



HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN GREETES PRESIDENT OF HUNGARY

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Tamás Sulyok of Hungary on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Sulyok and the people of Hungary. — **ONA**



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MEETING

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

Sayyid Shihab bids farewell to Cypriot envoy

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison yesterday Andreas Nicolaides, Ambassador of Cyprus to the Sultanate of Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

Sayyid Shihab thanked the ambassador for the efforts he exerted to enhance relations between Oman and Cyprus, wishing him success in his future assignments. On his turn, the ambassador lauded the advanced relations binding the two countries. He expressed his appreciation for the cooperation he received during his mission in Oman... — **ONA**



OMAN Oman to establish 'Local Content Office'

1 Represented by the Secretariat General of the Tender Board, Oman is embarked on measures to enhance the local content, which is deeply rooted in the national workforce, local products, fixed assets, small and medium enterprises and other resources. The Tender Board is working on establishing a national 'Local Content Office' that would deal with specialisations capable of boosting the economy. **>A3**

OMAN

MARKET

Inflation in Oman rises 1.5% in July

Khazaen Dry Port inks pact with DHL

2 The inflation rate in Oman rose 1.5% by the end of July 2024 according to data on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which were issued by the NCSI. **>A2**

3 Khazaen Dry Port and DHL Global Forwarding joined hands in a strategic collaboration to provide Less-than-Container Load (LCL) consolidation services. **>B1**

HEALTH MINISTRY

Plan to begin heart transplants in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health (MH) has initiated preparations to localise the "heart transplant services" as part of the National Organ Transplant Programme from 2023 to 2025.

In this context, the technical committee for heart transplantation in the National Organ Transplant Programme held yesterday its first meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health.

The meeting aimed to prepare for the initiation of heart transplant operations in Oman. It involved discussing the necessary equipment, and the human resources required for these procedures, and starting to create national waiting lists for patients with heart failure.

Dr. Ahmed Said Al Busaidi, Director of the National Organ Transplant Programme, explained that the preparation to localise heart transplant services



is part of the country's efforts to enhance and develop the health-care services provided to citizens.

This initiative aims to provide all available means and solutions to save the lives of patients suffering from organ failure, thereby improving community health, individual well-being, and overall quality of life.

It is worth mentioning that the National Organ Transplant Programme has activated the option for heart donation after death through the Ministry of Health's Shifa application. — **ONA**

OMAN'S PUBLIC REVENUE REACHES OMR6.19 BILLION

The net oil revenue at the end of second quarter of 2024 increased by 3 percent to OMR3.36bn, according to the Ministry of Finance

MUSCAT: Oman's public revenue decreased by 2 percent to OMR6.19 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2024, compared to OMR6.34 billion registered over the same period of 2023. This decrease is mainly attributed to the decrease in net gas revenue and current revenue.

The fiscal performance bulletin issued by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) said that the net oil revenue at the end of second quarter (Q2) of 2024 increased by 3 percent to OMR3.36 billion, compared to OMR3.25 billion registered over the same period in 2023.

The average realised oil price amounted to \$82 per barrel and the average volume of oil production reached one million barrels per day (bpd). This is attributed to the methodology of Energy Development Oman (EDO) for collecting oil revenue and managing cash flow.

The net gas revenue at the end



HIGHLIGHTS

- The average realised oil price amounted to \$82 per barrel
- The average volume of oil production reached 1mn barrels per day
- The net gas revenue at the end of Q2-2024 amounted to OMR943 million
- The current revenue at the end of Q2-2024 reached OMR1.88 billion
- The public spending amounted to OMR5.80 billion at the end of Q2-2024
- Current expenditure of the civil ministries amounted to about OMR4.06 billion

of Q2-2024 amounted to OMR943 million, registering a drop by 15 percent compared to OMR1.11 billion registered over the same period in 2023 due to the change in the methodology for collecting gas revenue.

The MoF report said that the current revenue at the end of Q2-2024 reached OMR1.88 billion, lower by OMR80 million when compared to OMR1.96 billion registered in the same period of 2023.

Meanwhile, at the end of Q2-2024, the public spending amounted to OMR5.80 million, up by OMR120 million, higher by 2 percent when compared to the same period in 2023.

MoF's report further stated that current expenditure at the end of

Q2-2024, of the civil ministries amounted to about OMR4.06 billion, a decrease by OMR13 million compared to OMR4.07 billion at the end of Q2-2023.

At the end of Q2-2024, development expenditure of civil ministries and units amounted to OMR502 million, representing 56 percent of the total development spending allocated for 2024.

The contributions and other expenses at the end of Q2-2024 amounted to OMR1.08 billion, up by 40 percent compared to OMR775 million registered over the same period in 2023. This is mainly due to the implementation of the social protection system.

The subsidies of the social protection system, electricity and oil

products amounted to OMR280 million, OMR259 million, and OMR153 million, respectively.

Furthermore, an amount of OMR200 million was transferred to future debt obligations budget-item.

By the end of Q2-2024, the Ministry of Finance paid more than OMR558 million to the private sector. This reflects the payment vouchers received through the e-financial system that completed their documentary cycle.

During Q2-2024, the government was able to repay a number of outstanding financial obligations, leading public debt to stand at OMR14.4 billion, compared to OMR16.3 billion recorded at the end of Q2-2023. — **ONA**

GAZA DEATH TOLL

as of August 19, 2024

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40,139

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Inflation rate in Oman rises by 1.5%

The Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah recorded the highest inflation rate at the end of July 2024 compared to the same period of the previous year

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman rose 1.5% by the end of July 2024 according to data on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which were issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The data indicated an increase in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages groups by 4.5 percent, miscellaneous goods and services by 3.1 percent, health by 2.4 percent, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels by 1.7

percent, culture and entertainment by 0.8 percent, restaurants and hotels by 0.6 percent, clothing and footwear by 0.3 percent, furniture, household equipment and routine home maintenance by 0.3 percent.

In contrast, the prices of transportation groups decreased by 1.7 percent and education by 0.4 percent. The prices of the tobacco and communications groups stabilised.

In the food and non-alcoholic beverages group, the prices of vegetables rose by 20 percent, fruits by 7.6 percent, milk, cheese and eggs by 4.7 percent, meat by 2.2 percent, sugar, jam, honey and sweets by 2 percent, fish and seafood by 1.8 percent, foodstuff by 1.6 percent,

oils by 1.3 percent, non-alcoholic beverages by 1 percent, and bread and grains by 0.7 percent.

The Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah recorded the highest inflation rate at the end of July 2024 compared to the same period of the previous year, as the index rose by 2.3 percent.

It also rose by 2.2 percent in the Governorate of South A'Sharqiyah and by 2.1 percent in Musandam and Al Wusta.

The rate rose by 2 percent in the Governorate of North Al Batinah, 1.7 percent in Dhofar, 1.6 percent in South Al Batinah and Al Buraimi, 1.5 percent in A'Dhahirah, 1.3 percent in A'Dakhiliyah, and 1.2 percent in the Governorate of Muscat. -ONA



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INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION

Dhofar Forum explores prospects for sustainable economic development

SALALAH: The 2nd annual Dhofar Forum, held in Salalah on Monday, reviewed prospects of institutional integration, partnership and economic development in Dhofar Governorate.

The forum was organised by business world magazine "Alam Al-Iqtisad" in cooperation with government institutions and private sector establishments.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

Speaking at the event, Dhofar Municipality Chairman Dr. Ahmed Mohsin Al Ghassani outlined recent developments and efforts made to transform Dhofar Governorate.

Al Ghassani said that Dhofar Governorate received about 1.5 million tourists during 2023, "most of them arrived during the Khareef (monsoon) season, in which tourism spending stood at OMR103 million.

This is further enhanced by charter flights which, he said, brought about more tourism spending worth PMR23 million during 2023."

Speaking on behalf of the forum's organising committee, Said Masoud Al-Ma'ashani said that the forum focuses on means of generating more benefits from the comparative advantages of Dhofar Governorate and on aligning economic action in a manner that would achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040.

For his part, Abdullah Mohamed Al Abri, Director General of the Partnership and Privatization Unit at the Ministry of Finance,

presented a working paper that highlighted areas of cooperation (on realizing sustainable economic development) between the government sector, the private sector and civil society institutions.

The forum also included a dialogue session titled "The Importance of Partnership and Integration in Supporting Economic Development in Dhofar Governorate". The discussion panel underscored the role of all sectors in enhancing the competitiveness of Dhofar Governorate.

The forum programme also included visual presentations and working papers on sustainable economic development. -ONA

Announcement
NO. (2024\7)

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion calls on local agents registered in the Register of Agents and Commercial Agencies to renew or update the registration of their commercial agencies to avoid deletion. Practicing as a commercial agency without registering with the Ministry is considered a violation of the provisions of the Commercial Agencies Law, issued by Royal Decree No. (77/26).

The Ministry emphasizes the importance of adhering to the provisions of the aforementioned Commercial Agencies Law to avoid any violations or legal consequences.

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Oman to establish ‘Local Content Office’ for economic growth

The Local Content Office’s database will open up vistas for small and medium enterprises (SME) and local companies and consolidate their competitiveness

MUSCAT: Represented by the Secretariat General of the Tender Board, the Sultanate of Oman is embarked on measures to enhance the local content, which is deeply rooted in the national workforce, local products, fixed assets, small and medium enterprises and other resources.

Keenness to develop these resources stems from the fact that they play a significant role in supporting the national economy and augmenting the gross domestic



product (GDP).

Eng. Badr Salim al Ma’amari, Secretary-General of the Tender Board, said that the Tender Board focuses on raising the percentage of local content in government procurement contracts and projects, with emphasis on efficient implementation.

Al Ma’amari told Oman News

Agency (ONA) that “this approach will reflect positively on attracting many initiatives that will boost the efficiency of economic sectors, improve the commercial balance and raise the value of direct investment resulting from the localisation of industries. This approach is also expected to contribute to the generation of more employment

opportunities for national cadres, thereby boosting Omanisation in various sectors”.

Al Ma’amari pointed out that the Secretariat General of the Tender Board is currently working on establishing a national “Local Content Office” that would deal with specializations to achieve a national revenue capable of boosting



the economy.

Al Ma’amari added that this objective is envisaged to be realised through the introduction of local-content-based national policies (covering strategies, plans, programmes and incentives) and conducting market studies to bridge gaps and explore opportunities for the maximisation of the local content.

First of all, the Local Content Office would take steps to establish a “unified and comprehensive database” that would boost strategic decision-making based on mechanisms, standards and indices to measure the efficiency of national

local content in achieving the desired developmental and financial goals, said Al Ma’amari.

The Local Content Office’s database will open up vistas for small and medium enterprises (SME) and local companies and consolidate their competitiveness and their role in backing the national economy. This is in addition to the generation of more employment opportunities for Omanis, supporting the national product, localizing industries, ensuring integration among various sectors and boosting the transfer of knowledge and experiences,” said Al Ma’amari. -OMA



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HERITAGE SITES OF DHOFAR GOVERNORATE ATTRACT LOCAL, FOREIGN TOURISTS

The heritage sites are a source of curiosity to tourists who want to explore the secrets of the archaeological sites in the wilayats of the governorate



SALALAH: The archaeological sites in the Sultanate of Oman have an additional pull factor for visitors concerned with cultural and heritage tourism.

Dhofar Governorate witnesses increasing attention and care from the government departments throughout the year.

Heritage tourism has been receiving a lot of attention from local as well as foreign tourists. The heritage sites are a source of curiosity for tourists who explore the contents and secrets of the archaeological sites in the wilayats of Dhofar Governorate.

The heritage sites including the forts, castles, old souqs and houses provide the researchers with the opportunity to study the traditional style of building in the Wilayats of Dhofar.

It also gives them an opportunity to explore the history of the reserves and sites of Samharam, Al Baleed, Shasar, Khour Rori, Wadi Doka and Khour Kharfout and others.



