by goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez, who somehow fumbled Harvey Elliott's deflected cross into his own net in front of a stunned Holte End.

Villa responded when Youri Tielemans powered home an equaliser after 12 minutes but Liverpool restored their lead as they cut the home defence wide open, Cody Gakpo tapping in Joe



Gomez's cross.

The home side looked tense but still created chances, Diego Carlos and Moussa Diaby both guilty of glaring misses as they pressed for an equaliser.

Liverpool made Villa's task even harder when they extended their lead three minutes after the interval, young defender Jarell Quansah towering above Lucas Digne to score his first Premier League goal.

Substitute Duran set up a grandstand finish when his low shot beat Alisson with five minutes left then Villa Park went wild as Diaby's shot deflected in off the striker.

Villa are still in pole position to reach next season's Champions League as they stand five points ahead of Spurs, who have two games left, and will hope reigning champions and title favourites Manchester City can aid their cause when they play the top-four rivals on Tuesday night.

The point Aston Villa earned with this dramatic late turn of events edged them closer to the Champions League and was the result of endeavour and a refusal to accept defeat.



Martinez's uncharacteristic error set Villa back instantly but the one thing they did all night was create opportunities and with Liverpool always looking vulnerable they finally managed to cash in at the death.

It certainly pleased superstar Hanks, who was seen pumping his fists wildly when Duran's deflection flew in at the Holte End.

Hanks will hope to join Villa and their supporters in further celebrations after the final day of the season.

Liverpool's fans spent much of the night serenading outgoing manager Jurgen Klopp in his penultimate game in charge, enjoying their side's lead but seemingly

none too concerned at the late conclusion of two points.

It was a big night for hugely promising defender Quansah after scoring his first league goal but otherwise it seemed like a very relaxed Liverpool – who had nothing of note to play for – were freewheeling their way through to Sunday's emotional farewell to the manager who has brought them so much joy in his nine-year reign.

Klopp was a calm figure on the sidelines, well aware of the fact a yellow card could deprive him of his place in the technical area for his final Anfield appearance against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday. - Agencies

SPANISH LA LIGA

Yamal shines as Barcelona down Real Sociedad



BARCELONA: Teenage winger Lamine Yamal scored as Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 2-0 at the Olympic Stadium to move second in La Liga on Monday.

Ilkay Gundogan raced forward before finding Yamal, 16, in the box, where he coolly slotted beyond Alex Remiro into the bottom corner.

Sheraldo Becker spurned a golden opportunity to give the visitors the lead after just five minutes as he blasted over the bar from a tight angle.

Brazil winger Raphinha converted a penalty in injury time to make sure of the points after handball was given against

Alvaro Odrizola.

Raphinha tried his luck from range but the former Leeds winger could only strike the bottom of the post with Gundogan unable to convert the rebound.

Sociedad goalkeeper Remiro produced a wonderful save from Raphinha with his curling shot destined for the top corner.

Xavi's side now sit second, 14 points behind champions Real Madrid, and one point clear of Girona with three games remaining.

Imanol Alguacil's men remain one point adrift of Real Betis, who currently occupy the Europa Conference League spot. - Agencies

ICC T20 WORLD CUP: BANGLADESH SQUAD

Shanto appointed Bangladesh skipper, all-rounder Shakib named in squad

DHAKA: Najmul Hossain Shanto has been named as the skipper as Bangladesh on Tuesday announced their 15-player squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup 2024. The marquee event will begin on June 1 in the USA and the West Indies.

Bangladesh exercised dominance over Zimbabwe and clinched the T20I series with a 4-1 win. After the conclusion of the series on Sunday, Bangladesh announced their squad.

The 15-player squad boasts experience with the presence of Shakib Al Hasan. The experienced all-rounder returned to the T20I format in Bangladesh colours after nearly a year in the 4th T20I against Zimbabwe.

With his crafty spell, he picked a four-wicket haul in the 4th T20I which played a crucial role in Bangladesh's 5-run win.

Zimbabwe showed a fight throughout the series and managed to pull off an upset in the 5th T20I.

Tanzid Hasan and Towhid Hridoy stood out in the series with their performances with the bat. Tanzid was the leading scorer of the series with 160 runs in five matches at an average of 40.00.

