LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

OMAN, IRAN EXPLORE WAYS TO BOOST TRADE TIES

Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion met with Mahdi Niazi, Acting Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran. >B1

GREETINGS OF HM THE SULTAN CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT XI

Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of Oman to Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to President Xi Jinping of China, along with His Majesty's appreciation for the efforts made by the president in making the dialogue forum a success. >A2

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OMAN, IRAN KEEN TO WORK FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY

Oman, Iran directed their governments to plan a strategic charter to maximise benefits

TEHRAN: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, directed their governments to hammer out a strategic cooperation charter to maximise benefits and consolidate ties between the two countries in a sustainable manner. The two leaders also expressed their keenness to work for regional peace and stability.

This was stated in a joint communiqué issued by the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The communiqué reads as follows: "Based on the long-standing relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran and, in affirmation of mutual respect between the leaders of the two countries and, on the foundations of good neighbourliness, fraternity, religious and cultural ties, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik—the Sultan of Oman, made an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran from 28 May to 29 May 2023 in response to an invitation by Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During this visit, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them, notably in the areas of trade, energy, investment and culture — with the prime aim of achieving mutual benefits and cementing bonds between the two friendly peoples.

HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN MEETS ALI KHAMENEI >A4

Bilateral relations

The two sides expressed their satisfaction with the lofty status of bilateral relations, noting that these relations experienced greater growth, especially after the Iranian President's visit to Oman last year upon the invitation of His Majesty the Sultan of Oman.

The two sides expressed their keenness to expand relations in the future. They pledged their support for the joint committees and work teams. They also welcomed the exchange of visits aimed at following up the development of relations. >A4

His Majesty concludes Iran visit

TEHRAN: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik left Tehran on Monday afternoon, following an official two-day visit to Iran.

His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at Mehrabad International Airport by Mohammed Mokhber, First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ehsan Khandozi, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs (Head of the Mission of Honour), Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of Iran to Oman and Ibrahim bin Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of Oman to Iran.

Meanwhile, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of thanks to President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi of Iran.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere appreciation to President Raisi for the warm welcome and hospitability.

His Majesty the Sultan lauded the fruitful outcome of the visit, session of talks and meetings. These, said His Majesty, will have a positive impact on enhancing the deep-rooted ties of friendship between the two countries to serve the joint interests of the Omani and Iranian peoples.

His Majesty the Sultan prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect President Raisi and grant him good health, long life and success to achieve further aspirations of progress and prosperity for the Iranian people. >A4

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Call to enact law for protection of elderly

1 Oman's first forum for geriatric care recommended the issuance of a law to protect the elderly and a national strategy for aging. The plea was in response to current economic, social, cultural and health developments. >A2

WORLD

Founder of Landmark Group passes away

2 The Landmark Group on Monday announced that its eminent founder and chairman, Mukesh "Micky" Jagtiani, has passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. >A7

SPORTS

India drub Thailand 17-0, enter semis

3 The Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah was lit up by a scintillating performance from the Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team as they beat Thailand 17-0 in their Pool A fixture. >B6

WORLD-CLASS PROJECT

Botanic garden to become a tourist hotspot

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Botanic Garden is expected to be one of the major tourist attractions in the near future. With the world-class project nearing completion, Muscat Municipality is committed to ensure easy access to the site, which is nearly 35km from Muscat.

In a press statement on Monday, Muscat Municipality said that they would be constructing a dual carriageway from the Muscat Expressway to Oman Botanic Garden, located in Al Khoudh area, that will comply with top-class safety standards.

Presently, there is a single road starting from the Muscat Expressway to the old Al Khoudh area, which is prone to landslides and overflowing wadis.

The new road will be built with high engineering and safety standards to protect it from extreme weather conditions, apart from ensuring easy access to the Oman Botanic Garden.

The 14km road will have a width of 3,651m on each side and will have an 800m walkway adjacent to the road on both sides. A drainage system will also be constructed along the road.

Oman Botanic Garden will showcase eight habitats of Oman and is spread across 420 hectares making it among the largest botanic gardens in the world.

First phase

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism will open the first phase of Oman Botanic Garden by the end of 2023.

The Oman Botanic Garden will allow visitors to experience the vegetation of Oman while learning about the agricultural heritage, rich cultural traditions, and legendary hospitality of the country.

The garden will include cable cars, nurseries, visitor centre, research centre, field study centre, habitat gardens, habitat pavilions, amenity areas, play areas, and family zones for fun and relaxation in a garden setting that is unique to Oman.

OMAN

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:09pm
Asr	3:29pm
Maghrib	6:53pm
Isha	8:14pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	3:54am

LEGISLATION

Geriatric forum recommends law to protect the elderly

MUSCAT: Oman's first forum for geriatric care recommended the issuance of a law to protect the elderly and a national strategy for aging. The plea was in response to current economic, social, cultural and health developments.

The forum called for the enactment of a legislation allowing the establishment of private institutions and the formation of entities to be entrusted with caring for the elderly, both inside or outside the family's boundary.

The forum also recommended facilitating the establishment of clubs and associations that serve this segment of citizens, as well as encouraging the setting up of centres for specific short or long-term geriatric care.

The forum stressed the need to provide financial and material backing to civil associations that are entrusted with serving the elderly. It also urged the authorities concerned to consider the observations made by these associations to help them render the best possible quality of services to this segment. The forum aimed at raising community awareness about the health, physical and psychological concerns of the elderly, besides enhancing their status in society and providing them with necessary care.

Three working papers and a number of visual displays were presented by specialists and stakeholders from government and private establishments. They highlighted the efforts undertaken to support the elderly.

The forum also included seminars on supporting the elderly. It laid emphasis on developing a collaborative society that extends appropriate psychological care to the elderly and makes aging comfortable, active and effective. -ONA

CHENGDU MEETING

His Majesty greetings conveyed to President Xi Jinping of China

STRATEGIC SESSION: Oman's delegation at the forum was headed by Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of Oman to Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League.- ONA

CHENGDU: The Sultanate of Oman took part in the China-Arab Cooperation Forum's 7th session on strategic political dialogue. The meetings were held on Monday in Chengdu, China.

Oman's delegation at the forum was headed by Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League. The session was also attended by Nasser Mohammed Al Busaidi, the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

During Oman's speech at the forum, Al Rahbi conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China, along with His Majesty's appreciation for the efforts made by the president in making the dialogue forum a success.

The meetings touched on a number of issues of common concern on the regional and international arenas. It also reviewed Arab-Chinese cooperation activities scheduled to be held later this year. The convening of the current session of the dialogue forum coincides with the forthcoming 20th anniversary of establishment of the Arab-Chinese Dialogue Forum.

The success of the forum is credited to concerted action across all sectors, notably in political and economic programmes between Arab countries and the People's Republic of China. -ONA

KHODRO INDUSTRIAL GROUP

Oman, Iran sign MoU for study on sale of cars

TEHRAN: Within the context of the current official visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Omani-Iranian Joint Business Council on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran Khodro Industrial Group.

The MoU is related to conducting an economic and commercial feasibility study on finding a suitable platform for selling cars and after-sales service.

The MoU was signed by Mohammed Abdul Hussein Baqir, Head of the Omani side in the business council, and Alimardan Azimi, CEO of Iran Khodro Industrial Group.

The signing ceremony was attended by Qais Mohammed Al Yousuf, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, and Mahdi Niazi, Acting Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade in Iran. -ONA

AIR SAFETY

Pact inked to probe aircraft accidents

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and the Ministry of Defence on Monday signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) in the field of investigating aircraft accidents and coordinating between competent authorities in a manner that achieves safety for air transport in the Sultanate of Oman.

The MoC was signed by Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence. -ONA

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COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Bioethics panel discusses plan to hold training

MUSCAT: The National Bioethics Committee on Monday held its first meeting of the year (2023) under the chairmanship of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahd bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, Chairman of the Committee.

The panel discussed a number of topics, including a proposal to organise training in the field of communication skills for medical and paramedical staff.

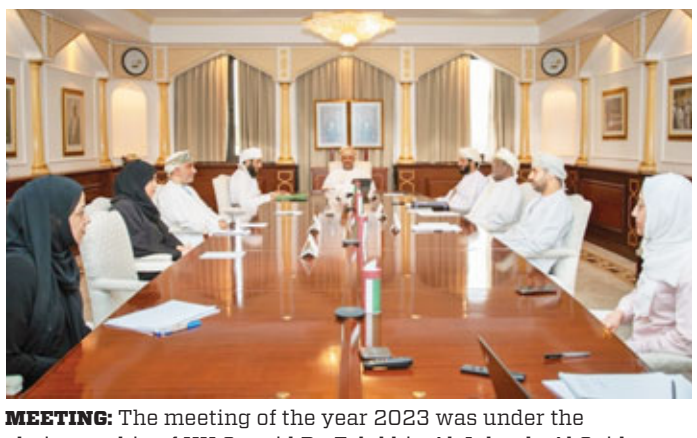
The committee also studied a proposal to host the forthcoming meeting of the Middle East Regional Office of National Bioethics Committees on 14 and 15 June 2023.

The meeting is scheduled to be held in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the UNESCO and the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The committee also discussed preparations for an intellectual forum and a 3rd international conference on similar issues.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Dr. Kahlan bin Nabhan Al Kharousi, Deputy Chairman of the Committee.