Increasing the returns of the heritage sites in Dhofar Governorate falls within the tourism strategy of Dhofar in particular and the Sultanate's tourism strategy in general and targets citizens, residents, college and university students, archaeologists, and tourists concerned with the field.

Economic analyst and writer Khalfan Al Toqi said that heritage tourism is taken care of in many countries due to the role it plays in increasing the revenues of the country and in employment of the youth.

He said that the Sultanate of Oman has the tourism potential and natural resources including

Dr. Salimbin Suhail Al Kathri, a media person concerned with heritage tourism, said that the history, culture and the beauty of the nature in Dhofar Governorate enhance heritage tourism in the governorate and showcase it as a unique tourism destination.

wadis, mountains, clean beaches and topography besides its deep-rooted customs and traditions, rich heritage and many archaeological evidences such as the old forts, castles and towers and the Omani hospitality.

Dr. Salimbin Suhail Al Kathri, a media person concerned with heritage tourism, said that the

history, culture and the beauty of the nature in Dhofar Governorate enhance heritage tourism in the governorate and showcase it as a unique tourism destination.

Dhofar is famous for its heritage sites that tell its deep-rooted history and old civilization, he added.

Dr. Mohammed bin Awadh Al Meshaikhi, said that the heritage sites play a key role in terms of economic tourism.

He also pointed to the importance of development of the archaeological map and considering it as part of the priorities of the various government departments and private sector in the Sultanate of Oman.

Social researcher concerned with communication, Mubarak bin Salim Al Mashni, said that we can always use tourism as a way for making the world see us in a better way and for providing the world with an amazing image of Oman and its past and present. -ONA

New hotel set to open in Oman next month

Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar Resort & Spa features 173 beautifully designed rooms, suites and chalets, each offering majestic views



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The hotel boom seems to continue in Oman, with Indigo Jabal Akhdar Resort & Spa set to open in Jabal Akhdar next month. Nestled 2,000 metres above sea level amidst the dramatic peaks and canyons of Oman's "Green Mountain," Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar Resort & Spa features 173 beautifully designed rooms, suites and chalets, each offering majestic views. The hotel which is set to open its doors from September 1, 2024 invites explorers to experience a breathtaking mountain escape where curated wellness and neighbourhood-inspired bucket list experiences come to life through passionate storytelling. James Reeves, General Manager, said: "Our team has poured their heart and soul into creating a place that captures the very essence of Jabal Akhdar. Every

detail and every experience has been carefully curated to immerse you in the story of this remarkable destination, connect with the local culture and create memories that will stay long after you leave. From the moment you arrive, you'll feel the magic of this place. We can't wait to welcome guests to our neighbourhood and share the wonders of Jabal Akhdar."

Inspired by neighbourhood

The resort's design echoes the colours and textures of the mountain, creating a space that is both strikingly beautiful and deeply rooted in Omani heritage. Thoughtful touches and curated experiences bring to life the stories of the resilient communities that have thrived here for centuries. While the mountain's rugged terrain once made it difficult to access, today it welcomes travellers seeking outdoor adventure, connection with nature, and a taste of authentic

Omani life in its villages and terraced farms.

Reimagine life on the green mountain

Hotel Indigo Jabal Akhdar Resort & Spa is more than just a stay, it's an invitation to reconnect with nature and immerse yourself in the neighbourhood. Wander through historic villages, discover ancient dwellings carved into the mountainside, hike amidst terraced gardens, or simply savour the tranquillity of the mountain air.

A wellness sanctuary

Jala Spa & Wellness is an oasis of vitality on the Green Mountain – a destination celebrated for its clean fresh air, natural springs, and source of some of the world's purest rose water. Offering a range of rejuvenating treatments that draw inspiration from ancient Omani traditions and contemporary techniques, the spacious

spa features three distinctive wellness zones with bespoke treatment experiences, immune-boosting Himalayan salt rooms, extensive thermal zones and relaxing indoor vitality pools.

Savour the flavours of Oman

Delight in a culinary journey through the resort's three distinctive dining venues that draw inspiration from the ancient Zanzibari spice trade and the bounty of fresh ingredients, sourced locally. At Vue Rooftop & Lounge, the highest rooftop in the Middle East, savour panoramic canyon views, craft cocktails, and signature wood-fired dishes. Wadi Habib serves authentic Omani flavours in a warm and inviting setting, while Zaatir provides a vibrant all-day dining experience, perfect for sharing stories and connecting with fellow travellers.

COMMENTARY

A view on Indian budget 2024



R. MADHUSOODANAN*

The Indian expats expectations from the new government were very high. The Indian diaspora working abroad has sent a whopping amount of over one lakh crores to India last year, highest in the world. Their demands ranged from comprehensive social security measures, under one umbrella, among other issues impacting them like irrational and abnormal airfares. From that perspective, I am slightly disappointed with the Union budget.

Coming to the Indian context, I feel the budget is pro-development with a focus on agriculture, employment generation, youth development, urban and rural development etc. The budget has a host of measures to boost the agriculture sector, the backbone of the Indian economy.

On the personal income tax front, the salaried class and pensioners have got some relief with enhanced exemptions while others have to be satisfied with the

rate adjustments in the slabs. There is no tax relief for those who opt for old regime and the basic exemption limit for both old and new regime has kept in tact. The reduction in the customs duty of Gold, Silver, platinum and mobiles phones have been well appreciated by the Industry and the people. In this context it is to be remembered that a major portion of the India's forex is used for import of oil, gold and other electronic items. This may have an adverse bearing on the balance of trade as more import may happen.

The abolition of the Angel Tax is a welcome move which was a major demand from startups and entrepreneurs. The reduction of corporate tax for foreign companies by 5% will result in higher investments in the country.

The budget has negatively impacted the stock market due to the upward revision in the Security Transaction Tax (STT), short-term and long-term capital gains.

The Indian rupee has also depreciated against the dollar and it may take some more time to settle both markets taking cues from the actual impact of these new developments.

Barring the Pravasi expectations, I feel the budget focused on promoting economic growth and paving the way for substantial growth opportunities.

**The writer is former SBI official and financial expert*

HOTEL INTERCITY MUSCAT



Medical conference focuses on breast cancer and role of medical oncology

Times News Service

MUSCAT: HCG Hospital, Mumbai, India in association with Muscat Family Physicians Group and Global Treatment Services conducted an International Medical Conference Advances in the Surgical treatment of Breast Cancer and Role Medical Oncology. It was held at Hotel Intercity Muscat, on Friday 16th August, 2024. Dr. Salim, Senior Consultant and Head of Department, Breast Surgery, National Oncology Center, Oman, was the Guest of Honour. Breast Cancer accounts for highest 13% of total Cancers detected in Oman. In females it is higher at 21% of all the cancers detected. Breast Cancers are detected at a younger median age of 49 in Omani women. Unfortunately – it is detected mostly on 3rd & 4th stage where 5 year survival rate stands low at 67%. Dr. Viju Murthy, Consultant Breast Surgeon HCG Hospital Mumbai in her presentation emphasised to increase awareness about screening and early detection as Breast cancer numbers are increasing all over the world and the outcome of the treatment solely depends on it. She also discussed the different surgical approaches for management of early as well as advanced breast cancer including different forms of scar less/hidden scar techniques and reconstruction using patients own tissue versus implants. All this is essential to reinstall a woman's body image and confidence and ability to get back to a normal life. Take home message from her was – No matter what stage the Breast Cancer is de-

tected, with the latest advances in the treatment there is hope of cure for many. Dr. Sachin Trivedi, Director of Medical Oncology at HCG Mumbai spoke on the new anti-cancer treatment approach with immunotherapy. He highlighted how immunotherapy has transformed the way cancer is treated and how it is improving the life of cancer patients and helping specialists even cure cancer. He spoke on the role of comprehensive gene profiling (expanded genetic tests) in successful management of cancer. Both speakers answered all the queries raised by the attending doctors during the Interactive session. The meeting was attended by around 60 eminent practicing doctors of Oman, which included breast cancer specialists, surgeons, gynecologists, internists and family physicians – both from government and private health establishments. Both the speakers emphasised the importance of collaboration in scientific exchanges and possibilities of leverage clinical skill set between colleagues in Oman and India. They promised to return to Oman again to strengthen ties with colleagues and people of Oman. In his concluding remarks Dr. Sanjay Dalal, Founder of Muscat Family Physicians' group extended their gratitude to the speakers for very informative & educative scientific session. HCG hospital's commitment to continuing such programmes in Oman is laudable. HCG Hospital has set benchmarks in treatment of Cancer and patient care in India.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT

ISM celebrates academic accomplishments

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian School Muscat (ISM) celebrated academic excellence at its highly anticipated Annual Academic Merit Award ceremony, recognising the achievements of outstanding students and members of the staff on 8th August, 2024 in the school's multipurpose hall. ISM annually bestows its prestigious Academic Merit Awards on students of Classes V to XII, honouring their commitment and perseverance in reaching the pinnacle of academic achievement in their renowned institution. The ceremony was graced by the presence of numerous eminent dignitaries, led by the Chief Guest Prof. Mohamed Al Ismaily, Founder Chairman and Dean, Oman Dental College; the Guest of Honour, Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman; Special Guest, Jaypal Manik Detha, Second Secretary of the Embassy of India to the Sultanate of Oman, Distinguished members of the Board of Directors and the School Management Committee, the Principal, Rakesh



Joshi, Senior Vice Principal Administration, Vice-Principals, Assistant Vice-Principals of various sections, Heads of Departments, faculty members, proud parents and the student body witnessed the grand ceremony. National Anthems of Oman and India marked the commencement of the ceremony followed by a soulful rendition of the invocation song by the school choir, setting a reverent tone for the evening. The head boy, Nihal Bhat, initiated the ceremony with a cordial welcome to the attendees. A staggering number of 409 students (148 students from the Middle Section & 261 students from

the Senior Section) and 87 teachers walked pompously down the aisle with awards and merit certificates under various categories such as Chairman's Award, President's Award, Principal's Honours Award, Subject 'Toppers' Award, and Merit Awards. 56 teachers were felicitated for 100% attendance and 31 teachers were honored for motivating the students to achieve centums in various subjects in the CBSE Board Exams 2023-24. Vidhya Vishnu who had been honoured with the prestigious School Level Award for Excellence in Teaching for the academic year 2022-2023 conferred by the Board

of Directors, Indian Schools Oman was also felicitated on this occasion. The awards and merit certificates were bestowed on the meritorious academic achievers by the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour, the Second Secretary of the Embassy of India, members of the Board of Directors, members of the School Management Committee, and the Principal of the school. The Chief Guest, in his congratulatory address, spoke about the transformative power of education. He urged the students to always strive for excellence as excellence is a continuous journey. He concluded his speech with a quote from Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The guest of honour, during his speech complimented the awardees and stated that their achievements are a testament to their hard work, resilience and the spirit of excellence. He reminded them that anything can be achieved through determination and hard work.

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries
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TENDER

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders :-

Tender no.	Tender Title	Tender Document Sales Start Date	Tender Document Sales End Date	Bid Submission Closing	Companies that are eligible to participate	Tender Document fee (R.O)
555/2024/MAFWR/HQ-44	Supplying Technical Devices to support customer services for the Ministry of Agricultural Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources	Sunday 18/8/2024	Sunday 8/9/2024	Sunday 29/9/2024	Specialized companies registered with excellent, first, second, third and fourth grades	(25/-) Omani riyals for local companies (10/-) Omani riyals for SMEs

- Above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- The Tenderer should attach Bid Commitment Declaration for local companies, and for International company that not have head quarters in the Sultanate of Oman should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender) and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **+968 24402200** or **etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om**.

OMAN/WORLD

PAKISTAN NAVY SHIP

PNS Yarmook visits Port Sultan Qaboos to celebrate Independence Day of Pakistan

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Yarmook visited Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat to celebrate the 77th Independence Day of Pakistan on 14 August, 2024.

A splendid flag hoisting ceremony was performed on ship's deck. Smartly dressed ship's crew presented a guard of honour with playing of the national anthem of Pakistan.

