



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF VIETNAM

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. To Lam of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Dr. To Lam and the people of his country.-- **ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 49 No. 128 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group



**Invest today
in Al Tharwa Fund**

**The first of its kind "Income & Growth" Fund
in the Sultanate of Oman**

• Read prospectus to understand risk factors • Investments in Funds are subject to market risk
• Past performance is not a guarantee for future performance

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.
Terms and conditions apply.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Commerce minister meets Indian jewellers

1 As part of a series of engagements with Indian business houses, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion HE Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, met with top Indian jewellers in Mumbai on Saturday. **>A2**



OMAN Plan to cut waiting lists for medicare

2 The Ministry of Health, represented by the Directorate General of Khoula Hospital launched health initiatives to address challenges and reduce waiting lists for medical services. **>A2**

SPORTS Haaland hat-trick gives Man City win

3 Erling Haaland opened the scoring with a 10th minute header, while Julien Lopetegui's side levelled after 19 minutes when Ruben Dias slid the ball into his own net trying to cut out a cross. **>A8**

GAZA DEATH TOLL
as of September 1, 2024

**Deaths
40,738
Injured
94,154**

FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN 28 MORE ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED

The commerce ministry aims to encourage entrepreneurial projects, in line with the government's priority to empower SMEs



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion has prohibited foreign investment in 28 activities and reserved them only for Omani investors.

The Ministerial Decision No. 435/2024 amends certain provisions of Ministerial Decision No. 209/2020, which aligns with Article 14 of the Foreign Capital Investment Law issued under Royal Decree No. 50/2019.

It stipulates that "a list of activities prohibited for foreign investment shall be issued by

the minister."

The decision aims to balance attracting qualitative investments with encouraging entrepreneurial projects, in line with the government's priority to empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that enhance the Omani economy.

It serves as an incentive for Omanis to establish their own businesses and create new job opportunities for citizens.

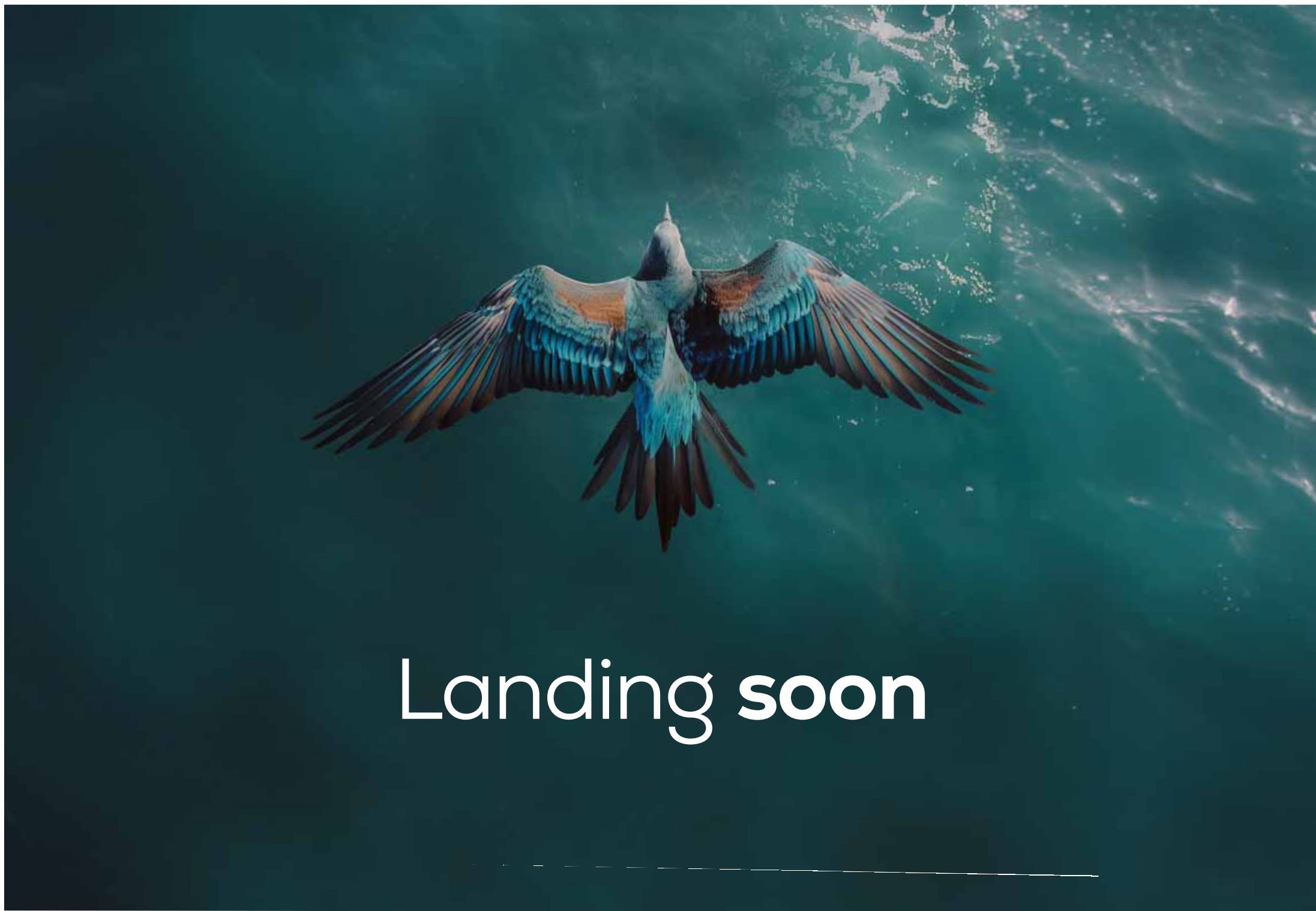
Omani investors are allowed to invest in all activities where foreign investment is prohibited.

The decision also seeks to provide opportunities for Omani-owned SMEs in these sectors and ensure that projects and activities related to national identity and Omani heritage are not affected.

This list will be updated according to the circumstances of each phase to keep pace with economic developments.

The decision added 28 activities to the list reserved for Omani investors only, prohibiting foreign investors from engaging in them, bringing the total number of such activities to 123.

Article 2 of the ministerial decision stated that any provisions that contradict this decision are nullified. Article 3 confirmed that the decision would take effect the day after its publication, excluding existing investment projects at the time of its implementation, which cannot be transferred to others without written approval from the Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion or his delegate, as stated in Article 2 of Ministerial Decision No. 209/2020. **>A5**



Landing soon

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr 12:12pm
Asr 3:39pm
Maghrib 6:29pm
Isha 7:41pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)..... 4:33am

Commerce minister asks Indian jewellers to make Oman their manufacturing base

Oman possesses numerous competitive advantages that span across various sectors, including food, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, chemicals, metals, and minerals

Pankaj Kumar Sharma

MUMBAI: As part of a series of engagements with Indian business houses, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion HE Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, met with top Indian jewellers in Mumbai on Saturday. The meeting was held as part of the efforts with the India Gems And Jewellery Council to apprise them about the opportunities available in Oman and invite them



to build manufacturing hub by utilising the opportunities offered by the government. Welcoming the members of Indian Jewellery Council, the minister said, "We are at a very advanced stage of negotiations for signing of the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. This sector is not only important for India but also for our part of the world. "Oman possesses numerous competitive advantages that span across various sectors, including food, fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture, chemicals, metals, and minerals. "Additionally, our strategic location is a significant asset. World-class ports like Duqm, Sohar, and

Salalah are situated near major shipping lanes and connected by a robust road network. Oman benefits from free trade agreements (FTAs) with GCC nations and other countries, facilitating streamlined customs procedures and access to broader markets. These advantages, combined with the requirement for 35 percent in-country value addition, contribute to a favorable environment for businesses. Furthermore, recent FTAs with Singapore, Switzerland, and Pakistan will further enhance trade opportunities in the near future. "Food security, mining, logistics, tourism, manufacturing are the sectors in which Oman has comparative advantage. The relation-

ship between Oman and India is organic and has been created 5000 years ago. It's a people to people contact ties. The process of doing business in Oman has been streamlined. You no longer need to be physically present in Oman to establish a company; you can now complete the process remotely. "However, we would certainly welcome a visit to explore the various investment opportunities available, including tax-free zones and industrial estates. But we have a rule of origin under which you have to add 35 percent of value and for Gulf states 20 percent," he added. "We also have a residency programme for foreigners. If you own big land with more than 5,000



square feet area," he added. While some participants sought clarification on the 35 percent margin because the minimum threshold on gold for export is 5 percent, to which the minister assured them to review the matter. **Invitation** Inviting them to see Oman's industrial zones, he said "When you build a factory, raw material can come free of cost. When you are eyeing export, you don't need industrial zones, use the free zones. If you are focusing on GCC, better do it in Industrial or economic zones. If you sell from free zones to local, you have a customs of 5 percent. We have the policy of Omanisation (30 to 35%, but it is not to

be done from day one. It is gradual and negotiable). "We have a national negotiating team to look into your issues, understand you better. We have created an Invest Oman lounge that is linked with 15 other government entities to solve your problems. It's like a one-stop shop for all the services," he added. Ms Mariya Al Hashar, Tourism sector Lead, OmanNational Programme for Private Sector and Foreign Trade (Nazdaher), Abdullah Al Rawahi, Section head, Industry Analysis and Evaluation, Ministry of Commerce Industry and Investment Promotion and Jamil Albalushi, Consulate General of Oman in Mumbai also presented their views.

FOR THREE MONTHS

Shrimp fishing season begins

MUSCAT: The shrimp fishing season began in various coastal villages in the governorates of South Al Sharqiyah, Dhofar and Al Wusta and will continue for three months until the end of next November. Salem bin Sultan Al Arimi, Director of the Department of Agricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources in Jalan Bani Bu Hassan, explained that the shrimp fishing season is one of the important seasons that Omani fishermen rely on, as the total production of the Sultanate of Oman from artisanal shrimp fishing in the 2023 season amounted to 2,761 tonnes, including 2,024 tonnes caught in Al Wusta Governorate, and 717 tonnes in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, while exports amounted to 2,680 tonnes, worth OMR6.6 million. He added that in the 2022 season, the Sultanate of Oman's total shrimp production amounted to

1,721 tonnes, led by Al Wusta Governorate with a landing quantity of 1,319 tonnes, followed by South Al Sharqiyah Governorate with 402 tonnes. He pointed out that the amount of shrimp caught from artisanal fishing in 2023 was good and of excellent economic value for fishermen and other beneficiaries of the fisheries sector, noting that the price of one kilogram of shrimp ranges from OMR2 to 4, depending on the quantities and supply and demand. He stressed that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources has directed its specialists to advise fishermen to adhere to the regulations and laws that would preserve the sustainability of this resource, such as using fishing gear and avoiding the use of prohibited fishing nets in order to ensure the sustainability of this important economic resource. -ONA

KHOULA HOSPITAL, AL NAHDA HOSPITAL

Health ministry launches initiatives to cut waiting lists for services

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health, represented by the Directorate General of Khoula Hospital launched yesterday several health initiatives that aim to address challenges and reduce waiting lists for medical services provided at Khoula Hospital and Al Nahda Hospital. The move aims to ensure the continuity and sustainability of these services in both hospitals. The launching ceremony was held under the patronage of Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health. The health initiatives include conducting 12,000 MRI scans at Khoula Hospital over the next year. This will involve performing 45 to 50 scans daily during weekdays and 20 scans on weekends, amounting to 1,000 MRI scans each month. The aim is to reduce the waiting time for MRI appointments to less than 4 weeks during this initiative, compared to up to 16 months experienced in 2021 and 2022. One of the announced initiatives is the reduction of waiting lists for endoscopies. This involves expanding the endoscopy unit at both Khoula Hospital and Al Nahda Hospital by increasing the number of rooms from one to three in order to shorten the waiting period from one year to two months. The second phase of this initiative aims to further reduce waiting time to four weeks for routine appointments. The endoscopy unit at Al Nahda Hospital will be



activated to support this effort. Furthermore, the initiatives include performing 1,000 tonsil and adenoid removal surgeries within a year. This will involve conducting 83 surgeries each month, with the activation of the operating rooms in the Day Care Building at Khoula Hospital to facilitate these procedures. The initiatives also include performing 1,000 knee replacement surgeries, where 27 surgeries will be conducted per week, and increasing the number of weekly appointments gradually. The goal is to reduce the waiting time from 700 days to 120 days during the initiative and to include weekends for performing these surgeries. In addition, the initiatives involve carrying out 1,500 cataract

surgeries within a year. This includes 1,000 surgeries at Al-Nahda Hospital and 500 additional surgeries at Khoula Hospital in the Day Care Building. The procedures will be scheduled with an average of 8 cases per day, spread between morning and afternoon sessions, with the aim of reducing waiting lists by 50%. Among the initiatives launched by the Ministry of Health is the activation of the evening clinic for the Dentistry and Oral, Maxillofacial Surgery Department at Al-Nahda Hospital over the next 3 months. More than 900 patients will be treated during its implementation to reduce the waiting time for emergency cases to a maximum of two weeks, and for routine appointments to less than six weeks.

