



OMAN



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:13pm
Asr.....	3:14pm
Maghrib.....	5:34pm
Isha.....	6:49pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:28am

CHANGE
TO THE BETTER



Call Center Number
24 596 999

HM gives audience to Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs



WEATHER JOINT COOPERATION

Heavy rains reported in Al Dhahirah

DHANK/YANQUL: Heavy to moderate rain fell yesterday in Al Dhahirah Governorate leading to overflow of a number of wadis. Heavy rains were also reported in the Wilayat of Yanqul leading to overflow of wadis of Hail Al Khanabsha and Beiha. Rains also fell in the areas of Qamirah, Balt, Aqaib, Al Masilah and Farn Saloum in the Wilayat of Dhank

serve Oman and its leader." In this context, a meteorology specialist at the Civil Aviation Authority said that rains are likely to continue to fall in northern governorates of Oman, with varying degrees of intensity. -ONA



Royal Office Minister meets Iranian Minister



MUNICIPAL POLLS

< FROM A1 Elected candidates thank voters

Saud bin Saeed Al-Ma'awali, who will be representing the Wilayat of Wadi Al-Ma'awli in Al Batinah South Governorate, said: "Thanks to all the people of the wilayat, for their precious trust reposed in me. With the grace of God Almighty, I was crowned with success and chosen as a rep-

resentative of the wilayat for the third term 2023-2027. We ask God Almighty to grant strength to

Al-Maawali stressed that he will work hard to justify his mandate and transfer the requests of the people to the specialists related to municipal matters.

Nasr bin Yousef Al-Farisi, representing the Wilayat of Saham in North Al-Batinah Governorate, also said: "I extend my greetings to all those who voted for me with sincere feelings of love and pride by giving me their confidence in the elections for the municipal council for the

session (2022-2027).

He also said: "Election Day was a historic day in the march of our beloved Oman. I extend my thanks to every voter who voted for me or others and expressed their awareness, responsibility and duty towards our dear country and our Sultan."

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, received on Wednesday Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two sides touched on areas of joint cooperation and means of enhancing them to serve the two

countries' interests. They also reviewed the march of relations between Oman and Iran.

The two ministers also discussed matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of Iran to Oman and the delegation accompanying the Iranian Minister. -ONA

'WINTER TOURISM'

Omani heritage, culture attract foreign tourists



MUSCAT: Many tourist attractions, including traditional markets, castles, forts and archaeological sites are found in various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman.

The arrival of foreign tourists, which is called 'winter tourism', begins in October and ends at the end of April.

A number of tourists from different nationalities, including European, American and Asian, have stressed the status of the Sultanate of Oman as an important tourism destination, noting that the castles, forts, popular markets and Omani customs have a different character from the rest of the neighboring countries.

Muhammad Abed Rabbo of Jordan said: "This is my first visit to the Sultanate of Oman, where I visited many sites in the Governorate of Muscat, in which I was attracted that they combine ancient architecture with modernity."

He added: "Through my visit to the Muttrah Market, which was developed and currently preserves its beautiful traditional building, tells the heritage of an ancient and contemporary country. Though I have visited many markets in the Arabian Gulf region, Muttrah Market has a different character. Pointing out that what caught his attention in the market are Omani heritage, ornaments, and perfumes that are manufactured using lo-

cal Omani methods, stressing that these traditional industries have a special character, especially the Omani perfume, incense, and frankincense industry that spreads throughout the market.

Kevin from the United States of America said: "This is my second visit to the Sultanate of Oman, and what made me visit it is the calm and safety that the Sultanate enjoys, and the Omani hospitality has a great role in attracting the attention of tourists from different countries of the world."

He added: "My previous visit was in 2017 to Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, where I visited Al Jabal Al Akhdar, which is characterized by cold weather in the winter sea-



son and is distinguished by antiquities, old houses and methods of building them. During my trip, I got acquainted with working on the terraces and how to irrigate them using the old traditional methods. I also visited Misfat al-Abriyyin in the Wilayat of Al-Hamra, where I was drawn to the beautiful scenery and the mud buildings that are distinguished by a different engineering system."

For her part, Conley, a German national, confirmed that this is her second visit to the Sultanate of Oman, and that it is a beautiful country that deserves to be visited many times, and respect and good treatment to visitors always make them feel safe and reassured."

She pointed out that among the aspects that encourage tourists to visit the Sultanate of Oman are several components, like ancient tourism and heritage diversity, and the beautiful popular markets in the various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman, which are unique compared to the rest of the neighboring countries.

For his part, Sai Bavan from India indicated that this is his first visit to the Sultanate of Oman, as it is a beautiful and hospitable country. I have visited many places in the Sultanate of Oman including the Omani castles, forts and customs which have a different character, and during my visit to the Nizwa market the ancient

design attracted me.

The Nizwa traditional market has a long history and it has shops that were built in a beautiful way, and Omanis work in them, especially the youth, explaining that these stores offer many products, especially local ones such as traditional daggers and swords, and Omani sweets that have a special flavor.

He added: "I have also visited the Sharqiyah Sands, which is visited by a large number of tourists due to the presence of camps that tell about Bedouin life, and the tourist adventures in the desert have a beautiful and distinctive character, which attracts many tourists to these beautiful golden sands." -ONA



**YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER**
Download the app

OMAN

Interest rate up to

2.5%



Get Higher Returns with

**HIGH-YIELD
SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

For more information



بنك ظفار
BankDhofar



the best bank for you

2479 1111 | www.bankdhofar.com

CMA DATA

WEATHER



<FROM
A1 Muscat localities remain the wettest

The three wilayats in Muscat Governorate recorded the highest rainfall in the Sultanate.

Highest rainfall
The state of Muttrah received the highest rainfall at 154 millimetres, followed by the state of Muscat with 113 mm, and Al-Seeb at 80 mm. Dibba, Barka, Bausher and Khasab recorded 58mm, 49mm, 35mm and 31mm, respectively.

On the other hand, the states of Al-Khaboura, Dhank, Ibri and Samail recorded the least amount of rainfall at 2 mm, while the state of Nizwa in the Governorate of Al-Dakhiliyah recorded just 1mm.

Low pressure trough
The Sultanate witnessed this spell of rains due to low pressure trough from Sunday, 25 December in most of the governorates that led to overflowing valleys and wadis and suspension of classes on Tuesday and Wednesday in all schools of the Sultanate.

Work in some government and private units too remained suspended.

Insurance sector in Oman clocks a growth of 13%

MUSCAT: The insurance sector in the Sultanate of Oman recorded a 13 per cent rise in the total direct premiums written to stand at OMR133 million during the third quarter of 2022 compared to OMR118 million during the corresponding period in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the Capital Market Authority (CMA).

National companies grabbed the largest share of direct premiums written to stand at 83 per cent, which constitutes OMR111 million compared to OMR99.4 million during the corresponding period in 2021.

Direct premiums written reached OMR431 million till the end of September 2022.

The third period of 2021 and 2022 recorded variations in indicators. A rise was recorded in liability insurance premiums by 19 per cent, car insurance premiums (third party) by 21.1 per cent and engineering insurance premiums by 41 per cent to reach OMR6.7 million.

Meanwhile, premiums declined for transport insurance and properties insurance by 16 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

With regard to distribution of direct premiums of insurance products, it was noted that health insurance tops the insurance products by 36 per cent of the market share followed by properties insurance and motor insurance (third party) by 14 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

Net gross direct premiums, which are the premiums retained by insurance companies after deduction of reinsurance, increased by 14 per cent during the third quarter of 2022 compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

This is attributed to the increase in gross premiums on most categories of insurance as life (group) insurance rose by 53 per cent to reach OMR4.8 million. Motor insurance (third party) also went up by 23 per cent to reach OMR13.3 million.

During the third quarter of 2022, net commissions decreased by 185 per cent. Earned premiums, net compensations and administrative and general expenses also declined by 26 per cent, 28 per cent, 14.7 per cent respectively.

The number of employees in national and foreign insurance companies during the third quarter of 2022 reached 2,167, of whom 1,813 are Omanis. This brings the Omanisation rate to 84 per cent. -ONA



30
YEARS

**EXPLORE OMAN
ON ROAD &
OFF ROAD
WITH VLC**



CAPTIVA



TAHOE



GROOVE



TRAVERSE

Available on

**DAILY
WEEKLY
MONTHLY
YEARLY**

rental basis



* Terms & Conditions apply on daily, weekly, monthly & yearly rentals



Call toll free
80050004



Whatsapp
97295158

World-class Quality.

**UNBELIEVABLE
PRICE**





**ARE YOU
TAKING LOAN?
BUY LIFE INSURANCE
TO PROTECT
THE MORTGAGE**



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

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



**Oman United
Insurance Co.**
SAOG



OMAN



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om





OMAN'S WINTER BECKONS TOURISTS

OMAN'S winter tourism season is currently underway, and as visitors come to the country to escape the harsh weather back home, hotels in the country are operating at high occupancy levels. An increasing number of visitors from colder parts of the world looking to escape the harsh winter and celebrate the festive season come to Oman. Those who come from the colder countries look forward to the pleasant weather. For them this is summer-like weather and hence very pleasant. With temperatures plummeting further here, tourists who visit the Sultanate to enjoy the weather at this time of the year are in for a very pleasant stay.

Jabal Shams recently recorded the lowest temperature in the Sultanate of Oman. Jabal Shams station in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate recorded - 0.4 degrees Celsius, followed by Saiq station in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate with 6.6 degrees Celsius and Al Mazyona station in Dhofar Governorate with 10.6 degrees Celsius.