The Ambassador of Pakistan along with Defence Attaché and children from Pakistan School Muscat in colourful Pakistani attire participated in the ceremony. Prayers were also offered for the safety and protection of Pakistan.

In the evening, a reception dinner was also hosted onboard ship which was attended by diplomats including ambassadors and military attaches of various countries, senior officers from Royal Armed Forces of Oman and prominent Pakistani community members.

PNS Yarmook is on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) duties which is Pakistan Navy's initiative to contribute to regional maritime security, safeguard international shipping and freedom of navigation at high seas.

PNS Yarmook is part of the



14th Destroyer Squadron of Pakistan Navy Fleet and possesses a helicopter and Maritime Security Warfare team.

The ship's visit was aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and Pakistan in general and Royal Navy of Oman and Pakistan Navy in particular.

Upon departing Port Sultan Qaboos, Pakistan Navy Ship Yarmook also conducted Passage Exercise with Royal Navy Oman Ship in the Sea of Oman.



GERMANY

Dictionary adds 3,000 new words including 'ChatGPT'

BELIN: Germany's Duden dictionary announced on Monday that it was introducing 3,000 new words into its latest addition, including TikTok and ChatGPT. Other tech terms like Hyperloop, OpenAI, and Ghosting were also added, as well as terms that have become popularised internationally like Triggerwarnung and Wokeness.

Most of the new terms, however, have to do with "cooking, crises, and war," said Duden's chief editor Katrin Kunkel-Razum.

Words like Sushireis (sushi rice), Tahin (tahini), Gojibeeren, Salsiccia (Italian for sausage) and Mocktail have entered the lexicon, showing a growing taste for more diverse ingredients in the kitchen. There are also words that show the nexus of cooking and technology like Gemüsebox (vegetable box) and Kochbox (cooking box), highlighting the increasing popularity of home-delivery produce and meal kits.

New climate change related terms have also been added, such

as Extremwetterereignis (extreme weather event) and Klimakleber (climate glue), the latter of which refers to protestors who glue themselves to airport runways and roads to protest the use of fossil fuels.

Current events like Ukrainekrieg (war in Ukraine) and Russlandsanktion (Russia sanction) are also well represented amongst the thousands of new words.

Kunkel-Razum said it was interesting to see which COVID-19-related

words would stick around after lockdowns were lifted and travel bans dropped.

"We discussed the coronavirus vocabulary intensely," she said, adding that it was "clearer" now what would stick around than it had been in 2020.

Impfzertifikat (vaccination certificate), Coronaleunger (COVID-19 conspiracy theorist), Distanzunterricht (distancing learning), and Virusvariante (virus variant) will all be listed in the dictionary for the first time. —**aw**



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KHAREEF DHOFAR

Oman Air flies 50,000 passengers to Salalah



Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of its long-standing commitment to promote Khareef Dhofar and support national interests, Oman Air has implemented several strategic measures to boost connectivity to Salalah.

Deploying maximum capacity with as many as 11 flights per day during peak times, the airline has also upgraded a number of flights to wide-body aircraft, leading to an addition of nearly 4,500 seats over the season.

In July alone, Oman Air flew almost 50,000 guests into the city, with over 70% using fixed national fare tickets.

"Salalah, especially during Khareef season, is one of Oman's most treasured touristic assets. As one of our key sectors, we are committed to supporting and

promoting it as a destination in line with the national objectives. This khareef, we've deployed maximum capacity to meet demand and offer more frequencies than any other airline," said Mike Rutter, Oman Air's Chief Commercial Officer.

"Furthermore, to support citizens and ensure that travel between Muscat and Salalah remains both affordable and accessible, we are providing consistent and transparent pricing with our year-round fixed fares, enabling more people to reconnect with loved ones or explore the beauty of the country without the burden of fluctuating fares."

Priced at OMR 54 return during the khareef season and OMR 64 for the rest of the year, the fixed national fare is offered exclusively through the airline's website and mobile app.

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UNITED STATES

Democratic National Convention to kick off in Chicago

CHICAGO: The Democratic National Convention (DNC) will kick off in Chicago, one month after Republicans held their convention in Milwaukee. US President Joe Biden will speak on day one of the convention during prime time, as he passes the torch to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Nearly 50,000 visitors are expected to attend the convention, including approximately 4,000 delegates. The theme of the convention is “For the People, For Our Future.” While the official schedule has not yet been released, Democratic National Convention officials have confirmed that President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will speak on Monday.

The theme for Monday will be “For the People,” with speakers expected to pay tribute to Biden, according to DNC officials. Former US President Barack Obama is scheduled to speak on Tuesday, which will focus on the theme “A Bold Vision for the Future.”

A Fight for Freedom

On Wednesday, under the theme “A Fight for Freedom,” former President Bill Clinton and Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi of California will address the convention, according to a source familiar with the schedule. Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries are also expected to speak this week, DNC officials said.

Mike Waltz, Kamala Harris’s running mate, is expected to take the stage on Wednesday to officially accept the vice-presidential nomination. Harris will formally accept the presidential nomination during her speech on Thursday, a night dedicated to the theme “For the Future.”

Harris will arrive at the convention shortly after a bus tour through Pennsylvania over the weekend. She will also hold a rally on Tuesday in Milwaukee, the same city where Trump accepted the Republican presidential nomination last month.

Typically, the convention includes a roll call vote to formally nominate presidential and vice-presidential candidates. — **ANI**

UN refugee agency says 207 team members were killed in Gaza war

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees said that most of its workers were engineers, teachers, medical staff. They were humanitarian workers. On World Humanitarian Day and every day, we remember and pay tribute to all of them

GAZA: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on Monday that the death toll of its workers in the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war has risen to 207.

The announcement came in conjunction with World Humanitarian Day, which falls on August 19 of each year.

The UN organisation added in a statement that “207 UNRWA team members have been killed in #Gaza since the war began – including in the line of duty.”

“They were engineers, teachers, medical staff. They were humanitarian workers. On World Humanitarian Day and every day we remember and pay tribute to them all,” it added.

On August 9, UNRWA revealed that 205 humanitarian workers had been killed by Israeli forces in Gaza since October 7.

Prime Minister Mustafa meets Dutch Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs in Gaza

Prime Minister Mohamed Mustafa discussed on Monday with the Dutch envoy for humanitarian



affairs in Gaza, Ambassador Marianne de Kwaasteniet, the importance of intensifying efforts and coordination to accelerate the entry of relief and medical aid to the Gaza Strip through all methods and to pressure to open more crossings with the Strip.

During his meeting with the Dutch envoy Kwastnet in his office in Ramallah, Mustafa reiterated the need for joint coordination with the government and relevant ministries, with the aim of integrating efforts and making maximum use of available resources to meet the urgent needs of the people in the Gaza Strip.

He further stressed the urgent need to accelerate the entry of aid through the Jordanian corridor or through the West Bank to the Gaza Strip and ensuring its delivery to all areas of the Strip.

The Prime Minister briefed the Dutch envoy on the government’s efforts and the plans it is preparing for relief, reconstruction and recovery in the Gaza Strip, reintegrating and unifying institutions, and restoring basic services, through joint coordination with the World Bank, the European Union and donors.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Social Development Samah Hamad, Minister of State for Relief Affairs Basil Nasser, and Representative of the Netherlands to Palestine Michel Rentenaar.

Israeli colonists, under the protection of Israeli police, Monday morning broke into Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied Jerusalem.

Eyewitnesses said that dozens of colonists entered the holy site in groups, conducted provocative tours throughout the compound, and performed Talmudic rituals.

During the incursion, Israeli

police imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers to the mosque.

Additionally, Israeli police intensified the restrictions at the gates of the Old City, effectively turning the area into a military zone.

Lawyers seeking arms export ban submit claims of Israeli war crimes to UK court

Claims of Palestinians being tortured, left untreated in hospital and unable to escape constant bombardment have been submitted to the high court in London by lawyers seeking an order preventing the UK government continuing to grant arms export licences to British companies selling arms to Israel.

According to the Guardian, the 14 witness statements covering more than 100 pages come from Palestinian and western medical doctors working in Gaza’s hospitals, as well as from ambulance drivers, civil defence department workers and aid workers.

The graphic evidence is designed to support a request for a court order that the UK government has acted irrationally in refusing to ban the sale of arms, arguing there was not a clear risk the weapons would be used to commit breaches of international humanitarian law. This is the statutory test set for the government to decide whether to grant arms export licences. The Labour government is reviewing the policy.

The signed testimony has been given by witnesses all identified to

the court, but only two of them are being named by the Guardian due to the need to protect families in Gaza from potential retribution. The judicial review is due to be held between 8 and 10 October.

The case has been brought by an alliance of NGOs including Al-Haq, Global Legal Action Network (GLAN), Amnesty International, Oxfam and Human Rights Watch.

The previous Conservative administration defended its decision to continue to grant licences, saying there was insufficient risk that UK weapons were being used in war crimes.

The Israel Defence Forces claims it is acting in self-defence in line with humanitarian law and that allegations of misconduct are investigated independently.

One of the named witnesses, Dr Ben Thomson, a Canadian kidney specialist, said he treated a patient who had been forced to stand for 48 hours, requiring a skin graft on his heel. He said he also treated a 60-year-old man who had been stripped naked by Israeli forces, whose wrists had been bound tightly for three days, and who had been dragged on the floor, causing his wrist to be worn down to the bone.

He said: “Every part of the healthcare system has been targeted and destroyed and is now completely incapable of providing care. So many people are dying from issues that are completely treatable.” He said he had personally treated three children whom he could have saved if he had any access to the appropriate medicines.

He testified that when he visited the tent city in Rafah in March, water was rationed to three litres a day and there was one toilet for every 800 people. He said he was forced to reset bones without pain medication and that on one occasion, such was the overcrowding in a hospital that a man in his care died “on the floor in a pool of his own blood and brain matter”.

In the second named witness statement, Dr Khaled Dawas, a consultant surgeon at University College hospital London, said conditions in hospitals on both his trips “were what he imagined medieval medicine must have been like”. He said many of his patients were victims of sniper fire.

— **WAPA**

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

What must NASA do to bring its astronauts back home?

FLORIDA: American astronauts Barry ‘Butch’ Wilmore and Sunita ‘Suni’ Williams are stuck in space – for now – as NASA and Boeingwork through issues with the Starliner spacecraftthat brought them up to theInternational Space Station (ISS).

Starliner is a space capsule built by Boeing as part of NASA’s Commercial Crew Program, an initiative where private companies provide private spaceflight services to the ISS. Rival SpaceX also provides such services.

Wilmore (flight commander) and Williams (pilot) were at the helm of the Boeing-built capsule in its first crewed test flight to the ISS, which overcame pre-flight technical problems to dock with the space station on June 6.

But persistent issues involving helium lines into the thrusters and the propulsion system generally have kept the Starliner moored to the ISS ever since, with NASA and Boeing teams still working to safely return the astronauts to Earth.