-ONA



MEETING: The meeting of the year 2023 was under the chairmanship of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahd bin Al Julanda Al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, Chairman of the Committee. - ONA

OMAN

His Majesty returns home after two-day visit to Iran

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by a high-ranking official delegation during the two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Monday, concluding an official two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which he conducted talks with the Iranian President and Leader of the Revolution.

His Majesty the Sultan was received at the Royal Airport by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, HH Sayyid Taimour bin Asa'ad Al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Mohammed bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibani, Minister of Education, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Eng. Said bin Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Mohammed bin Said Al Ma'amari, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Maj.Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman and Maj.Gen Musallam bin Mohammed bin Taman Jaaboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the visit by a high-ranking official delegation that comprised HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, ambassador at large Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Hinai and Ibrahim bin Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of Oman to Iran. -ONA

HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL DELEGATION

His Majesty sends thanks to Iran President

< FROM A1

During his visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by a high-ranking official delegation that comprised HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Aufi, Head of the Private Office, Abdussalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Eng. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al Ra'eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces, ambassador at large Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Abdullah Al Hinai and Ibrahim bin Ahmed Al Mu'aini, Ambassador of Oman to Iran. -ONA

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Stress on private sector role to boost economic ties

< FROM A1

The two sides underscored the significant role of the private sector in the two countries in expanding economic cooperation.

They expressed their satisfaction with the continuous pace of trade exchange and the growth of joint investments.

In this context, they welcomed the signing of agreements and memoranda of understanding in economic, commercial, transport, investment, energy and cultural fields. They gave directives to activate existing agreements and take steps to enter into any new agreements that meet their common approaches and serve their interests.

Also, within the perspective of establishing solid grounds for bilateral relations and securing their sustainability, the leaders directed their governments to work towards devising and signing a strategic cooperation charter between the two countries that covers various spheres, enhances joint cooperation and exchanging mutual benefits. His Majesty the Sultan of Oman and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues of common concern.

They stressed the significance of maintaining efforts and benign endeavours in security, political, economic and cultural fields, with a view to consolidating the foundations of peace and stability in the region. They encouraged the pursuance of talks and political consultations between the two countries.

The two sides laid emphasis on 'a culture of dialogue' emerging in the region as a measure to settle outstanding issues, consolidate relations between neighbouring countries and accomplish peace and prosperity for all peoples.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran voiced his great admiration for the efforts of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultan of Oman. He commended His Majesty's wise approach and constructive policies on the regional and international arenas, noting that such a stance is capable of promoting positive bilateral relations, peace and stability in the region.

His Majesty the Sultan of Oman reciprocated the gesture. He expressed his great appreciation for the policy of good neighbourliness espoused by the 13th Iranian government. His Majesty the Sultan affirmed that rapprochement and cooperation between the countries of the region constitutes an important factor for establishing stability and peace in the region.

At the conclusion of the visit, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Ebrahim Raisi, reiterated his pride over this historic visit made to Iran by his brethren, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultan of Oman.

Meanwhile, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Iranian president for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and his accompanying delegation during the visit. -ONA

BILATERAL TIES

His Majesty the Sultan meets Ali Khamenei

TEHRAN: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik met on Monday with Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Revolution in the Islamic Republic of Iran at his office in Tehran. The meeting was attended by the Iranian President Dr. Ebrahim Raisi.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations. They underscored their keenness to enhance the historical relations between the two countries' peoples.

The meeting also touched on several matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office and Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Iranian side by Dr. Hossein Amirabdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ehsan Khandozi, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs (Head of the Mission of Honour), Ali Bagheri, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

WORLD

NIGERIA

Bola Tinubu to be sworn in as president

ABUJA: Bola Tinubu is set to be sworn in as the new president of Nigeria on Monday amid pressure to resolve sustained economic and security issues plaguing the country.

The 71-year-old southerner won the elections that were held in February this year with 8.8 million votes ousting the 80-year-old Muhammadu Buhari who is also a member of the All Progressives Congress party (APC).

Sometimes referred to as the political "godfather", Tinubu has been known for exerting power from behind the scenes and using his extensive network to back candidates for office.

However Tinubu only won the elections with 37% of the vote, the lowest share since 1999.

While Tinubu bagged the required number of votes across two-thirds of states in Nigeria, two of Tinubu's main opponents have cried foul. They have challenged the election results on the basis of electoral fraud.

The hearing of the main arguments will commence on Tuesday but the court's decision is not expected until September. — DW

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UNEP INITIATIVE

Nations meet for plastic pollution treaty in Norway

OSLO: Norway's climate and environment minister played down calls for strict caps on the production of plastic but said the manufacture of so-called "virgin plastic" should be reduced, as talks on a global treaty to stop the mounting plastic pollution crisis opened on Monday.

More than 145 countries are hoping to hammer out a treaty by 2025, with Norway co-leading the High Ambition Coalition in the talks. Environment minister Espen Barth Eide told DW that market demand for new plastics would decrease as the circular economy increased.

"We agree that we need to reduce production at least of virgin plastics," Eide said. "Of course, the more circular it becomes, the less (virgin plastic) you need to produce."

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which is running the talks, released a paper ahead of the negotiations which found plastic pollution could be reduced by 80%. It largely avoided the production issue, focusing instead on a circular economy.

But environmental groups are warning that the talks are too focused on recycling instead of reducing the production of plastic in the first place. Environmental group Greenpeace is calling for production to be slashed by 75% compared to 2017 levels, because recycling most types of plastic, which are made from fossil fuels, remains extremely difficult.

"If we keep the focus at the end of the pipe and on recycling and promoting a bunch of false solutions like chemical recycling, or cement kilns, or waste-to-energy, we will lock ourselves into some of the worst impacts of climate change," said Graham Forbes, global plastics project leader at Greenpeace USA.

Plastic manufacturers produce about 460 million tonnes of plastic a year — a quarter of which ends up polluting the planet, according to the UNEP. Less than 10% of plastic is recycled. The rest is buried in landfills or incinerated. Plastic waste is set to triple by 2060 and may already have exceeded safe planetary boundaries, found a 2022 study.

The fossil-fuel based product is found almost everywhere on the planet, from the deepest oceans and the highest mountains to the stomachs of sea birds and inside the human body. Norway's Eide even found plastic and additive chemicals in his own blood test results. While the extent of plastic pollution on land is understudied, it accounts for 80% of marine pollution.

— DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

Landmark Group's founder Micky Jagtiani passes away

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Landmark Group on Monday announced that its eminent Founder and Chairman, Mukesh "Micky" Jagtiani, has passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family.

Micky Jagtiani leaves behind a formidable legacy of a leading family-owned business conglomerate in the GCC region and beyond, that he founded and managed for several decades. Renowned for his exceptional leadership, unwavering customer-centric approach, and deep market understanding, his visionary spirit and strategic foresight helped the Landmark Group and its brands become a household name in the community. He will always be known for his inspiring leadership and even more so, for his humility and genuine concern towards all the lives he touched.

From its humble beginnings with a single store in Bahrain in 1973, Micky Jagtiani was the driving force in shaping the conglomerate's extraordinary journey. His strategic acumen enabled the Landmark Group to emerge as the region's foremost retail and hospitality conglomerate, with over 2,200 stores in 21 countries across the Middle East and Africa, as well as the Indian Subcontinent, and Southeast Asia. He is fondly remembered by his family - his wife- Renuka, his children - Aarti & Savitar, Nisha & Kabir, and Rahul, his grandchildren Samar, Nikhil, Yohan and Aliya - and his beloved Landmark Group community. He leaves behind ending friendships, partnerships, and bonds with the Group's senior management, the industry and wider community, whose lives he touched profoundly. The Landmark Group remains committed to carrying forward his spirit and ensuring the continued success of his ambitions and dreams.

A public condolence gathering was held on Monday.

INDIA'S MISSION TO THE MOON

Chandrayaan-3 to be launched in July 2023: ISRO

NEW DELHI: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somnath on Monday said that the Chandrayaan-3- the third edition of India's mission to the moon- will be launched this July.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. "I am very confident..." said Somnath on Monday on the lunar mission.

The ISRO chairman was speaking after the space agency successfully placed the NVS-01, the first of the second-generation satellite series, into geosynchronous transfer orbit. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle deployed the NVS-01 navigation satellite from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDC SHAR) in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking to ANI, Somanath said, "The lesson is very simple. Learn from the past, and do what is possible with your capacity. Failures may happen. There are a thousand reasons for a rocket to fail. Even today, this mission could have failed. But we have to do what is needed to be done".

Meanwhile, the Chandraayan-3 mission consists of an indigenous lander module a propulsion module and a rover with an objective of developing and demonstrating new technologies required for Inter planetary missions.

According to ISRO, the three mission objectives of the Chandrayaan-3 are- to demonstrate safe and soft landing on lunar Surface; to demonstrate Rover roving on the moon and to conduct in-situ scientific experiments.

It will be launched by the LVM3 rocket from SDSC SHAR centre in Sriharikota. The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100 km lunar orbit, according to ISRO.

The propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE) payload to study the spectral and Polari metric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit. The Lander will have the capability to soft land at a specified lunar site and deploy the Rover which will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. The Lander and the Rover have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface. — ANI

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

ITALY'S LAKE MAGGIORE

Tourist boat overturns killing four

LOMBARDY: Four people died on Italy's Lake Maggiore after their boat overturned and sank, firefighters confirmed on Monday.

Emergency crews used helicopters and divers to search the area for victims and survivors before recovering the body of the final missing person.

The accident took place on Sunday at the popular lake in northern Italy located in the Lombardy region.

— DW

ELECTION

Erdogan victorious after historic runoff in Türkiye

ANKARA: Türkiye's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has secured another five years in office, after narrowly winning Sunday's runoff vote.

Erdogan beat his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu after reaping 52.14% of the votes, Election Board (YSK) head Ahmet Yener said on Sunday.

The Turkish president spoke to supporters shortly after declaring victory, saying voters had given him the responsibility of governing for the next five years.

"The only winner today is Türkiye," Erdogan said.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Kilicdaroglu condemned the "most unfair election in years," yet pledged to continue "leading this struggle" against the Erdogan government.

"We will continue to be at the forefront of this struggle until real democracy comes to our country," he said.

"My real sadness is about the difficulties awaiting the country," he said, without explicitly conceding defeat.

Erdogan calls for 'unity and solidarity'

In a victory speech on Sunday night, Erdogan called for "unity and solidarity," vowing to leave all disputes behind and unite the nation behind "national values and dreams."

Erdogan said his narrow win in the race was one for "Turkish democracy" and all of the country's 85 million citizens.

"We have no resentment, no anger or frustration with anyone," the French AFP news agency quoted him as saying. "Today, nobody lost. The entire nation of 85 million won."

Then, Erdogan switched to declaring "terrorist organisations" as the losers of the vote.

He acknowledged that the country's severely high inflation was the most urgent issue at hand, but said it was not a difficult one to solve, promising inflation would fall and vowing to build a strong economy based on stability and confidence.

He also pledged to secure the return of an additional 1 million Syrians who had sought refuge in neighbouring Türkiye during their country's civil war.

Erdogan said rebuilding cities hit by a devastating earthquake in February would be his priority.

What does this mean for Türkiye?

Erdogan's latest victory makes him Türkiye's longest serving ruler since Mustafa Kemal Ataturk founded the republic a century ago. It will reinvigorate his push for unconventional economic, domestic and foreign policies.

The leader of Türkiye's conservative AKP (Justice and Development Party) has touted Islamic values and a populist outlook.

During his two-decade reign, he emboldened Türkiye's conservative citizens who had long felt marginalized under consecutive secular rulers. Erdogan, for example, has vowed to enshrine the right to wear the Islamic headscarf in the constitution and declared Istanbul's Hagia Sophia a mosque after a court ruling.

He also challenged Western partners and NATO allies on several occasions, most recently by delaying Norway's succession to the alliance and blocking Sweden's altogether. — DW

Full story @ timesofoman.com/world

مستشفى الحياة الدولي
AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL
Quality Care Without Compromise

Summer Times. – **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN HYDRATED AND HEALTHY**

It's summer again. Mercury rising day by day..
Sweat, exhaustion, heat stroke...
Is children are more at risk of heat injuries?
Yes, for many reasons

1. Children have/need more body water content compared to adults.
2. Children have more proportionate body surface area, so body get hot faster in hot climate
3. Children sweat less than adults, making them more vulnerable to heat injury,
4. And last, but not the least, children are children; they will play irrespective of season, time, place etc.

So, what to do and what not to do to protect our children from the ill effects of the scorching sun?

Avoid dehydration in hot weather.

1. Make sure your child is having frequent drinks. Fresh water is the best choice
2. Breastfeeding mothers, feed your baby as often or more often in hot season. Have plenty of fluids for yourself.
   Bottle feeding also may need to increase.
   Babies who are more than six months old can be offered small amounts of cooled boiled water, after or between feeds.
3. Avoid outdoor activities in the hot hours and in summer, food also matters for rehydration. Include more fruits and vegetables, especially those with more water content. Like water melon, oranges etc, which can contribute the fluid intake.

Dr Abdul Razik
Pediatrician
Al Hayat International Hospital,
Al Ghubra, Muscat

Never leave babies or children in cars!

Why leaving a child unattended in a hot car can be dangerous?

Temperatures inside a parked car can rise by approx 3 degrees Celsius within just ten minutes and by more than 10 degrees within 30 minutes. Even if the windows are opened, temperatures inside the car can still rise quickly.

How to travel safely during summer

These are some important things you can do to make your summer journeys safe:

1. Never leave your child unattended in the car, even for a brief stopping! Because Most of the temperature rise happens in the first few minutes after closing the car
2. Protect your child's head from any direct exposure to sun rays to prevent heat strokes
3. A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's – making the impact of heat on their small bodies almost immediate.
4. Covering the side windows with sun shades can protects your child from direct sun exposure.
5. Don't overdress your child; it could also cause them to overheat.
6. Don't leave babies to sleep in a pram – they can be hot and airless.

Summer dressing

1. Loose fitting, 100 % cotton dresses, preferably light colored. Cotton allows air to reach the body surface and cooling it and lets the sweat evaporates.
2. Try to include a wide brimmed hat in kids summer wear, will give some good protection to the head and neck or more.

SUNSCREENS

Sunscreens are an option for children more than 6 months. Use sunscreens of SPF (sun protection factor) of at least 30 or above. Above 50 preferred.Use non chemical sunscreens, apply adequate amount, and may have to re apply every 2 hrs if necessary. In babies, 6 months or less opt for other sun protection methods like, covering dressing, shades etc.

So dear children and parents, enjoy the summer, but health is first...

NOTIFICATION

N. Korea announces 'satellite' launch

PYONGYANG: North Korea has informed Japan of a satellite that it plans to launch in coming weeks, a Japanese coast guard official said on Monday.

The satellite launch which will take place between May 31 and June 11, as per Pyongyang's notification, is being speculated to be an attempt by North Korea to install a military reconnaissance satellite into orbit.

Experts believe that the launch of the military satellite is North Korea's attempt to boost its surveillance and attack its enemy with more precision if conflict breaks out.

Spy satellite

Earlier this month, North Korea had said that it has completed work on its first spy satellite and it is now ready for launch.

The notice from North Korean waterway authorities informed Japan's coast guard that the rocket could affect the waters in the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and east of the Philippines' Luzon Island.

Japan believes that Pyongyang will fire a ballistic missile. The Japanese prime minister's office tweeted that PM Fumio Kishida issued instructions "on North Korea's notification about the launch of a ballistic missile that it describes as a satellite." — DW

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE
KR كيمجي رامداس KHIMJI RAMDAS
IN YOUR TRIUMPH IS OURS

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS CLAIM IPL TITLE FOR FIFTH TIME

MS Dhoni-led CSK defeated holders Gujarat Titans in a rain-interrupted IPL final

AHMEDABAD: MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated holders Gujarat Titans (GT) by five wickets in a rain-interrupted 2023 IPL final to claim the coveted trophy for the fifth time at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday. With the title, CSK equalled Mumbai Indians' record of winning the tournament for most number of times. Rains disrupted the final soon at the start of the chase for CSK as GT put up a formidable total of 214.

Following a delay, the match was reduced to 15 overs and CSK were given a revised target of 171.

Rain halted the game after just three balls into Chennai Super Kings' innings. CSK got a revised target of 171 runs from 15 overs.

Devon Conway and Ruturaj Gaikwad gave CSK a flying start, scoring 52 in the power play, or first four overs. They continued connecting the ball well and hit 72 in the first 6 overs. However, Noor Ahmad broke the partnership soon after as he dismissed Gaikwad, who scored 26 from 16 deliveries. The Afghanistan bowler in the same over also picked the wicket of set batsman Conway, after scoring 47 from 25 deliveries.

Some good hits by Ajinkya Rahane kept CSK in the hunt, before Mohit Sharma got his wicket after he scored 27 from 13 balls. Shivam Dube initially struggled to connect the ball until he hit Rashid Khan's deliveries out of the park in consecutive deliveries, boosting his confidence.

Ambati Rayudu, playing the last game of his IPL career, joined the party to hit two sixers and a boundary before perishing trying to hit Sharma again.

This brought in CSK captain Dhoni to the crease but he scored a golden duck and it was Mohit Sharma again who picked the wicket that mattered.

CSK needed 13 of the last over and Sharma was entrusted to bowl the final over. Sharma started the over with two brilliant yorkers and a full delivery to keep GT's hopes alive as CSK needed 11 from three deliveries. Jadeja hit a 6 of the fifth delivery and the game was down to the wire. CSK needed four from the final delivery and wayward legside delivery helped Jadeja guide the ball down the leg for a boundary, helping CSK win by five wickets.

Dhoni-led CSK's win marked the most befitting end to an IPL season that saw most grounds in India turning yellow as fans even in rival cities adorned yellow jerseys as a tribute to captain cool amid speculations of this being a swan-song season for the 41-year old captain.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans batter Sai Sudharsan slammed the highest score by an uncapped batter in an IPL final.