Located in Wilayat Al Hamra,



Al Dhakilya region, Jabal Shams is the highest peak in Oman and is located at about 3000 feet above the sea level and is a part of the Al Hajar Mountains range.

The trip to Jabal Shams starts with a route which overlooks the scattered villages and farms underneath. Sometimes in winter, the mountain is covered with a beautiful veil of snow making it a great place to enjoy the chillness. A trip to Jabal Shams requires a four wheel drive. Take the Niwza road from the Al Sahwa roundabout, then take the road to Wilayat Al Hamra and from there turn left to Wadi Al Goul where you will see the mountain route. There are signs that will guide you all along the way.





Shopping Wonder
At The Heart of SAHAM



OUTLET NESTO HYPERMARKET GRAND OPENING
AT SAHAM- OMAN ON 29th Dec.2022,
Thursday at 10:00 am



92510750





SCAN ME





All that you need.

 **NESTO**

nestohypermarketoman nestohypermarketoman
nesto_hypermart_oman www.nestogroup.com

OMAN | U.A.E | SAHRAIN | SAUDI ARABIA | KUWAIT | INDIA



Stay healthy.

Awareness Campaign

YOUR HEALTH IS YOUR BEST INVESTMENT.



Kempinski Hotel Muscat
SULTANATE OF OMAN

ZALE

A DAZZLING NEW YEAR'S EVE
SATURDAY, 31 DECEMBER 2022 FROM 21:00 - 01:00
Countdown the New Year at the most exclusive party in the city. Dance the night away to a mesmerizing performance by an international singer.
Premium house beverages with Japanese twists, tapas and more!
OMR 80

CONTACT OUR CULINARY CONCIERGE
+968 2498 5000 | DINING.MUSCAT@KEMPINSKI.COM
Prior booking required. All prices in OMR, subject to 8% service charge, 5% VAT & all applicable governmental taxes

Kempinski
HOTELS SINCE 1981



**YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER**
Download the app

OMAN



**Winter
Special Offer**

* Offer Valid Till: 25/1/2023

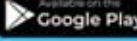
12
Tissue Boxes

60
5GB Refill Coupons

60
250 ml Bottle

For 50 OMR

* This Offer Only Available On Tanuf App



Scan the code

NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE

Delegation from Saudi National Guard visits NDC

MUSCAT: A delegation from the Ministry of National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), headed by Maj. Gen Ghazi Sanat Al Otaibi, on Wednesday visited the National Defence College (NDC).

Upon the arrival of the guests at the headquarters of the NDC at Bait Al Falaj Garrison, they were greeted by Rear Admiral Ali Abdullah Al Shidi, Commandant of the NDC.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed several matters of mutual interest.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the college's facilities and equipment, as well as its various departments and halls designed according to the latest specifications and equipped with the best educational systems, training aids and multi-purpose electronic network systems.

The meeting was attended by Brigadier Nasser Rashid Al Kalbani, Deputy Commandant of the NDC and Dr. Salim Said Al Kindi, Academic Representative of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) at the NDC.

Strategic and Defence Studies Academy Chairman Maj. Gen Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, Chairman of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies, received in his office at Bait Al Falaj Garrison on Wednesday a delegation of the Ministry of National Guard of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The visiting delegation is headed by Maj. Gen Ghazi Sanat Al Otaibi. The two sides discussed several matters of mutual interest.

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the academy's facilities and equipment, as well as its academic and training systems that are set according to the latest specifications required for the academy to carry out its national duties. — **DNA**



SAF RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES



Labour Ministry, Sultan's Armed Forces begin to recruit citizens

MUSCAT: Acting in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, the Command of the Sultan's Armed Forces (COSAF) on Wednesday began implementing initial procedures to recruit citizens who meet the general conditions for recruitment and employment.

Prior to the final stage of admission, the applicants undergo various stages of assessment in accordance with SAF recruitment procedures.

To achieve speedy implementation of procedures, the COSAF put in place all expertise, specialized human resources, administrative and health requirements, and transportation in a manner that provides an appropriate environment for citizens to join the military service and play their part of national duty. — **DNA**



Royal Oman Police
ANNOUNCEMENT

Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information — announces a public auction to sell used ROP vehicles starting from 4:00 pm, during the period from 9 to 10 January 2023. Vehicles can be inspected in the auction yard of the Directorate General of Transport during the period from 1 to 5 January 2023 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, according to the following terms and conditions:

- The buyer must pay the vehicle's value and the auctioneer fees at 3% by e-payment immediately after the auction is awarded to the buyer.
- The buyer must move the vehicle within a period of 3 days from the selling date; otherwise they shall pay a fine of RO 5/- per each day of delay.
- The buyer must pay the fees of vehicle registration in his name in the traffic system before receiving the vehicle.



**NEW YEAR
Brunch**

Special activities for kids will include
Special kids corner with new year's buffet, painting activities and kids new year themed movie

1st January 2023
Taybat Restaurant 12:00 pm - 4: 00 pm

Save 25 % when you book between
18th December - 28th December 2022

OMR 21 net per person
OMR 10.5 per child from 5 - 12 years old
Complimentary below 5 years old

For Bookings call + 968 97 43 32 03

Scan To View
The Festive Guide









SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



TAX RETURNS

Donald Trump tax returns to be released on Friday

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump's tax returns will be released on Friday, a spokesperson for the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee said on Tuesday.

The Democratic-controlled committee obtained the returns last month after the US Supreme Court ruled in favor of the committee culminating a yearslong fight between Trump and the Democrats amid a lengthy court battle. Trump was the first presidential candidate in decades who did not make his tax returns public during either of his campaigns in 2016 and 2020. Last week, talking about the release of the documents, Representative Richard Neal, the panel chairman, said: "This is about the presidency, not the president."

The former Republican president's partially redacted tax returns from the years 2015 to 2021 are expected to be among the documents to be made public on Friday.

The House committee is under a time crunch as new the newly shaped Congress, with Republicans in control of the House, begins on January 3. According to a committee report released last week, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) broke its own laws by failing to audit Trump for three of his four years in office. The tax figures released by a congressional panel last week showed Trump declared a loss from his many business holdings in 2020 and paid no income tax. Trump reacted to the development on his social media network recently saying: "You can't learn much from tax returns, but it is illegal to release them if they are not yours!" **DW**



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

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

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

India likely to make RT-PCR tests must for travellers from 5 countries

Amid the explosion in Covid cases in some countries, the operational readiness of healthcare facilities is under review

NEW DELHI: Filling Air Suvidha forms and having RT-PCR test reports 72 hours prior to departure are likely to be made mandatory next week for all international passengers from China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Singapore, said Union Health Ministry sources on Wednesday.

Further, according to sources in the Union Health ministry, the next 40 days will be crucial as India may see a surge in Covid cases in mid-January. The sources further added that the assessment



was made after analysing the previous trends of the Covid surge in the country.

Amid the explosion in Covid cases in some countries, the operational readiness of healthcare facilities is under review in all states and Union Territories in anticipation of another wave.

Two passengers from Dubai tested positive for Covid at the Chennai airport on Wednesday.

"Two passengers, who arrived from Dubai, tested positive at the Chennai airport today. Both of hail from the Alangudi district of Tamil Nadu's Pudukkottai. Their test samples have been sent to the State Public Health Laboratory," read a statement issued by the Tamil Nadu Health department on Wednesday.

At least 39 international fliers tested positive for Covid between December 24 and 26. Taking due

cognisance of the global surge in cases, including China, the Centre had directed random testing of international passengers.

"Passengers of as many as 498 international flights were screened in the last three days -- December 24, 25 and 26. A total

of 1,780 swab samples were collected for Covid tests. The cumulative number of samples collected (from international fliers), so far, is 3,994. The cumulative number of samples testing positive for Covid is 39 and of samples sent for whole genome sequencing is 39," a source told ANI on Tuesday.

In light of the Covid surge in several countries, hospitals across the country on Tuesday conducted mock drills to assess their pandemic preparedness. The same was done in compliance with a directive issued by the Centre.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya personally oversaw one such mock drill at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.

"To make sure that there is no Covid surge in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked us to be careful. The government is also making necessary preparations in anticipation of a rise in Covid infections. Today, mock drills are being conducted across Covid hospitals in the country to make sure people receive proper treatment in the event of a rise in cases," Mandaviya told reporters at Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday. **ANI**

CURBS

UN Security Council urges Taliban to reverse restrictions against women

KABUL: The UN Security Council (UNSC) on Tuesday denounced the state of women's rights in Afghanistan under the Taliban.

On Saturday, the hardline Islamist rulers banned women from working in non-governmental organizations. The move came only days after the Taliban had stopped women from attending universities.

What has the UN said about women's rights?

The 15-member Security Council said the current situation "represents an increasing erosion for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms" and called "for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women and girls in Afghanistan" in a press statement.

The UNSC urged the Taliban "to reopen schools and swiftly reverse these policies and practices."

"These restrictions contradict the commitments made by the Taliban to the Afghan people as well as the expectations of the international community," the UNSC statement said.

Due to their inability to manage their programs without female staff, a number of international



aid organizations declared on Sunday that they were ceasing their activities in Afghanistan.

This leaves millions of Afghans dependent on the humanitarian efforts of those organizations helpless.

On Tuesday, Volker Turk, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, issued a dire warning about the "terrible" effects such policies would have.