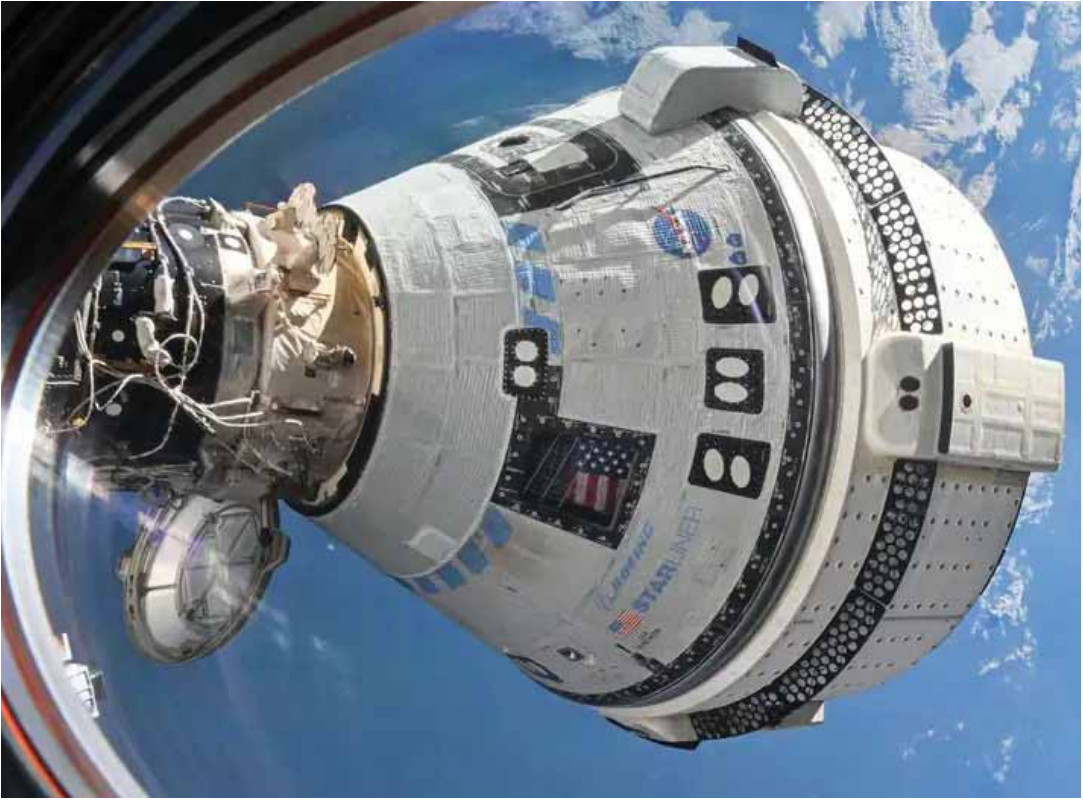
Currently, NASA has outlined two options – either fix the issues so the astronauts can pilot Starliner back to Earth, or return Starliner to Earth ‘uncrewed’.

That second option would leave Wilmore and Williams to come home with SpaceX’s Crew-9 mission in February 2025 – prolonging their stay from an initially planned eight days to around eight months.

There are unquestionablyhealth risks associated with space travel, but astronauts like Wilmore and Williams are highly-trained and experienced at living aboard their ‘second home’ – the ISS.

If they return home in February, they will have experienced eight months more radiation exposure than originally anticipated.

But that’s still a comparatively light dose compared to exposure for other astronauts. Russian cos-



monaut Oleg Kononenko, for instance, has spent more than 1,000 days in space. His current stint began in March.

One of the big challenges to human health in space is weightlessness. Because humans have evolved with Earth’s gravitational pull, our bodies are simply not optimized to live without it. The absence of gravity can cause a loss in bone density, increase the risk of developing kidney stones, alter eyesight and have a negative impact on the cardiovascular system.

Studies have also shown that exposure to higher radiation levels in space increases the risk of cancer and causes muscles to atrophy.

An astronaut’s perspective

In a press briefing on Wednesday, NASA’s chief astronaut Joe Acaba

– who has spent 306 days in space himself – highlighted the inherent risk of space travel that all astronauts face.

“We embark on missions fully aware of the various scenarios and outcomes that may become our realities. We undergo rigorous training to prepare both mentally and physically for the challenges that may arise during any given mission,” Acaba said.

“Human spaceflight is inherently risky and as astronauts, we accept that as part of the job.”

What are the Starliner astronauts doing to fill the time?

While Starliner remains docked, Wilmore and Williams are keeping busy. They have ‘integrated’ into the station’s work rota with the other ISS crew members,

which includes four members of the SpaceX Crew-8 and three of the Soyuz MS-25 mission.

“They are as busy as any other crew that is up there,” said Acaba.

How will they know whether Starliner is safe to return?

While project teams work through available data, a multi-layered review process is still underway that will ultimately decide whether Starliner returns to Earth with Wilmore and Williams on board. At this stage, NASA officials are still gathering data to inform these review processes.

Regular programme meetings have been held – most recently last week – to assess progress among the specialist teams analyzing Starliner data.

NASA is also conducting an



agency-level Flight Readiness Review, where three independent technical agencies are involved. The reviewers include members of its Safety and Mission Assurance, NASA’s Chief Engineer, and the agency’s Chief Health and Medical Officer.

Once complete, this review will hand recommendations to NASA’s Associate Administrator for Space Operations Ken Bowersox, who will poll his teams on whether to return to Earth should go ahead, then make a flight decision.

“At the agency review, I go ahead and say what my call is,” said Bowersox.

“At that point we could have a persistent dissenting opinion, it could come up after a PCB and then be raised at the Flight Readiness Review, it could be elevated beyond that.”

Dissenting opinions on whether to proceed could be elevated to NASA’s Associate Administrator Jim Free, or potentially to Administrator Bill Nelson for final input.

Has this happened before?

NASA says mid-mission Flight Readiness Reviews are not unheard of. Officials confirmed a similar mid-mission review was held whenSpaceX’s first crew test flight was launched back in 2020.

“Before each major milestone, especially on a test flight, we will execute a thorough readiness review,” said NASA’s chief flight director Emily Nelson, “We don’t always call in agency leadership for this conversation specifically, but we certainly review our readiness before each dynamic milestone.”

When will NASA decide?

Although there’s no hard cut-off, logistics will play a part in Ken Bowersox’s decision. Right now, it’s looking like NASA will make a call on how Wilmore and Williams will return by the end of August.

Even though Boeing and SpaceX are both part of NASA’s Commercial Crew Program, their spacecraft and mission equipment are unique, including the spacesuits the astronauts wear. Should Wilmore and Williams be forced by an emergency to return on the SpaceX Crew Dragon 2 spacecraft, they may therefore have to do so ‘unsuited’.

If the final decision is in favor of a planned return for the Starliner crew on the SpaceX capsule, Wilmore and Williams will be provided appropriate suits for return. Because of the Starliner repair job, the next SpaceX flight to the ISS won’t launch until at least September 24. — **gw**

SPORTS

SHREWD TACTICIAN

Former Indian batting coach heaps praise on skipper Rohit Sharma

NEW DELHI: Former Indian batting coach Vikram Rathore heaped praises on T20 World Cup-winning Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, calling him a “shrewd tactician” and opened on his move to end Jasprit Bumrah’s overs early during the T20 WC title clash against South Africa.



Rathour, who had a stint with Men in Blue as a batting coach from 2021-24, during which India finished as runners-up in two ICC World Test Championships, runners-up in the ICC Cricket World Cup held at home last year and finally the T20 champions after beating Proteas this year, was speaking on "Find a Way with Taruwar Kohli", a podcast by former U19 World Cup winning cricketer Taruwar. Speaking on the podcast, Vikram said that Rohit could forget about his decisions after winning the toss or his valuables during a trip, but he never forgets his game plan.

“He might forget whether he has decided to bat or bowl at the toss, or his phone and iPad in the team bus but he never forgets his gameplan. He is very good at it and is a very shrewd tactician,” Rathour said. The former batting coach called Rohit a “player’s cap-

tain” and lauded him for investing so much time and energy in team meetings and strategies.

"He is a player's captain. He is invested with the players. I have never seen a captain, who is so invested in team meetings and strategies. He spends a lot of time on the team's strategy. He is part of the bowlers' meeting, batters' meeting. He wants to sit with the bowlers and batters to try and understand what they are thinking. He invests a lot of time with the players." Rathour said.

Speaking about ending Bumrah's four-over spell by the 18th over during the title clash, Vikram said that giving the ball early to Bumrah helped choke Proteas' run flow when they seemed to be in a dominant position, needing 30 runs from 30 balls while chas-

ing 177. The final two overs went to Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, who were left with 20 runs to defend. Arshdeep and Hardik did the job successfully, winning the game for India by seven runs.

"He (Rohit) is tactically very good as a captain. In the T20 World Cup final, he finished Bunsrah's over early. A lot of people must have questioned that decision but that decision put us in the situation, where 16 was needed in the last over. His tactical decisions on the field are spot on. Sitting outside, it surprises you as a coach as well. We from outside sometimes think what he is doing but then you realise what he has done after a while." Rahtour concluded.

India ended their 11-year-long ICC trophy drought as Virat Kohli (76), Axar Patel (47), Hardik Pandya (3/20) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/18) starred in Men in Blue's seven-run win over South Africa in the final at Barbados on June 29. Virat's masterclass knock helped India reach 176/7 in 20 overs, while Bumrah and Pandya unleashed a pace choke on Proteas, snatching the match from a losing position to restrict Proteas to 169/8 in their 20 overs. **-ANI**

Man City cruise past Chelsea 2-0

Manchester City
were without
midfielder Rodrigo
Hernandez and just
sold Julian Alvarez



LONDON: Manchester City kicked off their search for a fifth consecutive Premier League title with a 2-0 win away to Chelsea on Sunday afternoon.

City were without Spain international midfielder Rodrigo Hernandez and had just sold Julian Alvarez to Atletico Madrid, but Erling Haaland was in their starting 11 and the Norwegian opened the scoring in the 25th minute as he clipped the ball over Robert Sanchez from close range.

New City signing Savio impressed in the first half but was

replaced by Phil Foden at halftime after suffering an apparent knee injury. Former Chelsea midfielder Mateo Kovacic assured the points six minutes from time after controlling the ball on his chest, surging past two defenders and beating Sanchez with a powerful shot.

Chelsea's former Manchester City and England winger, Raheem Sterling was left out of Maresca's squad and the player released a statement before the game started saying he would look for "clarity" over his situation.

Bryan Mbuemo put Brentford

ahead minutes after England international, Eberechi Eze had seen a goal controversially ruled out for a prior foul.

The visitors leveled 10 minutes after the break when Daniel Munoz's nod-down gave Ethan Pinnock problems and he put the ball into his own net, but Yoan Wissa poked home the winner for Brentford with 16 minutes left to play.

Brentford coach Thomas Frank admitted that England striker Ivan Toney had been left out due to "transfer interest." -Xinhua

BORDER-GAVASKAR TROPHY

Cummins hints at more workload for Green, Marsh against India

MELBOURNE: Australian skipper Pat Cummins said that the bowling workload of all-rounders Cameron Green and Mitchell Marsh will be raised more during the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India at home later this year, with an aim to help the mainstay trio of Cummins-Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood sustain themselves throughout what promises to be an intense battle.

The much-awaited Border-Gavaskar Trophy will commence with the first Test--a day match--at Perth Stadium from November 22 to November 26, setting the tone for the series. India has won its last two series in Australia, held in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

In the last season, Australia played an unchanged frontline bowling attack for seven Tests against Pakistan, West Indies and New Zealand. None of these

matches reached the fifth day and only in three innings, Australia had to bowl more than 78 overs. These factors kept Cummins, Hazlewood and Starc fresh and active for the entirety of the season.

Green provided Australia with an additional pace bowling option when he returned during the West Indies series, but only bowled 42 overs across the next four Tests, playing mainly as a number four batter when Steve Smith moved up to the opening slot following David Warner's retirement.

"It is been huge having the all-rounders. In some ways we have not had to use them as much as we thought we would. Which is a great thing. The last couple of summers have been pretty light [with] quick Test matches," said Cummins as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"I suspect this summer might be a bit different at time. We will be drawing on Cam Green and Mitch



Marsh a bit more. Even someone like Cam basically started in Shield cricket as a bowler but has not had to bowl heaps in Test matches. Now he is a few years older, I think we will be leaning on him a bit more," he added.

Green has taken 35 wickets in Tests at an average of 35.31 and

has a five-wicket haul as well. The young all-rounder was moved into number four slot and he scored a magnificent 174 against NZ at Wellington to showcase what he could offer there. For the BGT series, there seems to be uncertainty about Australia's top six, with Smith being largely underwhelm-

ing as an opener since the past few months. But it is more or less fixed that Marsh and Green will be a part of the top six. Cummins said that these two all-rounders making it into top six on the basis of their batting alone is a "luxury".