The initiatives also include a program to complete the treatment of urgent dental cases for patients with special needs under general anesthesia within 4 months. This program aims to reduce the surgical wait times within the 4-month period by increasing the number of operating rooms available for dental procedures for special needs patients under general anesthesia during weekdays. The initiative to manage the revenue cycle at Khoula Hospital aims to enhance the operational efficiency of the current billing system and improve financial performance. This initiative is particularly important given that Khoula Hospital serves as a center for emergencies and disasters. -ONA

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

SUMMER OFFER

OMR 50 ONLY

HOT & COLD DISPENSER
+ 2 FULL BOTTLES
+ 30 REFILL COUPONS

OMR 20 ONLY

WHITE TAP DISPENSER
OR
TAP DISPENSER
OR
MANUAL WATER PUMP
OR
CRADLE WITH TAP
+ 2 FULL BOTTLES
+ 15 REFILL COUPONS

Promotion duration: Aug 15 to Nov 14, 2024

OASIS WATER COMPANY SAOC
PO Box 97, Rusayl 124, Sultanate of Oman.
CR. No. 108042

800 71 222
9275 5522

Ministry of Health's Quality Standard
Award & Best Brand Award

5-DAY WORKSHOP

Workshop discusses desert locust pesticide management system

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources yesterday organised a regional workshop on the use of desert locust pesticide management systems in the countries of the Central Africa and Horn of Africa. Eleven countries are taking part in the 5-day workshop, opened under the auspices of Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Bakri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for Agriculture. The workshop reflects the keenness of the Desert Locust Control Authority to encourage the use of innovative technologies in the field and to mitigate related risks on human health and the environment.



The workshop focuses on early response in dealing with locust outbreaks by supplying equip-

ment and materials needed for warehouses, introducing mechanisms for regulating pest control

and assessing the national requirements of countries in this context. -ONA

Terms And Condition Applies



Enjoy priority for transactions

With Al Rifaa Privilege Account

Visit your nearest branch today



البنك الرفعة
PRIVILEGE BANKING

3479 000 | www.bankdhofar.com

    [bankdhofar](#)

Scan to learn more





Al Rifaa

Production of electricity in Oman increases

Total production in the Governorate of Muscat surged by 82.9% to stand at 308.8 gigawatts per hour, while production in Dhofar Governorate went up by 17.4 to reach 2886.2 gigawatts per hour

MUSCAT: The total electricity production in the Sultanate of Oman till the end of June 2024 grew by 0.3% to 20,391.5 gigawatts per hour, compared to 20,328.9 gigawatts per hour during the corresponding period in 2023, according to statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCISI).

The governorates of North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah and Al Dhahirah registered a total production of 11,947.5 gigawatts per hour, constituting a decline by 6.2% compared to June 2023.

Total production in the Governorate of Muscat surged by 82.9% to stand at 308.8 gigawatts per hour, while production in Dhofar Governorate went up by 17.4 to reach 2886.2 gigawatts per hour.

Moreover, total production in the governorates of North Al

Sharqiyah and South Al Sharqiyah rose by 7.9% to reach 4913.3 gigawatts per hour. Meanwhile, production declined in the Al Wusta governorate by 30.6% to reach 79 gigawatts per hour.

Musandam Governorate saw an increase in electricity production by 4.9% to reach 213.6 gigawatts per hour.

Statistics indicate that the net electricity production of Oman till the end of June 2024 dropped by 1.3% to reach 19424.5 gigawatts per hour.

Production of water

On the other hand, Oman's production of water by the end of June 2024 reached 248,366,800 cubic metres, compared to 255,848,700 cubic metres during the corresponding period in 2023. - **ONA**



OUTPUT: Statistics indicate that the net electricity production of Oman till the end of June 2024 dropped by 1.3% to reach 19424.5 gigawatts per hour. - **ONA**

COMMENTARY

At the other side of your world



SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

I spent the last ten days out of Oman to recharge my mental batteries in a holiday somewhere in a transcontinental country so I could relax and do almost nothing.

The aim was to be in touch with nature and see everything around me for the first time. It worked but not in the same way I planned before setting out. I was in a country that is a crossbreed between Asia and Europe. People there have different attitude and priorities in comparison to Oman. I guess it is their background as a nation and the long history of their past.

For me, it was enough to walk around and see what made them so different to what I see in Oman. Every street and

corner had a story to tell. The old houses, cobble stones and walls I saw during my walk was fascinating. I walked into the little shops, not to buy something, but to look at the interior and the smell of the dampness.

When it was time to rest, I would sit on a bench and look at people. I would even take my lunch there and eat it while people walked past me. It was not just people but animals and birds, too.

They roam and fly around freely in perfect harmony with the people in the streets. Since I was there to blend in with the local environment, I did what the locals did. I shared my lunch with the creatures around me while sitting on a bench.

Birds were my favourite in those ten days while having my lunches. They flapped their wings around and landed close to my feet pecking at what I threw at them. Children also would come and join me to feed them. Tourists find it interesting, too. They would stop and take photos and videos. I guess they didn't have that kind of scene in their countries where they came from.

But I also enjoyed the rich heritage there, too. From their old castles, holy buildings to market places. It gave me

a glimpse of their rich past. While exploring, I get curious looks from the natives. They knew I was a tourist and asked me where I was coming from. When I told them from Oman, they seemed to be fascinated and wanted to know more about it.

It gave me the chance to promote my country to them and that was more than one occasion. It was a cross-cultural experience to do it and I enjoyed it. Now I am back, I realize that traveling is not just to go out of your country to relax but to learn something new, too. We would not know how we are until we visit somewhere and make comparisons.

Sometimes, we take advantage of what we have and traveling gives us the opportunity to know how people live beyond the comfort of our homes. Besides, it leaves you completely refreshed when you come back home. There is also the learning part of it. We learn what is on the other side. You may argue it is not cheap to travel but saving a few rials a month might get you somewhere when you have saved enough.

Besides, a well-planned trip can have you relaxed and feel refreshed when you are back home.



شانجان أوتو
CHANGAN AUTO

CS95
7 SEATER
4WD SUV

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



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

EMI
OMR 181*
for 6 years



Forward Collision Warning



Adaptive Cruise Control



540° HD Panoramic View



Easy Open Power Lift Gate



Remote Engine Starter



Driver Seat Massage Function



12.3" Display with SCC Map Navigation, GPS with Voice Command



3 ROW, 7 SEATER
(Ultra Fiber - Leather Seats)



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

Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC

Showrooms: Qurum 96641010, Mawaleh 97888180
Sohar 95351200, Salalah 96629050, Ibbi 96628930
Sales Centers: Nizwa 96628940, Barka 96629010, Sur 96628920

800 50800
9662 8909

 [changanoman](#)
www.changanoman.com

SALE

THRIVING CAFÉ & LOUNGE IN PRIME LOCATION

CAFÉ UPTOWN

a well-established, popular restaurant and lounge situated in the heart of Al Khuwair on Dohat Al Adab Street.

Key Features

- **Prime Location:** High footfall area with excellent visibility, attracting both locals and tourists.
- **VIP Lounge:** Exclusive and elegant, perfect for private events and high-end clientele.
- **Well-Equipped:** Fully operational kitchen, stylish interiors, TV Screens for sports and modern amenities.
- **Staff Visas:** Includes waitstaff and a manager (and existing staff), ensuring seamless operations from day one.

Serious inquiries only.
Contact us on **+968 91782666** to learn more!



OIA announces merger of Oman Food Investment Company and Fisheries Development Oman

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) has undertaken the initial steps to merge the activities of Oman Food Investment Holding Company (Nitaj) and Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) into a single business entity.

This step is part of the efforts to enhance the food security sector in the Sultanate of Oman and is in line with OIA's mission to maximize efficiency and optimize spending in this vital sector based on a clear and unified vision. This is a significant step to ensure improved performance, high-quality products, cost efficiency, effective decision-making, and alignment with the national priorities of Oman Vision 2040. The merger is conducted based on a coherent action plan and a specific timeline in coordination with the concerned government entities.

This project comes as part of OIA's mandate to establish, merge, liquidate, and sell its companies in accordance with the legal and regulatory guidelines stipulated by Royal Decree No. 57/2021, promulgating the System of Oman Investment Authority. The project is expected to substantially contribute to the growth of revenues

generated from the synergy of the two merged companies. This synergy will be realized by integrating value chains and the potential benefits of consolidating procurement, contracts, logistics, and business activities.

Open discussions

Moreover, the merger project will consider the impact on employees of both companies. They will be kept informed on relevant matters. The Board of Directors of both companies will share relevant and appropriate information with them while also holding open discussions about the project.

The Board of Directors of both companies will communicate with their respective financing institutions and inform them about the merger to ensure transparency and compliance with the legal and contractual aspects.

Further, the obligations of the two companies will be assessed in light of the projects currently under implementation and the existing contracts with contractors to ensure that such commitments will not be adversely affected by the merger of two companies. -ONA



‘Asna’ downgraded to a deep tropical depression

The Civil Aviation Authority calls on everyone to follow the bulletins and reports issued by the authority

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The tropical storm ‘Asna’ has been downgraded to a deep tropical depression, Oman Meteorology said.

Oman Meteorology said: “The latest satellite images and analyses by the National Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre says that the tropical storm has been downgraded to a deep tropical depression, with its centre 220 km off the coast of the Sultanate of Oman (Ras Al Hadd), and surface wind speeds around the centre range from 33 to 28 knots. The condition is expected to downgrade to a tropical depression within the



next 12 hours.”

“The warning for high sea waves along the coast of Oman continues, ranging from 3 to 5 metres in height, with sea water extending over low-lying coastal areas and creeks today and tomorrow,” the statement added.

Earlier the the forecast said that a deep tropical depression was centered in the northwest of Indian subcontinent at a latitude of 23.7 north and a longitude of 69.4 east, and it’s about 1000 km away from the coasts of the Sultanate of Oman.

The wind speed around the centre is estimated at about 28-30 knots, with the possibility of it developing into a tropical storm within the next 48 hours and moving westward towards Sea of Oman.

Preliminary forecasts indicate

(60%) that the tropical system will move in the coming days towards the Sultanate of Oman’s coasts, with chances of effecting the northern governorates by clouds advection associated with varying intensity of rain starting from Sunday, 1st of September.

The Civil Aviation Authority calls on everyone to follow the bulletins and reports issued by the authority.

Pact to unlock oil and gas potential signed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mazoon Petrogas, a subsidiary of Petrogas E&P (PG), the Exploration and Production arm of the Mohammed Al Barwani Group, along with its partner CNPC, has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals for the exploration and production of Oil and Gas within the concession area Block 15.

The agreement was signed by HE. Engineer Salim Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, and Dr. Mohammed Al Barwani, the Chairman and Founder of MB Group, along with Zhang Yu, Vice President of CNODC.

Through this new agreement, Petrogas aims to continue its successful collaboration with the government, demonstrating its commitment to the local economy and community.

Leveraging 25 years of experience and the unique talents of both Omani and international experts in the field of oil and gas, and supported by world-class infrastructure, Petrogas, through its joint venture Daleel petroleum as the operator, will explore Block 15 for potential oil and gas reserves.

If successful, it will swiftly execute fit for purpose development

plans to ensure efficient operations, optimising production and resource recovery.

The agreement also includes the continuation of foreign direct investment (FDI) through Petrogas’s ongoing partnership with CNPC, a major Chinese oil and gas player. This marks a significant milestone following previous successes in Block 5, operated by Petrogas and CNPC’s joint venture, Daleel Petroleum.

Petrogas has over the years achieved many successes in Egypt, the Netherlands, and the UK. It has also delivered exceptional value on behalf of Petroleum Development Oman in the Rima Small Satellite Fields, where Petrogas succeeded in in consistently increasing production and reserve additions.

Commenting on the agreement, Salim Al Aufi, the Minister of Energy and Minerals, said: “This new agreement represents a significant investment in Oman, driving economic growth, job creation, and the delivery of FDI through Petrogas’ partners in this project. It aligns with our aims to empower local energy providers and reinforce their critical role in advancing Oman’s economic prosperity.”