Sudharsan hit 96 off 47 deliveries as the Titans posted the highest team score in an IPL final - 214 for four. Walking at the fall of Shubman Gill's wicket after the seventh over, Sudharsan teamed up with Wriddhiman Saha to put up a 64-run stand for the second wicket.

The 21-year-old then took the attack to the CSK bowlers and racked up eight fours and six sixes to notch up the third-highest individual knock in an IPL final.

Sudharsan featured in five matches last season, managing 145 runs in five innings before he was retained. The southpaw played a crucial role in the early stages this season before GT dropped him for the sake of its combination.

In eight innings this year, Sudharsan has accumulated 362 runs averaging 51.71 with a strike rate of 141.41.

GT made the most of the opportunity as CSK made uncharacteristic fielding errors.

Early momentum was gained by GT when Chahar dropped an easy catch, allowing Gill to survive. GT capitalised on this chance, scoring 30 runs in the next two overs. Sudharsan emerged as the game-changer with an extraordinary innings, narrowly missing a century.

At just 21 years and 226 days old, Sudharsan became one of the youngest batters to achieve a 50-plus score in an IPL final, joining a prestigious list that includes Manan Vohra, Shubman Gill, and Rishabh Pant.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's a fairytale finish. I couldn't have asked for more. I'm fortunate to have played in really great sides. I can smile for the rest of my life."

Ambati Rayudu
CSK batter

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by July 2023 reaching $75.70, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 48 cents from the price of Friday, which was $75.22.- ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,642.40 points, up by 0.26 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.38 per cent at 467.88 points. Al Anwar Investment, up 8.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Arabia Falcon Insurance, down 9.84 per cent, was the top loser.

RECOGNITION

Oman United Insurance clinches coveted honour at Business Excellence Awards

MUSCAT: Garnering yet another accolade for its industry-leading services, Oman United Insurance Co SAOG (OUIC) has scooped the prestigious Business Excellence Award at the OER Business Summit recently held at Sheraton Oman Hotel.

Publicly-traded OUIC, which is listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), received the coveted award for 'Exemplary Customer Service and Claim Settlement' in recognition of its track record in building long-lasting customer relationships and swiftly processing insurance claims.

The announcement came at the 14th edition of the OER Business Summit, a signature annual event that celebrates business resilience and entrepreneurial ingenuity in Oman's corporate sector.

Eng. Bader bin Salim bin Marhoon Al Mamari, Secretary General, Oman Tender Board was the chief guest at the summit. In attendance were luminaries from Oman's business community and other leading personalities.

Yahya Khamis Muftah Al Kharusi, General Manager – Claims, proudly received the award on behalf of OUIC. In conferring the award on OUIC, the jury citation read, "The company offers best in class customer service and prides itself on its quick, seamless and convenient claims settlement process. It strives to build long lasting relationships with its customers by satisfying their evolving needs and attempts to meet them by developing and creating new products."

In a statement, Nassir Bin Salim Al Busaidi, Chief Management Executive – OUIC, credited the staff's professional ethos and passion for success in clinching the award in the company's honour. "We owe this award to our loyal customers and our staff who made this accolade possible. It will collectively inspire us to strive more to better the standard of services towards our customers."

Ranked among Oman's leading insurers, OUIC is one of the Sultanate's oldest local insurers and takes pride in its extensive range of diversified products offerings, encompassing insurance segments such as Motor, Travel, Life, Medical, Home, Cyber and Personal, among others. Over its remarkable 37-year history, the insurance company has earned a reputation for its robust financial strength and consistent performance. It maintains a strong presence throughout Oman, facilitated by an extensive network of branches and agencies. Notably, OUIC stands out as the sole insurer to house a state-of-the-art Auto Service Centre situated in Ghala.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Our banking sector stands out as strong and stable: RBI Governor

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has said the Indian banking sector "stands out as strong and stable" in the face of extreme stress originating from the Covid pandemic, the continuing war in Europe and the banking sector crisis in certain advanced economies.

In his inaugural address at the Conference of Directors of Banks, organised by the central bank for public sector banks on May 22 in New Delhi and for private sector banks on May 29, Das said, "Today our banking sector stands out as strong and stable with CRAR (capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio) at 16.1 per cent, gross NPA (non-performing asset) at 4.41 per cent, Net NPA at 1.16 per cent and provision coverage ratio at 73.20 per cent at the end of December 2022."

The conference was titled, 'Governance in Banks: Driving Sustainable Growth and Stability'. -ANI

INVESTMENT RELATIONS

Oman and Iran explore new trade partnerships

TEHERAN: Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion met with Mahdi Niazi, Acting Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik Al Said to Iran.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed means of enhancing economic, business and investment relations between the two countries. They also touched on augmenting trade exchange and investments.

The meeting discussed the memorandum signed between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. The memorandum deals with investment promotion and exchanging investment opportunities and information in a bid to attract Iranian investors to invest in various sectors in Oman, especially in industry, tourism, mining, food security and logistics.

Moreover, the meeting highlighted the matter of providing further incentives to Omani and Iranian businesspeople.-ONA

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Pact signed to provide cloud and cyber security services in Al Dakhiliyah

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah signed an agreement with Oman Data Park Company, for the provision of cloud services, hosting e-mail, monitoring, follow-up services and cyber security services to the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah, within the framework of the digital transformation process, and in line with efforts to achieve the Oman Vision 2040's objectives.

The agreement also includes the pursuit to find new opportunities for cooperation between the two sides, providing modern systems and technologies, and communication solutions to meet the requirements of the Governorate of Dakhiliyah, in addition to encouraging the exchange of experiences in various fields.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

Al Anwar Investment, up 8.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Arabia Falcon Insurance, down 9.84 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,642.40 points, up by 0.26 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.38 per cent at 467.88 points. Al Anwar Investment, up 8.14 per cent, was the top gainer while Arabia Falcon Insurance, down 9.84 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Shell Oman Marketing were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 692 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.91 million, with more than 9.37 million shares changing hands. Out of 56 traded securities, 27 advanced, 13 declined, and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR176,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR136,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR40,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,581.72 points, up 0.46 per cent Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Investments, Oman & Emirates Investment, Muscat Finance and Al Madina Takaful were up by 8.14 per cent, 7.69 per cent, 5.63 per cent, 3.57 per cent and 2.41 per cent respectively. Prices of Arabia Falcon Insurance, Ahli Bank, Taageer Finance and Oman Arab Bank were up by 9.84 per cent, 1.62 per cent, 1.10 per cent and 0.66 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,010.29 points, up 0.03 per cent. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Raysut Cement, Oman Cement, Oman Cables Industry and Voltamp Energy were up by 3.77 per cent, 2.94 per cent, 2.50 per cent, 2.07 per cent and 1.98 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Flour Mills, Oman Chromite, Al Anwar Ceramics and Galfar Engineering were up by 5.09 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 2.14 per cent and 1.61 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 1.89% before closing at 1,705.10 points. Prices of Al Maha Marketing, Phoenix Power, SMN Power Holding and OIFC, National Gas were up by 5.09 per cent, 4.92 per cent, 4.82 per cent, 3.85 per cent and 3.03 per cent respectively. Prices of Renaissance Services, Muscat Desalination and Majan College were up by 1.04 per cent, 1.04 per cent and 0.79 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,656.17	4,630.45	4,642.40	4,630.45	11.96	0.26
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,596.80	7,546.96	7,581.72	7,546.96	34.76	0.46
Industry Index	6,066.18	6,010.29	6,010.29	6,008.52	1.77	0.03
Services Index	1,705.28	1,673.46	1,705.10	1,673.39	31.71	1.89
MSX Shariah Index	468.50	466.48	467.88	466.12	1.76	0.38
MSX TR INDEX	6,121.48	6,087.66	6,103.38	6,087.66	15.72	0.26
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,275.48	8,221.19	8,259.05	8,221.19	37.86	0.46
SERVICES TR IDX	1,874.65	1,839.67	1,874.45	1,839.60	34.85	1.89
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,480.19	6,420.48	6,420.48	6,418.59	1.89	0.03

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,378,552	1,906,962	692	23,680,381,718	27	13	16	56