“The first point is they both absolutely make the top six on their batting alone which is a luxury. We are really lucky that Nathan Lyon bowls plenty of overs, so you do not necessarily have to have an allrounder, but it makes a big difference to have that fifth bowling option. And with someone like Cam and Mitch, we have six bowling options. It is a really nice thing to have. The top six should always make the team on their batting.”

On being complimented by his teammates for managing their workloads well, Cummins said, "It is nice of them to say that, they would never say it to my face. When I am at the top of their mark

asking them to do something, they know I am also doing it down the other end and would not ask for something I cannot do myself. Maybe there is a bit of built-up trust over the last decade or so," he concluded.

The second Test, scheduled for December 6 to 10 at Adelaide Oval, will feature the exciting day-night format under the stadium's lights. After that, fans will turn their attention to The Gabba in Brisbane for the third Test, which will be held from December 14 to 18.

The customary Boxing Day Test, set for December 26 to 30 at Melbourne's storied Melbourne Cricket Ground, will bring the series to its penultimate stage.

The fifth and final Test, taking place at the Sydney Cricket Ground from January 3 to 7, will serve as the series climax, promising a dramatic conclusion to an exciting contest.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by October 2024 reaching \$77.84, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.24 from the price of Friday, which was \$79.08. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,673.30 points, down by 0.39% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.11% at 443.04 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 3.03%, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 3.23%, was the top loser.

Khazaen Dry Port inks strategic collaboration pact with DHL

The partnership agreement encompasses container handling, unstuffing, and warehousing of goods at the KDP Container Freight Station

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Khazaen Dry Port (KDP), Oman's premier dry port and part of Asyad Group, and DHL Global Forwarding, the world's leading international freight specialist, recently joined forces in a strategic collaboration to provide Less-than-Container Load (LCL) consolidation services.

The partnership agreement encompasses container handling, unstuffing, and warehousing of goods at the KDP Container Freight Station.

This partnership between the leading logistics players reflects a shared commitment to innovation,



supply chain optimization, and meeting the evolving demands of the regional market. It also marks a major milestone in enhancing customer experience by facilitating the receipt of goods and offering seamless last-mile delivery services from KDP which will now act as the hub for DHL's LCL cus-

tomers across the Sultanate.

The collaboration is expected to yield significant benefits for both organizations and their customers. For KDP, this partnership reinforces its position as a key logistics hub, attracting more businesses and investments to the region. DHL, in turn, gains access to a world-class

facility and a host of expertise, enabling it to better serve its customers in Oman and the region.

Above all, customers will benefit from streamlined processes, reduced costs, and improved efficiency with the centre of logistics operation now closer to the end market. The partnership is also expected

to stimulate economic growth in the region by facilitating trade and creating new job opportunities.

"This partnership with DHL marks a significant milestone in our journey to become a leading logistics hub in the region," Saad Bait Nasib, Executive Director at KDP, "Our shared vision for inno-

vation and customer-centric solutions will enable us to offer unparalleled services to DHL's clientele and contribute to the growth of the regional economy."

Roy Scaria, DHL Oman Country Manager, added, "We are excited to collaborate with KDP to enhance our presence in the region and provide our customers with even greater value. KDP's strategic location, modern infrastructure, and commitment to excellence align perfectly with our goals of optimizing supply chains and delivering exceptional service."

By leveraging KDP's state-of-the-art facilities and strategic location, combined with DHL's vast global network and expertise, the partnership offers a seamless, end-to-end LCL solution that simplifies international trade for SMEs, entrepreneurs and individual customers. This integrated approach streamlines processes, reduces costs, and accelerates transit times, while providing enhanced visibility and security.

Aligned with Asyad Group's strategy, KDP continues to attract the world's biggest industry players and build targeted partnerships that can bolster Oman's logistics sector. With these alliances, businesses of all sizes can now confidently access global markets, fostering growth and economic development in Oman and advancing connectivity throughout the region.

PIVOTAL ROLE



Al Mouj Muscat champions SME development in marine tourism and water sports industry

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat continues to solidify its reputation as a cornerstone for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) within the marine tourism and water sports industry, playing a pivotal role in fostering sustainability, innovation and competitiveness.

Recognising the critical role and importance of SMEs in driving economic growth, Al Mouj Muscat identified and implemented a series of development opportunities designed to upskill and enhance the capabilities of operator business owners and captains.

Among the initiatives, Al Mouj Marina implemented several management and safety courses to ensure participants are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills in operational management and safety standards. In addition, Al Mouj Muscat introduced smartboxes (ticketing kiosks) to enhance operator visibility and streamline booking processes as well as planned competition for the best-performing SMEs to encourage excellence and innovation.

These forward-thinking initiatives emphasize quality control, sustainable practices, and standardized minimum pricing to encourage healthy competition among operators.

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said: "Al Mouj Muscat is more than just a business location; it's a dynamic ecosystem

that nurtures growth and a thriving destination where people live, work and play. We are dedicated to up-skilling and supporting our tenants and partners in every way possible, recognising that their success is our success and our collective efforts mean bigger economic growth for Oman. Beyond the business, we also understand our role in environmental preservation and continue to actively promote environmentally conscious operations."

Over last several years, more than 30 marine tourism companies have operated from Al Mouj Marina, with 80% of them operating exclusively from the marina. Adopting a hands-on approach to support its SMEs, Al Mouj Marina organizes daily meetings with business owners as well as hosts bi-annual gatherings to discuss various operational matters and hear-first from its tenants and partners.

Today, Al Mouj Marina is Oman's largest marina, featuring a 400-berth yachting destination and award-winning, eco-friendly facilities. The marina accommodates yachts ranging from 10 to 40 meters and serves as a hub for aquatic activities and experiences. Al Mouj Marina invites marine tourism companies and watersports operators to explore the opportunities available, making the most of the supportive, innovative, and sustainable business environment.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR27mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR27 million by a way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR6 million, for a maturity period of 28 days.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.43214 per cent and 4.44726 per cent, respectively.

The value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR21 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.765 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.765 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.95357 per cent and 5.01551 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed



commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

The interest rate on the repo operations with CBO is 6.00% while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 6.50%.

Furthermore, the treasury bills promote the local money market

by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the Government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. -OMA

SHARES VENTURE WORKSHOP

'Smart Investor' workshop empowers young students with investment knowledge

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of efforts to cultivate a culture of investment and promote sound financial practices among minors, key institutions in Oman's securities market — namely the Financial Services Authority (FSA), Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), and Muscat Clearing and Depository Company (MCD) — organised the shares venture workshop 'Smart Investor'.

This initiative, held in collaboration with the Oman Across Ages Museum, targeted school students aged 9 to 14 years, aiming to enhance their investment knowledge and skills.

The workshop included a number of topics to acquaint the participants with the institutions operating in the securities sectors in the Sultanate of Oman and best ways of saving and investment.

The workshop covered the concepts and the phases of investment and how to choose the shares, determining investment objects, planning for saving in ad-



dition to the investment strategies namely diversification, buying and holding. The students were also informed about the investment opportunities in MSX, methods of buying and selling through brokers. The workshop included interactive activities for children such as investment simulations to

convey the message smoothly.

Ahmed Eisa Khamis Al Ghafra, a participant in the workshop said "I have interest in investment, I read about the capital market sector and the workshop added useful information and corrected many concepts, I plan with my father to start a saving and investment plan."

It is noteworthy that such workshops are organized to raise awareness and enhance cooperation among the securities sector institutions for a generation that is aware of sound methods of investment and saving to protect individuals from fraud which is widespread recently.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Oman REIT Fund, up 3.03%, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 3.23%, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,673.30 points, down by 0.39% from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.11% at 443.04 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 3.03%, was the top gainer while Ahli Bank, down 3.23%, was the top loser. Shares of OQGN were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 685 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of RO 1.96 million, with more than 10.85 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 10 advanced, 17 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for RO 555K while foreign investors were net sellers for RO 309K, followed by GCC & Arab investors for RO 247K worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,599.82 points, down 0.8%.

Prices of Ahli Bank, Oman Arab Bank, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Nizwa, Sohar International Bank were down by 3.23%, 2.69%, 1.35%, 0.96%, 0.75% respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,824.22 points, down 0.1%. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramics, Al Maha Ceramics, Jazeera Steel Products were up by 2.29%, 1.97%, 1.46% respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Oman Flour Mills, Galfar Engineering, Oman Cables Industry were down by 2.55%, 2.13%, 0.71%, 0.03% respectively. Services Index was down by 0.06% before closing at 1,818.34 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Renaissance Services, Muscat Gases, Shell Oman Marketing were up by 2.90%, 2.58%, 0.82%, 0.14% respectively.

Prices of Majan College, Phoenix Power, Al Suwadi Power, Sembcorp Salalah, National Gas were down by 2.68%, 1.70%, 1.32%, 0.96%, 0.94% respectively

— United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES													
MSX 30 INDEX	4,700.11	4,670.74	4,673.30	4,691.48	-18.17	-0.39							
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,663.81	7,597.65	7,599.82	7,660.75	-60.93	-0.80							
Industry Index	5,830.12	5,806.33	5,824.22	5,830.12	-5.91	-0.10							
Services Index	1,829.31	1,818.19	1,818.34	1,819.50	-1.15	-0.06							
MSX Shariah Index	443.54	442.29	443.04	443.54	-0.50	-0.11							
MSX TR INDEX	6,532.41	6,491.60	6,495.15	6,520.41	-25.26	-0.39							
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,706.87	8,631.71	8,634.17	8,703.39	-69.22	-0.80							
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,726.58	6,699.13	6,719.76	6,726.58	-6.52	-0.10							
SERVICES TR IDX	2,128.69	2,115.74	2,115.93	2,117.26	-1.34	-0.06							
FIXED INCOME INDEX	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	1,069.10	0.00	0.00							
Trading Summary													
Volume	10,859,947	Turnover	1,961,911	Trades	685	Market Cap	24,406,493,734	Up	10	Down	17	Equal	23
								Sec. Traded					50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 19

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM00000003224 RENAISSANCE SERVICES	140,189	55,656	61	0.388	0.400	0.388	0.398	0.388	0.010	2.577	0.398	0.398	0.398	0.100	94,091,180
OM00000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	55,972	9,965	11	0.175	0.179	0.175	0.179	0.175	0.004	2.286	0.179	0.179	0.179	0.100	39,380,000
OM00000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PRODUCTS	6,510	1,811	4	0.275	0.279	0.275	0.279	0.275	0.004	1.455	0.279	0.275	0.279	0.100	34,846,531
OM00000002275 SHELL OMAN MARKETING	40	44	1	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.736	0.000	0.000	0.736	0.740	0.800	0.100	69,920,000
OM00000001087 OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	8,165	2,041	3	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.247	0.250	0.100	25,000,000
OM00000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	28,154	7,742	5	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.275	0.000	0.000	0.275	0.273	0.275	0.100	447,135,248
OM00000001533 OMINVEST	19,345	6,472	6	0.334	0.335	0.334	0.335	0.335	0.000	0.000	0.335	0.330	0.335	0.100	223,902,418
OM00000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	70,000	5,180	6	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.074	0.075	0.100	9,015,750
OM00000002796 BANK MUSCAT	2,287,217	585,872	46	0.257	0.257	0.255	0.256	0.256	0.000	0.000	0.256	0.256	0.257	0.100	1,921,637,648
OM00000002804 ASAFFA FOODS	11,700	4,680	2	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.390	0.400	0.100	48,000,000
OM00000003686 COREDOO	49,344	13,966	9	0.283	0.284	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.000	0.000	0.283	0.283	0.285	0.100	184,217,217
OM00000004768 MADINA TAKAFUL	224,749	17,286	6	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.000	0.000	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.100	13,475,000
OM00000004825 ALBATINAH POWER	375,382	27,794	22	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	50,616,557
OM00000006934 ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	482,481	145,779	33	0.302	0.304	0.301	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.292	0.302	0.100	232,600,400
OM00000000072 OQ GAS NETWORKS	3,913,751	548,383	206	0.140	0.141	0.139	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	698,287,340
OM00000000306 OMAN TELECOM	202,847	202,096	37	0.999	0.999	0.995	0.995	1.001	-0.006	-0.599	0.995	0.995	1.002	0.100	746,250,000
OM00000000398 SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	757,789	100,817	37	0.133	0.134	0.132	0.133	0.133	-0.001	-0.755	0.132	0.132	0.135	0.100	736,196,508
OM000000004735 SEMBICORP SALALAH	34,000	3,502	4	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.104	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.100	96,320,911
OM000000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	124,492	9,418	14	0.076	0.077	0.075	0.075	0.076	-0.001	-1.316	0.075	0.075	0.076	0.100	53,580,476
OM00000002440 AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	45,000	3,285	1	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.071	0.078	0.100	6,570,000
Total	20	8,897,147	1,751,671	516											