"No country can develop -- indeed survive -- socially and economically with half its population excluded," his statement said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also took to Twitter on Tuesday and asked for the revocation of the "unjustifiable human rights violations" saying these policies cause "major setbacks to the potential of the Afghan people."

The situation for women in Afghanistan

When the Taliban seized power in August last year, they promised a more moderate system that would protect the rights of minorities and women, but have since enacted their rigid version of Islamic law, known as Sharia.

Afghan high school girls have not returned to the classroom. This rule was later extended to those in middle school.

The Taliban has also forced women out of numerous government jobs, prohibited them from traveling without a male relative, ordered them to wear a burqa outside of the home, and barred them from parks. **DW**

PLEDGE OF SUPPORT



Italian PM Meloni pledges support to Ukraine in its future rebuilding

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Tuesday reaffirmed the Italian government's "full support" for Ukraine in the political, military, economic, and humanitarian fields as the ongoing war in Ukraine has caused widespread devastation, Al Jazeera reported.

Meloni extended support to the war-stricken country following a phone call with Zelenskyy and pledged support for Kyiv and reiterated its commitment to achieving a "just peace" for Ukraine. "[Prime Minister] Meloni renewed the Italian government's full support for Kyiv in the political, military, economic and humanitarian fields, to repair energy infrastructure and [to work] for the future reconstruction of Ukraine," Al Jazeera reported citing the official statement.

Following the call, Zelenskyy thanked Meloni via social media for her "solidarity and comprehensive support" and said Italy was considering providing Kyiv with air defense systems.

"Thanked @GiorgiaMeloni for solidarity and comprehensive support for. Commended government's allocation of additional EUR10 million in aid. Mrs. Meloni informed that the issue of providing air defense systems to protect

skies is being considered. We discussed #PeaceFormula," Zelenskyy tweeted.

Earlier on Monday, in a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday exchanged views about the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. PM Modi strongly reiterated his call for an immediate cessation of hostilities, saying that both sides should revert to dialogue and diplomacy to find a lasting solution to their differences, read Prime Minister's Office press release.

He also conveyed India's support for any peace efforts and assured India's commitment to continue providing humanitarian assistance for the affected civilian population, added the release.

Zelenskyy, in a phone call to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, sought India's help in the implementation of a peace formula with Russia.

"I had a phone call with PM Modi & wished a successful G20 presidency. It was on this platform that I announced the peace formula and now I count on India's participation in its implementation. I also thanked for humanitarian aid and support in the UN," tweeted the Ukrainian President. **ANI**

PRAYERS FOR THE POPE

Pope Francis asks to pray for 'very sick' former Pope Benedict

ROME: Pontiff Francis on Wednesday asked to pray for "very sick" 95-year-old former Pope Benedict, reported CNN.

"I want to ask you all for a special prayer for Pope Emeritus Benedict who sustains the Church in his silence. He is very sick," Pope Francis said during his general audience at the Vatican on Wednesday. "We ask the Lord to console and sustain him in this witness of love for the Church to the very end," added Pope Francis.

In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI shocked the world by making the almost unprecedented decision to resign from his position, citing "advanced age."

Benedict's announcement marked the first time a pope had



stepped down in nearly 600 years, reported CNN. The last pope to resign before his death was Gregory XII, who in 1415 quit ending a civil war within the Catholic Church in which more than one man claimed to be pope.

In 2020, the Vatican said Benedict had suffered from a "painful but not serious condition," following reports in German media that he was ill, reported CNN.

Two years earlier, in a rare public letter published in the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, Benedict wrote that "in the slow waning of my physical forces, inwardly I am on a pilgrimage toward Home."

Benedict's legacy has been clouded by recent scrutiny of his time as Archbishop of Munich and Freising, between 1977 and 1982, after a Church-commissioned report into abuse by Catholic clergy, there was published in January, reported CNN. The report found that he had been informed of four cases of sexual abuse involving minors - including two during his time in Munich - but failed to act and that he had attended a meeting about an abusive priest.

Benedict later pushed back against those allegations, admitting he had attended the meeting but denying he intentionally concealed his presence. **ANI**



**YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER**
Download the app

WORLD





مستشفى الحياة الدولي
AL HAYAT INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL
Quality Care Without Compromise

**Normal
Delivery**

**250
OMR**

**C-Section
Delivery**

**500
OMR**

**Give your bundle of joy the best
from the beginning!**

*** Additional 10 OMR for Baby Vaccination**

☎ 2200 4000

☎ 9972 8290

☎ 7919 1834

North Korea sets new goals to boost military

Kim set forth new key goals for bolstering up the self-reliant defence capability to be pushed ahead next year

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un announced new goals for the country's military in the coming year at a party meeting, state media reported Wednesday.

It comes amid rising tensions in the Korean peninsula.

Kim "set forth new key goals for bolstering up the self-reliant defence capability to be pushed ahead with in 2023," the official Korean Central News Agency said, without providing further details.

The North Korean leader's assessment at the plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party is believed to allude to more provocative weapons testing and further aggravation of tensions with rival neighbor South Korea.

What is the current situation?

On Monday, five North Korean drones crossed the border prompting Seoul to scramble fighter jets and attack helicopters.

The drones flew above various South Korean cities, including Seoul, in the first such intrusion in five years.

Kim addressed the "newly created challenging situation" on



The North Korean leader's assessment at the plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party is believed to allude to more provocative weapons testing and further aggravation of tensions with rival neighbor South Korea

the Korean peninsula and set the direction for the "anti-enemy struggle" and goals for reinforcing defense power and defending national interests, the report said.

Pyongyang has performed a

record number of missile tests this year.

This also included intercontinental ballistic missiles, which it is prohibited from testing under UN sanctions.

It follows the five-year plan laid out at a Workers' Party congress in early 2021 dedicated to developing "top priority" strategic weapons.

A new intercontinental ballistic missile, hypersonic gliding flight warheads, nuclear-powered submarines, and a reconnaissance satellite were all on the list.

How has South Korea reacted?

South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol said on Wednesday that North Korea is not a source of fear because of its nuclear weapons, and its provocations must be met with retaliation, Yonhap news agency reported.

The president's statements came on the same day the de-

fense ministry announced that it is planning to spend 560 billion won (\$441.26 million; €414.56 million) over the next five years to strengthen its defense against drones from North Korea.

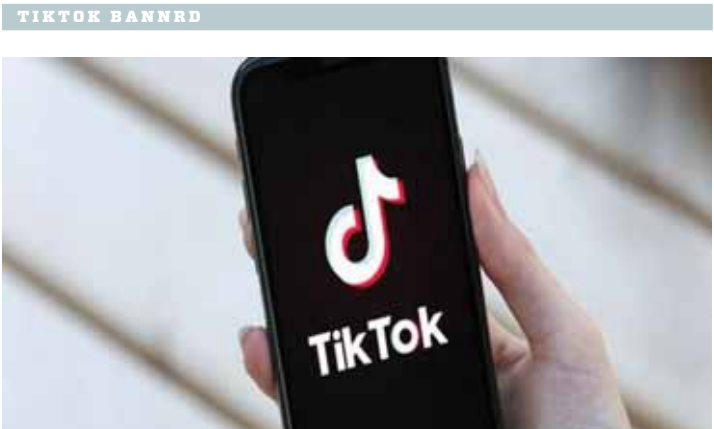
The plan was outlined in South Korea's 2023-27 midterm defense blueprint.

President Yoon strongly criticized the military's handling of the recent incursion on Tuesday.

Military officials apologized for their actions and claimed that the drones were too small for them to shoot down.

The Defense Ministry set aside funds for four initiatives that will improve counter-drone capabilities, including an aerial laser to eliminate drones and a jammer to disable smaller devices.

It also seeks to procure more stealth jets in addition to ballistic missile submarines. It also attempts to hasten the development of artillery rocket interceptor systems. **ow**



US House bans TikTok on all House managed devices over 'security risks'

WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives Committee on House Administration on Tuesday announced a ban on TikTok from all House-managed mobile devices, CBS News reported.

Citing "number of security risks," US House staffers have been banned from downloading TikTok on House devices and must delete the app from any mobile device onto which it is currently downloaded, according to a memo from House Chief Administrative Officer Catherine Szpindor.

With this move, the US House joins the list of a number of government entities that have imposed the ban on the Chinese-owned social media app. Earlier in December, the Senate approved a measure that will ban all federal employees from downloading or using the application on government devices.

Several states of the United States, including Texas, Georgia, Maryland, South Dakota, South Carolina and Nebraska, have banned TikTok from government devices. The US military also banned its members from using the app on government devices.

TikTok has faced growing con-

cerns over national security due to Chinese parent company ByteDance, as per the CBS News report. US officials have repeatedly said that the Chinese government could ask the company to share the data it gathers on its users.

Earlier in November, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray said that they have national security concerns, including the possibility that the Chinese government could use it to control data collection.

"We do have national security concerns," CBS News quoted FBI Director Christopher Wray said.

"They include the possibility that the Chinese government could use it to control data collection on millions of users," Christopher Wray added.

The previous Trump administration had warned that they will ban the app completely unless it was sold to an American company over potential security and privacy threats, according to CBS News. However, the decision to ban the app was reversed by US President Joe Biden and he directed a government review of foreign-owned apps. **ANI**

COVID-19

Hong Kong to scrap Covid test for travellers

HONG KONG: Hong Kong on Wednesday announced it will scrap the mandatory Covid-19 test for international travellers, Reuters reported citing local broadcaster TVB.

Hong Kong also said that the city's pass required to enter most venues would also be scrapped.