Towhid was the second-highest run-scorer with 140 runs under his belt in five matches. In the bowling department, Taskin Ahmed and Mohammad Saifuddin were the leading wicket-takers in the series with 8 wickets each to their name.



Despite his exceptional set of performances, Saifuddin couldn't find a place in the 15-player squad.

The rest of the squad majorly consists of players who featured in their five-match series. Young speedster Tanzim Hasan Sakib earned a spot after making two appearances against Zimbabwe.

Bangladesh also included left-arm quick Shoriful Islam in the

squad for the marquee event. The 22-year-old was rested for the final two matches with Zimbabwe.

All-rounder Afif Hossain Dhrubo and right-arm pacer Hasan Mahmud have been named as two reserves.

Litton Das managed to seal his ticket to the USA and the West Indies despite struggling to muster up runs with the bat.

Bangladesh are placed in Group D alongside South Africa, Sri Lanka, Netherlands and Nepal

for next month's event. They will kick off their campaign against Sri Lanka in Dallas on June 7.

Squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Taskin Ahmed, Litton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy, Mahmudullah Riyad, Jaker Ali Anik, Tanvir Islam, Shak Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib. Travelling reserves: Afif Hossain, Hasan Mahmud. - ANI

ITALIAN OPEN

Defending champion Medvedev survives Medjedovic scare

ROME: Defending champion Daniil Medvedev had to dig deep to crush an intense performance from Hamad Medjedovic, claiming a round of 16 spot in the Italian Open on Monday.

The second seed brushed off the upset bid from Medjedovic with a rock-solid third-set performance that earned him a 7-6, 2-6, 7-5 victory.

"I felt like I started the match well and then in a way it was only going downhill. My serve was not there, my shots were not aggressive enough when I needed to. Because many times I would like to play the rhythm I played, but I would also like from time to time to surprise my opponent with some good shots. Today I was not able to do it," the second



seed said after the match.

Medvedev used his metronomic baseline game to reverse the tide once more, taking advantage of his opponent's backhand whenever possible. Cutting a restrained fig-

ure throughout the match, Medvedev maintained his cool approach to break in the last game, resisting an assault from the generally attack-minded Medjedovic to conclude the contest after two

hours and fifty minutes.

He will next meet Tommy Paul, who beat Dominik Koepfer 6-4, 6-4 earlier on Monday.

Elsewhere, Sebastian Baez scored a 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 upset against

10th seed Holger Rune.

The Argentine advanced to his first Masters 1000 fourth round after winning his tour-leading 17th clay court match of the season, which matches his Rome seed.

Sabalenka in quarterfinals

In the women's event, world No.2 Aryna Sabalenka earned three match points to beat two-time champion Elina Svitolina, advancing to the quarterfinals in the ongoing Italian Open on Monday.

Sabalenka scripted a comeback from 2-0 down in the third set to wrap up a 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 victory at the Foro Italico. Sabalenka will lock horns with No.10 Jelena Ostapenko for a spot in the semifinals on Wednesday.

"I gave it all today. I couldn't give up. I couldn't leave the court. I felt like if my body allows me to play even 15 percent of my best tennis, I'm going to stay there, I'm going to fight," Sabalenka said after the match. - ANI

Mitsubishi announces unbeatable pricing on Montero Sport Premium SUV and L200 2WD pickups

With the Montero Sport Premium, L200 DCAB, and L200 SCAB, drivers can experience the thrill of exploration without compromise

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the authorised distributor of Mitsubishi Motors in Oman, is gearing up for summer adventures with unbeatable deals on their comfortable and powerful Montero Sport Premium SUV and their versatile and reliable L200 2WD SCAB and DCAB Pickups.

Crafted to offer adventure seekers a seamless and accessible ownership experience, the Montero Sport Premium, an all-terrain favourite, is available at an attractive price of only OMR15,495. Similarly, the L200 DCAB, built for your work and adventures is offered exclu-



sively at OMR7,495, while the L200 SCAB, the no-nonsense pickup, is priced at an enticing OMR6,995.

Commenting on the deals for Mitsubishi Motors' popular brands, Majid Al Obaidani, Regional sales Manager of GAC, said: "We are excited to offer these exclusive prices on our latest models, providing unmatched value and adventure to our customers. With the Montero Sport Premium, L200 DCAB, and L200 SCAB, drivers can experience the thrill of exploration without compromise. This offer, however, would be available only until the stocks last."