Parallel Market															
OM00000008447 OMAN REIT FUND	225,151	15,226	24	0.067	0.069	0.067	0.068	0.066	0.002	3.030	0.068	0.066	0.071	0.100	33,376,874
OM00000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	494,588	35,247	27	0.071	0.073	0.071	0.071	0.069	0.002	2.899	0.071	0.071	0.074	0.100	15,779,040
OM00000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	3,932	609	2	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.152	0.003	1.974	0.155	0.152	0.155	0.100	8,525,000
OM00000000969 JARAL REIF	3,000	303	1	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.001	1.900	0.101	0.101	0.105	0.100	17,774,000
OM00000000178 MUSCAT GASES	210	26	1	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.122	0.001	0.820	0.123	0.123	0.123	0.100	3,690,000
OM00000001046 PACKAGING CO. LTD.	2,000	3,900	1	1.950	1.950	1.950	1.950	1.950	0.000	0.000	1.950	0.000	1.950	1.000	5,850,000
OM00000001368 CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDS	121,716	5,516	12	0.043	0.046	0.043	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.046	0.047	0.100	2,875,000
OM00000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	87,370	6,553	3	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.070	0.075	0.100	15,913,500
OM00000001962 AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	20,000	1,120	2	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.056	0.056	0.058	0.100	4,760,000
OM00000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	6,000	1,290	3	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.000	0.000	0.215	0.212	0.215	0.100	13,158,919
OM00000000300 AL MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MKRT	160	168	2	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	1.050	0.000	0.000	1.050	1.050	1.065	0.100	72,450,000
OM00000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,890	180	2	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.090	0.096	0.100	19,200,000
OM00000001707 OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	865	2,508	1	2.899	2.899	2.899	2.900	2.900	-0.001	-0.034	2.899	2.830	2.899	0.100	26,040,300
OM00000003521 GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTR.	244,885	34,182	25	0.141	0.141	0.139	0.140	0.141	-0.001	-0.709	0.140	0.137	0.140	0.100	28,418,102
OM00000008710 BARKA DESALINATION	13,871	1,720	3	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.125	-0.001	-0.800	0.124	0.121	0.125	0.100	9,364,728
OM00000008868 THE PEARL REIF	4,700	547	3	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.116	0.117	-0.001	-0.855	0.116	0.114	0.117	0.100	58,940,011
OM00000001160 NATIONAL GAS	510	54	2	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.962	0.105	0.103	0.107	0.100	8,925,000
OM00000004420 BANK NIZWA	410,620	42,294	17	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.101	0.107	0.100	230,408,162
OM00000005963 PHOENIX POWER	10,967	638	6	0.059	0.059	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.057	0.059	0.100	84,830,885
OM00000001400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	4,200	1,938	2	0.470	0.470	0.460	0.460	0.470	-0.010	-2.128	0.460	0.461	0.490	0.100	72,450,000
OM00000003661 VOLTAMP ENERGY	517	178	2	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.344	0.353	-0.009	-2.550	0.344	0.344	0.354	0.100	28,002,546
OM00000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	500	55	1	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.112	-0.003	-2.679	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	9,810,000
OM00000005380 OMAN ARAB BANK	190,015	27,842	8	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.146	-0.001	-2.685	0.145	0.140	0.150	0.100	242,054,450
OM00000002200 AHLI BANK	88,086	13,213	3	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.155	-0.005	-3.226	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	352,448,620
Total	24	1,937,743	195,306	154											

IN OMAN

Tethys Oil starts exploring Kunooz-1 well on Block 58

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil has announced that the drilling operations of the exploration well Kunooz-1 in the Fahd area on Block 58 onshore Sultanate of Oman has commenced.

“The well is planned to be drilled to a total depth of approximately

3,900 metres and drilling operations are expected to be ongoing for about 45 days,” Tethys said in a press statement.

Kunooz-1 will be drilled into the Masirah Bay formation with the Nafun play carbonates Buah and Khufai as its primary targets at depths of approximately 3,500 metres (TVD) and 3,800 metres

(TVD) respectively. The well's secondary target is the Ara/Birba carbonates at an approximate depth of 3,100 metres (TVD).

Kunooz-1 is Tethys Oil's first exploration well on Block 58. The prospect on which the well is drilled is one of several identified on Block 58 in close proximity to well established play fairway and

infrastructure in neighbouring Block 6. Tethys Oil is, through its wholly owned subsidiary Tethys Oil Qatbeet Limited, the operator of Block 58 and holds a 100 percent license interest.

Tethys Oil is an oil exploration and production company with focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries.

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THREE-DAY EXPEDITION

MHD Automobile hosts inaugural Jetour Tribe event featuring newly launched Jetour T2 vehicle



MUSCAT: MHD Automobile, a leading name in the automotive industry in Oman, announced the successful completion of the inaugural Jetour Tribe event, a thrilling experiential drive showcasing the newly launched Jetour T2 vehicle. This event marked the Dhofar Khareef edition, with more editions to follow.

This three-day expedition, attended by over 50 Jetour T2 owners, took place against the breathtaking backdrop of the Khareef season in Dhofar. It provided Jetour T2 enthusiasts with a unique opportunity to fully experience the capabilities of their vehicles. Organized by MHD Automobile LLC, the event was designed to reconnect with valued customers, inviting participants to embark on an exhilarating journey that combined adventure with the stunning

diversity of Oman's landscapes.

Commenting on the event, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD Automobiles, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, “The Jetour Tribe event exemplifies our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences for our customers, creating lasting memories while



STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON ROLE OF OMEGA-3 FATTY ACID IN PREVENTION OF ARRHYTHMIAS

The main focus of the research was on how an oleic acid/palmitic acid mixture (OAPA), two well-studied saturated fats, impact calcium homeostasis in cardiomyocytes by affecting Ca2+ ion channels, and whether EPA can rescue these changes and restore normal functioning.

Scientists have produced an enormous amount of evidence in the last few decades that indicates eating a diet high in saturated fats is sufficient to induce heart disease. Saturated fats have also been connected to potentially fatal arrhythmias, in addition to other issues including diabetes and atherosclerosis.

It's interesting to note that some omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids appear to improve cardiovascular health, according to research on humans and animals. Specifically, the antioxidant and vasodilator eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) in fish oil can even help prevent arrhythmias like atrial fibrillation. Even though EPA is widely accessible as a dietary supplement, little is known about how it affects cardiomyocytes and the underlying mechanisms of action.

In a recent study published online in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, a research team from Japan set out to bridge this

knowledge gap. Led by Associate Professor Masaki Morishima from Kindai University, they investigated the role of EPA in inducing long-term electrical changes in cultured mouse cardiomyocytes using a variety of bioanalytical techniques. Their research article was co-authored by Dr. Katsushige Ono from Oita University and Dr. Kazuki Hori-kawa from Tokushima University.

The main focus of this work was on how an oleic acid/palmitic acid mixture (OAPA), two well-studied saturated fats, impact calcium homeostasis in cardiomyocytes by affecting Ca2+ ion channels, and whether EPA can rescue these changes and restore normal functioning.

First, using real-time PCR, the researchers found that OAPA markedly reduced the mRNA levels of Cav1.2 L-type Ca2+ channels. Live cell imaging systems confirmed that OAPA also lowered the spontaneous beating rate of cardiomyocytes.

Notably, these changes were pre-



vented when even a small amount of EPA was applied together with OAPA, rescuing both mRNA and protein expression levels of Cav1.2. Through electrophysiological measurements,

the researchers also confirmed that the reduction in Cav1.2 channel current caused by OAPA was also prevented by EPA.

To gain more detailed insights into the effects of OAPA and EPA, the team then focused on a transcription factor known as cAMP response element binding protein (CREB), whose phosphorylation serves as an index of Cav1.2 transcription. While OAPA reduced CREB mRNA in a way entirely consistent with changes in Cav1.2 mRNA, EPA was able to prevent these alterations.

The researchers then turned their attention to FFAR4, an EPA receptor. Interestingly, the researchers observed that an agonist to FFAR4, mimicking the effects of EPA, rescued the changes caused by OAPA, whereas an antagonist to FFAR4 outright blocked the effects of EPA. Together, these findings reveal that EPA is involved in a regulatory pathway mediated by FFAR4 that affects the regulation of L-type Ca2+ channels

in cardiomyocytes.

A final set of experiments revealed that OAPA was responsible for oxidative stress through the accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS). Again, EPA could rescue ROS accumulation induced by OAPA. However, it turns out that ROS accumulation affects the transcription of Cav1.2 L-type Ca2+ channels through yet another pathway that is independent of FFAR4.

Put together, this study has shed some much needed light on the underlying mechanisms by which EPA could bolster heart health. "Although there are techniques and drugs to control arrhythmias, methods to prevent them have not been established," remarks Dr. Morishima. Adding further, she states, "The results of our study suggest that EPA has a protective effect on cardiomyocytes by normalizing abnormalities caused by the intake of excessive amounts of saturated fatty acids, which occurs in high-fat diets." -ANI

SPORTS

Pakistan lose fast bowler Aamir to injury ahead of Test series against Bangladesh

Jamal suffered a back injury while playing County cricket in England earlier this year

NEW DELHI: Pakistan's pace attack has taken a major hit just before their two-match Test series against Bangladesh at home. Fast bowler Aamir Jamal has been released from the squad due to ongoing fitness issues, further impacting Pakistan's lineup for the crucial series.

Jamal, who suffered a back injury while playing County cricket in England earlier this year, was initially included in Pakistan's squad for the ICC World Test Championship series, pending a fitness clearance. However, the 28-year-old has not fully recovered from his back problem and has been sent to the National Cricket Academy in Lahore for rehabilitation.

With Jamal's departure, Pakistan's squad for the Test series, which begins on Wednesday, is now reduced to just 14 players.



This follows the release of spinner Abrar Ahmed and top-order batter Kamran Ghulam over the weekend.

Pakistan will play the first Test against Bangladesh with an all-pace attack, led by left-arm quick Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah. The fast bowling lineup will also feature Khurram Shehzad and Mir Hamza.

Jamal was expected to contend for a spot in the final XI after his impressive debut against Australia this year. His injury will now delay his opportunity to make an impact on the international stage. Pakistan's batter Babar Azam is set to play at the number four spot in their upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh, sources

informed Geo News on Thursday.

The sources told Geo News that Abdullah Shafiq's position in the team as an opener is "not under threat," and captain Shan Masood will bat at the number three spot.

Currently sitting sixth in the World Test Championship standings, Pakistan aim to secure a series victory against Bangladesh to enhance their chances of reaching next year's one-off final at Lord's.

Pakistan squad: Shan Masood (c), Saud Shakeel (vc), Abdullah Shafique, Babar Azam, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraire, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfraz Ahmed (wk), Shaheen Afridi.

-ANI

WEST INDIES CAPTAIN

Brathwaite admits team 'team fell short' in batting department in 2nd Test against SA

GUYANA: West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite admitted that his side 'fell short' with the bat and should have put more runs on the board in the first innings against South Africa in the second Test at Providence Stadium, in Guyana.