Hong Kong leader John Lee is expected to make an official announcement today at 3:30 pm (0730 GMT), according to Reuters. **ANI**

PROMO CODE
FIRSTORDER10
**10 % DISCOUNT
ON YOUR FIRST
PURCHASE**





Shop Now!
Available on the
App Store
GET IT ON
Google Play



UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES
LOCAL ONLINE TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tender shown in the following table:

Tender No.	Tender subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
44/2022	Unifying the domains of the branches of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the (Excellent, First, Second, Third and Fourth) Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	10/01/2023 at 02:00 pm	16/01/2023 at 10:00 am
45/2022	Developing the digital infrastructure of the branches of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the (Excellent, First, Second, Third and Fourth) Grades	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	10/01/2023 at 02:00 pm	16/01/2023 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Wednesday 28/12/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

Broad Horizons **أفاق واسعة**

ص.ب : 327 ، الرمز البريدي : 400 إرباب ، سلطنة عمان - هاتف : 25587800 ، فاكس : 25549020
P.O Box : 327, Postal Code : 400 Ibra , Sultanate of Oman, Tel.: 25587800, Fax: 25549020

SPORTS

SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

Carey slams ton to put Australia on top

Dean Elgar's weary South Africa side faces a difficult task to avoid a big defeat with two days of play remaining.

MELBOURNE: Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey scored his maiden Test century (111) in which he slammed 13 boundaries to put the hosts on top on the third day of the second Test against South Africa on Wednesday. Dean Elgar's weary South Africa side faces a difficult task to avoid a big defeat with two days of play remaining. South Africa reached 15-1 in its second innings at stumps on Wednesday, still requiring 371 more runs to make Australia bat again. With leading batter and captain, Elgar, already back in the sheds, the odds are against the touring team. Only seven overs were bowled



in the evening session before rain interrupted play, sparing South Africa further misery on day three. South Africa had lost Elgar for a duck in the second over as rival captain Pat Cummins struck a key blow, removing the left-hander caught behind off the glove. Theunis de Bruyn, dropped at slip on three, is not out on six with Sarel Erwee on seven. Resuming Wednesday on 386-3, Australia declared at tea on 575-8 in reply to South Africa's first innings of 189. Wicketkeeper Alex Carey

scored his maiden Test century for Australia, hitting 13 boundaries in his tally of 111. Carey and Cameron Green (51 not out), who showed admirable composure against the short ball despite nursing a broken finger, shared a century stand for the eighth wicket. Earlier, South Africa started strongly as Nortje struck twice in the third over of the day, bowling Travis Head (51) and David Warner (200) in consecutive deliveries. Warner, who had retired hurt with leg cramps on Tuesday, returned at the fall of the fourth wicket but lasted only one delivery, playing all around a full toss which crashed onto his stumps via his back pad at 395-5. In the following over, Rabada dismissed Cummins caught behind for four. Nathan Lyon (25) was out hooking at 440-7, before Carey and Green piled it on against the South Africa's bowlers. Australia leads 1-0 and can clinch the three-match series with victory in Melbourne, although the home side's bowling attack has been weakened by injury. Brief scores: South Africa 189 and 15 for 1 trail Australia 575 for 8 decl (Warner 200, Carey 111, Smith 85, Green 51*, Head 51) by 371 runs. - Agencies

Pandya to lead in T20Is, Rohit to captain in ODIs



MUMBAI: The All India Senior Selection Committee on Tuesday announced India's squads for the upcoming white-ball home series against Sri Lanka to be held in January 2023. The tour comprises three T20Is and as many ODIs. Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja are still not available for selection. Sri Lanka will be touring India from January 3 to January 15 for three T20Is and three ODIs. All-rounder Hardik Pandya will lead India's T20I squad against Sri Lanka in the three-match series to be held in Mumbai. Suryakumar Yadav has been named vice-captain of the Indian T20I team. Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul are not part of India's T20I squad. Meanwhile, uncapped Indian pacers and IPL big buys Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar received their maiden T20I call-up against Sri Lanka. Men in Blue will first take on Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series. The first match of the series will be held on January 3, 2023, in Mumbai while the second and third will take place on January 5 and 7 in Pune and Rajkot respectively. Rohit Sharma will be back as the captain to lead Men in Blue in the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka. A notable absentee from the white-ball series squads

is Rishabh Pant, who was part of Men in Blues' recent Test series win against Bangladesh. Shikhar Dhawan has also been dropped. Rohit Sharma struggled to live up to his 'Hitman' tag numerous times in 2022. In two Tests this year, Rohit scored 90 runs at an average of 30, with the best score of 46. In eight ODIs, he scored 249 runs at an average of 41.50, with three half-centuries and a best of 76*. Rohit scored 656 runs in 29 T20I innings this year at an average of 24.29 and strike rate of 134.42, with three half-centuries and the best score of 72. The ODIs will be held in Guwahati, Kolkata and Trivandrum on January 10, 12 and 15 respectively. India's squad for Sri Lanka T20Is: Hardik Pandya (Captain), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav (VC), Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar. India's squad for Sri Lanka ODIs: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (VC), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik and Arshdeep Singh. -ANI

FIRST TEST

Williamson hits century, Kiwis take lead

KARACHI: Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson ended a 23-month wait for an international hundred as he notched up his 25th century in the longest format of the game on day three of the first Test against Pakistan in Karachi on Wednesday. Williamson took his time on a good batting strip at the National Stadium, bringing up his hundred in 206 deliveries in the final ses-

sion on Wednesday. Playing only his third Test of the year, Williamson fought hard against the Pakistan spin attack to bring up his century, leading New Zealand's strong response to the hosts' first innings total of 438. It was not a fluent knock from Williamson but the former captain, who gave up the captain's armband in Tests to focus on his batting, ground through the tough

times to help New Zealand take a first-innings lead as the visitors ended at 440/6. Pakistan was made to toil for most of the day but the hosts struck back in the final thirty minutes to eventually share the day's honours. Starting the day on 165 for 0, New Zealand finished two runs ahead of Pakistan's first-innings score. With Pakistan having the mo-

mentum at stumps, the game stands in a tantalising position with two days to go and a tricky pitch to deal with. Williamson finished the day unbeaten on 105. He was supported by Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell and though neither man got even as far as a half-century, their aggression allowed Williamson to quietly build on his score. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Rashford shines as Manchester United blank Nottingham Forest

MANCHESTER: Forward Marcus Rashford shined for Manchester United, scoring one goal and setting up the other as his side blanked Nottingham Forest 3-0 in their Premier League match at Old Trafford on Tuesday. With this, United moves to the fifth spot in the points table, just a point shy of Tottenham Hotspur, who are at 30 points. Out of their 15 matches, United have won nine, lost four and drawn two and have a total of 29 points. On the other hand, Nottingham Forest is reeling at the 19th position with just 13 points, having won only three of 16 matches, lost nine and drawn four. Defender Raphael Varane was suffering from a virus, which disrupted United's preparations. But Nottingham failed to test United's depleted defence in their first game since star striker Cristiano Ronaldo's departure. Rashford gave Manchester United an early lead in the 19th minute, dispatching a corner from Christian Eriksen into the nets. Later in the 22nd minute, he as-



EARLY LEAD: Rashford gave Man United an early lead in the 19th minute, dispatching a corner from Christian Eriksen into the nets.

sisted Anthony Martial to double his side's lead. Forest's Ryan Yates could have brought his side into the game, but his goal was ruled out for offside via VAR just shortly before half-time. United were dominant in the second half. Minutes before full time, Casemiro stole possession from the opposition and substi-

tute Fred made a beautiful finish to triple United's lead in the 87th minute. In their next PL game, United will take on Wolverhampton on Saturday away from home. On the other hand, Nottingham will be hotting Chelsea on Sunday. Following the loss, Nottingham Forest boss Steve Cooper was quoted as saying by Sky Sports, "It

was always going to be really tough here tonight and we knew the game was going to look as it did in terms of them having territory and possession." "The goals are a killer in terms of a set piece where some players have clearly not stuck to their responsibilities. And then we are in a half-decent position in United's box, but then to give up the space and the territory we did. I would not say we gifted the goal because they have to work for it, but it is frustrating with the goals." "I just felt we could have backed ourselves a bit more in the game. We got in between the lines two or three times in the first half but did not make the most of it. In the end, you do have to make the most of those situations at this level." "I am a big believer in looking at the process of the performance. I was more frustrated at times with a lack of quality at times at the top end of the pitch, a lack of belief in decision-making and taking risks and backing ourselves," concluded the manager. - ANI

LALIGA, SERIE A LIGUE1

World Cup heroes return to action

MUMBAI: After locking horns in the FIFA World Cup final, Golden Boot winner Kylian Mbappe and Golden Ball winner Lionel Messi will come together alongside several other sensational players for Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in the Ligue1. The French club's fixture on December 29 is likely to also feature World Cup stars such as Brazil's Neymar. LaLiga (Spanish Premier Division) will see the return of 2022 FIFA World Cup winners like Rodrigo De Paul for Atletico de Madrid and Alejandro Gomez for Sevilla FC, along with members of the runners-up French squad like Ousmane Dembele for FC Barcelona and Antoine Griezmann for Atletico de Madrid. The Serie A (Italian top-flight league) is among the most competitive leagues in the world and will see FIFA World Cup winners Angel di Maria and Paulo Dybala return to action for Juventus FC and A.S. Roma respectively. French stars such as Adrien Rabiot will return to action for Juventus while Theo Hernandez will go to battle for AC Milan on January 4, next year, as they vie to conquer Italy in the second half of the Serie A season. Ligue1 will return to our TVs, smartphones and tablets first, as the competition will resume on December 28 with AC Ajaccio facing Angers. LaLiga will kick-off on December 29 with a match-up between Girona and Rayo Vallecano. The Serie A resumes in the New Year on January 4 with a clash between Salernitana and reigning champions AC Milan. Sassuolo will lock horns with Sampdoria on the same day. Viacom18 Sports, India's newest premier sports network, will continue bringing the biggest stars of the recently concluded FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 to Indian viewers. LaLiga, Ligue1, and Serie A will be streamed live on JioCinema for free. - ANI