The Montero Sport Premium, extending unparalleled comfort and control, boasts a powerful 3.0L

V6 petrol engine, 8-speed automatic transmission, and advanced safety features such as the Forward Collision Mitigation System and 7 SRS Airbag System. It is incorporated with luxurious touches like the sunroof and plush leather seats to elevate driving experience to new heights.

On the pick-up front, both the L200 DCAB and L200 SCAB are equipped with 2.4L petrol engine, in addition to superior capability and comfort with spacious cabins, durable build, and advanced drive technologies, ensuring every journey is a confident and connected experience. With Active Stability and Traction Control, and heavy-duty body and suspension, the L200 DCAB/SCAB ensures optimal performance in any condition offering durability and adaptability with convenient features like keyless entry and high-grade fabric seats.

The exclusive prices – OMR 15,495 for Montero Sport Premium, OMR 7,495 for L200 DCAB, and OMR 6,995 for L200 SCAB – are valid only until stocks last.

FOR MANGROVE PLANTATION

Bank Nizwa signs sustainability-linked financing agreement with MSA Green

MUSCAT: In a monumental step towards advancing environmental stewardship and driving economic growth, Bank Nizwa, the leading and most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, has forged a strategic partnership with MSA Green Projects (MSA Green), extending sustainability-linked financing to support its ambitious mangrove plantation endeavour in collaboration with Oman Environment Authority.

The initiative underscores Bank Nizwa's dedication to leading sustainable development and advancing environmental objectives through coastal protection and carbon sequestration, while also supporting the empowerment of the local community through ecotourism initiatives. This agreement was formalised during the Oman Sustainability Week, an event of national significance dedicated to pioneering sustainability initiatives. The agreement signed on behalf of the bank by Azzan bin Abdul Amir Al Saleh, Assistant General Manager SME Banking at Bank Nizwa, and Manbhupinder Singh Atwal, CEO of MSA Green.

Bank Nizwa has demonstrated its firm support for the project by approving a substantial working capital. This crucial financial assistance ensures not only the smooth operation and execution of the project



but also its long-term success, empowering MSA Green to effectively carry out its mandate of planting 100 million mangrove trees across 20,000 hectares of land in Shanna, Al-Najdah, Film and Dharr-Hitam, over the next 27 years.

Commenting on the agreement, Azzan Al Saleh, stated, "The Islamic finance sector serves as a cornerstone in expediting the Sultanate's green transition. Bank Nizwa, a prominent contributor to the nation's sustainability initiatives, assumes a leadership role by empowering organisations that resonate with its ethos and are steadfast in their pursuit of promoting sustainable ventures. Therefore, our

collaboration with MSA Green in their decarbonisation endeavour stands as a testament to our dedication to propelling the journey towards a low-carbon economy."

Speaking on the occasion, Manbhupinder Singh Atwal from MSA Green said, "It is with great pride we have undertaken this ambitious initiative, an endeavour that underscores our dedication to environmental stewardship. Collaborating with Bank Nizwa, an esteemed institution renowned for its leadership in sustainable efforts, bolsters our determination to enact meaningful change for our environment. Together, we are committed to forging a path to-

wards a sustainable future for generations to come."

From an economic standpoint, the project will generate income through the sale of carbon credits, leveraging the project's environmental benefits to offset carbon emissions and meet sustainability goals. Additionally, the project will stimulate growth in the fisheries sector by creating opportunities for local fishermen. This dual approach not only diversifies revenue streams but also fosters economic resilience and sustainability in the regions.

On the environmental front, the extensive planting of mangroves along coastal areas, especially in storm-prone regions, serves as a crucial strategy to reduce erosion and safeguard biodiversity. Moreover, mangroves, renowned for their ability to store carbon, play a pivotal role in blue carbon ecosystems. Studies affirm that one hectare of mangroves can sequester five times more carbon than an equivalent area of forest, highlighting their significant contribution to climate change mitigation.

Through such impactful, large-scale initiatives, Bank Nizwa remains resolute in its pledge to drive sustainability and will continue to explore innovative ways to support environmentally responsible projects.