After the first Test ended in a draw, the Proteas stood tall and edged the Caribbean side by seizing the opportunities that came their way.

West Indies had their moments but were not consistent enough to capitalise on them. In the first innings, led by Shamar Joseph's blitz, the hosts managed to reduce South Africa to 97/9.

But after a valiant 63-run stand between Dane Piedt and Nandre Burger, South Africa managed to put 160 on board. In reply, the West Indies folded on 144 and conceded a 16-run lead.

"Yeah, if you look at it, obviously it was quite big (Brathwaite said on South Africa's last-wicket stand on the opening day of the Test). But bowling them out for



160, I was happy. That partnership for them was, was good. You know, it's cricket where partnerships do happen. So, I won't really stress on that too much," Brathwaite said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

"But what I would say is our first innings total needed to be bigger. We needed to get a lead from it. I think that was very important.

You can never complain about the bowlers' effort to bowl them out for 160, but yeah, the batting effort in the first innings just wasn't big enough. We had to fight back into the game. And, in the end, we fell short," he added.

Despite ending up on the wrong side of the result, the West Indies had a few positives to take away

from the game. Shamar missed the first Test but returned to rattle South Africa's batting line-up. Pacer Jayden Seales gave his all and ended up becoming West Indies' highest wicket-taker in the series. He scythed 12 scalps, including 6/61 in the second innings in the second Test.

"I think bowling-wise, you look at Shamar coming back in, not playing the first Test, and coming in bowling out South Africa on the first day. Jayden, throughout the series, continued to keep coming despite the hot conditions. That was a positive. You see the two spinners, one of the first time two spinners played together in the Caribbean, and they did well, in particular in this game where both of them were under three runs an over. That's one thing we asked for, and that was great to see," Brathwaite said.

South Africa went on to put 246 runs on the board and the West Indies fell short and lost the second Test by 40 runs.

-ANI

South Africa coach Conrad praises Keshav Maharaj after South Africa's 40-run triumph over West Indies

GUYANA: South Africa Test coach Shukri Conrad showered praise on "Mr Reliable" Keshav Maharaj, who became their most successful spinner in red-ball cricket in terms of wickets.

Maharaj was the leading wicket-taker in the two Tests against the West Indies, claiming 13 scalps across the series at an average of 16.08.

The 34-year-old weaved magic with the ball in the second Test. He picked up a three-wicket haul in the second innings to seal a 40-run win for the Proteas. In 52 Test matches, Maharaj has used his craft in spin to claim 171 wickets. He broke the record previously held by Hugh Tayfield with 170 wickets.

"Kesh is an absolute workhorse, an absolute professional, and he just keeps going, and I'm thrilled that he nailed that record. It's richly deserved. He's great in the changing room. He's a great sounding board for players and coaches, a really good team guy and someone that you can easily dub Mr. Reliable. When you're transitioning, you need someone like that in your team," Conrad said, as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

After earning a hard-fought 1-0 win in the series, South Africa leapfrogged from seventh to fifth in the World Test Championship standings.

Conrad expressed that reaching the WTC final at the Lord's is in the back of the team's mind as they continue to go through a transition.

"We've got a big couple of months ahead of us to grow as a Test team. At the end of that, if we do very well and win enough games, we can end up in the



World Test Championship final. But that's not the only goal of the team. It's also to grow as a team," Conrad said.

"With young and inexperienced batters, you almost factor in that every now and again you're going to have a few aberrations with the bat. But the vital signs are there, so we can go and become a really good test unit. The skillsets are there. It's really just the experience we need. With experience, you'll find fewer soft dismissals and less of the falling over when bowlers bowl well and we'll be able to put up more of a fight with the bat," he added.

Ahead of the WTC final, South Africa have just six Test matches left. They will play two in Bangladesh (scheduled for October) and two Tests each at home against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

-ANI

WON THREE MEDALS

Olympic track cyclist Matthew Richardson switches allegiance from Australia to Britain

LONDON: Olympic track cyclist Matthew Richardson has announced he is switching allegiance from Australia to Britain just a week after winning three medals in the Velodrome at the Paris Olympic Games.

Richardson claimed a bronze medal as part of the Australian team sprint squad and then took silver in the men's sprint and keirin events, where he was only bettered by Dutch sprint sensation Harrie Lavreysen, who ended the



Games with three gold medals.

However, from now the 26-year-old will ride for Britain after having his application to switch approved by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) - the governing body of world cycling.

Richardson was born in England and moved to Australia when he was nine years old, maintaining dual nationality.

Writing on social media, he said it was a "difficult decision."

"It was a personal choice, made

after careful consideration of my career and future.

"It's not something I decided on quickly or easily. I deeply respect Australia and the AusCycling Team and it will always be a part of who I am."

"But this decision is about following my passion and pushing myself to new heights," he said.

He will now work with the British sprint squad, which is coached by Sir Jason Kenny, who won seven Olympic gold medals.

-Xinhua

WORLD NUMBER ONE

Cincinnati Open: Sinner defeats Zverev, seals title clash with Tiafoe

CINCINNATI: World number one tennis star Jannik Sinner marched into the final of the Cincinnati Open, defeating Alexander Zverev in a hard-fought semi-final on Sunday.

Despite some limping and the player favouring his hip, which has plagued him as of late, Sinner produced some stunning shots to beat the 2021 champion 7-6(9), 5-7, 7-6(4) in three hours and seven minutes. "Sometimes you have to play a bit with the gut feeling. And I think this today was, my strength," Sinner said in his on-court interview as quoted by ATP.

"There were some up and downs, which can happen, especially when you play for more than three hours. It was a good match, I think for both of us. He served very, very well, so I can be very proud," he added.

Sinner lost the second set and showed some discomfort in his hip and it seemed that Zverev was in a fine position to secure a win. But instead, the world's number one tennis player produced some incredible shots and narrowed his head-to-head deficit against Zverev to 2-4.

"It means a lot to me. It is a very different moment, what I am go-



ing through, so I am very happy about this result. The physical aspect, of course, I have to improve, because if I want to win Grand Slams or a bigger title, I have to be, for sure, more in shape. But I just tried to stay there mentally, which I am very proud of, and let us see what's coming tomorrow," said Sinner.

Sinner will be in action against Frances Tiafoe in the title clash, with the latter sealing his first ATP Masters 1000 final on Sunday by beating Holger Rune 4-6, 6-1, 7-6(4).

"Crazy, crazy. That last set was

nuts. It got pretty breezy there at the end so we were kind of just playing the percentages. But yeah, I got really lucky there. I had a couple of net cords, but I also battled. I competed really hard and put myself in position," said Tiafoe after his game.

After his win, Tiafoe reached the number 20 spot in the ATP Rankings. For the first time since February 1997, there will be five Americans in the top 20 when the rankings are released, with Taylor Fritz, Sebastian Korda, Tommy Paul and Ben Shelton being among other Americans.

-ANI

PREMIER LEAGUE

Sterling's camp seeks clarity after his exclusion form Chelsea squad

LONDON: England winger Raheem Sterling's camp is seeking clarity over his exclusion from Chelsea's squad for their Premier League season opener clash against defending champions Manchester City on Sunday.

After featuring in all of Chelsea's pre-season games, Sterling was left out of the 20-player squad for their home clash against his former club. During the pre-season tour, Chelsea head coach, Enzo Maresca stated that Sterling was "one of our most important players".

"Raheem Sterling is contracted to Chelsea Football Club for the next three years. He returned to England two weeks early to conduct individual training, and has had a positive pre-season under the new coach, who he has developed a good working relationship with," a spokesperson for Sterling said, as quoted from Sky Sports.

"He is committed, as ever, to delivering at the highest level for Chelsea FC and the fans, who, he holds in high regard, and given his inclusion in official club pre-match material this week, our expectation was that Raheem would be involved in this weekend's fixture in some capacity. As a camp, we have always had positive dialogue with,



and assurance from, Chelsea FC in relation to Raheem's future at the Club, so we look forward to gaining clarity on the situation. Until then, we will continue to support Raheem's desire to start the new season positively," the spokesperson added.

Apart from Sterling, Chelsea's high-profile players Carney Chukwuemeka, Ben Chilwell and Axel Disasi were also left out of the

squad. Maresca opened up about their absence from the squad during the pre-match and said, "The manager has to take decisions that people and players don't like - it's normal. It's just a technical decision, no more than that. We will see in the next days."

Sterling joined Chelsea in 2022 and has netted 14 goals in 59 appearances in the Premier League.

-ANI

Bank Nizwa promotes Islamic finance with knowledge sessions in Salalah

During the session, Mustafa Al Naabi, Deputy Manager - Sharia Training at Bank Nizwa engaged attendees with insightful discussions on the principles and tools of Islamic banking and the functioning of Islamic banks

MUSCAT: In line with its prominent efforts to raise community awareness about the principles of Islamic finance, Bank Nizwa, the leading Islamic bank in the Sultanate of Oman, recently hosted the latest edition of its Islamic Finance Knowledge Series (IFKS) at the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhofar governorate. The programme was held under the auspices of Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Ghassani, Director of the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development in Dhofar Governorate. The event was attended by employees from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Public Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises



Development, and the General Directorate of Endowments and Religious Affairs in Dhofar Governorate. Mustafa Al Naabi, Deputy Manager - Sharia Training at Bank Nizwa led the programme. During the session, Mustafa Al Naabi engaged attendees with insightful discussions on the principles and tools of Islamic banking and the functioning of Islamic banks. He also discussed the contribution of Islamic banking to the

country's economic development. Commenting on the occasion, Mustafa Al Naabi remarked, "It is a privilege to represent Bank Nizwa on this esteemed platform, where we can share our knowledge and expertise with the community to deepen their understanding of the principles and values inherent in Islamic finance. We take great pride in our IFKS initiative and its ongoing impact on individuals and communities, helping them to

differentiate between Islamic and conventional banking practices, and demonstrating how Sharia-compliant banking aligns with their personal beliefs and lifestyles." It is worth noting that Bank Nizwa has an extensive track record of community initiatives and educating the public about the principles of Islamic banking. Its Islamic Finance Knowledge Series (IFKS) has expanded to reach several governorates and wilayats across most

of the Sultanate, thereby increasing awareness of Sharia-compliant financial practices. These sessions have enabled the bank to engage with government officials, ministry representatives, educators, and youth across the Sultanate, fostering a sound financial outlook within communities. Recently, the bank elevated its educational efforts by launching the Sairafah Program in partnership with the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Is-

lamic Financial Institutions. This initiative targets specialists in the Islamic finance sector, offering a series of training sessions on AAOIFI Sharia standards. Bank Nizwa has positively influenced over 10,000 individuals through its Islamic Finance Knowledge Series, reinforcing its commitment to knowledge-sharing and community welfare, and driving socio-economic progress nationwide.