LANDS IN ADELAIDE

Djokovic arrives in Australia ahead of Australian Open

MELBOURNE : Nine-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic has arrived in Australia nearly a year after he was deported from the country, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported on Tuesday. Djokovic landed in Adelaide where he is due to play in the Adelaide International beginning on Sunday, the paper said. Less than a year after his high-profile visa saga and deportation last January, Djokovic's bid for a remarkable 10th title at Melbourne Park next month has begun in earnest. Djokovic, the men's tennis standout, has missed Australian and US Opens in 2022 due to his refusal to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

A source familiar with Djokovic's travel plans confirmed late Tuesday that the Serbian had arrived in Adelaide, where he will play an Open warm-up event next week. The mixed-gender United Cup begins on Thursday, kicking off the Australian tennis summer, and Djokovic will begin his 2023 campaign with the Adelaide International, an ATP 250 event in South Australia that begins on January 1. The Australian government granted the Serb a visa to attend the Grand Slam event in November, stating that it had decided to rescind the decision to cancel Djokovic's visa after considering all relevant factors. Djokovic's visa was revoked in

January 2022. Since then all Covid-related border restrictions in Australia have been lifted, including the requirement to show proof of vaccination status to enter the country. Australian Open boss Craig Tiley flagged the former world No.1's arrival in Adelaide at a press conference on Tuesday morning as stated by Sydney Morning Herald. "I think again he's going to be the player to beat," Tiley said. The former world number one won the season-ending ATP Finals last month and will be a favourite to win his 10th Australian Open title. The 2023 Australian Open will take place at Melbourne Park from January 16 to 29. - ANI



FORMER WORLD NUMBER ONE: Djokovic, the men's tennis standout, has missed Australian and US Opens in 2022 due to his refusal to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by February 2023 reaching \$80.43, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 19 cents from the price of Tuesday, which was \$80.62. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,845.41 points, up by 0.29 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09 per cent at 499.13 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 6.94 per cent, was the top gainer while Galfar Engineering, down 2.30 per cent, was the top loser.

Project development pact inked for petrochemical complex in Duqm

Three companies aim to establish a petrochemical complex consisting of a steam cracker and derivative units and a natural gas liquid (NGL) extraction facility

MUSCAT: OQ, SABIC and Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) have signed a project development agreement for a jointly owned petrochemical complex in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), the Sultanate of Oman.

The three companies aim to establish a petrochemical complex consisting of a steam cracker and derivative units and a natural gas liquid (NGL) extraction facility. They will conduct the necessary studies and collaborate using their wealth of technical and commercial experience to develop the project with unique attributes that make it globally competitive and profitable for all three partners.



The agreement was signed by Talal Hamid Al Awfi – OQ Group CEO, Abdulrahman Saleh Al Fageeh – CEO of SABIC, and Shafi Taleb Al Ajmi - CEO of KPI.

Commenting on this agreement, Talal Al Awfi, said, “OQ is proud of this historic agreement with our partners SABIC and KPI. The agreement is a significant milestone reached between the partners and comes at an important time in Oman with the near

completion of the OQ8 refinery project in Sezad being undertaken by OQ and KPI through the OQ8 joint venture. This agreement also comes in line with Oman Investment Authority’s (OIA) plans to attract foreign investments to support realize Oman’s vision 2040 in its endeavour to diversify Oman’s economy.”

Al-Fageeh said, “SABIC’s collaborative approach has built longstanding relationships of

collaboration, delivered innovative solutions and created mutual value for more than 45 years. This agreement enables us to identify and assess the opportunity for ambitious and sustainable growth by bringing together our capabilities, expertise and technologies and working collectively with our partners. Our involvement in this well-positioned project is consistent with our growth strategy and Saudi Vision 2030 goals to develop

a stronger downstream business addressing challenges in the petrochemicals industry such as carbon neutrality and providing diversified and sustainable products.”

KPI’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Shafi Taleb Al Ajmi commented, “We are pleased to work side by side with OQ and SABIC on this pioneering project in Oman because working with our regional partners supports KPC’s 2040 strategy for growth in

the petrochemical industry and enhances integration between the refining and petrochemical sectors. The project also supports the economic growth and development of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.”

Petrochemicals’ demand is expected to continue its growth path as living standards and human development improve, particularly in growing markets close to Oman. The project intends to monetise Natural Gas Liquids and other feedstocks from OQ and KPI’s joint venture refinery, OQ8 in Duqm, to manufacture petrochemical products targeting growing markets linked to the energy transition, clean technologies, mobility, construction, durable goods, healthcare and packaging amongst others.

The project intends to deploy state-of-the-art technologies to minimise carbon footprint and incorporate circular economy aspects and commit to high environmental standards.

This mega project would support the region’s development aspirations, maximising socio-economic impacts as well as value addition to these companies. In addition, the project would also benefit from the excellent location of Duqm being close to markets and taking advantage of the infrastructure which has been developed in the area, as OQ continues in its strategy to help develop Sezad as a manufacturing and logistics hub in line with vision 2040. -**ONA**

ECONOMY

China’s outbound tourism likely to revive after easing of COVID curbs

BEIJING: China’s outbound tourism sector is expected to regain its vitality, with the country’s newly adjusted COVID-19 response lifting restrictions on Chinese citizens’ overseas trips and promoting cross-border personnel exchanges.

China will manage COVID-19 with measures against Class B infectious diseases, instead of Class A infectious diseases, according to a statement released by the National Health Commission. The statement said outbound tourism for Chinese citizens will be resumed in an orderly manner. Disease control measures targeting inbound travellers and imported cargo will also be lifted, it said.

Words expressing enthusiasm for travelling abroad quickly flooded China’s social networks, as early birds flocked to the country’s online travel platforms to search for ideal destinations and book flights.

The search volume for outbound flight tickets and overseas hotels reached a three-year high just half an hour after the release of the statement, data from online travel service provider Trip.com Group showed.

Other Asian countries are among the first ones set to benefit from this wave of outbound travel.

Data from Trip.com Group showed that the number of orders for outbound flight tickets soared 254 per cent on the morning of December 27, compared with the same period a day earlier. Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Japan and Thailand were among Chinese tourists’ most popular destinations.

Fang Zegian, an analyst from Trip.com Group, said the COVID-19 response change ensures a smoother policy environment for cross-border travel and will effectively stimulate people’s willingness to travel. “With the ice and snow finally melting, the spring of outbound travel has arrived,” Fang said.

Feng Rao, head of a research institute under the Chinese travel service and social networking platform Mafengwo, said that three years’ pent-up desire for travel abroad can finally be released thanks to this policy adjustment. -**Xinhua**

KAMCO INVEST REPORT

GCC real estate sale transactions top \$143bn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Real estate sale transactions in the GCC over January-October 2022 reached \$143.1 billion, eclipsing the full-year figure of 2021 (\$136.9 billion) according to a new report.

“The UAE (Dubai and Abu Dhabi combined) contributed to over 48 per cent of the aggregate value transacted, while Saudi added 35.6 per cent to the region’s transactions over January-October 2022,” the Kuwait-based investment, strategy and research firm, Kamco Invest said in its new report.

The higher transaction activity was driven by value transacted in Dubai that increased almost 81 per cent year-on-year over the period, based on Kamco Invest’s analysis of official estimates.

“Strong demand and price gains were witnessed by luxury residential properties, while the affordable segment also witnessed healthy gains. Investors are likely to gauge the residential market more carefully in 2023 due to the



NEW REPORT: All real estate sub-segments in the GCC performed better year-on-year in 2022. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

higher prices prevalent in the market, which could potentially lead to real estate transactions’ run-rate plateauing going forward,” the report said.

Price growth could also cool off, driven by more realistic internal

rate of return (IRR) expectations, and with rising mortgage rates, Kamco Invest said.

The report further said that all real estate sub-segments in the GCC performed better year-on-year in 2022, even as commercial

spaces witnessed idiosyncratic journeys of growth. In the office segment, supply continues to be tailored towards newer sources of demand such as robotics, IT, and healthcare as these sectors drive faster take-up of such spaces in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC),

“The report reiterated that 2022 will be the new base year for the office real estate demand for both new and existing stock of office spaces. Separately, temperature-controlled spaces, chilled centres and bonded warehouses continue to command premiums of at least 25 per cent to 30 per cent at the top end of the industrial warehouse market,” Kamco Invest said in its GCC Real Estate Update December 2022 report.

Within the retail real estate market, mall space developers are focusing on the benefits of cross-shopping relationships and their impact on footfalls and consumer spending, when planning and choosing retailer mix, the report said. “The strong net operating in-

come (NOI) performance across sub-segments combined with the twin risks of further interest rate hikes and a prolonged period of high rates could potentially have pushed real estate assets in certain geographies into a late-stage expansion phase,” the Kamco Invest report said.