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MAY 29

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	41,303	3,070	5	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.071	0.004	5.634	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	9,140,625
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MARKETING	100	114	1	1.135	1.135	1.135	1.135	1.080	0.055	5.093	1.135	1.040	1.135	0.100	78,315,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	13,300	1,117	3	0.084	0.087	0.084	0.087	0.083	0.004	4.819	0.087	0.085	0.087	0.100	17,368,297
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTEMENT & FINANCE	32,639	3,497	5	0.107	0.108	0.107	0.108	0.104	0.004	3.846	0.108	0.108	0.109	0.100	26,875,800
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	19,318	6,198	8	0.320	0.328	0.320	0.328	0.320	0.008	2.500	0.328	0.320	0.328	0.100	108,526,249
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	100	9	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.083	0.002	2.410	0.085	0.083	0.085	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	200	11	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.054	0.061	0.100	20,299,256
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	423,200	26,238	23	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.061	0.001	1.639	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	183,813	48,327	36	0.262	0.267	0.262	0.263	0.260	0.003	1.154	0.263	0.263	0.263	0.100	1,974,182,427
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	14,000	1,482	2	0.105	0.108	0.105	0.108	0.107	0.001	0.935	0.108	0.105	0.108	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	761,547	118,538	5	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.156	0.155	0.001	0.645	0.156	0.156	0.160	0.100	312,048,795
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	33,756	32,702	9	0.972	0.972	0.968	0.968	0.964	0.004	0.415	0.968	0.968	0.972	0.100	726,000,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	14,650	3,838	8	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.000	0.000	0.262	0.262	0.262	0.100	26,200,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	334,963	90,440	4	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.275	0.100	439,005,516
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	190,260	71,217	35	0.378	0.382	0.372	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.372	0.380	0.100	253,978,862
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	50,000	14,000	7	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	34,971,429
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	40,754	3,082	8	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.072	0.076	0.100	6,750,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	322,657	32,588	12	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.101	0.111	0.100	463,596,291
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	258,629	92,352	22	0.358	0.358	0.356	0.356	0.356	0.000	0.000	0.356	0.356	0.358	0.100	231,736,146
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	116,000	43,020	8	0.370	0.380	0.370	0.380	0.384	-0.004	-1.042	0.380	0.370	0.380	0.100	89,835,800
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	331,680	91,481	12	0.276	0.278	0.273	0.274	0.280	-0.006	-2.143	0.274	0.272	0.274	0.100	60,280,000
Total		3,182,869	683,320	215												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,685,336	247,416	134	0.090	0.093	0.089	0.093	0.086	0.007	8.140	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	235,379	9,834	32	0.039	0.042	0.039	0.042	0.039	0.003	7.692	0.042	0.039	0.042	0.100	3,570,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	204,660	13,115	12	0.063	0.065	0.063	0.064	0.061	0.003	4.918	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	93,606,493
OM0000002036	MUSCAT THREAD MILLS	3,426	188	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.053	0.002	3.774	0.055	0.054	0.000	0.100	883,996
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	1,000	58	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.056	0.002	3.571	0.058	0.056	0.058	0.100	17,814,487
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	256,130	25,764	18	0.100	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.099	0.003	3.030	0.102	0.102	0.103	0.100	8,670,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	27,430	2,781	6	0.101	0.103	0.101	0.103	0.100	0.003	3.000	0.103	0.101	0.103	0.100	98,320,911
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	18,380	3,217	11	0.175	0.180	0.174	0.175	0.170	0.005	2.941	0.174	0.174	0.180	0.100	35,000,000
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MARKETING	353,085	317,777	10	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.880	0.020	2.273	0.900	0.900	0.964	0.100	85,500,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	115,150	223,979	12	1.945	1.970	1.945	1.970	1.930	0.040	2.073	1.970	1.945	1.970	0.100	176,709,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	570,742	170,974	148	0.296	0.302	0.296	0.300	0.294	0.006	2.041	0.300	0.300	0.322	0.100	231,060,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	10,788	1,119	6	0.105	0.105	0.101	0.103	0.101	0.002	1.980	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.100	8,384,483
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT HO.	30,347	3,012	3	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.001	1.020	0.099	0.095	0.099	0.100	2,970,000
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REIF	45,000	5,400	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.119	0.001	0.840	0.120	0.116	0.120	0.100	50,972,425
OM0000001509	DHOFAR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INV. HO.	296,703	48,659	7	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.164	0.000	0.100	67,116,396
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	14,600	1,691	3	0.116	0.117	0.115	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.115	0.117	0.100	67,123,401
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	136,846	12,728	7	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.094	0.100	208,036,632
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	43,415	2,127	3	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.047	0.050	0.100	12,250,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	41,000	1,148	3	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.028	0.029	0.100	20,003,378
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	486,897	39,926	2	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.076	0.082	0.100	38,637,284
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	35,767	4,829	6	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.131	0.135	0.100	10,195,470
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	59,687	9,013	1	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.151	0.152	-0.001	-0.658	0.151	0.139	0.152	0.100	252,080,910
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	3,000	378	1	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.126	0.127	-0.001	-0.787	0.126	0.126	0.128	0.100	11,340,000
OM0000007084	MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	4,741	450	2	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.092	0.096	0.100	14,777,288
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,000	93	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	287,000	25,830	5	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.091	-0.001	-1.099	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	23,745,153
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	135,240	24,897	17	0.184	0.185	0.183	0.183	0.186	-0.003	-1.613	0.183	0.174	0.185	0.100	37,146,520
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	34,470	6,281	8	0.185	0.185	0.182	0.182	0.185	-0.003	-1.622	0.182	0.182	0.182	0.100	354,837,659
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	1,000	3,500	2	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.600	-0.100	-2.778	3.500	3.450	3.500	1.000	10,500,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	10,102	293	4	0.030	0.030	0.029	0.029	0.030	-0.001	-3.333	0.029	0.028	0.030	0.100	19,571,735
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	15,335	8,005	2	0.522	0.522	0.522	0.522	0.550	-0.028	-5.091	0.522	0.522	0.522	0.100	82,215,000
OM0000007290	ARABIA FALCON INSURANCE	8,000	880	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.122	-0.012	-9.836	0.110	0.110	0.116	0.100	11,363,183
Total		32	6,171,656	1,215,361	471											

DEBT CEILING DEAL

Oil prices rise

SINGAPORE: Oil prices rose on Monday after US leaders reached a tentative debt ceiling deal, possibly averting a default in the world's largest economy and oil consumer, although concerns about further interest rate hikes capped gains. Brent crude futures climbed 66 cents, or 0.9%, to $77.61 a barrel by 0247 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at $73.42 a barrel, up 75 cents, or 1%. -**BNA**

MADAYN

Phases 3 and 4 development works of Nizwa Industrial City completed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) has completed the implementation of Phases 3 and 4 development works in Nizwa Industrial City, and is now gearing up to float a tender for the consultancy services project for Phase 5, covering an estimated area of 4 million sqm.

Ahmed Al Hajri, Director General of Nizwa Industrial City, said that development works of Phases 3 and 4 were assigned to a local company in May 2020 as the total cost exceeded OMR5 million. "The project included the construction of 6.3km internal roads, a paved pedestrian walkway along the roadsides, installation of 205 LED lighting poles, and the implementation of control and monitoring system at the industrial city's entrances and internal roads," Al Hajri pointed out.

He added, "The project also included two security guard rooms at the entrances, a rainwater drainage channel, a 5.9-km irrigation network, an underground water tank, sewage and water networks, and a fire-fighting system. Additionally, truck parking areas were created at the industrial city's entrance, comprising more than 90 parking spaces and covering a total area of 13,000 sqm, which will serve investors and cargo owners around the clock."

Al Hajri emphasised that this project represents the commitment of Madayn towards supporting the growth of industrial cities and providing essential infrastructure services to attract both local and international investors. "By doing so, Madayn aims to further strengthen the contribution of these industrial cities to the in-country value in alignment with the priorities set forth in Oman Vision 2040," he added.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

China accelerates AI application to real economy

BEIJING: When walking into the ongoing 2023 Zhongguancun Forum exhibition, visitors would encounter various robots providing services such as delivery, reception, guidance, and information inquiry.

The rich application scenarios of artificial intelligence (AI) technology created by Chinese enterprises have come under the spotlight at the exhibition, mirroring the country's efforts in accelerating AI applications to power and upgrade the real economy.

Orthopaedic AI

At the booth of Changmugu, a Beijing medical enterprise focusing on orthopaedic AI and surgical robot solutions, a surgical robotic arm attracted a continuous stream of visitors.

"Before surgery, doctors will achieve 3D images of bones through AI technology and calculate the most suitable surgical plan for patients through big data. The robotic arm will conduct the operation with the help of a surgical navigation system," Zhang Yiling, chairman of the company, introduced its orthopaedic surgery diagnosis and treatment system. The system can help reduce the difficulty, shorten the time, and improve the accuracy of operations, as well as reduce postoperative complications, said Zhang. -**Xinhua**

FEATURE

IIFA 2023

EMOTIONAL EMIRATI OPENING PERFORMANCE STEALS THE SHOW ON A MESMERISING NIGHT IN ABU DHABI

As the crème de la crème of film and music industry descended on Abu Dhabi to attend the the biggest awards show in Bollywood, it was an overflow of glitz and glamour in the UAE capital city

RAHUL DAS
rahuldas@timesofoman.com

ABU DHABI: The cultures and colours blended smoothly to create an artful masterpiece on the canvas of the IIFA Awards 2023 in Abu Dhabi during the Opening Act. With melodious notes emanating from the strings of the Indian santoor and Arabic lute (oud), the perfect setting was provided and the enchanting evening enhanced to the sound of ney (an Arabic flute regarded as one of the oldest musical instruments).