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

Refresher course for scouts and guides organised

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian School Muscat (ISM), an exemplar of effective event organisation, hosted a refresher course for Scout Masters and Guide Captains of all Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman on August 31, 2024, at the School’s New Multipurpose Hall.

The school’s philosophy goes beyond academic teaching to focus on comprehensive personal growth.

It strives to reach this goal through various initiatives.

The event, marked by vibrant enthusiasm, witnessed the active participation of educators across Indian Schools in Oman.

Youth movement

Bharat Scouts & Guides is a globally visible, consistently growing, self-reliant premium youth movement that is gender balanced, vibrant and responsive to trends. The purpose of the movement is to contribute to the development of young people by helping them achieve their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potential as individuals, responsible citizens, and members of local, national and international communities.

With this objective in mind, the refresher course was provided for the educators.

The event commenced with the traditional lighting of the

SPECIAL PROMOTION

Oman Air, tourism ministry offer free stopovers to passengers travelling through Muscat

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of their shared commitment to highlight Oman as a preferred tourist destination, Oman Air and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism have joined forces for a special stopover promotion for passengers transiting through Muscat.

Available until 30 November 2024, the offer provides a free one-night hotel stay for premium class passengers when booking a stopover in Muscat, while those travelling in Economy Class can enjoy two nights for the price of one. In addition, guests can access exclusive discounts on tours, car hire, and other services, making it the perfect opportunity to explore Oman’s charming capital and beyond.

Launched just in time for the winter season, visitors can experience Muscat at its very best, with warm weather, stunning landscapes and cultural activities promising an unforgettable retreat.

Committed to promoting the natural beauty, rich heritage and friendly, genuine hospitality of its home base, Oman Air remains dedicated to serving as a gateway for tourists to Oman, providing them with seamless connectivity, convenient flight schedules, and award-winning onboard products and services.

Passengers who hold a return ticket to any destination on Oman



Air’s network with transit through Muscat can take advantage of the limited-time offer.

Guests can fill out the online request form and make their stopover booking by 30 November 2024. It is important to note that the complimentary hotel stay includes the room only and is subject to availability. A maximum of one stopover per return ticket applies. For full terms and conditions, please contact Oman Air Holidays at holidays@omanair.com.



PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

FDI reached OMR25.38bn by the end of first quarter of 2024

<FROM A1 The newly prohibited activities include the production of handicrafts by distilling flowers and herbs, the production of handicrafts for producing frankincense water and oil, the production of leather handicrafts, the production of palm leaf handicrafts, the production of wood handicrafts, the production and preparation of incense, the production of handicrafts for cosmetics and perfumes, the production of pottery and ceramics, the production of stone and gypsum handicrafts, the production of silver handicrafts, the production of copper and metal handicrafts, the production of aluminum handicrafts, the production of traditional fishing tools, and the production of bone-derived handicrafts.

The decision also includes activities such as skin care services, event and furniture rental, retail in specialised stores for scrap materials (including scrap iron trade), retail in specialised stores

for drinking water (excluding production and transportation), the cultivation of live plants for planting, decoration, and seedlings (nurseries), the sale of used vehicles, mobile cafes, freshwater aquaculture, mailbox rental services, public scribe services, Sand Services Center, the management and operation of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations (cooking gas), the collection of used batteries and oils, and grocery stores.

It is worth noting that the provisions of the Foreign Capital Investment Law apply to any natural or legal person who is not Omani and establishes an investment project in the Sultanate of Oman by enabling their capital and assets to establish economically viable investment projects for the Sultanate.

The law helps create an attractive investment environment and facilitates suitable conditions for investment, given the global competition to attract investments by granting incentives, privileges,

and guarantees that contribute to stabilising foreign investments in Oman.

Additionally, the Foreign Capital Investment Law grants foreign investment projects the right to enjoy all the benefits, incentives, and guarantees enjoyed by national projects according to the laws in force in the Sultanate of Oman. Foreign ownership in companies is allowed up to 100% based on the Foreign Capital Investment Law, and foreign investors are permitted to invest in over 2,000 commercial or industrial activities.

As a result of these advantages and incentives, Oman achieved significant growth in foreign direct investment by the end of the first quarter of 2024, with a 19.3% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

The total foreign direct investment by the end of the first quarter of 2024 reached OMR 25.38 billion, compared to OMR 21.27 billion during the same period in 2023.



UNICEF issues emergency tender for procurement of vital monkeypox vaccines

mpox outbreak has been declared a public health emergency by both the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organisation

NEW YORK: UNICEF has announced the issuance of an emergency tender for the procurement of monkeypox (mpox) vaccines. Vaccines are considered crucial in containing the mpox outbreak, which has been declared a public health emergency by both the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The UNICEF tender aims to secure mpox vaccines for the most affected countries, in collaboration with Africa CDC, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, WHO, the Pan American Health Organisation, and other partners. This joint effort includes facilitating vaccine donations from existing stockpiles in high-income countries to help curb the ongoing transmission of



mpox. Under the emergency tender, UNICEF will establish conditional supply agreements with vaccine manufacturers, enabling the organisation to purchase and distribute vaccines swiftly once countries and partners have secured financing, confirmed demand and readiness, and met regulatory requirements for vaccine acceptance. WHO is currently reviewing information submitted by manufacturers on August 23, with the Emergency Use Listing review expected to be completed by mid-September. This year, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the epicentre of the crisis, has reported more

than 18,000 suspected cases of mpox, including 629 deaths, with four out of five fatalities occurring in children. “Addressing the current mpox vaccine shortage and delivering vaccines to communities in need is of paramount importance. There is also an urgent need for a universal and transparent allocation mechanism to ensure equitable access to mpox vaccines,” said Leila Pakkala, Director of UNICEF’s Supply Division. The emergency tender is designed not only to secure immediate access to mpox vaccines but also to expand production. Depending on demand, manufacturers’ production capacity, and

funding, agreements for up to 12 million doses through 2025 may be established. Vaccines are just one of several tools used to interrupt transmission and protect communities against mpox. Africa CDC, Gavi, UNICEF, WHO, and partners are also prioritising infection prevention and control, risk communication, and community engagement. UNICEF is deploying personal protection equipment, diagnostic tests, medical treatment kits, hygiene supplies, and tents to countries on the frontline of the crisis, supporting a range of medical countermeasures, including treatment, case isolation, and surveillance. — ANI/WAM



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

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

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

SECOND MARRIAGE

Norway’s Princess marries US ‘shaman’

OSLO: Norway’s Princess Martha Louise and US guru Durek Verrett married on Saturday in a private ceremony by the Geiranger Fjord in western Norway. 350 guests are invited to the evening wedding celebration on the third day of festivities. In attendance were Swedish and Norwegian royals, as were numerous media personalities. **Who are Princess Martha Louise and Durek Verrett?** Martha Louise, 52, is the eldest child of King Harald V and Queen Sonja, who are both 87. The princess is fourth in line to the Norwegian throne. Her younger brother, Crown Prince Haakon, 51, is the heir to the throne. This is Martha Louise’s second marriage and she has three daughters from her 2002-2017 marriage to Norwegian author Ari Behn. Verrett, 49, describes himself as a “sixth-generation shaman” and has claimed to be able to communicate with spirits and ward off diseases. He has been described as a “conspiracy theorist” by Norwe-

gian news website Nettavisen, and the Dagbladet daily reported in 2019 that the publication of a Norwegian translation of one of his books was canceled after the publisher found it contained misinformation about the cause of cancer. The couple first announced their relationship in 2019. Martha Louise and Verrett sold exclusive image rights of the ceremony and celebration to the British celebrity magazine “Hello!” and the film rights to online streaming service Netflix. The wedding was not broadcast on television, unlike Martha Louise’s first wedding in 2002. Martha Louise, Verrett face criticism over using royal status. The couple has faced criticism in the past for linking commercial activities to Martha Louise’s royal status. The princess stepped down from royal duties in 2022 in order to focus on her business ventures. She said she and her partner would avoid using her title of princess for commercial purposes. — DW

SOLEMN CEREMONY

Poland marks 85 years since WWII outbreak

WARSAW: Poland’s leaders on Sunday stressed the need for a strong defence in the face of war in neighbouring Ukraine as they led solemn ceremonies to mark the 85th anniversary of Nazi Germany’s invasion of Poland, starting World War II. Polish President Andrzej Duda and deputy ambassador of Germany, Robert Rohde, attended a ceremony in the town of Wielun — the first civilian target of German bombing in the small hours of September 1, 1939. The brutal German occupation of Poland, from 1939 to 1945, killed more than 6 million Poles, of which 3 million were Jewish. The country also suffered huge losses to its infrastructure, industry and agriculture. Duda told the audience: “We can say that we have forgiven even though we remember, even though the pain is persisting and even though there are still tens of thousands of those who have been directly hurt by the

Germans.” “Forgiveness and acknowledgment of guilt are one thing, reparations for the damage is another,” said Duda. “And this issue has still not been resolved,” he said, adding that it “has been for 80 years if you count the Second World War period.” Duda comes from the ranks of the national conservative PiS, which led Poland from 2015 to 2023. At the time, the PiS government had hurt relations with Berlin with anti-German rhetoric and demands for reparations totaling €1.3 trillion (\$1.44 million). Meanwhile, at a monument on the Baltic Sea’s Westerplatte peninsula, where a military outpost was shelled by a German warship just minutes after Wielun was attacked, Tusk and Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz laid wreaths and attended a memorial roll call for fallen soldiers. — DW

ET WORLD LEADERS FORUM

India wants a world order that ensures inclusive development of all: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Citing how India raised the voice of Global South during its G20 presidency last year, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country wants a world order that ensures inclusive development of all countries, especially the Global South. Stating that today’s world is ‘dynamic’, he said that the government is preparing the nation for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. PM Modi was addressing the ET World Leaders Forum on Saturday. “During the G20 presidency, we helped in raising the voice of our African friends, raised the voice of the Global South. Now we want a world order that ensures inclusive development of all countries, especially the Global South. In the coming times, the countries of the Global South will have the greatest possibilities in the world. A large part of the entire humanity lives in these countries and In-



dia is becoming the voice of these countries with the spirit of Vishwa Bandhu,” he said. “Today’s world is dynamic. Therefore, the policies and strategies of our government are also dynamic. We are taking every necessary step. Our focus is on the future. We are preparing the coun-

try today for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow,” the Prime Minister added. He further highlighted that the Indian economy has grown by 90 per cent in the last 10 years at a time when the global economy has grown by only 35 per cent. “The global economy has grown

by 35 per cent in the last 10 years and our economy has grown by almost 90 per cent in the last 10 years. This is the sustainable growth that we have achieved. This sustainable growth will continue in future as well. Reform, perform and transform has been our mantra. People are seeing the achievements of the country and are full of confidence,” PM Modi added. Prime Minister Modi further affirmed that India should aim to become a leader in every sector of the world, adding that a strong India can bring great growth to the entire humanity. “India should become a leader in every sector of the world. We promise that we will facilitate, and you promise that you will innovate. We promise that we will reform, you promise that you will perform. We promise that we will focus on high growth, you promise that you will focus on high quality,” PM Modi said. — ANI

MOST FAMOUS GREENHOUSE GAS

What is methane and its role in climate change?