BRIEFS

Indian School BOD holds staff wellness programme



MUSCAT: Under the aegis of the Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman and Indian Medical Association (IMA), Nedumbassery, Kerala, Indian School Bousher hosted a highly successful staff wellness sessions on May 10. The event was attended by more than 300 educators and staff members from Indian School Al Mabelah, Indian School Muscat, Indian School Seeb, Indian School Wadi Kabir and Indian School Ghubra. Held at the premises of Indian School Bousher, the event aimed to prioritize the physical and mental well-being of individuals in the educational sector. The event was graced by Dr Sivakumar Manickam, Vice Chairman Syed Salman, Director Krishnendu S and Education Advisor Vinoba M.P. besides the members of the School Management Committee. The session commenced with a serene and symbolic lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by a soulful rendition of a prayer song by the school choir, setting a tranquil and harmonious ambiance for the proceedings. Raja Jayabalan, Acting President of the School Management Committee, Indian School Bousher extended a warm welcome to all attendees, underscoring the importance of the occasion in fostering a culture of holistic wellness within the educational community.

ISC organises workshop on 'Easy-Lifestyle'



MUSCAT: Indian Social Club (ISC) Oman organized a workshop, 'Easy-Lifestyle' for the ladies on May 10 at the TT Hall, ISC. Sumangala Bhavikatti conducted the workshop with amazing dexterity of a professional with utmost sincerity that the ladies absorbed every detail with rapt attention. A native of Bangalore, Karnataka and residing at UTAS (University of Technology and Applied Sciences) campus, Ibra since 2014, Sumangala is also a member of the Karnataka wing, ISC Oman. Her passion for cooking took her to great levels of achievements. She has earned many certifications on cooking and baking including premises for beverages, ice creams, chocolates, sweets, curries of various dishes etc. she is a multitalented person who has 20+ years of experience to her credit for taking cookery courses and teaching various crafts that include jewelry making as well. Sumangala Bhavikatti conducted the 'Easy-Lifestyle' workshop demonstrating to the ladies how to prepare an array of premises ranging from breakfast muesli, waffles, sharbats, variety of ice cream premixes, curries, idli, sweets like gulab jamuns, kesarpeda, falooda etc. True to her professional style she had displayed her working counter with all the ready premixes of different food items along with ready cakes, with and without eggs which she prepared beforehand.

AUTO FINANCE

Bank Muscat participates in Auto Expo Oman organised in Sohar to showcase Sayyarati

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, announced its participation in the Auto Expo Oman which will be organised from 16 – 18 May 2024 in the Used Cars Complex in the Wilayat of Sohar, North Batinah Governorate.

The event aims to provide a platform to showcase the latest innovations and developments in the automobile industry, as well as create a space to exchange knowledge and expertise, attracting those who are interested in the sector and enhancing the export market in the Sultanate.

During the 3-day exhibition, customers will be able to visit Bank Muscat's stall and know more about Sayyarati finance and familiarise themselves with the various benefits and services introduced. Customers will also get the chance to benefit from Sayyarati auto finance offer with the best rates in the market that



start at just 3.75% per annum on both new and pre-owned cars for Omani nationals and expatriates. With this year's "Sayyarati" offer, customers may start paying after 2 months of loan disbursement. It must also be noted that Sayyarati has some of the best interest rates in the country including 4% for a period up to 2 years and 4.25% for loan tenors of 3 years and 4.5% for a 4-year loan tenor.

The special rates are available

for Omani individuals employed in government, quasi - government, Tier 1 and Tier 2 companies and expatriates individuals employed in government and quasi-government institutions as well as Tier 1 companies, considering that all terms and conditions related to Sayyarati Auto Loan will be applied. The "Sayyarati" financing product features multiple advantages including enabling customers to apply for a loan up to RO 60,000 for both new and used vehicles, a tenor up to 8 - 10 years for Omani nationals, and free third-party insurance in case of pre-owned car financing.

On this occasion, Taya Eid Bait Sabeeh, Deputy General Manager - Interior Regions, Bank Muscat, stated: "Bank Muscat is keen to provide various offers and financial facilities to enhance customer experience and enable them to benefit from the services offered. Sayyarati auto finance has been

receiving good feedback due to the value-added benefits it offers. We are pleased to take part in this exhibition to meet our valued customers and introduce Sayyarati auto finance. I would like to take this opportunity to invite our customers and people interested in cars and benefit from the special offer on Sayyarati auto finance."