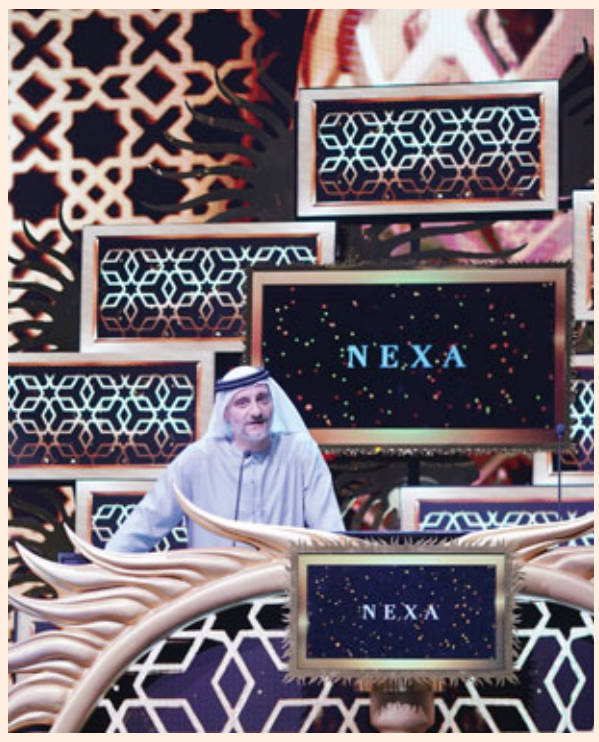
As the world's biggest global Indian event, the 2023 International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA 2023) returned to Yas Island Abu Dhabi for the second year, bringing grand celebrations and magical moments to its audiences of Bollywood actors, industry superstars, Indian and South Asian film fans and Bollywood enthusiasts.

Times of Oman and TFM were the official media partners for the Oman market for IIFA Rocks and IIFA awards that were held at Yas Island in Abu Dhabi.

Nexus Novel Advertising was the marketing partner for Oman market

New to this year, the highlight of the weekend was the award show's Opening Act, an intriguing and emotional production telling the tale of a young Emirati, Abdulla, who meets an Indian Princess, Neisha, and takes her on a journey of Emirati heritage and culture.

The immersive theatrical production showcased the two cultures through captivating displays and breathtaking projections, award-winning masters in prop and puppetry, detailed choreography, Emirati and Indian dances, and traditional costumes to excite, inspire and engage the audience.



Demonstrating Emirati culture to global audiences through creative endeavours, Abdulla's life-size puppet camel was hand-painted and manned by exterior puppeteers.

The cultural interactions between Abdulla and Neisha included augmented projections of Emirati fishermen weaving nets and traditional Emirati dance performances, including Ayyalah and Na'ashat. Through their performances, Abdulla and Neisha took the audience on a sonic journey, transcending cultural boundaries and leaving an indelible impression.

Throughout, the enraptured audience was treated to other popular musical pieces from renowned Bollywood celebrities.

Abu Dhabi, supported by its brand 'Expereince Abu Dhabi', proved once again to be the perfect host for the IIFA Awards 2023. With its hospitable nature, world-class facilities, diverse attractions and activities, and vibrant cultural scene, Abu Dhabi has established itself as a global hub for entertainment and events.

Ahead of the Summer months, the city launched its seasonal campaign, "One Summer Isn't Enough," positioning Abu Dhabi as the ideal destination year-round, filled with unique cultural experiences, family-fun festivities, discounts and deals across the city's outlets that one summer cannot possibly be enough to experience all in one trip.

For those looking for summer fun and new discoveries, the all-inclusive 'Abu Dhabi Summer Pass', provides cultural enthusiasts, thrill seekers and couples with access to unrivalled entertainment, family fun, dining and shopping. Visitors will also benefit from 'Stay More, Pay Less' which offers incredible savings, and "Kids Go Free" unlocks additional perks for families, as there is always more to do in Abu Dhabi.

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SPORTS

India drub Thailand to storm into semis

Holders register a dominating 17-0 victory in the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah

SALALAH: Defending champions India stamped their superiority in a clear-cut manner as they demolished Thailand 17-0 in their concluding Pool A match to storm into the semi-finals of the Men's Junior Asia Cup 2023, being played at the Salalah Sports Complex on Sunday night.

The scintillating performance from Indians meant they remained unbeaten in all the four pool matches and scored a total of 39 goals while conceding just two.

Pakistan, who are also in the same pool, take on Japan on Monday night and will be hoping to top the pool. They have so far scored 25 goals and conceded just two.

The scorers for India were Angad Bir Singh (13', 33', 47', 55'), Yogember Rawat (17'), captain Uttam Singh (24', 31'), Amandeep Lakra (26', 29'), Araijeet Singh Hundal (36'), Vishnukant Singh (38'), Bobby Singh Dhami (45'), Sharda Nand Tiwari (46'), Amandeep (47'), Rohit (49'), Sunit Lakra (54') and Rajinder Singh (56').

India took time to settle and it was only in the final minutes of the first quarter did they break the deadlock through Bir Singh.

Early in the second quarter, Rawat (17') doubled the advantage while captain Uttam Singh (24') got himself on the scoresheet to make it 3-0. A couple of minutes later, Amandeep Lakra (26') smashed home his shot from a penalty corner and got his second three minutes later by converting another penalty corner.

India led 5-0 at the interval.

Uttam (31') made it 6-0 in the first minute of the third quarter, and moments later Bir Singh (33') got his second for the night. Hundal (36') got on the scoresheet, courtesy a powerful hit from the right and Vishnukant (38') made it 9-0. Just before the final break, Dhami (45') made it 10-0 through a penalty corner.

In the final quarter, Indians smashed seven more goals with Tiwari (46'), Amandeep (47') and Bir Singh (47'), finding the net in quick succession. Rohit made it 14-0 and Sunit Lakra (54'), Bir Singh (55'), and Rajinder Singh (56') added three more goals, to complete a 17-0 rout.

Earlier, in a Pool B match, South Korea completed their league round with a 3-1 win over Bangladesh to finish second in the pool. Malaysia meet hosts Oman, who are already eliminated, on Monday and hope to stay unbeaten and remain on top. They will meet the runner-up of Pool A in the semi-finals while South Korea will take on the Pool A topper in the semi-finals on May 31.

FORMULA ONE

Verstappen wins Monaco GP race

BEIJING: Max Verstappen mastered tricky and wet conditions to win Sunday's Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix and extend his commanding lead in the Drivers' Championship.

Starting from pole position after a stunning qualifying lap on Saturday, Red Bull's Verstappen headed off the threat from the Aston Martin of Fernando Alonso at the start, and set about building an advantage.

With Verstappen on medium compound rubber and Alonso on hard tyres, the race became an intriguing tactical battle to see if Verstappen could eke out his tyre life long enough to match Alonso.

However, all that became academic when some long-anticipated rain began to fall around Lap 53. Alonso elected to make his planned stop on Lap 55 and bolted on a set of medium tyres, but the rapidly intensifying rain forced him to come straight back in the following lap to fit intermediate tyres. Verstappen then stopped on Lap 56 to change straight onto inters, which proved to be the correct call as he emerged with a lead of over 20 seconds over Alonso.

Verstappen then managed both the gap to Alonso and the slippery conditions over the remaining laps to take his fourth win of the 2023 F1 season. "It was quite a difficult one because we were on the medium and Fernando was on the hard [tyres]," said Verstappen.

"It's super nice to win Monaco, and it's super nice to win it in the way we did today with the weather and everything, to stay calm and bring it home."

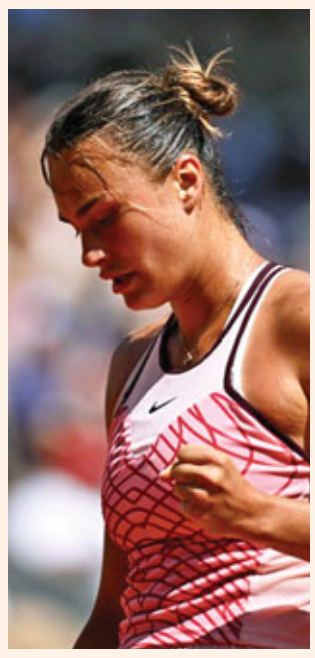
Behind the top two, Esteban Ocon completed the podium after an excellent drive from third on the grid. The twin Mercedes of Lewis Hamilton and George Russell took fourth and fifth places, ahead of local hero Charles Leclerc in his Ferrari.

Ocon's teammate Pierre Gasly took seventh ahead of Carlos Sainz in the second Ferrari. Rounding out the top ten were the two McLarens of Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri.

Verstappen's win puts him on 144 points in the Drivers' Championship, with the non-scoring Perez still second on 105, and Alonso closing rapidly on 93 points.

In the Constructors' Championship, Red Bull retain their commanding lead and now have 249. Aston Martin remain second on 120, but a double points finish for Mercedes means the Silver Arrows are just one point behind on 119. - Xinhua

FRENCH OPEN



Tsitsipas gets past Vesely; Sabalenka sails into next round

PARIS: Stefanos Tsitsipas put up a fine performance to pass a stern first-round test at the French Open 2023, where the fifth seed defeated Jiri Vesely 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 at the clay-court major on Sunday.

The fifth seed Greek appeared to be in rich form for a routine victory on Court Philippe Chatrier after claiming the first two sets but Vesely. The Czech clinched the third set, but Tsitsipas kept his cool to dig out a three-hour, 13-minute victory.

"He was a difficult obstacle today, I won't lie. He gave me a hard time. I'm happy I overcame it in such a fashion. I was able to bounce back from all those difficulties that were being thrown at me constantly. Today's win is very important for me," said Tsitsipas.

Also Thanasi Kokkinakis defeated 20th seed Daniel Evans 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. The Australian wild card converted five of the 13 break points he gained on his way to his first main draw victory at Roland Garros since 2015.