PARIS: What’s colourless, odourless, is the main component of natural gas and traps massive amounts of heat in the atmosphere? The answer is methane or CH₄. Over a 20-year timescale, methane traps around 84 times as much heat as carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is released by burning fossil fuels and is probably the most famous greenhouse gas of all. The key difference between them is how long they stick around. On average, methane fades away after about 12 years while CO₂ continues to warm the planet over centuries. That means CO₂ is the main contributor to climate change, but potent methane still wreaks plenty of havoc in its short lifetime. It’s responsible for about a third of global warming since the Industrial Revolution. **Where does methane come from?** Methane does sometimes come from non-human sources like



wetlands. These habitats contain things like permafrost, which is frozen ground that’s also filled with carbon from animals and plants that have been dead for hundreds of thousands of years. As temperatures rise with global warming, wetland permafrost

thaws. That unleashes carbon, previously locked in the ice, in the form of CO₂ and methane. But 60% of the methane that makes it into the atmosphere comes from human activities. That can be from agriculture — think cows’ burps and farts and

manure fertilizer — but also from decomposing waste in landfills and the energy sector. **How does the energy sector release methane?** Most energy consumed by humans comes from burning fossil fuels

like coal, oil and gas. Oil and gas are responsible for most energy sector methane emissions. The greenhouse gas pours out when companies produce, transport and store these fossil fuels. Methane emissions can happen unintentionally. For example, it often escapes into the atmosphere when the equipment is rusty or damaged or even has something as simple as a loose screw. Then there is gas flaring. That’s when operators burn off natural gas linked to oil production. Flaring turns methane into CO₂ that then goes into the atmosphere, but raw methane can still escape during the process. Sometimes companies release small amounts of natural gas directly into the atmosphere, which is called venting. Operators flare and vent because it can be expensive to process and transport the relatively small amount of gas that comes out of the ground during oil extraction. Or they do it for safety rea-

sons, such as to reduce dangerous pressure increases. **What can we do to reduce methane emissions?** The solutions can be surprisingly simple at times. Oil and gas companies could slash their methane emissions by a whopping 75% if they spotted and fixed leaks, according to the International Energy Agency. It quite literally comes down to plumbing and updating faulty equipment. That’s why the European Union passed a new regulation in May that will force fossil fuel companies to routinely measure, report and reduce how much methane they are emitting. If they spot a leak, they need to fix it within 15 working days. The regulation also bans flaring and venting in most cases. Venting is only allowed if there is a safety emergency. Flaring can only happen if it’s not technically possible to reinject the natural gas into the ground on-site or transport it somewhere else. — DW

Polio vaccination campaign begins in Gaza Strip for 640,000 children

Children under the age of 10 will receive vaccines at 60 medical sites in the Strip, and efforts are underway to establish additional mobile medical sites to ensure that vaccinations reach everyone

GAZA: A campaign to vaccinate 640,000 Palestinian children against polio was launched in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. Director General of Primary Care at the Ministry of Health in Gaza Dr. Musa Abed said in an exclusive statement to Qatar News Agency (QNA) that 640,000 children under the age of 10 will re-



ceive vaccines at 60 medical sites in the Strip, and efforts are underway to establish additional mobile medical sites to ensure that vaccinations reach everyone. He added that more than 95% of the children from one day old to 10 years old are expected to receive the vaccination, noting that a comprehensive plan has been completed to successfully implement this campaign in all governorates and neighborhoods of the Gaza Strip. Abed pointed out that the vaccination campaign is being conducted under the supervision of the

Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and UNRWA. Abed also noted that the Maghazi and Bureij camps in the central part of the Strip are not among the areas classified as safe by the occupation during the humanitarian truce period for vaccination, which begins daily from 6:00 AM until 2:00 PM. The campaign will start in the central governorate from 1 to 4 September 2024, then move to the Khan Younis and Rafah governor-

ates from 5 to 8 September, and finally to the Gaza and North Gaza governorates from 9 to 12 September 2024. In this context, the Government Media Office in Gaza said that the polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip requires an immediate ceasefire, and that the continuation of the genocide poses a real threat to civilians. The Government Media Office emphasised in a statement that the Israeli occupation is responsible for the spread of polio and the occurrence of the first cases

in the Gaza Strip, as it created the environment for this dangerous disease and other serious diseases and epidemics.

MFS says that Israel's incursion in Jenin is 'very alarming'

Médecins Sans Frontières (MFS), also known as Doctors Without Borders, said that the "scale and intensity of Israel's four-day incursion in Jenin is very alarming. Israeli forces keep obstructing access to health facilities blocking and even targeting ambulances, delaying people's access to care." The international organization added in a brief statement published on X that "in the MSF-supported Khalil Suleiman Hospital, which has been surrounded by Israeli Forces since the start of the incursion, electricity and water supplies are compromised. The medical team has been forced to halt dialysis operations, key for the treatment of kidney failure."

MSF-trained volunteer

"In Tulkarm, after the withdrawal of Israeli forces, our teams saw the destruction in the camps and heard disturbing reports from an MSF-trained volunteer who was beaten and interrogated by Israeli authorities," it added. "Israel must adhere to its obli-

gations as an occupying power in the West Bank, including access to medical care. Hospitals, ambulances and the medical humanitarian mission must be respected and protected," MFS concluded.

Over 36 Palestinians detained by Israeli troops in 24 hours

Israeli occupation forces detained at least 36 Palestinians from the West Bank during the last 24 hours, including a journalist, four female students from Hebron, and several former prisoners, according to prisoner advocacy organizations. In a joint statement, the Palestinian Prisoners Society (PPS) and the Authority of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs reported that the number of Palestinians detained since the beginning of the wide-scale Israeli military offensive in the northern West Bank has risen to approximately 110. The statement added that the majority of the detentions over the past 24 hours were reported in the Hebron governorate. According to the two organisations, more than 10,400 Palestinians, including those from Jerusalem, have been detained since the onset of the all-out Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people in October 2023. — Agencies

HUMANITARIAN AID

UN calls for solution to Sudan crisis

N'DJAMENA: UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed called for a solution to the conflict in Sudan during her visit to the Adre border crossing in eastern Chad, where she witnessed the passage of a humanitarian aid convoy. The UN said in a statement coinciding with the visit that "since Chad's Adre border crossing with Sudan was reopened for humanitarian convoys, the food agency trucks carrying over 630 metric tons of food that's about enough for 55,000 people have crossed into Darfur region." — OMA

UNSC SPOKESPERSON

Will continue to engage with all stakeholders in Afghanistan

KABUL: Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to ongoing engagement with all stakeholders in Afghanistan, including the Taliban-led interim government, according to media report. The remarks by Dujarric came while he attended a press conference on Saturday. The spokesman for the UN Secretary-General also called on the interim government of Afghanistan to open up more avenues for diplomatic engagement. During the press conference, Dujarric told reporters, "In terms of the contacts with the de facto



authorities, I mean, we will continue to engage with all stakeholders in Afghanistan, including the Taliban. And we've always done

so following our mandate and I would say impartially and in good faith, always upholding the norms of the UN, pushing the messages

Diplomatic engagement

The spokesman further said, "And we will continue our work as mandated by the Security Council. And I think we would urge the de facto authorities to, in fact, open more avenues for diplomatic engagement." Notably, the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan had expressed deep concern on August 25 regarding the new morality law imposed by Afghanistan's de facto authorities, which imposes restrictions on personal conduct, and said that the law is a distressing vision for Afghanistan's

future. Taliban authorities had announced the ratification of a Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, with 35 articles detailing restrictions on the Afghan population with arbitrary and severe enforcement mechanisms. In a statement, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) had said, "UNAMA is concerned by the promulgation by Afghanistan's de facto authorities of a morality law which imposes wide-ranging and far-reaching restrictions on personal conduct and provides morality police with broad powers of enforcement." — ANI

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Namibia plans to cull 700 wild animals amid drought

WINDHOEK: The sun blazes down from a cloudless late-August sky, and temperatures in the southwestern African country of Namibia reach 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit). For months, it has hardly rained at all. Southern Africa is battling an unprecedented drought this winter. Experts attribute the extreme dry spell to the El Nino weather phenomenon, which has been particularly severe this year. Several months ago, Namibia, as well as Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, declared a state of emergency due to the persistent drought. Now, the Namibian government has controversially decided to help the country's rural population by allowing more than 700 wild animals to be hunted — animals that should be under special protection in the country's national parks. The animals include elephants, antelopes, buffaloes, zebras and wildebeests, most of which will now be shot by professional hunters. Namibia's Ministry of the Environment says around half of Namibia's population, some 1.4 million people, are acutely threatened by food and water shortages.

A drastic measure Namibia's government is taking drastic measures to mitigate the consequences of the drought. Scores of wild animals are at risk of dying of thirst due to acute water shortages in many regions of Namibia, according to a Ministry of the Environment spokesperson. By shooting some of the animals, the spokesperson said, the animals are spared dying from thirst, which also increases the survival chances of the other animals. Water and food scarcity has caused increasing conflict between humans and animals. Animals are increasingly encroaching



on human settlements and endangering the local population as they search for water. There are also plans to make the meat of the killed animals available to Namibia's starving rural population. Namibia's authorities have already started doing this. Over 150 animals have already been shot, and some 57 tons of meat are said to have been distributed to villages near the affected conservation areas. **Environmentalists sound the alarm** The cull of wild animals has, however, caused outrage among animal welfare organizations. Not-for-profit organization Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA), which campaigns for peaceful coexistence between elephants and humans, said the move constitutes the "largest mass-cull of wildlife in Namibian history." The group has launched a petition calling on the government to stop the project and develop alter-



native solutions. It says the ministry has not sufficiently assessed the impact shooting wild animals will have on Namibia's economy and tourist sector. EHRA also accuses the government of allowing trophy hunters to shoot some of the animals for a fee — a fact now confirmed by the Namibian Ministry of Environment. However, it emphasizes that it will use the money raised — equivalent to around €500,000 (\$552,000) — to improve the water supply in Namibian national parks. EHRA says it is also wrong to claim that wild animals such as elephants and giraffes compete for water with cattle and goats held by Namibians living nearby. Cattle and goats are not allowed to be kept within national parks, so wild and farm animals do not compete for resources. That is why the organization suspects the government's plan is driven by other motives. Its petition says, "This is an election year in Namibia, and the ruling SWAPO

party is facing increasing rejection from voters, with their political support mostly coming from the rural communal areas that is to receive this culling meat." EHRA suspects the ruling party is primarily interested in winning the favor of its supporters ahead of the elections on November 29. It has called on the government to seek another approach that benefits Namibia's wild animals. On Wednesday, the Namibian Ministry of Environment published a new statement defending the move, saying it was necessary and "in line with our constitutional mandate to use our natural resources for the benefit of Namibian citizens." It also said, "We are pleased to be able to help the country in these very difficult times when it is absolutely necessary." The ministry also said one person had already been killed by elephants searching for water. As a precaution, people in the areas in question should not "walk in the wilderness at night." — DW

SPORTS

Another Haaland hat-trick gives Man City win away to West Ham

The Norwegian opened the scoring with a 10th minute header, while Julen Lopetegui's side levelled after 19 minutes when Ruben Dias slid the ball into his own net trying to cut out a cross

LONDON: Erling Haaland scored his second hat-trick in a week as Manchester City won 3-1 away to West Ham on Saturday. The Norwegian opened the scoring with a 10th minute header, while Julen Lopetegui's side levelled after 19 minutes when Ruben Dias slid the ball into his own net trying to cut out a cross, but Haaland put City back ahead with a



powerful shot from the right and rounded off the scoring seven minutes from time after clipping the ball over the goalkeeper. Arsenal and Brighton's 100 per cent start to the season ended as they drew 1-1 at the Emirates Stadium in the first game of the day. Things looked to be going to plan for Arsenal when Bukayo Saka and Kai Havertz combined for the latter to open the scoring in the 38th

minute, but Mikel Arteta's side suffered a huge setback in the fourth minute of the second half when Declan Rice was sent off. The England international was shown a second yellow card for kicking the ball away at a free kick and Joao Pedro made Arsenal pay when he leveled 10 minutes later. Brighton had the best of the last half-hour, but Arsenal were able to hold on with a player less.

Aston Villa won 2-1 away to Leicester City, with Amadou Onana and Jhon Duran putting them 2-0 up before Facundo Buonanotte gave Leicester hope with just over a quarter left to play. Bournemouth came back from 2-0 down away to Everton to take a win that leaves Sean Dyche's side reeling. Everton looked set for three vital points as they led 2-0 thanks to Michael Keane's 50th minute volley and Dominic Calvert-Lewin clipped finish seven minutes later. The points looked certain to stay at Goodison, but after Antoine Semenyo pulled a goal back with three minutes left, Everton got nervous. Lewis Cook leveled in the second minute of injury time and Luis Sinisterra scored the winner for the visitors in the 96th minute to stun the home fans. Brentford showed there is life without Ivan Toney, who is bound for Saudi Arabia, as they claimed a comfortable 3-1 win at home to Southampton, who remain without a point on their return to the top-flight. Bryan Mbeumo scored twice and Yoane Wissa was also on target before Yukinari Sugawara's late consolation for the 'Saints'. -Xinhua

RAWALPINDI

Rizwan, Mehidy share heartwarming moment in second Test between Pakistan and Bangladesh