Customers may apply for "Sayyarati" financing loan online via Bank Muscat's Internet Banking and Mobile Banking platforms or by visiting the nearest Bank Muscat branch or Sayyarti Centers in Wattayah and Salalah. Customers are also required to submit the relevant documents to process the loan facility, including the ID card for Omanis, passport for expatriates, salary assignment letter, quotation /car valuation from the approved valuator, driving license, Mulkiya (for pre-owned cars only) and seller's ID card (for pre-owned cars only).

ROUND-UP

OHI Marine & Motors partners with MAFWR for service camp in Batinah

Technicians from OHI Marine & Motors provided expert maintenance services to ensure the optimal performance of outboard engines, which are essential for the livelihoods of local fishermen

MUSCAT: OHI Marine & Motors, the exclusive distributor of Yamaha's range of marine and land products, recently joined hands with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources (MAFWR) to conduct a service camp in the Al Batinah South Governorate.

This collaborative initiative aimed to provide crucial outboard engine maintenance to local fishermen, demonstrating OHI Marine & Motors' commitment to customer service support and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Highlighting the importance of this initiative, Ahmad bin Thani Al Bahri, Director of the Fisheries Department from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources, stated, "We commend the efforts of OHI Marine & Motors in organizing this service



camp and their dedication to supporting the fishing community in the Al Batinah South Governorate. Such initiatives play a crucial role in enhancing the sustainability of the marine industry and improving the livelihoods of local fishermen."

The service camp, held at Mus-sanah and Barka saw the participation of several fishermen from the Al Batinah South Governorate. Technicians from OHI Marine & Motors provided expert maintenance services to ensure the optimal performance of outboard en-

gines, which are essential for the livelihoods of local fishermen.

The service camp also provided workshops on boat maintenance, engine care, and basic repairs to ensure fishermen can keep their engines in optimal condition.

It aimed to educate fishermen about the importance of using genuine spare parts and quality oil for the longevity of their engines, along with regular maintenance. Additionally, it facilitated networking sessions where fishermen can connect with industry experts, suppliers and fel-

low fishermen to exchange knowledge and experiences.

Furthermore, it saw the partnership with equipment suppliers and manufacturers to offer product demonstrations and giveaways to attendees. Above all, OHI Marine & Motors aims to generate brand confidence by showcasing its service availability through the innovative "Service on Wheels" concept.

"We are proud to collaborate with the Ministry of Fisheries to support the local fishing community in the Al Batinah South

Governorate," said Shamasher Sharma, General Manager of OHI Marine & Motors.

He adds, "We recognize the importance of providing reliable maintenance services to ensure the safety and efficiency of marine equipment. This service camp underscores our commitment to serving our customers and fulfilling our corporate social responsibility."

In addition to providing technical expertise, the service camp also offered an opportunity for OHI Marine & Motors representatives

to engage with local fishermen and understand their unique challenges and needs. Through this interaction, OHI Marine & Motors aims to develop tailored solutions to better support the fishing community in the future.

The collaborative effort between OHI Marine and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth & Water Resources reflects a shared commitment to supporting the marine industry and promoting sustainable practices in the Al Batinah South Governorate.

NEW SHOWROOMS

Joyalukkas rolls out mega expansion plans in USA

MUSCAT: Joyalukkas jewellery has announced the forthcoming openings and reopening celebrations of five of its USA outlets.

Led by Joy Alukkas, Chairman of Joyalukkas Group, these events mark a significant step in the brand's expansion strategy in the USA market. The inaugurations will feature new store unveiling in Dallas and Atlanta, alongside renovations and reopening's in Houston, Chicago and New Jersey.

The festivities will kick off with the reopening of the renovated store in Houston on Saturday, May 18, followed by the inauguration of the new store in Dallas on May 26. On June 2, Joyalukkas will proudly unveil its new store in Atlanta, followed by the renovated outlets in Chicago on June 9 and New Jersey on June 15, 2024.

To commemorate these special occasions, Joyalukkas is offering exclusive promotions across all its USA outlets. Customers purchasing gold jewelry worth USD 1,000 or more will receive a complimentary 0.200 gm gold coin, while those purchasing diamond and polki jewellery worth USD 2,000 or more will be gifted a free 1 gm gold coin. These enticing offers are available only during the inauguration period and underscore Joyalukkas' commitment towards providing exceptional value to its patrons.