ENHANCED CUSTOMER SERVICE



Sohar Islamic unveils new call centre number backed by advanced IVR

MUSCAT: With a keen focus on customer-centricity, Sohar Islamic – Sohar International's Islamic window – has announced a new, dedicated call center number: +968 2473 0037, available 24/7 to serve our customers. This initiative is complemented by an upgraded Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system designed to enhance the customer experience. The new IVR system offers intuitive and efficient navigation, ensuring that callers are seamlessly connected to the appropriate contact. This development underscores our commitment to delivering exceptional service and personalized digital experiences to our valued customers. Commenting on the new developments, Abdul Wahid Al Murshidi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer, said, "Through our new call center number and advanced IVR system, Sohar Islamic demonstrates its commitment to service excellence and personalized offerings. By integrating state-of-the-art technology, the enhancements to our IVR system not only streamline transactions but also fortify security measures, accelerate service delivery, and enhance overall convenience. This initiative represents a significant leap forward in the realm of digital customer engagement within the Islamic banking sector." In addition to phone support, customers can now access the bank's call center through various communication channels ensuring assistance is always just a click or call away, no matter where customers are. The revamped IVR system includes advanced self-service options,

enabling customers to perform several tasks independently and seamlessly, saving waiting time in queues. These options include self-authentication via IVR, card activation (Credit and Prepaid Cards), PIN reset, and account balance check. Moreover, the priority of blocking cards, Mobile Banking App, and Internet Banking as protection tools to our esteemed customers. Going beyond measures, with subject matter experts dedicated to applications of retail products and services, it will make it easier for both our existing and new customers to conveniently request their preferred product/service. This empowers Sohar International's customers to manage their banking needs at their convenience – anytime, anywhere. Sohar Islamic's service development relies on a deep understanding of customer needs, gained through continuous multi-channel communication. The upgraded IVR system is central to this approach, enabling the bank to collect critical feedback and insights. This dynamic feedback loop allows Sohar Islamic to refine its offerings, ensuring they consistently surpass customer expectations. By integrating the IVR system as a strategic touchpoint, the bank responds to shifting customer preferences, reaffirming its dedication to providing exceptional and relevant banking experiences. Sohar Islamic continues to deliver an unparalleled banking experience, reflecting the bank's ongoing efforts to adapt to customer needs and set new benchmarks in the Islamic banking sector.

PROMOTION

Geely announces exciting 7-year/250,000 kilometre warranty offer on 2025 models

MUSCAT: Towell Auto Centre (TAC), the exclusive distributor of Geely vehicles in Oman, announced an exclusive and exciting offer on its 2025 line-up, featuring the Tugella, Emgrand, Preface, and Coolray models. Geely Oman is setting a new standard in automotive assurance with an industry-leading 7-year/250,000 km warranty offer, underscoring its commitment to delivering exceptional value and peace of mind to its customers. It's the perfect time for the people of Oman to seize incredible deals on Geely's renowned vehicles. In addition to attractive EMI prices, Geely Oman is offering benefits to enhance the ownership experience. The four models Coolray, Emgrand, Preface and Tugella come with a ground-breaking 7-year/250,000 km manufacturer warranty offer for the 2025 models. Customers purchasing any of the 4 models from the 2025 line-up, will receive a manufacturer warranty of 7 years or 250,000 kms, whichever comes earlier, making it an irresistible offer. This exciting warranty offer makes it easier to become a Geely owner and experience top-tier performance and innovation. Geely Oman invites car enthusiasts to take advantage of this unparalleled warranty offer and explore the diverse range of models, each combining performance, luxury, and reliability. Whether one opts for the sleek Coolray, the versatile Emgrand, the spacious Preface, or the sporty Tugella, each model combines exciting performance with class-leading features, promising an unmatched ownership experience. "Our customers deserve the best, and we are thrilled to offer this ground-breaking warranty program. With this 7-year/250,000 km warranty, drivers can explore the roads of Oman with confidence, knowing that their Geely vehicle is supported by a comprehensive coverage," said a spokesperson at Geely Oman. **Discover the 2025 Geely line-up** **Preface:** Step into the future with the Preface, a sedan that merges cutting-edge technology with a sleek design. It offers a premium driving experience with innovative features and luxurious com-



fort, setting new standards in its class. Enhanced by Geely's revolutionary CMA (Compact Modular Architecture), the Preface provides a spacious, premium interior, adaptive cruise control, and a 360-degree panoramic camera system for superior driving safety and comfort. **Tugella:** Designed for adventure and comfort, the Tugella promises an exhilarating drive without compromising on luxury and style. This sporty crossover redefines the driving experience with its powerful 2.0L turbo-charged engine, adaptive suspension system, and a host of premium features like a panoramic sunroof and a Harman Kardon audio system. The Tugella's design is also underpinned by the advanced CMA, providing a dynamic blend of agility, performance, and safety to navigate the diverse terrains of Oman. **Coolray:** Uncover the sleek and dynamic Coolray, a compact SUV designed for the modern explorer. With its striking design, advanced technology, and powerful fuel-efficient 1.5TD four-cylinder engine, the Coolray offers an exhilarating

driving experience. Equipped with a 10.25-inch digital instrument panel, a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission, and intelligent safety features like Lane Keep Assist and Automated Parking, the Coolray stands out in its class. **Emgrand:** For those who value sophistication and versatility, the Emgrand sedan is the perfect choice. Its elegant design, spacious interior, and impressive fuel economy make it ideal for both urban commutes and longer journeys. The Emgrand boasts a 12.3" HD digital dashboard, advanced driver assistance systems, and a luxurious, quiet cabin designed to offer maximum comfort and convenience. **Power of CMA technology** CMA (Compact Modular Architecture) is a game-changer for vehicle design and performance, providing unmatched flexibility and scalability. This advanced platform enables Geely to produce a wide range of vehicle types from C-segment sedans to D-segment SUVs, ensuring rapid model development and customization to meet market demands. Engineered with a world-class chassis and versatile powertrain options—

including gas, hybrid, and electric engines—the CMA enhances driving dynamics while prioritizing safety and efficiency. Both the Preface and Tugella models showcase CMA's capabilities, delivering superior performance, advanced safety features, and a premium driving experience with their aerodynamic designs. **Additional benefits** Geely Oman goes beyond just selling cars. Geely's exceptional after-sales service is always there for its customers - whatever, wherever and whenever. Whether it is routine maintenance, quick repairs, or emergency roadside assistance, Geely's network of service centres, workshops, and body shops are equipped to provide expert care. No matter the issue, location, or time, Geely's reliable roadside assistance team provides support within 1.5 hours, 24/7. Services include appointment scheduling, personalised services, quick service turnaround, courtesy vehicles, digital service updates, vehicle pickup and delivery, customer feedback monitoring, emergency assistance, timely communication, and post-service follow-ups.

ROUND-UP

‘ahli Cares’ provides school supplies for 2,000 students across Oman

This initiative, conducted in an exclusive collaboration with Al Rahma Association, aims to support these students as they prepare for the new academic year, reinforcing the bank’s dedication to community welfare

MUSCAT: In line with its unwavering commitment to social responsibility, ahlibank, through its “ahli Cares” team, has taken a significant step by providing school supplies and uniforms to 2,000 orphaned and underprivileged students across various regions of the Sultanate of Oman.

This initiative, conducted in an exclusive collaboration with Al Rahma Association, aims to support these students as they prepare for the new academic year, reinforcing the bank’s dedication to community welfare and educational equity.

ahlibank strives to make a positive impact on the community it serves. In pursuit of this goal, the bank has exclusively collaborated with Al Rahma Association to enhance its support for charitable



organizations and strengthen volunteer efforts within the community. The first phase of the initiative involves the participation of the “ahli Cares” team in distributing vouchers to students through ahlibank branches, with the aim of motivating the bank’s employees and encouraging the values of giving and contribution.

Commenting on the initiative, Jumana Al Hashmi, Head of

Marketing and Corporate Communications at ahlibank, said, “At ahlibank we believe in serving the community, as it is part of our commitment and fundamental values as a leading banking institution in the Sultanate of Oman. This dedication is exemplified in our ‘ahli cares’ team’s enthusiasm in furthering our greater social responsibility goals. We go beyond banking, as we recognize the im-

portance of education in nurturing the capabilities of the youth. The future generation has the potential to lead impactful lives, and build legacies of their own. Therefore, we believe in providing the necessary tools for them to have equal educational opportunities and succeed academically.

She added, “This initiative is an investment in the future, grounded in our belief that education is the

cornerstone of a child’s development. We are proud to have been instrumental in empowering the youth, securing for them a brighter future filled with an abundance of prosperity and success.”

Through its social responsibility initiatives, ahlibank consistently strives to enhance the lives of individuals and families in local communities. The “ahli Cares” team has demonstrated a steadfast com-

mitment to supporting charitable initiatives, continuously providing the necessary support to meet the needs of various segments of society. Through these efforts, the team has made a tangible impact on the lives of many individuals, underscoring the bank’s dedication to improving the well-being of individuals and their families and driving positive change in the community.

PARTNERSHIP

BYD announces exciting debut at Goodwood Festival of Speed



MUSCAT: BYD, the world’s leading manufacturer of new energy vehicles announced its partnership with the prestigious Goodwood Festival of Speed, which took place from 11 to 14 July 2024. This collaboration witnessed BYD’s impressive stand, where visitors explored the latest pioneering technology from the brands.

BYD showcased its brand-new BYD SEAL U DM-i, a plug-in hybrid five-seater SUV. This is BYD’s first plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV) model with BYD’s Super DM (Dual Mode) Technology in Europe. The D-segment family SUV is designed as a spacious, practical, safe, and comfortable family car, full of advanced intelligent PHEV technology that prioritises electric power benefiting energy efficiency, ultra-low fuel consumption and overall driving performance. The all new BYD SEAL U DM-i makes its UK debut

in autumn this year, with an ultra-low fuel consumption bringing all the benefits of electric driving to eco-conscious customers who enjoy long-range journeys. Alongside this, the popular BYD ATTO 3, BYD DOLPHIN and BYD SEAL models were displayed, highlighting BYD’s diverse range of sustainable and innovative vehicles.

BYD also presented the DENZA D9, a premium MPV that offers unparalleled comfort and cutting-edge features. The premium DENZA D9, the ultimate all-electric people carrier with a 7-seat capacity (2+2+3 configuration), makes its debut in the UK, adding another dimension of electric innovation to the BYD stand. Attendees got the opportunity to discover the DENZA D9’s spacious interior and state-of-the-art technology, making it a standout vehicle in the MPV market. In 2023 DENZA D9 was the largest selling MPV in Chi-

na, selling over 119,000 units.

Michael Shu, Managing Director, BYD Europe, said: “The Goodwood Festival of Speed is one of the most significant automotive events in the world. We are excited to partner with the Goodwood Festival of Speed and showcase our latest innovations to a passionate automotive audience. This event is the perfect platform to present our unprecedented new energy vehicle technologies and introduce our pioneering vehicles from BYD. Our goal is to bring visitors an experience beyond imagination, highlighting how our leading technology and pioneering products are driving the future of the automotive industry. We look forward to engaging with visitors and demonstrating our commitment to sustainability and cutting-edge technology.”

In Oman BYD range of electrifying vehicles will soon be distributed by Saud Bahwan Group.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES



Meethaq ‘Back-to-School’ initiative witnesses strong participation from customers

MUSCAT: The “Back-to-School” initiative, recently organised by Meethaq Islamic Banking from Bank Muscat at Muscat City Centre, witnessed strong participation from customers and visitors.

All attendees enjoyed a fun and enriching time, with children actively participating in a variety of activities alongside their parents.

The event celebrated the start of the new school year with children, bringing excitement and joy to all involved. Over two days, a large number of kids engaged in a variety of fun games, activities, and competitions in the Meethaq area. Special activities focused on mathematics and science was included, and participants received a range of gifts. Additionally, the Meethaq area attracted many

customers and visitors who explored the diverse banking services, products, and facilities offered by Meethaq Islamic Banking.

Offerings

These offerings, designed to meet their needs and aspirations, included various banking accounts, financing products, and credit cards. Furthermore, Meethaq offers a children’s savings account, which customers can open for their kids to instill the habit of saving, which can be beneficial for significant life occasions in the future.

In addition to its pioneering role in the Islamic banking sector in the Sultanate, Meethaq Islamic Banking is committed to strengthening its community

engagement and understanding the diverse needs of individuals. Underscoring its dedication to social responsibility, Meethaq participates in various social activities and events, such as the back-to-school season, to highlight its commitment to supporting initiatives that target different segments of the community.

Meethaq Islamic Banking plays a significant role in the Islamic banking sector, demonstrated by commitment to developing products and services that align with current and future needs.

All of Meethaq’s products and facilities undergo rigorous Sharia-compliance certification by the Sharia Supervisory Board and adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Central Bank of Oman.





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Oman and
Arab culture,
what do you call
the room in a house,
that is usually used
to welcome
guests.

How many
pawns are there
on a chessboard
at the start of
a game of
chess?

Can you match wits
with the participants?



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