RAWALPINDI [PAKISTAN]: Pakistan wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan and Bangladesh's Mehidy Hasan Miraz shared a heartwarming moment on the field during Day 3 of the second Test at Rawalpindi on Sunday. With Bangladesh slowly regaining their poise from dwindling at 26/6 to 90/6, Abrar Ahmed was handed the ball to bowl the 30th over in the second session. On the fourth delivery, Mehidy strode forward to defend the tossed-up delivery. The ball got stuck between Mehidy's feet, and Rizwan came from behind to collect the ball. He tried to move Mehidy forward and then hugged him from behind before picking up the ball. Both players were all smiles as they embraced each other and proceeded to continue with the game. The heartwarming moment between the two took the focus away momentarily from Bangladesh's precarious situation. With Litton Das on the other end, Bangladesh mounted a remarkable comeback to rise from the ashes and bring the game closer to parity. Khurram Shahzad, who made early inroads, relying on his sheer pace and precision, was at the receiving end. Litton, with his watchful eyes, picked up the spots and sent Pakistan players chasing the ball towards the boundary rope three consecutive times. The boundaries became an occasional affair for Bangladesh bat-



ters, with Pakistan slowly losing their grip on the dominance that they relished on Sunday morning. Towering sixes from the bat of both batters entered the fray after Litton clubbed the ball into the stands. In the 50th over, he tonked a towering maximum off Khurram Shahzad and went down straight away. On a hot day in Pindi, cramps had kicked in, resulting in Litton requiring on-field medical treatment. After receiving some medical attention, Litton was seen limping and continued to stay on the field. Khurram provided the much-needed breakthrough by removing Mehidy from the crease. The Bangladesh batter cushioned the ball back into the hands of Khurram. The Pakistan pacer claimed his five-wicket haul and inspired the hosts when it seemed as if they had resigned to their fate. The moment the 165-run stand for the sixth wicket ended, Pakistan looked hungry to wrap up Bangladesh's innings quickly. Litton held the fort on one end and raised his bat for a hard-earned century. -ANI

34TH CENTURY

Root surpasses Alastair Cook's record of most Test centuries for England

LONDON: England veteran batter Joe Root surpassed legendary Alastair Cook to register the most centuries by an English batter in the longest format, as he scored his 34th century in Tests against Sri Lanka on Saturday. The Lord's crowd erupted in applause as Root, England's batting maestro, surpassed Alastair Cook's record, becoming England's top century-maker in Test cricket. Root, after his century, embraced his father in an emotional moment. Root, known for his calm and composed demeanour at the crease, demonstrated once again why he is considered one of the modern greats. Surpassing Alastair Cook, a player he has often spoken of with great admiration, is a testament to Root's enduring commitment to his craft. As Root walked off the field, the ovation from the crowd was deafening, but it was the sight of him embracing his father that truly touched hearts. In a gesture that spoke volumes, Root wrapped his arms around his father. Root's 50th century is not just a personal achievement; it is a milestone that underscores his place in cricket history. His name now sits at the top of England's century-makers. Root reached this new height in Test cricket during the second Test against Sri Lanka at the iconic Lord's Stadium. Root scored 103 runs in just 121 balls, with 10 boundaries. His runs came at a strike rate of 85.12. With his 34th Test century, Root has now surpassed Cook's



tally of 33 centuries and is now the most successful England batter in terms of centuries. Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar has scored 100 international tons, the most by any player. Root joins the elite company of legends like Virat Kohli (80), Ricky Ponting (71), Kumar Sangakkara (63), Jacques Kallis (62), Hashim Amla (55), Mahela Jayawardene (54) and Brian Lara (53). Among the currently active players, Root is only the second player besides Virat to have 50 international centuries. At number three is Indian skipper Rohit Sharma (48). Coming to the match, Sri Lanka has been given a huge target of 483 runs to win the match and level the series 1-1. Sri Lanka won the toss and opted to field first. England scored 427 runs in the first innings, with Root (143 in 206 balls, with 18 fours) and Gus Atkinson (118 in 115 balls, with 14 fours and four sixes) slamming centuries to take England to a massive score. Asitha Fernando (5/102) was the top bowler for Sri Lanka. In their first innings, despite Kamindu Mendis's fighting 74 runs in 120 balls, with eight fours and three sixes, Sri Lanka could manage just 196 runs as the top-order let the team down again. Chris Woakes, Olly Stones, Gus Atkinson, and Matthew Potts got two wickets each while Shoaib Bashir got one. England led by 231 runs. Sri Lanka showcased much better control with the ball in England's second innings, bundling them out for 251 runs. After Root's 103, the second biggest contribution was delivered by Harry Brook (37 in 36 balls, with four boundaries and a six). Asitha Fernando (3/52) and Lahiru Kumara (3/53) were the top wicket-takers for Sri Lanka. -ANI

KING POWER STADIUM

Aston Villa survive Leicester fightback to score narrow win in EPL

LEICESTER: Aston Villa survived a second-half Leicester fightback as Unai Emery's side held on for a narrow victory at King Power Stadium. The visitors dominated the opening stages and took a deserved lead shortly before the half-hour mark when Amadou Onana finished off a well-rehearsed free-kick routine involving Youri Tielemans and Jacob Ramsey. **Second goal** Leicester improved after the break, but Villa doubled their advantage when Jhon Duran – who had only just come on for Ollie Watkins – sent a looping header over Mads Hermansen for his second goal of the season, BBC sports reported.

Brighton loanee Facundo Buonanotte then thumped home his first Leicester goal to give the Foxes hope, but Steve Cooper's side failed to complete the turnaround. **Awarded a penalty** The hosts thought they had been awarded a penalty deep into added time when Jamie Vardy went down under Ezri Konsa's challenge, but the veteran striker was flagged offside from Bilal El Khannouss's through-ball. Villa have now won their opening two away matches in a Premier League season on four occasions, having also done so in 2009-10, 2014-15 and 2020-21. Leicester, meanwhile, are still searching for their first top-flight win of the new campaign. -ONA



HYUNDAI, KIA HYBRID EXPORT

Exports of hybrid cars by Hyundai Motor Co. and its affiliate Kia Corp. jumped 35.2 percent on-year in the first seven months of this year, industry data showed. Hyundai Motor and Kia exported a total of 222,818 hybrid vehicles between January and July, compared with 164,851 units for the same period last year. -BNA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2024



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,759.88 points, up by 0.28% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48% at 442.12 points. Phoenix Power, up 1.75%, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 6.67%, was the top loser.

Oman signs concession agreement to expand oil and gas exploration

The concession agreement constitutes a strategic step towards enhancing oil and gas reserves and expanding production rates through the resources of Area No. 15, a stretch of 1,389 square kilometres



MUSCAT: Represented by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Sultanate of Oman yesterday signed an agreement with Daleel Petroleum Company (the operator) to explore and develop Con-

cession Area No. 15 in Al Dhahirah Governorate.

The concession agreement constitutes a strategic step towards enhancing oil and gas re-

serves and expanding production rates through the resources of Area No. 15, a stretch of 1,389 square kilometres.

Daleel Petroleum Company will

undertake a set of geological and geophysical studies, reprocess existing seismic data, conduct a 3D seismic survey and drill several wells to assess the hydrocarbon

potential in the designated area.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the Government of the Sultanate of Oman by Salim Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy

and Minerals, and two executives: the Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of “Mohammed Al Barwani Group” and Vice President of the People’s Republic of China’s national development corporation.

Dr. Salah Hafiz Al Dhahab, Director General of Investment at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, said that Daleel Petroleum company was awarded the contract (as the operator) due to its success in developing Concession Area No. 5 with high efficiency and raising its daily oil production from 5,000 to more than 50,000 barrels per day.

Al Dhahab attributed the company’s success to its strategy of investing in advanced technology and continuous development, which, he explained, reflected in its ability to maintain competitive operating costs.

Al Dhahab added that the agreement embodies the government’s confidence in national companies operating in the sector, while at the same time underlines Oman’s keenness to consolidate its relationship with Chinese partners, opening the way for more cooperation opportunities that would attract foreign investments. -ONA

REPORT



MSX index gains 1.8% to end August on a positive note

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After witnessing declines for the previous two months, Oman’s MSX 30 index witnessed 1.8 percent gain in August 2024 to close the month at 4,746.4 points, according to a new report.

“In terms of sectoral performance, two out of the three sectors in the MSX Stock Exchange recorded gains during the month led by the Financial Index with a 1.3 percent uptick followed by the Services Index which recorded a marginal gain of 0.2 percent during the month,” Kamco Invest said in its latest GCC Markets Monthly Report August 2024.

Comparatively, the Industrial Index witnessed a 1 percent fall during August-2024 to close the month at 5,881.4 points. Sohar Bank spearheaded the Financial Indices’ monthly gain after it recorded a 6.7 percent share price increase during the month. Similarly, the fall in share prices of some utility companies such as Muscat Gases Company (-8.2 percent) and National Gases Company (-13.5 percent) contributed to the fall in the Industrial Index during the similar period.

The monthly stock performance chart was topped by Musandam Power Co with a gain of 20 percent followed by Dhofar Insurance Co and Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles Co with gains of 9.5 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. On the decliner’s side, the Financial Corporation Company topped with a decline of 21.7 percent followed by Barka Water and Power Company and National Gases Company with declines of 15.4 percent and 13.5 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, trading activity showed a significant decline during the month. Total volume of shares traded on the exchange

reached 260 million shares during August-2024 as compared to 697.6 million shares traded during July-2024. Sohar Bank topped the volume traded chart for the month with 38.7 million traded shares followed by Bank Muscat and Bank Nizwa at 32.5 million and 19.4 million shares, respectively. On the other hand, total value traded in the exchange fell 71.6 percent during the month to reach OMR42.3 million as compared to OMR148.8 million in July-2024. Bank Muscat topped the list of the most traded stocks by value during August-2024 at OMR8.3 million followed by Sohar Bank and Oman Telecommunications Company at OMR5.3 million and OMR3.4 million, respectively.

In economic news, the Sultanate’s Ministry of Economy has reported that Oman’s Manufacturing sector witnessed one of the fastest growth during Q1-2024 reaching 9.2 percent. This is one of the key sectors that are appropriated for economic diversification during Q1-2024. The sector’s growth has underlined the progress that is being made by the government as per the framework of the 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

Moreover, there has been remarkable growth in the refined Petroleum Products Industry (67.6 percent), Basic Chemical Industry (6.4 percent) and other manufacturing industries (6.3 percent) during Q1-2024. On the other hand, Moody’s ratings has upgraded its ratings outlook for Oman as the Sultanate’s fiscal performance improved and with supportive oil prices. The ratings agency changed its outlook on the Sultanate from Stable to Positive and affirmed its Ba1 long-term issuer and long-term senior unsecured ratings for Oman.

FIRST OF ITS KIND OFFERING IN OMAN

Bank Muscat launches Al Tharwa Fund for investors from individuals and institutions to achieve capital growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has launched Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund with an objective to provide investors from individuals and institutions with stable returns through regular dividend distributions along with capital appreciation.

The Fund will provide the benefits of diversification by investing in two key asset classes i.e. equity and fixed income and the allocation to these asset classes will be dynamically managed by an experienced asset management team at Bank Muscat, based on prevailing market conditions and objectives of the Fund. Accordingly, the Al Tharwa Fund will be the first of its kind offering in the Sultanate of Oman and it will provide investors with the opportunity to invest in both equity and fixed income securities, akin to a balance fund, across GCC regional and international markets. Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund is an open-ended fund regulated by the Financial Services Authority, Sultanate of Oman and is open for investment for investors from individuals and institutions.

The Initial Public Offering for the Fund will open on 1st September and will close on 12th September, 2024. The initial offer price for the Fund will be 101 baiza per unit, including issue expenses of 1 baiza per unit. The Fund would offer daily liquidity with no minimum holding period.

Investors can subscribe to the Fund with a minimum subscription amount of OMR 50 and there is no maximum limit for investment. The Fund’s Net Asset Value (NAV) will be published daily on the websites of Bank Muscat, and Muscat Stock Exchange, allowing investors to track the value of their investments daily.

Bank Muscat customers who wish to subscribe to the Fund during the initial public offering period can download the subscription form from bank’s website viz www.bankmuscat.com and submit it to the nearest Bank Muscat or Meethaq Islamic Banking branch. Bank Muscat customers can also subscribe to the Fund through the Internet Banking platform of Bank Muscat. Interested investors may contact the Fund Management team via email at assetmanagement@bankmuscat.com.

Being an open-ended fund, in-



“

We are confident that it will offer individuals and institutions alike a compelling investment opportunity to generate income and capital appreciation

Khalifa Al Hatmi
Deputy General Manager, Investment Banking and Capital Markets, Bank Muscat

vestors may redeem their units anytime through Internet Banking platform of Bank Muscat or by submitting duly filled and signed redemption forms to the nearest branch of Bank Muscat or Meethaq Islamic Banking, during the continuous offer period which would commence post allotment of units to investors.

The investment strategy of Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund is to maintain an optimal mix of equities and fixed income securities



based on the prevailing market conditions and offer twin advantage of regular dividends as well as capital gains to investors.

In addition, the design of the fund enables regular rebalancing of the allocation to equities and fixed income securities, to provide an inbuilt advantage of diversification for investors during changing market conditions and better manage the volatility. Accordingly, the Fund offers a comprehensive solution for investment as it allows an opportunity to minimise the volatility in investment portfolio while receiving regular dividends as well as capital appreciation by reaping the benefits of an optimal asset allocation.