John Paul, Managing Director of Joyalukkas Group, who has

The inaugurations will feature new store unveiling in Dallas and Atlanta, alongside renovations and reopening's in Houston, Chicago and New Jersey

tirelessly worked to roll-out the expansion plan, expressed his enthusiasm for the USA expansion, stating, "We are thrilled to roll-out our new and revamped outlets in the USA."

"With our exquisite jewellery collections and unparalleled customer service, we aim to cater to the discerning tastes of our American clientele. These inaugurations signify our dedication to growth and excellence as we continue to elevate the jewellery shopping experience for our valued customers. We are committed to serving our loyal customers in the USA with the world's best shopping experience."

The inauguration will be conducted by high-ranking delegates, accompanied by Joy Alukkas, the visionary founder of the brand. Joyalukkas is inviting all Jewellery lovers to visit & celebrate style, sophistication, convenience, designs at the grand inauguration ceremony of its USA outlets.

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB offers unprecedented 48 hours approval on Al Dar Housing loans

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) is setting a new benchmark in house financing with an unprecedented turnaround time of just 48 hours for Al Dar Housing Loan approvals, subject to complete documentation.

Designed to significantly simplify and expedite the homeownership process for both Omanis and residents alike, more families across the Sultanate can now own their dream homes.

Providing flexible solutions for multi-purpose financing needs including purchase of ready and un-

der construction properties, land, renovation and self-construction, the loans are structured to be incredibly customer-friendly, requiring minimal branch visits and providing an easy-to-navigate application process. For first-time home buyers, the Al Dar Housing Loans offer an attractive Loan-to-Value ratio (LTV) of up to 90%, while for subsequent home purchases, an LTV of up to 80% can be availed. Competitive interest rates further add to their appeal.

"Our quick and efficient approval process is a game-changer

in the housing loan sector," said Khalid Al Amri, Chief Retail Banking Officer at Oman Arab Bank. "Owning a home is an important milestone in a person's life and for many, a life-long dream. We understand the sense of permanence, pride, stability and security it brings and we are proud to be able to help customers turn their dreams into reality."

The Al Dar Housing Loan scheme was prominently featured at the Oman Real Estate Expo (OREX), which took place during the Oman Design & Build

Week at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event provided the perfect platform for introducing the new loan scheme to a wider audience, showcasing OAB's role in facilitating innovative and accessible home ownership solutions. One lucky customer who visited OAB's stall has won a furniture voucher worth OMR 500 each.

Customers can learn more about how Al Dar Housing Loans can facilitate their journey to owning a home, by visiting the nearest OAB branch or the bank's website.



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Which mountain on the Oman-UAE border lends its name to the railway project between the two countries?

'Hhalas', 'Hhunaizi' and 'Fargh' are varieties of which fruit associated with Omani heritage?

Two violins, one viola, and one cello make up a "String _____"

What is the name given to Taylor Swift's fanbase?

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LIFESTYLE

TABLE SALT
LINKED TO

41%

INCREASE
IN STOMACH
CANCER RISK:
STUDY



In a recent study conducted in the United Kingdom, researchers have uncovered a potentially alarming correlation between the consumption of added salt and the risk of developing stomach cancer.

The study out of the UK notes the correlation between added salt and stomach cancer could be even higher because it didn't account for the sodium levels already in the food.

A recent study warns that adding salt to your food at the table may significantly up your risk of gastric cancer. Examining over 471,000 participants without prior cancer or kidney issues.

Researchers found that those habitually salting their meals faced a 41% higher likelihood of developing stomach cancer compared to those who rarely did so.

This revelation stemmed from an 11-year tracking period, during which 640 cases of cancer were documented. However, the study has limitations, failing to include participants' overall dietary sodium intake.

Consequently, the actual link between salt consumption and gastric cancer risk might be even stronger.

Stomach cancer ranks fifth globally, with higher prevalence in East Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. In the US, men are twice as prone to diagnosis as women.

Alarmingly, stomach cancer rates are climbing among younger women, contradicting the typical age-related risk increase.

These findings underscore the importance of monitoring salt intake and its potential health impacts. -OMA



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