Nevertheless, developers remain cautious of these trends and are expected to announce project launches that are likely to cater to a more normalised demand environment going forward.

Total Return Index gained by 1.2 per cent driven by the strong performance of Abu Dhabi (+16.7 per cent) and Dubai (+14.3 per cent) real estate indices, while outperforming the MSCI GCC index (-1.4 per cent) over January-November 2022.

Key decliners in the listed equities space came from Saudi Arabia, as both the Saudi real estate developers and the Saudi real estate investment trusts (REITs) indices declined by 14.1 per cent each.

Family-ready, fun-ready!

Scan the QR Code to check out the **SUZUKI VITARA**

Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes only.

- 4-WD (Drive Select)
- 6 Airbags
- Panoramic Sunroof

MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC

94760010 Wattayah | 94106970: For branches at Salalah | Sohar | Nizwa | Sur | Ibri

800 76 200

suzuki.moosagroup.com | suzuki.oman | suzukioman | Suzuki Global



MARKET



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



MSX index ends higher



Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 6.94 per cent, was the top gainer while Galfar Engineering, down 2.30 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,845.41 points, up by 0.29 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.09 per cent at 499.13 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 6.94 per cent, was the top gainer while Bank Muscat, down 2.30 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 781 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR5.62 million, with more than 23.25 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 18 advanced, 10 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR59,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR45,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR14,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,860.85 points, up 0.55 per cent. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, Takaful Oman, Oman & Emirates Investment, United Finance, and Bank Dhofar were

up by 6.94 per cent, 4.65 per cent, 4.00 per cent, 3.03 per cent and 2.34 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company and Oman Arab Bank were down by 4.27 per cent and 1.58 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,355.57 points, up 0.62 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Beverages, Oman Cables Industry, A'Saffa Foods, Raysut Cement, and Oman Fisheries were up by 4.27 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.71 per cent, 1.27 per cent and 0.96 per cent respectively. Prices of Galfar Engineering, Al Maha Ceramics, Voltamp Energy and Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 2.30 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 2.22 per cent and 1.25 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.32 per cent before closing at 1,610.73 points. Prices of OIFC, Sembcorp Salalah, Barka Desalination, Phoenix Power, and Ooredoo were up by 3.85 per cent, 3.13 per cent, 2.99 per cent, 2.33 per cent and 1.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Jazeera Services, Oman Telecom and Shell Oman Marketing were down by 1.05 per cent, 0.86 per cent and 0.45 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE

INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,872.06	4,845.41	4,872.06	4,845.41	26.66	0.55	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,930.11	7,860.85	7,928.37	7,860.85	67.53	0.86	
Industry Index	6,386.65	6,337.65	6,362.13	6,355.57	6.56	0.10	
Services Index	1,623.63	1,607.28	1,623.63	1,610.73	12.90	0.80	
MSX Shariah Index	501.79	497.38	501.19	499.13	2.05	0.41	
MSX TR INDEX	6,149.43	6,115.79	6,149.43	6,115.79	33.65	0.55	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,297.98	8,225.50	8,296.16	8,225.50	70.66	0.86	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,716.04	1,698.76	1,716.04	1,702.40	13.64	0.80	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,649.29	6,598.28	6,623.77	6,616.94	6.83	0.10	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
18,933,863	4,240,988	604	23,749,586,877	26	10	13	49

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFR	PRE VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
AL OMANIYA FIN.	315,408	47,214	21	0.145	0.154	0.145	0.154	0.144	0.010	6.944	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	46,694,900
OMAN INVEST & FIN	369,215	48,000	11	0.130	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.130	0.005	3.846	0.135	0.130	0.132	0.100	31,995,000
OMAN CABLES INDSTR	141,961	232,240	24	1.590	1.650	1.590	1.650	1.620	0.030	1.852	1.650	1.700	1.650	0.100	148,005,000
GLOBAL INV. H.	111,136	6,224	8	0.056	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.055	0.001	1.818	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	11,200,000
OOREDOO	265,103	115,145	27	0.434	0.440	0.434	0.440	0.434	0.006	1.382	0.440	0.434	0.440	0.100	286,415,461
JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	94,280	207,748	7	0.220	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.220	0.002	0.909	0.222	0.220	0.222	0.100	27,727,347
OMAN NAT. ENG.	94,273	10,658	17	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.113	0.112	0.001	0.883	0.113	0.112	0.113	0.100	32,820,000
RENAISSANCE SER.	186,004	85,652	5	0.468	0.470	0.460	0.468	0.458	0.002	0.437	0.460	0.454	0.460	0.100	108,748,600
NATIONAL BANK OMAN	487,998	140,822	15	0.290	0.290	0.285	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.286	0.290	0.100	471,524,443
OMINVEST	107,978	45,351	7	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.000	0.000	0.420	0.400	0.420	0.100	280,713,479
AHLI BANK	587,172	100,406	5	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.000	0.000	0.171	0.171	0.171	0.100	333,391,427
AL SHARQIA INV.	91,600	7,231	7	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.000	0.079	0.075	0.079	0.100	7,110,000
BANK MUSCAT	8,503,318	2,383,305	168	0.280	0.282	0.278	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	2,101,791,177
AL MAHA PETROLEUM	68,000	61,200	3	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.100	62,100,000
SOHAR INT. BANK	90,000	9,830	1	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.107	0.000	0.000	0.107	0.107	0.110	0.100	491,138,665
OMAN TELECOM	66,613	61,618	14	0.928	0.928	0.920	0.928	0.928	-0.008	-0.862	0.920	0.920	0.928	0.100	690,000,000
ALJAZEERA SERVICES	83,500	23,735	12	0.285	0.285	0.282	0.284	0.287	-0.003	-1.045	0.284	0.280	0.286	0.100	17,382,014
ALMAHA CERAMICS	23,006	10,120	4	0.440	0.440	0.430	0.440	0.440	-0.010	-2.273	0.430	0.430	0.440	0.100	23,650,000
Total	18	11,686,565	3,408,299	351											
Parallel Market															
TAKAFUL OMAN	23,233	1,045	3	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.043	0.002	4.651	0.045	0.044	0.047	0.100	11,250,000
DHOFAH BEVERAGES	10,000	2,121	4	0.211	0.220	0.211	0.220	0.211	0.009	4.268	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.100	4,400,000
OMAN EMIRATES HO.	100,206	7,791	6	0.076	0.079	0.076	0.079	0.076	0.003	4.007	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	9,568,250
SEMBOCORP SALALAH	125,000	8,086	6	0.066	0.066	0.062	0.066	0.064	0.002	3.125	0.066	0.063	0.066	0.100	63,001,749
OMAN INVEST & FIN	629,600	42,479	18	0.067	0.068	0.067	0.068	0.066	0.002	3.030	0.068	0.068	0.069	0.100	23,741,630
BARKA DESALINATION	40,688	5,587	5	0.137	0.138	0.137	0.138	0.134	0.004	2.985	0.138	0.138	0.140	0.100	10,462,056
BANK DHOFAH	674,351	116,048	2	0.172	0.175	0.172	0.175	0.171	0.004	2.339	0.175	0.172	0.180	0.100	524,361,501
PHOENIX POWER	61,547	2,531	5	0.042	0.044	0.041	0.044	0.043	0.001	2.328	0.044	0.041	0.044	0.100	64,354,464
A'SAFFA FOODS	800	190	2	0.237	0.238	0.237	0.238	0.234	0.004	1.709	0.238	0.230	0.236	0.100	28,560,000
MUSCAT FINANCE	40,500	2,712	6	0.067	0.068	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.065	0.070	0.100	20,578,804
RAYSUT CEMENT	64,475	10,320	13	0.162	0.162	0.160	0.160	0.158	0.002	1.266	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	32,000,000
MADINA TAKAFUL	270,750	24,301	12	0.090	0.090	0.087	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.088	0.090	0.100	15,750,000
AMAN REAL ESTATE	4,000	384	1	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.095	0.102	0.100	19,200,000
BANK NIZWA	2,932,305	293,291	41	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.099	0.001	1.010	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	223,685,303
OMAN FISHERIES	19,610	2,059	5	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.101	0.002	0.962	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	19,118,232
NATIONAL GAS	271,189	29,155	24	0.107	0.108	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.852	0.106	0.106	0.107	0.100	9,010,000
HSBC BANK OMAN	432,384	71,776	12	0.166	0.166	0.165	0.166	0.165	0.001	0.606	0.166	0.166	0.167	0.100	332,051,923
DHOFAH INSURANCE	10,000	2,000	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.190	0.200	0.100	20,952,409
ALANWAH INVESTMENT	459,270	39,059	25	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	17,000,000
OMAN CEMENT	910	310	1	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.528	0.528	0.000	0.000	0.560	0.560	0.560	0.100	35,958,732
SMN POWER HOLDING	311,615	14,364	16	0.046	0.047	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.049	0.100	9,183,238
ALBATTANI POWER	110,000	3,300	2	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.000	0.000	0.030	0.028	0.030	0.100	20,246,623
GULF MUSHROOM P.	3,900	2,975	1	0.888	0.888	0.888	0.888	0.888	-0.004	-0.448	0.888	0.816	0.888	0.100	84,260,000
OMAN REIT FUND	300,000	25,800	2	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	40,522,029
GULF MUSHROOM P.	8,215	1,964	7	0.239	0.240	0.238	0.238	0.241	-0.003	-1.245	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.100	9,902,054
OMAN ARAB BANK	646	81	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.127	-0.002	-1.575	0.125	0.125	0.126	0.100	208,676,250
AL BATINAH DEV.	10,000	440	3	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.100	1,320,000
VOLTAMP ENERGY	22,500	1,968	8	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.222	0.088	0.090	0.090	0.100	7,163,442
GALFAR ENGINEER	200,000	24,595	17	0.174	0.174	0.170	0.170	0.174	-0.004	-2.299	0.170	0.166	0.172	0.100	34,507,696
Total	29	7,137,294	746,520	242											

SYNDICATED GREEN LOAN AGREEMENT

Nissan signs 200 billion yen green loan for zero-emission mobility investments

YOKOHAMA: Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. signed a 200 billion yen syndicated green loan agreement arranged by Mizuho Bank.