Please refer to the prospectus of Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund available at www.bankmuscat.com to understand the Fund’s details including key terms and conditions. Investors are also requested to refer to the key risk factors highlighted in the prospectus. It should be noted that the mutual fund returns are subject to market performance and past performance does not guarantee future performance.

Referring to the launch of the new fund, Khalifa bin Abdullah Al Hatmi, Deputy General Manager, Investment Banking and Capital Markets, Bank Muscat, said: “We are extremely delighted to introduce the Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund to the market. This launch of the Fund is a testament to our commitment to offering innovative and unique investment solutions that cater to the evolving

needs of our investors. With the Fund’s objective and focus on generating stable returns and capital appreciation through investing in equities and fixed-income instruments in the GCC and international markets, we are confident that it will offer individuals and institutions alike a compelling investment opportunity to generate income and capital appreciation.”

Khalifa Al Hatmi added: “Bank Muscat Al Tharwa Fund offers an attractive and innovative investment option for investors to benefit from the investment expertise of Bank Muscat’s Asset Management team and a dynamic allocation to both equity and fixed income to benefit from various market opportunities.”

The primary objective of the Fund is to generate regular income and capital appreciation by investing in a diversified portfolio of equity and fixed income instruments in the GCC and international markets. Bank Muscat’s Asset Management team will be the Investment Manager of the Fund, being the largest asset manager in the Sultanate and one of the most experienced asset managers in the GCC region. The team has a proven track record of managing assets in both equities and fixed income across multiple funds and strategies. As a milestone of achievement, Bank Muscat Oryx Fund, the flagship GCC equity fund, managed by the Asset Management division of Bank Muscat since 1995, has delivered consistent performance across timeframes.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Phoenix Power, up 1.75%, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 6.67%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,759.88 points, up by 0.28% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.48% at 442.12 points. Phoenix Power, up 1.75%, was the top gainer while Dhofar Cattle Feed, down 6.67%, 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 730 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 2.77 million, with more than 15.91 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 14 advanced, 10 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for RO 626K while foreign investors were net buyers for RO 325K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 301K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,726.71 points, up 0.41%. Prices

of OMINVEST, Oman & Emirates Investment, Global Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa, Bank Muscat were up by 1.52%, 1.33%, 1.28%, 0.94%, 0.78% respectively. Prices of Al Madina Takaful were down by 1.27% respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,881.90 points, up 0.01%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 1.09%, 0.90%, 0.36% respectively. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed were down by 6.67% respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.26% before closing at 1,828.44 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Al Batinah Power, Oman Telecom, Sembcorp Salalah were up by 1.75%, 1.33%, 1.09%, 0.96% respectively. Prices of Musandam Power, National Gas, Oman National Engineering, OQ Gas Networks were down by 4.79%, 1.11%, 0.87%, 0.68% respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,767.15	4,739.56	4,759.88	4,746.41	13.47	0.28
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,741.80	7,689.54	7,726.71	7,695.31	31.39	0.41
Industry Index	5,901.00	5,868.74	5,881.90	5,881.45	0.45	0.01
Services Index	1,830.65	1,822.45	1,828.44	1,823.74	4.70	0.26
MSX Shariah Index	443.60	442.12	442.12	444.25	-2.14	-0.48
MSX TR INDEX	6,625.58	6,587.24	6,615.48	6,596.76	18.72	0.28
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,795.48	8,736.10	8,778.33	8,742.67	35.67	0.41
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,808.36	6,771.13	6,786.31	6,785.79	0.52	0.01
SERVICES TR IDX	2,130.24	2,120.70	2,127.67	2,122.20	5.47	0.26
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
15,915,278	2,766,302	730	24,577,087,942	14	10	19	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RU)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	11,295	3,738	6	0.335	0.335	0.330	0.335	0.330	0.005	1.515	0.335	0.330	0.335	0.100	223,902,418
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	98,062	7,355	12	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	9,262,500
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	138,370	10,506	16	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.001	1.333	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	51,291,445
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	783,000	61,857	20	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.078	0.085	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	182,460	184,346	27	1.008	1.020	1.008	1.020	1.009	0.011	1.090	1.020	1.020	1.020	0.100	765,000,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	257,000	47,778	6	0.180	0.189	0.180	0.186	0.184	0.002	1.087	0.186	0.175	0.191	0.100	40,920,000
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	84,150	8,834	6	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	100,230,055
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	1,751,953	455,895	54	0.261	0.261	0.260	0.260	0.258	0.002	0.775	0.260	0.260	0.262	0.100	1,951,663,236
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	5,920	1,649	5	0.278	0.279	0.278	0.279	0.278	0.001	0.360	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.100	34,846,531
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	12,450	3,135	4	0.255	0.255	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.252	0.100	25,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	13,327	5,346	4	0.410	0.410	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.360	0.400	0.100	132,340,084
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	111,000	8,438	5	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	20,655,383
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	90,000	6,600	3	0.073	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.073	0.074	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	38,800	14,744	5	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.371	0.385	0.100	45,600,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	66,404	26,603	26	0.401	0.402	0.399	0.399	0.399	0.000	0.000	0.399	0.399	0.400	0.100	94,327,590
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	3,251,304	472,637	59	0.143	0.147	0.143	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.136	0.148	0.100	803,123,463
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	2,000	580	1	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.288	0.290	0.100	188,773,827
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	215,794	16,556	19	0.076	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.077	0.100	54,294,882
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	1,271,400	381,420	40	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.293	0.300	0.100	231,060,000
OM0000009072	OQ GAS NETWORKS	4,946,716	727,739	220	0.147	0.148	0.146	0.147	0.148	0.001	0.078	0.146	0.146	0.148	0.100	636,601,716
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	38,140	4,303	8	0.106	0.114	0.106	0.114	0.115	0.001	0.070	0.114	0.114	0.118	0.100	17,100,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	147,183	11,622	11	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.079	0.001	1.266	0.078	0.075	0.085	0.100	13,650,000
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	19,800	5,918	7	0.308	0.308	0.298	0.298	0.313	-0.015	-4.792	0.298	0.298	0.313	0.100	20,976,220
Total	23	13,536,528	2,465,598	564												
Parallel Market																
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	28,817	1,646	6	0.058	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.057	0.001	1.754	0.058	0.057	0.058	0.100	84,830,885
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	120,000	12,940	4	0.108	0.108	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.001	0.943	0.107	0.103	0.108	0.100	239,353,974
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	50,429	11,298	3	0.223	0.225	0.223	0.225	0.223	0.002	0.897	0.225	0.216	0.238	0.100	10,297,305
OM0000005390	OMAN ARAB BANK	85,000	12,545	10	0.148	0.148	0.147	0.147	0.146	0.001	0.885	0.147	0.147	0.147	0.100	245,403,270
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	70,500	317	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.049	0.100	13,821,585
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	110,895	8,423	6	0.075	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.074	0.075	0.100	16,125,680
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,000	1,570	1	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.785	0.000	0.000	0.785	0.785	0.000	0.100	48,100,875
OM0000003141	BARKA WATER AND POWER	77,695	18,486	20	0.236	0.243	0.235	0.236	0.236	0.000	0.000	0.236	0.237	0.236	0.100	37,760,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	1,207,647	150,335	48	0.132	0.133	0.131	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.132	0.132	0.132	0.100	26,794,211
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	122,015	8,034	8	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.064	0.066	0.100	32,395,201
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,487	996	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.001	1.042	0.095	0.090	0.099	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	337,363	30,199	26	0.092	0.093	0.088	0.089	0.090	0.001	1.111	0.089	0.088	0.090	0.100	7,565,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	98,424	11,335	17	0.116	0.116	0.115	0.115	0.120	-0.005	-4.167	0.115	0.114	0.118	0.100	58,431,908
OM0000001301	DHOFAR FOODS AND INVESTMENT	4,620	323	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.075	-0.005	-6.667	0.070	0.070	0.082	0.100	13,837,885
Total	14	2,262,242	277,416	152												

STOCK MARKET

Indian markets may see volatility in September

NEW DELHI: As September begins, the Indian stock markets may experience a period of volatility in the coming week, largely driven by global and domestic factors.

According to the experts, the US Fed is expected to start its rate cut cycle in September, and historically, rate cut cycles in the US market have not been favourable for their equity

markets. The expected volatility in stocks is also linked to the release of August payroll data for the US, which will include revised figures for the previous two months. This data, due at the end of the week, is anticipated to be a significant market mover.

The market experts also pointed out that the Indian markets may witness a minor correction this

week after 12 consecutive record-breaking days of positive moves.

“September starts with the Fed rate cuts imminent and volatility expected around the event. For Indian markets, we expect a minor correction as 12 record-breaking days of continuous positive moves will see some profit-taking setting in. We expect a flat to slightly low-

er market this week, mostly due to some reversion to mean after 12 record-breaking continuously positive moves,” said Ajay Bagga, Banking and Market Expert.

On the foreign investment front in Indian stocks, the data indicated that the net foreign investment in August in the Indian equity market declined to Rs 7,320 crore. -ANI

EXPERTS IN

All Kinds of home automation/Integration like Audiovisual, Lighting Control System, CCTV/ Access Control along with product consultation & expert advise on the above being taken care. Also all kinds of Electrical installation & maintenance taken care with at most professionalism.

Contact: 93387263, 92839679

البعد الرابع الجديد ش.م.م

THE NEW 4th DIMENSION LLC

Email: newfourthdimension@gmail.com

INVESTS IN MONITORING SYSTEMS

Oman Mills adopts advanced technologies to improve quality and productivity



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Mills Company (OFM) stated that the company is adopting several advanced technologies to improve quality and increase its productivity.

The newly adopted technologies include an automation project of a 50 kg manual packaging line, upgrading fluting and grinding machines, and improving the efficiency of the tracking and electronic monitoring systems, as part of the company's efforts to strengthen its innovation process.

Adel bin Nasser Al-Sabaqi, Innovation Director at Oman Mills Company, emphasised that innovation is an important element of OFM's strategy, as the company seeks to integrate the latest technologies and advanced systems to achieve significant improvements in its production processes.

He added: The company's adoption of the state of art and latest technologies aims to improve its productivity's efficiency and strengthen its competition capabilities in the global markets, in line with the global trend towards innovation.

He affirmed that OFM has

achieved high levels of productivity, while it is reducing waste and improving the quality of final products, through investing in advanced technology.

He pointed out that the 50kg manual packaging line automation project will improve production efficiency and increase its speed, as well as ensure the quality of the products. He clarified that the project contributes to reducing human errors and enhancing productivity, to strengthen the company's capability to meet the increased demands of the customers effectively.

The Innovation director also emphasized that OFM company has worked to upgrade the fluting and grinding machines to the modern CNC system, to enhance the quality of the cylinders and to raise the production accuracy, which ensures the high-quality of flour production that suits the different requirements of customers, while the new systems are adaptable to a wide range of raw materials that ensure the production continuity in light of market fluctuations.

He pointed out the importance of implementing an energy management system, to improve the

consumption efficiency of energy in the factory, enhancing the operation sustainability and reducing costs.

He stressed that the company has



LIFESTYLE

Surprisingly, anti-inflammatory medications have not been able to stop heart failure. They are therefore not a standard component of post-MI care. The most effective cellular and molecular targets for inflammation, however, might still be unidentified

Globally, ischemic heart disease is the leading cause of death. A myocardial infarction (MI), commonly referred to as a "heart attack," is the first event in which insufficient coronary blood flow results in the death of a portion of the heart. Heart failure, heart wall remodeling, and severe inflammation result from this.

Surprisingly, anti-inflammatory medications have not been able to stop heart failure. They are therefore not a standard component of post-MI care. The most effective cellular and molecular targets for inflammation, however, might still be unidentified.

In the Aug. 28, 2024 issue of Nature, researchers from University of California San Diego in the laboratory of Dr. Kevin King, associate professor of bioengineering and medicine, and a cardiologist at the Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center, report the discovery of a novel mechanism of cardiac inflammation that may expand therapeutic opportunities to prevent heart attacks from becoming heart failure. Inflammation after MI is classically credited to professional immune cells like neutrophils and macrophages that infiltrate the infarcted heart and respond to molecules in the debris of dying cells. So the team was surprised when they discovered that the pro-inflammatory "type I interferon (IFN) response" was activated, not in the infarct where immune cells were concentrated, but instead in the borderzone, surrounding the infarct.

The borderzone has been a fascinating yet understudied area of the infarcted heart. It is where surviving heart muscle cells attempt to stabilize and even proliferate after being disconnected from their dying neighbor cells. Unfortunately, the borderzone has proven a challenging region to study because it is not easily isolated from the rest of the heart. Researchers overcame this obstacle using methods they recently reported based on single cell RNAseq and spatial transcriptomics where cells of the borderzone are recognized based on their patterns of gene expression.