In the women's section, Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus kicked off her clay-court major with a winning start, coming from an early break down to defeat Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk 6-3, 6-2.

"Emotionally, I was a little bit nervous at the beginning," Sabalenka admitted. "I was just trying to keep fighting, keep finding my rhythm, keep adjusting to the court."

The second seed, who is aiming for her first second-week appearance at Roland Garros, will next face qualifier Iryna Shymanovich, who celebrated her Grand Slam main-draw debut with a 6-7(6), 6-3, 6-1 victory over Panna Udvardy.

Karolina Muchova knocked out a top-10 player on day one, as the Czech defeated No.8 seed Greece's Maria Sakkari 7-6(5), 7-5 on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

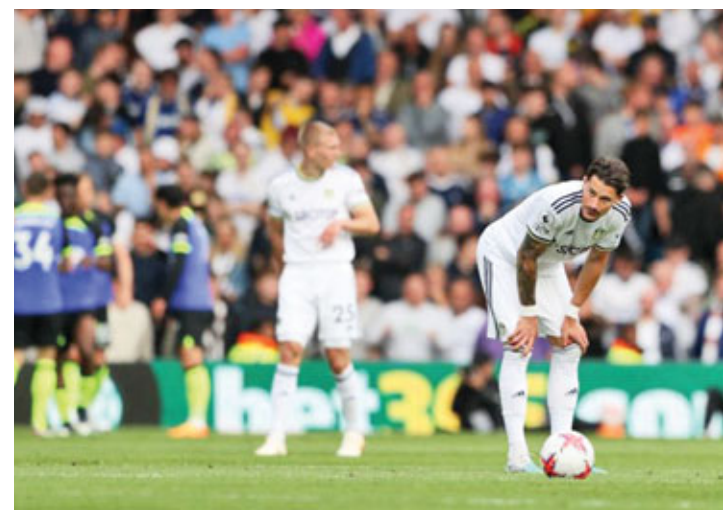
Canada's Leylah Fernandez also knocked out No.21 Magda Linette of Poland 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 in two hours and 11 minutes.

Chinese player Zheng Qinwen started her second French Open campaign in style, defeating Slovenian qualifier Tamara Zidansek 6-3, 6-2 on Sunday.

Earlier, Zhang Shuai of China, seeded 29th, faced a third consecutive first-round exit at Roland Garros, ousted by Poland's Magdalena Frech 6-1, 6-1. - Agencies

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Leeds, Leicester relegated



LONDON: Leeds United and Leicester City were relegated from the English Premier League to the Championship, marking a dramatic conclusion to the season on Sunday.

Everton, always seen as the most likely among the three to avoid relegation, secured their Premier League status courtesy of Abdoulaye Doucoure's spectacular 57th-minute goal. The strike ensured a 1-0 home win over Bournemouth and helped Everton avert their first relegation in nearly 70 years.

Leicester City, the miracle Premier League champions of 2016, are now Championship-bound, despite a 2-1 home win against West Ham United. Had Everton failed to secure a victory, Leicester City would have been safe.

Harvey Barnes and Wout Faes put Leicester 2-0 up against a rival seemingly preoccupied with their upcoming Europa Conference League final against Fiorentina. Although Pablo Fornals managed to score for West Ham in the 79th minute, Leicester clung on for a win that ultimately proved in vain.

Leeds United, the clear underdogs in the survival battle, needed a victory and slip-ups from their rivals. However, they must return to the Championship following a crushing 4-1 home defeat to Tottenham Hotspur.

Leeds never truly challenged in the game Tottenham won 4-1, with two goals from Harry Kane and one each from Pedro Porro and Lucas Moura. Jack Harrison's solitary goal for Leeds merely provided a fleeting glimmer of hope.

Aston Villa, showing marked improvement under Unai Emery, secured seventh place with a 2-1 home win over Brighton.

Ethan Pinnock's 85th-minute goal handed Brentford a 1-0 win over a heavily rotated Man City squad. Arsenal vented their frustration over finishing second by delivering a 5-0 drubbing to Wolves, with Granit Xhaka scoring twice in his farewell to the Emirates Stadium.

Southampton bade farewell to the Premier League with a high-scoring 4-4 draw at home to Liverpool, with Diogo Jota bagging a brace for the visitors.

Chelsea and Newcastle ended the season with a 1-1 draw. The draw draws a curtain on a disastrous season for Chelsea, while Newcastle finishes in fourth place after Manchester United's 2-1 home win over Fulham.

In a match with little at stake, Crystal Palace and Nottingham Forest drew 1-1.

On Saturday evening, Luton Town beat Coventry City in a penalty shootout to secure promotion to the Premier League, joining Burnley and Sheffield United in the top-flight next season. - Xinhua

SERIE A

Giroud helps Milan book berth in CL

ROME: Seasoned veteran Olivier Giroud reaffirmed his crucial role on Sunday as his decisive header in 40th min guided AC Milan to a 1-0 win over Juventus, securing a Champions League (CL) spot for the Rossoneri for the upcoming season.

With one round remaining, AC Milan, along with Napoli, Lazio, and Inter Milan, will participate in the next season's Champions League. Roma, however, could still join them should they triumph over Sevilla in the forthcoming Europa League final.

In other matches, champions Napoli settled for a 2-2 draw with Bologna. Also on Sunday, Lazio recorded a 3-2 victory over Cremonese, Lecce ensured safety with a 1-0 away win against Monza, and Hellas Verona drew with Empoli 1-1. - Xinhua

49ER SQUAD

Oman Sail team to take part in Allianz Regatta

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's 49er squad will compete in the forthcoming world-class 2023 Allianz Regatta that will be held in the waters of Amsterdam and Almere in the Netherlands from May 31-June 4.

The team has already travelled to the Netherlands ahead of the largest Dutch international sailing regatta and has been training in Medemblik, 50km north of Amsterdam.

The Omani delegation is led by Mohsin Al Busaidi, Oman Sail's head of performance, and Zakaria Al Wahabi, 49er coach.

The national team comprises Musab Al Hadi, Waleed Al Kindi, AbdulRahman Al Maashari and Ahmed Al Hasni. The team is preparing for the Asian Qualifiers for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Al Busaidi said, "The scheduled training camps and competitions have been arranged to make the most of the timing and maximise our capabilities in time for the 2023 Asian Championships in Thailand in December where the places for 2024 Olympics will be decided.

"We are all focused and the training camps will help to provide the ideal environment for the team to perform at its best."

Al Wahabi, the coach, added, "The first training camp of the summer season is an exciting opportunity to learn alongside some of the very best sailors in the world. This experience will be invaluable as we look to achieve the ambitious goal of having Omani sailors compete at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games."

After the Allianz Regatta, the team will head to Kiel in Germany for Kiel Week (June 17-25).

The team will then travel to China for a 10-day training camp in August and another in September to prepare for the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, being held from September 23-October 8.

The team will hold a camp in Pattaya, Thailand, in November and in the first week of December to familiarise themselves with the local waters in preparation for the 2023 Asian Championships, a qualification event for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games taking place in Chon Buri, Thailand, from December 10-21.

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ROUND-UP

Bank Nizwa launches new branch in Mawaleh

The Mawaleh branch is strategically located in the heart of Muscat's bustling business district, surrounded by residential areas, shopping malls and other key commercial establishments

MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa, Oman's leading Islamic bank, proudly inaugurated its latest branch in Mawaleh, becoming the first bank in the country to introduce a hybrid branch that combines traditional banking services with cutting-edge digital services.

Held under the auspices of Hilal bin Hamed Al Sarmi, Member of the Majlis A'Shura for the Wilayat of Seeb and the presence of Khaled Al Kayed the Chief Executive Officer and members of the executive management of Bank Nizwa.

"As we officially inaugurate our branch in Mawaleh, we are proud to expand our network and portfolio, whilst remaining committed to digitalisation and innovation.

"The Mawaleh branch is a prime example of our dedication to providing our customers with a seamless and secure banking experience. Our goal with this branch was to create a space where our customers can easily manage their finances on their own terms. At Bank Nizwa, we are always exploring new ways to make banking more accessible as well as convenient for our customers and the Mawaleh branch is a testament to our ongoing commitment to this goal," said Khaled.

The Mawaleh branch is strategically located in the heart of Muscat's bustling business district, surrounded by residential areas, shopping malls and other key commercial establishments.

Its prime location makes it easily accessible for customers who are looking for a one-stop shop for their banking needs.

The branch is equipped with ramps for easy access, wide doorways to accommodate wheelchair users and designated parking spaces close to the entrance. Bank Nizwa takes pride in its commitment to diversity and inclusivity.

The Islamic bank has made a commitment to continue its nationwide initiatives aimed at promoting accessibility to Islamic finance for all segments of the community, whilst also empowering the public with the knowledge and skills necessary to make sound financial decisions in line with their values and beliefs.

As Oman's first and leading full-fledged Islamic bank, Bank Nizwa has established a robust network of branches and ATMs across the Sultanate, which enables the bank to cater to the diverse needs of its customers and support their financial growth and prosperity. Through innovative, Sharia-compliant financial solutions and a focus on promoting financial literacy, Bank Nizwa seeks to contribute to the development of a more equitable and sustainable economy in Oman.