Nissan will utilise the loan to support its clean mobility and related projects to progress its long-term electrification and carbon neutrality ambitions. The loan contract period will be five and seven years.

As the first funds raised since launching the Nissan Sustainable Finance Framework in July, the company is deepening its investment programme in electrification. Loan proceeds will fund eligible green projects defined in the framework, such as R&D, investments and expenditures for the design, development, and manufacturing of zero-emission vehicles and components for electric vehicles or other future carbon-neutral initiatives.

With a second-party review conducted by Sustainalytics, Nissan



has aligned its framework with the Green Bond Principle 2021, Social Bond Principle 2021, Sustainability Bond Guideline 2021, Green Loan Principle 2021 and Social Loan Principle 2021.

As a pioneer in electric vehicles, Nissan is accelerating electrification and technological innovation to enhance zero emission and clean mobility. Nissan seeks to empower journeys and society with a range of electrified vehicles of high value to customers.

The signing of the green loan represents the latest initiative that

positions sustainability at the core of Nissan's business, reflecting its corporate purpose of "Driving innovation to enrich people's lives." As Nissan becomes a truly sustainable business, the company aims to realise a cleaner, safer and more inclusive world.

REPORT

Global prime rents continue to rise but rate of growth slowing

LONDON: Prime rents continue to rise in London but the rate of growth is slowing, according to Knight Frank.

Across 10 global cities, luxury rents increased 10.2 per cent on average in the 12 months to the third quarter of 2022, down from a high of 11.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2022, according to Knight Frank in a report. These cities are New York, London, Singapore, Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, Geneva, Monaco, Hong Kong and Auckland.

New York led the rankings for the third consecutive quarter. Annual growth may have dipped from a high of 39 per cent last quarter to 31 per cent, but limited stock and continued demand are keeping rents elevated, according to Knight Frank.

The number of properties for rent across Manhattan is down 5 per cent over the quarter but 65 per cent lower compared to the pandemic times in September 2020, according to StreetEasy.

Singapore sits in second place, registering a 23 per cent rise in luxury rents over the last 12 months. The opening of borders, along with the introduction of new visas to attract top talent from around the world, has generated an uptick in demand.

London completes the top three. Although the UK capital recorded a 19 per cent rise in the year to third quarter of 2022, an-



nual rental growth is down from 27 per cent last quarter, reflecting the slowdown from the summer rental peak.

But demand remains strong. Knight Frank data shows the number of new prospective tenants was 60 per cent above the five-year average (excluding 2020) in October, while new listings were down by about a third.

Two cities saw prime rents decline year-on-year, Hong Kong saw a 5 per cent drop while Auckland witnessed a 2 per cent dip. Demand in Hong Kong was largely locally-driven in the third quarter due to travel constraints, but with restrictions on new arrivals now lifted, demand may start to increase from expats.

In Auckland, strong supply is having a softening effect on luxury rents. Following nine base rate hikes, the average mortgage rate is currently around 6 per cent, prompting some vendors to downsize temporarily and rent rather than sell their property.

In Singapore, new rules announced in September mean those looking to sell their private home and purchase a



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FOR GRILLING ENTHUSIASTS

THE MOST THOUGHTFUL HOLIDAY GIFTS ARE THOSE THAT SHOW YOUR LOVED ONES YOU SUPPORT THEIR HOBBIES AND PASSIONS. TO BRIGHTEN THE SEASON FOR GRILLING ENTHUSIASTS, CHECK OUT THE GIFT GUIDE.

A GRILLING THERMOMETER

Even the best cuts of meat can be compromised when they aren't cooked to the ideal temperature. To help your gift recipient achieve perfectly grilled steaks and other meats every time, take the guesswork out of the equation for them with a grilling thermometer. Beyond all the features you'd expect in a grilling thermometer, today's high-tech options also connect to apps, so that enterprising cooks can step away from the grill to attend to other food prepping tasks.

A PERSONALISED APRON

Whether you go for a standard monogram, a full name or include a catch phrase or other design, a personalized apron makes a great gift for home chefs and grill masters. Just be sure your choice is made from a material that conducts heat poorly and is durable, stain-resistant, low-maintenance, and features pockets of various sizes to stash mitts, tools and other kitchen supplies. An adjustable neck strap and back tie can also help ensure the apron fits as intended.

A TOOL RACK

High-quality grilling tools are only useful when the griller knows where they are. For easy organisation, deck out your gift recipient's deck or patio with a stylish mounted tool rack where they can keep their tongs, spatula, grill brush and other supplies handy.

A PORTABLE GRILL

Let your recipient take the show on the road with a portable grill. Great for camping, tailgating and other adventures, handy lightweight designs travel well and set up in a snap. With charcoal and gas varieties available, you are certain to find a model that fits your recipient's needs and preferences.

-Statepoint



MUSANDAM TAKES CENTRE-STAGE AS NATIONWIDE OMAN SAILING FESTIVAL 2022 COMES TO A CLOSE



MUSCAT: The final stop on the Oman Sailing Festival, a nationwide tour organized by Oman Sail to introduce local communities the length and breadth of the coastline, concluded in Musandam with participation of more than 20 SMEs and over 780 people taking the chance to Try Sailing, Try Windsurfing and Try Kitesurfing over the four days.

Held at Bassa public beach, Oman Sail's professional instructors welcomed potential sailors of all ages for an introductory lesson and take the first step towards a life on the water. Even more people from Musandam and the surrounding area visited the festival to see the wide range of traditional delicacies, arts, crafts, and souvenirs for sale courtesy of local SMEs.

Ali Al Sheheimi, Oman Sailing Festival Project Manager, said, "This was a fantastic place to conclude a really impactful Oman Sailing Festival. For the past two months, we have visited coastal communities to share the possibilities that sailing can offer – whether competitively or as a leisure activity. Sailing has been an important part of Oman's history and traditions, and it has been Oman Sail's mission for the past 14 years to reignite this maritime heritage."

"We are very pleased with the enthusiasm of everyone at each stop this year and are very proud to offer SMEs the chance to show their capabilities and reach a new audience. Planning for 2023 edition will begin soon and we will be looking to build on the success of this year to offer an even bigger event next year" he added.

The Oman Sailing Festival has

“We are very pleased with the enthusiasm of everyone at each stop this year and are very proud to offer SMEs the chance to show their capabilities and reach a new audience. Planning for 2023 edition will begin soon and we will be looking to build on the success of this year to offer an even bigger event next year.”

also helped share an important environmental message at each stop by organising a beach clean-up, run in partnership with Environment Society of Oman (ESO). In Musandam, more than 60 people – including community volunteers, and Oman Sail staff– helped to remove waste from the shores and preserve the natural habitat for native wildlife.

The Oman Sailing Festival was proudly supported by Oman Air, National Mineral Water Company (Tanuf), Environment society of Oman (ESO), and National University of Science and Technology (International Maritime College).





YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER
Download the app

IN-PICTURES



New Year decorations in Moscow, Russia
A woman walks past a decoration for the New Year in Moscow, Russia. Xinhua



Hail lashes areas in Kuwait
People play with hailstones in Ahmadi Governorate, Kuwait. Hail lashed a number of areas in Kuwait on Tuesday. Xinhua



Electricians assemble pattern onto the crystal ball in New York
Electricians assemble the pattern onto the crystal ball during the Crystal Times Square New Year's Ball assembly on the roof of One Times Square, New York, the United States. Xinhua



Pakistani student learns Chinese martial arts in north China's Tianjin
Muhammad Nabil (L) learns Huo-style boxing from Huo Jinghong at a martial arts gym in Xiqing District, north China's Tianjin. Xinhua



Karisma Kapoor arrives to attend annual Christmas lunch
Bollywood actress Karisma Kapoor arrives to attend annual Christmas lunch hosted by Kunal Kapoor son of the late actor Shashi Kapoor, in Mumbai. ANI Photo



People play at Taoranting park in Beijing
A mother plays with her child at an ice and snow carnival at Taoranting park in Beijing, capital of China. Xinhua





ROUND-UP



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

Nissan Patrol: Hero of all terrain



From the very first moment, one sets eyes on this iconic creation, one will immediately appreciate that limits mean nothing and that this luxury SUV readily blends physical strength and top-quality design to produce a captivating driving experience in a vehicle that is just at home in the city as it is taking on even the roughest of off-road settings

MARWAH MAHMOOD AL RAISI

MUSCAT: The much-loved and iconic Nissan Patrol is the pinnacle of versatility and luxury. From the very first moment, one sets eyes on this iconic creation, one will immediately appreciate that limits mean nothing and that this luxury SUV readily blends physical strength and top-quality design to produce a captivating driving experience in a vehicle that is just at home in the city as it is taking on even the roughest of off-road settings. The Patrol story might have begun more in 1951, but its legacy of reliability and superior capability remains even true today. It is a vehicle that has an indisputable presence and offers owners the opportunity to own a true symbol of automotive excellence. With a 5.6-litre V8 petrol engine powering a really big SUV, the Patrol can take adventure lovers anywhere. A sleek look and a range of Nissan Intelligent Mobility safety technologies make Patrol both stylish and capable. No wonder from desert to city, the Patrol has conquered everything in its path including owners' hearts. Encouraged by Nissan's powerful design aesthetic, Patrol makes an extraordinary statement with a new, bold V-Motion chrome grille and 20-inch machine-cut alloy wheels. The conventional chrome along the bodywork emphasizes the visual breadth of the vehicle, while the design exudes luxury with a new side fender vent badge branded with the 70th Anniversary logo.