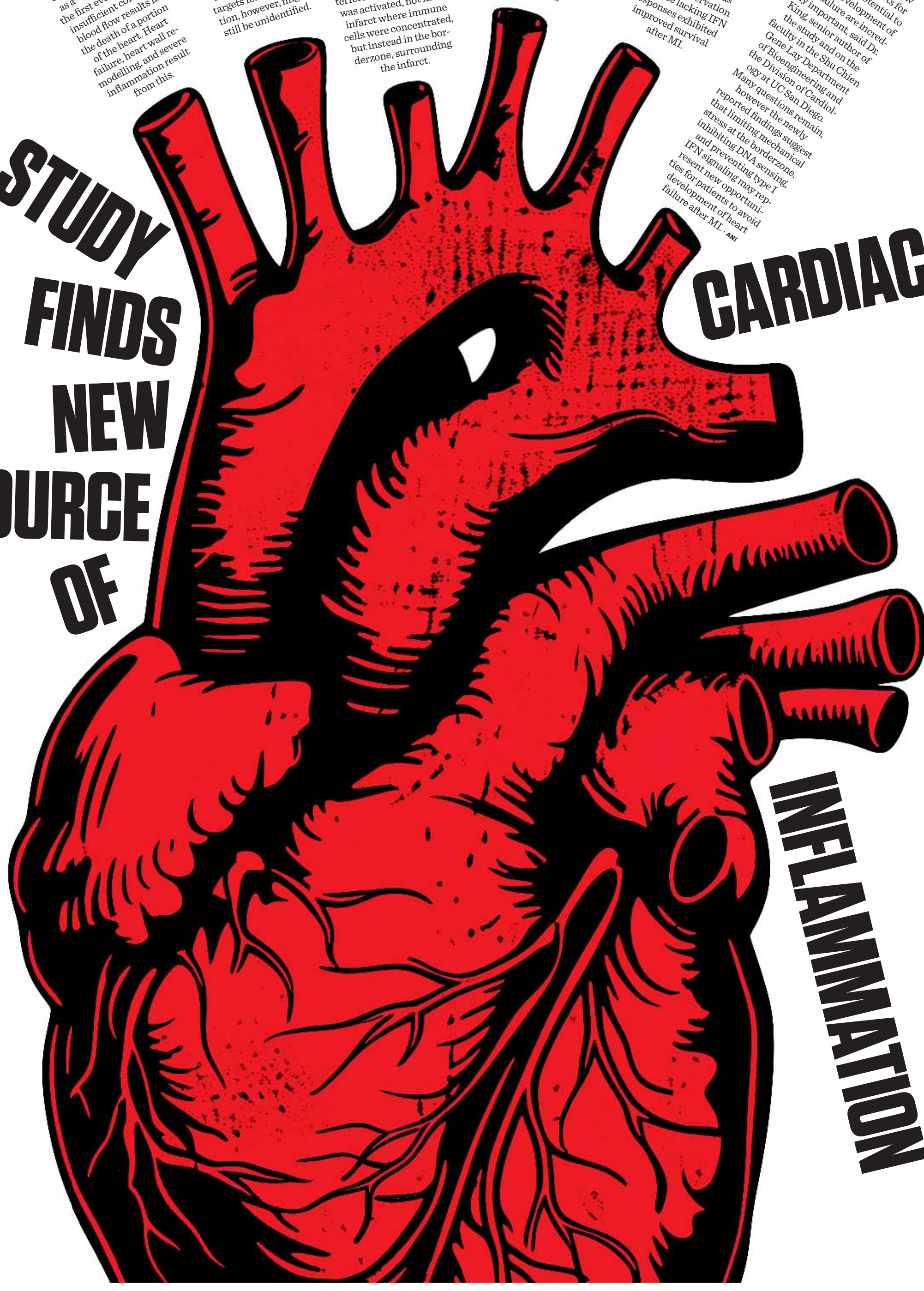
To determine which cell type initiates borderzone inflammation, the team created a library of conditional knockout mice, each unable to initiate IFN signaling in a different cell type. To their surprise, heart muscle cells called cardiomyocytes emerged as the dominant initiators of borderzone IFN signaling. They found that mechanically stressed cardiomyocytes in the borderzone frequently suffered nuclear envelope rupture, which allowed escape of nuclear DNA and DNA sensors, leading to activation of IFN signaling. This in turn caused mechanical weakening of the heart wall and made it vulnerable to dilation, thinning, and rupture, providing a mechanistic explanation for the team's previous reported observation that mice lacking IFN responses exhibited improved survival after MI.

"In the hospital, we care for patients with heart attacks and heart failure every day. New therapeutic targets for MI with the potential to prevent development of heart failure are incredibly important," said Dr. King, senior author of the study and on the faculty in the Shu Chien Gene Lay Department of Bioengineering and the Division of Cardiology at UC San Diego. Many questions remain, however the newly reported findings suggest that limiting mechanical stress at the borderzone, inhibiting DNA sensing, and preventing type I IFN signaling may represent new opportunities for patients to avoid development of heart failure after MI. AM

STUDY
FINDS
NEW
SOURCE
OF

CARDIAC

INFLAMMATION



SPORTS

Barca score 7, Atletico get lucky, Valencia can't get past Villarreal

Barca went 2-0 up after just 23 minutes and Hansi Flick's side piled on the pain for their newly promoted rivals in a dominant second half

MADRID: Brazilian winger Raphinha scored a hat-trick on Saturday as FC Barcelona maintained their 100 percent start to the new La Liga season with a 7-0 thrashing of hapless Valladolid. The result was never in doubt after Barca went 2-0 up after just 23 minutes and Hansi Flick's side piled on the pain for their newly promoted rivals in a dominant second half. Barcelona were quickly in control with Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski giving them a comfortable lead midway through the first half. Raphinha slotted home after a pass from Pau Cubarsi in the 19th minute, while Lewandowski was sent though on goal to double their lead five minutes later, with the Valladolid defense guilty



of not holding a tight line on both occasions. Dani Olmo hit the post twice in the post before Jules Kounde prodded home after the ball fell kindly for him following a corner. Raphinha added two more goals in the second half to complete his hat-trick against a rival that didn't offer much opposition in defense. With Valladolid falling apart, Dani Olmo and Ferran Torres

completed the rout to give Barcelona 12 points from four rounds after a difficult summer. Angel Correa scored an injury time goal to give Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win away to Athletic Bilbao in a close game in the San Mames Stadium, where a draw would have been a fair result. Correa, who had only just come on as a substitute, took advantage of a dreadful error from Ath-

letic defender Inigo Lekue to run through and score with his side's only shot on target all game. There was also an injury time winner as Espanyol claimed their first win of the season, by beating Rayo Vallecano 2-0. Everything looked to have finished in the first 10 minutes after Alvaro Garcia put Rayo ahead and Carlos Romero leveled for Espanyol, but Alejo Veliz netted a 96th



minute goal to give Espanyol their first win of the season. Valencia took their first point of the campaign in a 1-1 draw at home to Villarreal, failing to get past the rivals that played for half an hour with 10 men. Hugo Duro's 24th minute volley put Valencia ahead, but Ayoze Perez scored with a left-foot shot in the last action of the first half. Villarreal were reduced to 10

men midway through the second half after Pape Gueye was shown a second yellow card for a late challenge, but Valencia were unable to find a winning goal. Dani Rodriguez scored a 42nd minute goal from close range after a counter-attack was helped on by Vedat Muriqi that gave Mallorca a 1-0 win in Leganes to end the home side's unbeaten start to the season. -xinhua

LA LIGA

Team is motivated to play well: Real Madrid head coach



MADRID : Ahead of his side's clash against Real Betis in La Liga, Real Madrid Carlo Ancelotti said that the players are motivated to play well. Real Madrid are coming into this match after conceding a 1-1 draw against Las Palmas in the previous game week. Against Las Palmas, Vinicius Junior scored the lone goal for the Los Blancos. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Ancelotti said that the home fans will help since they will be playing at the Santiago Bernabeu. "The fans will help us. We want to perform at our best. After a tough game against Las Palmas, the team is motivated to play well, to get back to playing well and to be as solid as before," Ancelotti was quoted by Real Madrid's official website as saying. The head coach added that they have found few problems in the squad after the draw against Las Palmas, and want to make a few changes in the upcoming game. "The preparation time for the

games is adequate because we're used to playing with this schedule and fixing the problems as we've had before. We've talked about it, we've detected the problem and we want to produce a good response tomorrow," he added. Talking about Kylian Mbappe's performance, the Italian coach further added that the French attacker caused a threat to the opponent's defence in the previous match. "If you think about defensive work, Mbappe is the last one we have to consider. He's playing very well, he's caused a threat. He hasn't scored many goals, but he's moving around very well. There's no problem with adaptation. The focus is on defensive work and this should be collective, but obviously, a forward's work in defence has to be less committed because that's not his main role," he added. The Los Blancos are currently standing in fifth place on the La Liga standings after winning one of three matches. -ANI

LEGENDARY SOUTH AFRICAN FIELDER

Jonty Rhodes praises Ravichandran Ashwin's strategic mindset on field

NEW DELHI: Jonty Rhodes, the legendary South African fielder, offered high praise for India's all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin, highlighting his exceptional understanding of the game. Rhodes, a cricketing icon in his own right, spoke candidly to ANI about Ashwin's cricketing intellect. "He's a real thinker of the game, you know. And I think maybe that's what he loves," Rhodes remarked, emphasizing the deep connection Ashwin has with the mental aspect of cricket. It's clear that for Ashwin, the game is as much about strategy as it is about skill. Rhodes went on to elaborate on how Ashwin's strategic thinking sets him apart on the field. "From a strategy perspective, that's something he excels at," Rhodes continued. "Whether he's batting, bowling, or even in the field, he's certainly somebody who you feel like is always thinking about what to do next," he added. This ability to stay one step ahead, constantly evaluating and re-evaluating his approach, is what makes Ashwin a formidable player. Whether it's setting up a batter for a particular delivery or adjusting his tactics mid-innings, Ashwin's mind is always at work, dissecting the game in real-time. Rhodes' admiration for Ashwin's cricketing brain is a testament to the Indian all-rounder's influence on the game. His unique carrom ball, which



he delivers with a flick of his fingers from a front-on action, is a weapon in his bowling armoury that has made some of the world's best batters, including former England captain Alistair Cook and retired South African stalwart Hashim Amla, look clueless on the crease. His myriad other variations, including the slider, arm ball, and topspin, among others, delivered with slight alterations of his wrist position, have kept batsmen guessing through the years. These variations have made the wily operator a prolific wicket-taker across formats, especially Tests, over the years.

His ability to think critically, anticipate the opposition's moves, and execute his plans with precision makes him a player that every team would want on their side. Ashwin has played 100 Test matches and scalped 516 wickets with 36 fifiers and scored 3309 runs, including five hundreds. As Ashwin continues to weave his magic on the field, it's clear that his reputation as one of the game's greatest thinkers will only grow stronger and with legends like Jonty Rhodes recognizing his strategic brilliance, Ashwin's legacy in cricket is firmly cemented. - ANI

LANDMARK

There's no better feeling: Root after surpassing Cook's record



LONDON: After surpassing Alastair Cook's record of most Test centuries for England, star batter Joe Root said that there's "no better feeling" to achieve the landmark. Root leapfrogged Cook to register the most centuries by an English batter in the longest format, as he scored his 34th century in Tests against Sri Lanka on Saturday. In a video shared on the England Cricket Board's (ECB) official X handle, Root hoped that more such days would come in the future. "I just want to play. I just want to play and try and, you know do my bit for the team and score the runs that... But there's no better feeling. I mean, it's obviously amazing when, you know, you score 100 and you know, you'd be lying if you said it wasn't, a big part of why you start playing the game and what you love about it. But there's no feeling better than winning a Test match," Root said. - ANI

35-MATCH UNBEATEN RUN

Leipzig end Leverkusen's unbeaten run in Bundesliga

BERLIN: Lois Openda's brace helped Leipzig end Bayer Leverkusen's 35-match unbeaten run in the Bundesliga as they came from two goals down to claim a 3-2 victory in the second round on Saturday. Leverkusen started brightly and created the first clear chance on six minutes when Edmond Tapsoba's header forced Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi into action. The Werkself gained momentum but lacked precision in the final third, with Piero Hincapie hitting the woodwork with a close-range header and Granit Xhaka firing just wide. Leipzig almost scored against

the run of play, but Benjamin Sesko shot wide from a promising position on the half-hour mark. But it was Leverkusen who broke the deadlock on 39 minutes when Jeremie Frimpong raced through the Leipzig area before drilling the ball past Gulacsi and into the near post. Xabi Alonso's men doubled their advantage on the stroke of halftime when Alejandro Grimaldo latched on to Florian Wirtz's through ball. Leipzig responded well to cut the deficit in half after Benjamin Henrich's pinpoint cross into the box allowed Kevin Kampl to make it 2-1 in the dying seconds of the first half.