CULTURAL FEST

Jadavpur University to organise Sanskriti 2023

MUSCAT: After a gap of three years, alumni members of Jadavpur University (Kolkata, India) in Oman are organising Sanskriti 2023, an extended version of its popular multicultural fest.

The alumni have made their mark in Oman for the last 18 years with its multifaceted social, educational and cultural activities. 'Sanskriti' is an extension of their popular university campus annual cultural festival. The objective is to reach the cultural connoisseurs of Muscat through a diverse range of programs.

This year, alumni are all set to present Swagatalakshmi Dasgupta, who enthralled the audience with her melodious voice in Sanskriti 2016 and due to her immense popularity, she is back to mesmerising us once again.

To the uninitiated, Swagatalakshmi is extensively trained in pure Hindustani Classical music from her father, Late Pabitra Dasgupta. with an M.A. in Music from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and further training under the tutelage of Maya Sen in Rabindra Sangeet;

She exhibits her versatility and excellence in different genres of music, from North Indian classical spanning to Rabindra sangeet (songs of Rabindranath Tagore), Carnatic music, Scottish and Irish Folk songs, Bhajan, Gazal, Nazrul Geeti, Modern Bengali and folk numbers, Sanskrit Stotras and chanting including her compositions in 9 different languages. At present, she has over 300 albums to her musical credit. In the year 2006, she recorded the entire 'Geetobitan' (all 2023 Songs of Rabindranath Tagore) within 80 days in her album called "Ekla Geetobitan" to create a remarkable history and a world record for herself.

She has sung and recorded the entire 'Bhagavad Gita' (700 Verses), 'Sampurna Chandi', 'Veda', 'Hanuman Chalisa', 'Durga Paribaar', 'Devi Stotram' in Sanskrit. She has also recorded many Shyama Sangeets, Stotras, and Bhakti Geetis in various albums. So far she has 3 of her books on poems and songs have been published.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 lockdowns in March 2020, she has posted songs abound in variety, from Shlokas to bhajans, Rabindrasangeet to ghazals, and old songs to new ones, including her self-composed numbers on social media. The project continued for 1000 days non-stop providing relief to music lovers in the trying times.

All music lovers are invited to the melodious evening at the Sur Ballroom of Hotel Muscat Holiday, Al-Khuwair. (Gate opens at 1830 hrs and Program starts at 1930 hrs).

COMEX

BankDhofar showcases innovative digital banking solutions

Muscat: BankDhofar has successfully concluded its participation at Comex 2023, which was held from May 22 – 25. BankDhofar's booth at the exhibition saw a large turnout, where the bank showcased innovative digital banking solutions for both BankDhofar and Maisarah Islamic Banking Services.

Commenting on BankDhofar's participation, Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, CEO of BankDhofar noted: "As we know, technology has revolutionised the banking industry, making banking operations safer, faster, and more efficient. At BankDhofar, we have always been at the forefront in adopting cutting-edge technologies in our banking services to ensure seamless customer experience through seamlessly integrating our various digital channels. We were glad to participate at Comex 2023, where we had the chance to show our latest customer-centric innovative digital banking solutions. We also had the chance to see digital initiatives of other organisations."

BankDhofar puts technology and innovation at the core of its strategy to improve the experience of its customers. The bank is constantly keeping pace with technological developments while designing new products and services to ensure a convenient banking experience for customers. Customers may easily conduct their transactions around the clock through the highly-secured and user-friendly digital banking channels. BankDhofar's, award-winning, Mobile Banking App offers a wide range of exclusive services. The services include; instant transfer to any bank in the Sultanate, cardless cash and mobile top-up for all telecom providers in the Sultanate, among other services.

PROVIDE LOGISTICS SUPPORT

Asyad Express launches 'Ship Your Cart' service to enhance Oman's e-commerce connectivity with global platforms

MUSCAT: Asyad Express, part of Asyad Group, has introduced "Ship Your Cart", a new e-commerce service which enables customers to ship their purchases from leading online shopping platforms in the United States and the United Kingdom with ease and at competitive prices via the online platform www.shipyourcart.com.

Sheikh Ibrahim bin Sultan Al Hosni, Acting CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express, stated, "We are committed to supporting and developing the e-commerce sector in Oman by providing integrated logistics solutions that keep pace with the latest technologies and enhance our presence on major e-commerce platforms, providing a unique customer experience characterised by speed, efficiency and competitiveness."

The launch of "Ship Your Cart" is part of Asyad's strategy to develop the e-commerce sector and provide logistics support.

The service allows all our commercial customers, entrepreneurs, small and medium-sized enterprises, and individuals to easily ship their purchases at competitive prices from e-commerce platforms in the United States and the United Kingdom to Oman through a dedicated electronic platform," Al Hosni added.

Jason Ashbrook, Vice President - Commercial at Asyad Express, explained, "Through this service, we aim to meet the changing and growing needs of our customers. "Ship Your Cart" will provide customers with a seamless global shopping experience with various benefits, including free virtual addresses in the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as order consolidation, shipment tracking, and doorstep delivery to the nearest post office. To ensure fast delivery, orders are processed within 24 hours and all fees are paid in advance, so there are no additional charges upon shipment arrival."

"Ship Your Cart" is the latest addition to the growing offering of Asyad Express designed to bring its customers the latest e-commerce solutions and enhance their overall experience and convenience, supported by the integrated logistics ecosystem of Asyad Group.

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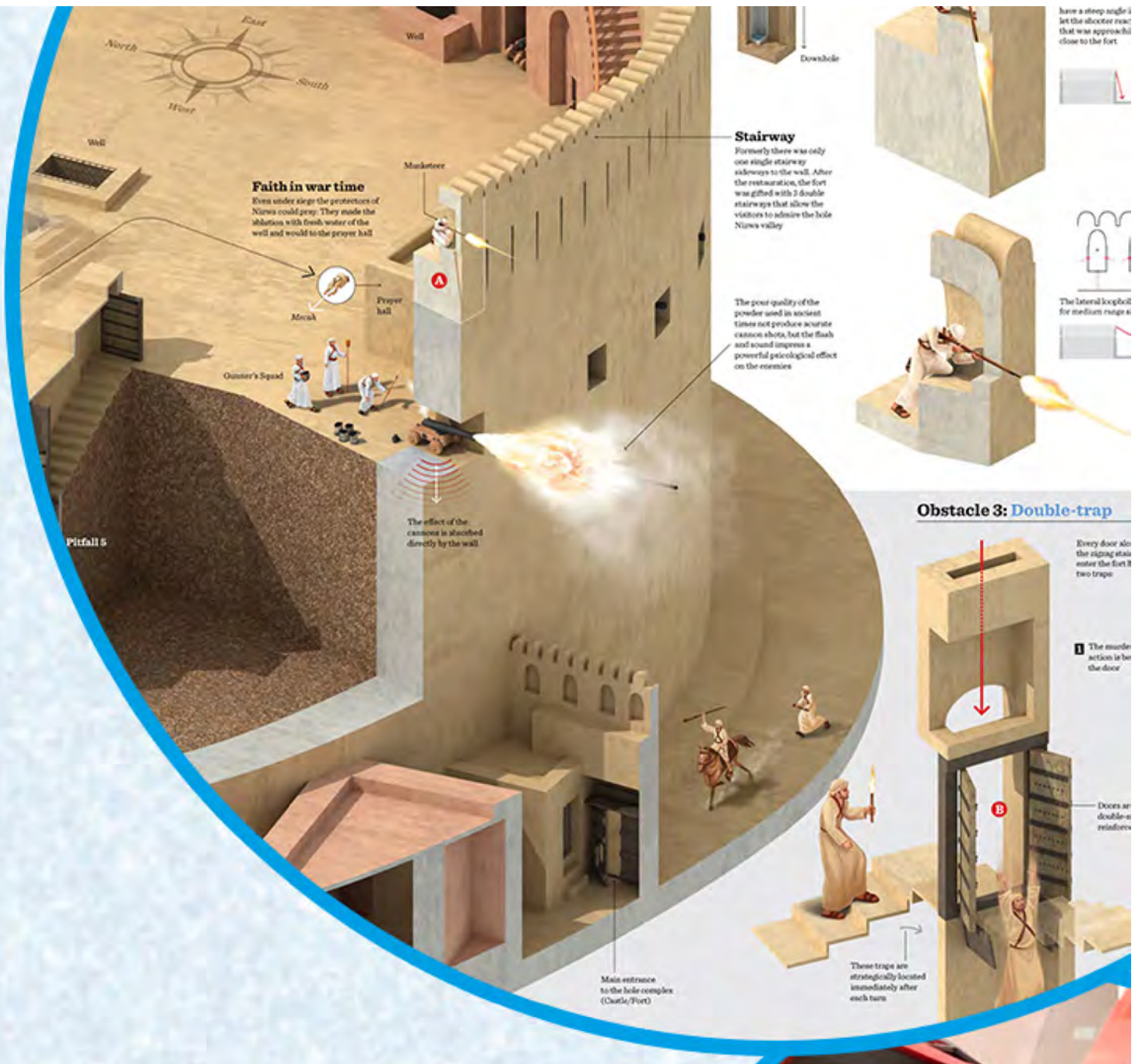

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