The Red Bulls came out guns blazing after the restart and kept the Leverkusen defence on their toes, with Kampl's long-range ef-

fort testing goalkeeper Matej Kovar before Castello Lukeba's equalizer was ruled out for offside. Leipzig had long since estab-

lished a foothold in the game and deservedly equalized when Openda was set up by Sesko before nutmegging Kovar on the hour mark. Things went from bad to worse for the home side as Openda remained in the thick of things and stunned Leverkusen with his second of the night in the closing stages. Leverkusen were last beaten on May 27 last year when they lost 3-0 at Bochum. "We take a lot of positives and negatives from this game. We played a good game in the first half. In the second half, we had no control and gave Leipzig too much space. We will learn from these

mistakes. It's not good to let an opponent come back after leading 2-0. It's a process, we're still early in the season," said Leverkusen coach Alonso. In Saturday's other matches, Mainz came from behind to earn a 3-3 draw with Stuttgart thanks to Maxim Leitsch's late equalizer. Eintracht Frankfurt recorded their first win of the season with a 3-1 victory over Hoffenheim. Borussia Monchengladbach overcame a resilient Bochum side to run out 2-0 winners. Newly promoted Holstein Kiel lost 2-0 at Wolfsburg and Dortmund shared the spoils with Werder Bremen after a goalless stalemate. -xinhua

IN PICTURES



Bucharest International Air Show held in Romania
A helicopter performs during the Bucharest International Air Show in Bucharest, Romania. *Xinhua*



Highlight of 81st Venice Film Festival
Main cast members of the film 'Battleground' pose for a group photo at the red carpet of the 81st Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. *Xinhua*



2024 Toronto International BuskerFest kicks off
A busker blows fire during the 2024 Toronto International BuskerFest in Toronto, Canada. *Xinhua*

Tashkent hosts celebrations to mark the 33rd anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence
A performance is staged in celebration of the 33rd anniversary of independence in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. *Xinhua*



Weeks of floods in Bangladesh kill 59
A woman stays at her house which has been submerged by the floodwater in Noakhali, Bangladesh. Devastating floods of weeks this month in Bangladesh have killed at least 59 people, according to the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre (NDRCC) under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. *Xinhua*



Qualifying session of Formula 1 Italian Grand Prix
McLaren's British driver Lando Norris competes during the qualifying session of the Formula 1 Italian Grand Prix at Monza Circuit, Italy. *Xinhua*



Traditional ram fighting held in Bandung, Indonesia
People watch ram fighting, which is part of the Sundanese culture, in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. *Xinhua*

ROUND-UP

BYD’s popular SUV Song Plus surpasses 1 million units in sales

This significant achievement highlights BYD’s pioneering role in the NEV sector and underlines the growing consumer preference for environmentally friendly, high-performance vehicles in China and beyond

MUSCAT: BYD’s is making a rapid mark with its exceptional new energy vehicles. Recently the popular and much acclaimed SONG PLUS series surpassed 1 million units sold.

Since its launch, the BYD SONG PLUS series has set new standards for innovation, sustainability and performance in the SUV market. Combining cutting-edge technology with elegant design, the SONG PLUS series has become a symbol of the future of transportation.

In Oman, the SONG PLUS electric plug-in hybrid SUV is packed with a combination of 128 HP petrol and 201 HP electric motor, promising up to 1000 km of combined range(as per standard test conditions). With features like a lithium-ion phosphate battery, a 360-degree camera and an integrated power braking system, the SONG PLUS exemplifies BYD’s commitment to innovation.

BYD remains dedicated to leveraging technological innovation to meet people’s aspirations for a better life, continuously improving product and service quality and is committed to providing global consumers with more environmentally friendly and efficient travel solutions.

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



ISC

INDIAN SCHOOL SUR

Sanskrit Wing hosts Indradhanush event

IS Sur inaugurates new playground

MUSCAT: Indian Social Club Oman - Sanskrit Wing successfully hosted its flagship event, Indradhanush 2024, a vibrant celebration of talent, creativity, and fun. The event took place on August 23 and 24 at ISC TT Hall and MP Hall, Darsait - Muscat.

Indradhanush is a children’s competition program that showcases a colorful array of activities designed to ignite imagination, foster camaraderie, and reveal the hidden potential of our young participants. This annual extravaganza featured activities such as coloring, drawing, collage making, mono-acting, speech, personality presentation on stage, and chess.

This year’s the theme of the Indradhanush was “Harmony with Nature”, as Indian philosophy provides a comprehensive approach to living in harmony with nature through principles of interconnectedness, responsibility, and respect for all living beings. It also advocates for a lifestyle that supports ecological balance with nature and sustainable development.



The event included 15 competitions across 7 categories, with over 260 children registering to participate. The event was coordinated by fifty volunteers and supported by 15 expert judges who meticulously evaluated the participants.

The grand finale took place on the evening of August 24 at ISC MP Hall, Darsait Muscat.

The Chief Guest was Harshendu Bhai Shah, a Member of the Board of Directors of Indian School Muscat, and the Guest of Honour was Hiriyanra Narayanaswamy,

Chief Financial Officer of Al Maha Petroleum Products Marketing Company.

Other distinguished guests included are Ambalavanan and Krishnendhu (both Members of the Board of Directors of Indian School). Panindra Nath Gupta Bachu, Shashidhar Shettyand Gajesh Dhariwal also attended the occasion. The finale was attended by an audience of 250 people who were present to witness the event and award prizes to the winners. The winners also performed on stage.

MUSCAT: Indian School Sur marked a significant milestone in its history with the grand inauguration of its new playground and the foundation stone laying ceremony for its upcoming Multipurpose Hall and Additional Classrooms. The event, which took place on August 30, at 4:30 PM, saw a gathering of proud parents, enthusiastic students, and distinguished dignitaries.

The ceremony commenced with the foundation stone laying for the Multipurpose Hall and Additional Classrooms, officiated by Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman. This was followed by a plaque unveiling ceremony, symbolizing the beginning of a new chapter in the school’s development.

A highlight of the evening was the inauguration of the school’s long-awaited playground. Syed Salman, Vice-Chairman & Director In-Charge of Indian School Sur, had the honor of cutting the ribbon to officially open the play-



ground. The ceremony also featured a symbolic balloon released by Dr. Manickam, representing the soaring aspirations of the school community.

Dr. Manickam emphasized the crucial role of playgrounds in a child’s holistic development. He commended the efforts of the current and previous School Management Committees, the principal, parents, and all stakeholders for their contributions to the school’s progress. Dr. Manickam notably referred to Indian School Sur as “a jewel among all the Indian schools in Oman,” highlighting its significance in the community.

The ceremony featured a variety of cultural performances, including welcome dances, group songs, yoga demonstrations, and an Olympic-themed dance. A special performance highlighting India’s glory in global sports captivated the audience, while aerobics and human pyramid showcases demonstrated the students’ athleticism and teamwork.

The event concluded with an exciting football match between parents and students.

WORLD PREMIERE EVENT

INTERNATIONAL FAIR

Watch live stream of all-new Nissan Patrol

Unlock your future with Glinks Education Fair

MUSCAT: Nissan is gearing up to the thrilling world debut of the All-New Nissan Patrol, taking center stage at an exclusive global event in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, 3 September, from 8:30pm GMT+4 onwards. This eagerly awaited reveal promises to captivate car enthusiasts and fans worldwide, showcasing the unrivaled legacy and cutting-edge innovations of the stunning seventh-generation Patrol.

Nissan invites audiences from around the world to discover the next chapter of the Patrol’s legendary legacy, with the World Premiere being streamed live across the following channels:

Worldwide Livestream: Nissan Middle East YouTube Channel

Live broadcast in selected re-



gions: MBC Action TV

Live streaming in selected regions: MBC’s ShahidApp

Those eager to get a glimpse of the All-New Nissan Patrol can tune in to the ‘Feel Patrol’ series on the Nissan OmanYouTube page. This captivating six-part video journey, hosted by Nissan executives, expertly weaves together the Patrol’s legacy with the latest advancements in its latest iteration.

MUSCAT: Are you ready to give your Education journey a turbo boost? Buckle up because this year’s most anticipated event—the Glinks International Oman Education—is just around the corner! Whether you’re dreaming of studying in Italy, Canada, the USA, the UAE, or any other exciting destination, this fair promises to be your golden ticket to a world of possibilities. Let’s dive into what makes the biggest education fair of 2024 an absolute must-attend for aspiring students& Parents.

Why should you be there? Connect with global institutions: You’ll be rubbing elbows with representatives from over 10 prestigious global institutions, including but not limited to Brock University, Clark University, Columbia College, Canadian University Dubai, Grenfell Campus - Memorial Uni-

versity, Huron University, North Island College, POLIMI Graduate School of Management, Queen’s University, SP Jain School of Global Management, St Francis Xavier University, University of New Brunswick, University of Otago, New Zealand, and University of Waterloo – all hailing from countries such as Canada, Italy, USA, UAE, New Zealand.

When and where? Date: Saturday, 7 September 2024

Time: 3pm – 7pm (Oman Time)

Venue: Royal Tulip Hotel Muscat, Al Marafah Street OM, Way No. 238, 103, Sultanate Oman

Your dream study abroad life is just 4 steps away

Explore & plan: discover & strategize your future

Meet with our University Representatives at the upcoming education fair, & use this oppor-

tunity to explore and strategize your future. Our Representatives will help you with comprehensive assessments and guidance to help you choose the best-fit country, stay back options, Program and institution that aligns with your goals and budget.

Apply: Streamline your application process: Continue the conversation at our event with Glinks counsellors to navigate the application process with ease. We will assist you in document preparation, application lodgment, and follow ups to ensure a seamless experience from start to finish.

Prepare & fly: Get ready for your journey: Prepare for your transition abroad with Glinks’ thorough pre-departure services. From assistance with study permits to arranging accommodation and test registrations, we make sure you

are ready for your new journey.

Post study opportunities: Thrive & achieve your goals

Ensure a smooth transition and thrive in your new environment with Glinks’ ongoing support. We offer services to help you settle in, grow academically and professionally, and succeed in your chosen field.

Calling all dreamers: Whether you’re a student, a parent, or an educator, there’s something here for everyone. The Glinks Education Fair isn’t just an event; it’s a catalyst for your dreams.

So, prepare your questions, and get ready to unlock a world of possibilities. Your international education adventure awaits! See you at the fair, future global citizens!

Registration and attendance is free: <https://www.glinksgroup.com/fairs-landing/muscat/>



mai

alkaline

pH 9.1 to 9.5

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

✓

Ultra-hydrating

✓

Revitalizing

✓

Energizing

✓

Electrolytes

oman

OASIS

800 71 222

9275 5522

LYNK & CO

03

COMMAND THE STREETS IN STYLE

EMI STARTING FROM
118 OMR*
/MONTH



2.0L

TURBO ENGINE

BEST IN CLASS POWER
BEST IN FUEL EFFICIENCY

Book a
Test Drive



Showroom - Ghala Heights, Muscat

☎ 71611137 🌐 lynkcooman.com 📱 [lynkcooman](#)



Watch
Match **4** of the

Quiz League

Oman's first video quiz show!

Watch the episodes on Times of Oman
YouTube Channel  @TimesofOmanTV



مدرسة السعد العالمية
A'soud Global School

A'soud Global School



Indian School Ghubra

The French national anthem gets its name from this port city on the Mediterranean sea. Name the city.

The brownspotted grouper is a common fish found in Omani waters. What is its local name?

Can you match wits with the participants?


Downe House
Muscat

Venue partner


الشركة العامة للتأمينات الجديدة
THE NEW INDIA ASSURANCE CO. LTD.
Chief Agents: Abdul Aziz & Bros LLC
50 Years of excellence in service in Oman

Associate partner


MOHSIN HAIDER DARWISH
AUTOMOBILES L.L.C.

Associate partner

INEOS
GRENADIER

Associate partner


MALABAR
GOLD & DIAMONDS

Associate partner


30 YEARS OF HEALTH CARE

Associate partner


LuLu
Where the world comes to shop

Associate partner


vodafone

Associate partner

oman
OASIS
BALANCED DRINKING WATER

Hydration Partner


manzana

Event Management



Media partner

Be sure to answer the audience question of the week



Follow  @tquizleague on Instagram