The Patrol is just as good on the inside as it is on the outside. The tough and stylish exterior is complemented by a sleek interior. Drivers and occupants are welcomed into a premium cabin where every detail is crafted to heighten the driving experience, with the brand-new burgundy interior option specifically designed to celebrate the Patrol's 70-year legacy. Attention to detail and class-leading spaciousness create a truly first-class experience for all on board, accentuated through diamond-stitched quilted-tan leather seats. All grades have leather seating with brown trim, improved airflow and climate control. The drivers have a choice of two powerful engines under the hood when it comes to the Patrol. The base 4.0-litre V6 produces 275 horsepower and 394 NM of torque, offering a unique combination of power, performance, and efficiency, while the larger 5.6-litre V8 puts out a staggering 400 horsepower and 560 NM of torque for ultimate performance in the toughest of conditions. The V8 engine's direct injection system provides better wide-open throttle performance and comes fitted with a dedicated Eco mode for improved efficiency. Both engines are mated to an advanced 7-speed automatic transmission with Adaptive Shift Control that ensures smooth shifts while allowing drivers to shuffle through gears manually for a more engaging experience behind the wheel. Four dedicated modes (Sand, On-Road, Rock, Snow), which are accompanied by a locking rear dif-



ferential and hill descent control, allow drivers to confidently explore off the beaten path, while the Hydraulic Body Motion Control System with 4-wheel independent suspension ensures immense stability and comfort, irrespective of the terrain. The category-defining Variable 4x4 Mode allows for an effortless switch between drive modes and maximizes the Patrol's go-anywhere capability with ease. The safety of those onboard and around the Patrol is ensured through a variety of assuring tech-

nologies, including Intelligent Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Intelligent Lane Intervention, Intelligent Blind Spot Intervention, Rear Cross Traffic Alert with Intelligent Intervention, and Intelligent Cruise Control. Responsive braking is supplied by a 4-wheel disc brake system with Anti-lock Braking System with Electronic Brake-force Distribution and Brake Assist. Standard on all models is also a 4-wheel limited-slip (ABLS) and a Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC) system with an in-

built deactivation switch for unintrusive expeditions off-road. Agile steering on- and off-road is provided by an engine-speed-sensitive power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering system. The Patrol is loaded with innovative technology that looks out for owners. With its dialling-up connectivity, the Patrol welcomes a new, redesigned centre console with a high-resolution 12.3-inch infotainment display that offers upgraded wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity. A

collection of 13 perfectly placed Bose speakers makes for more entertaining drives, while improved sound isolation equates to a more relaxed and luxurious experience for all. Two new 10.1-inch multimedia screens with wireless headphones and screen mirroring options transform the rear-seat entertainment to make long journeys more enjoyable, while all devices remain fully charged with multiple USB ports and a wireless charging tray upfront. The Intelligent Rear-View Mirror strengthens the Patrol's arsenal of safety features by offering drivers an unobstructed view from a camera mounted on the rear of the vehicle. The innovative Intelligent Around View Monitor makes parking and navigating tight off-road trails a breeze by offering drivers a 360-degree view of the SUV's surroundings. Every detail, every inch of the Patrol is crafted to heighten driving pleasure – in every seat. Conquering the elements comes as second nature to an SUV whose reputation and authority are equalled only by its legendary V8 power. Proving itself as a reliable and capable SUV that can conquer all terrains, the Patrol model builds on the success of its predecessors and rewrites the benchmark for design, comfort, and technology.



mai

alkaline

Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

✓ Ultra-hydrating
✓ Revitalizing
✓ Energizing

pH 9.1 to 9.5

oman OASIS



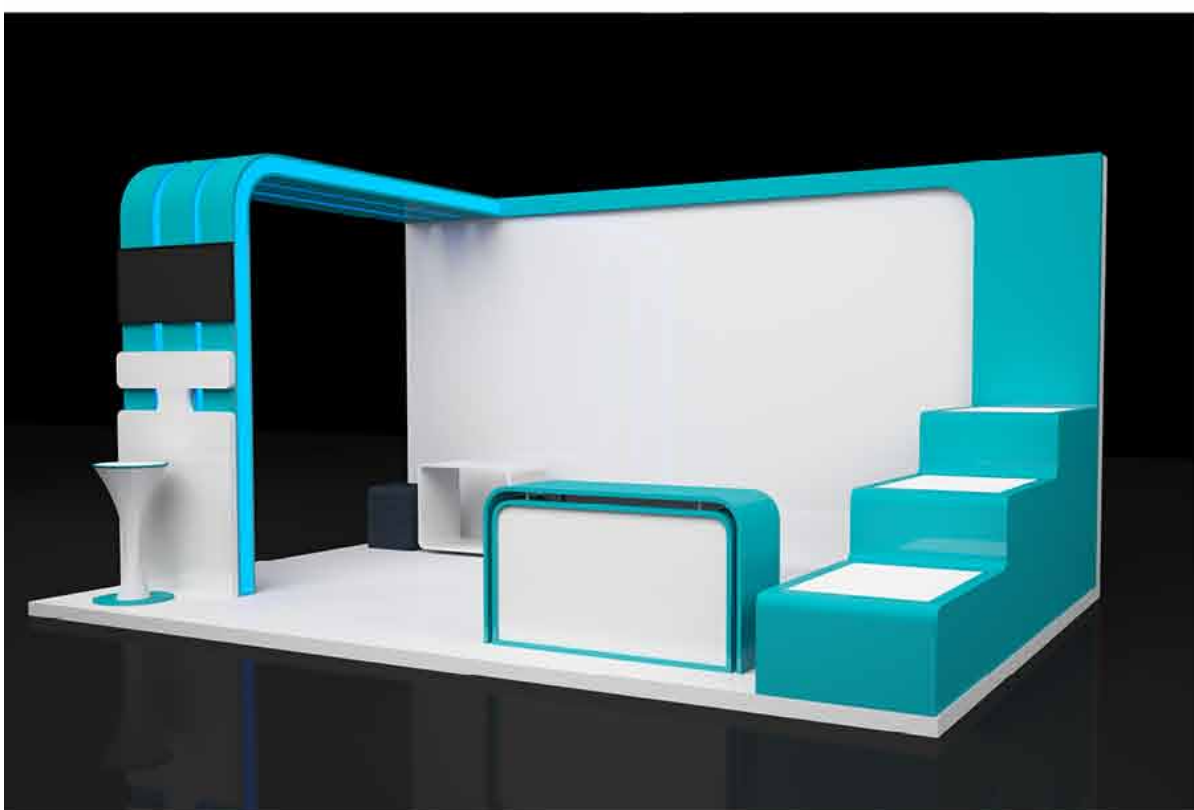
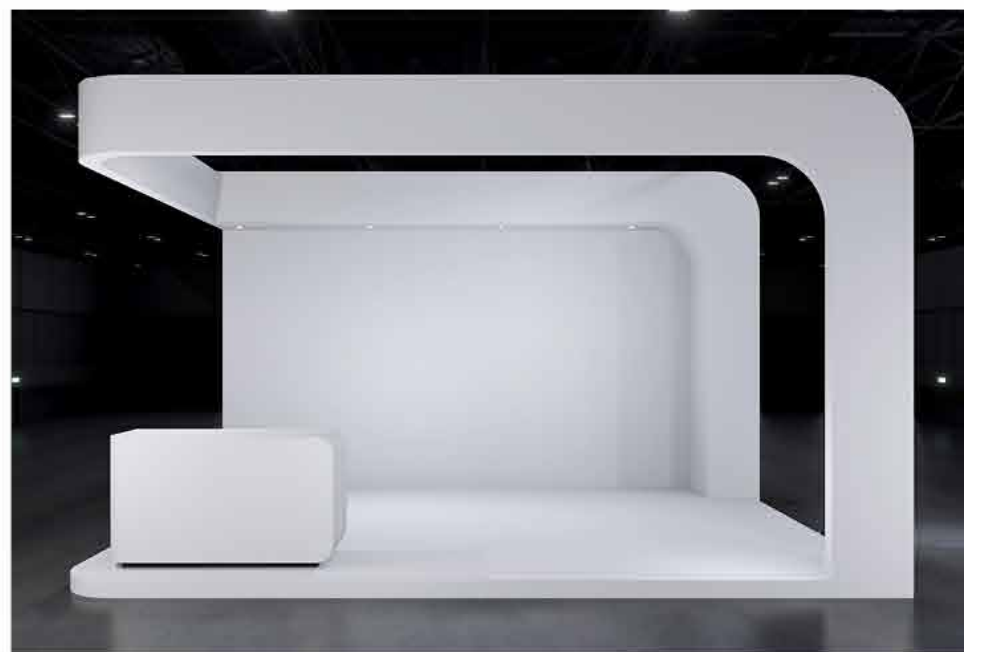
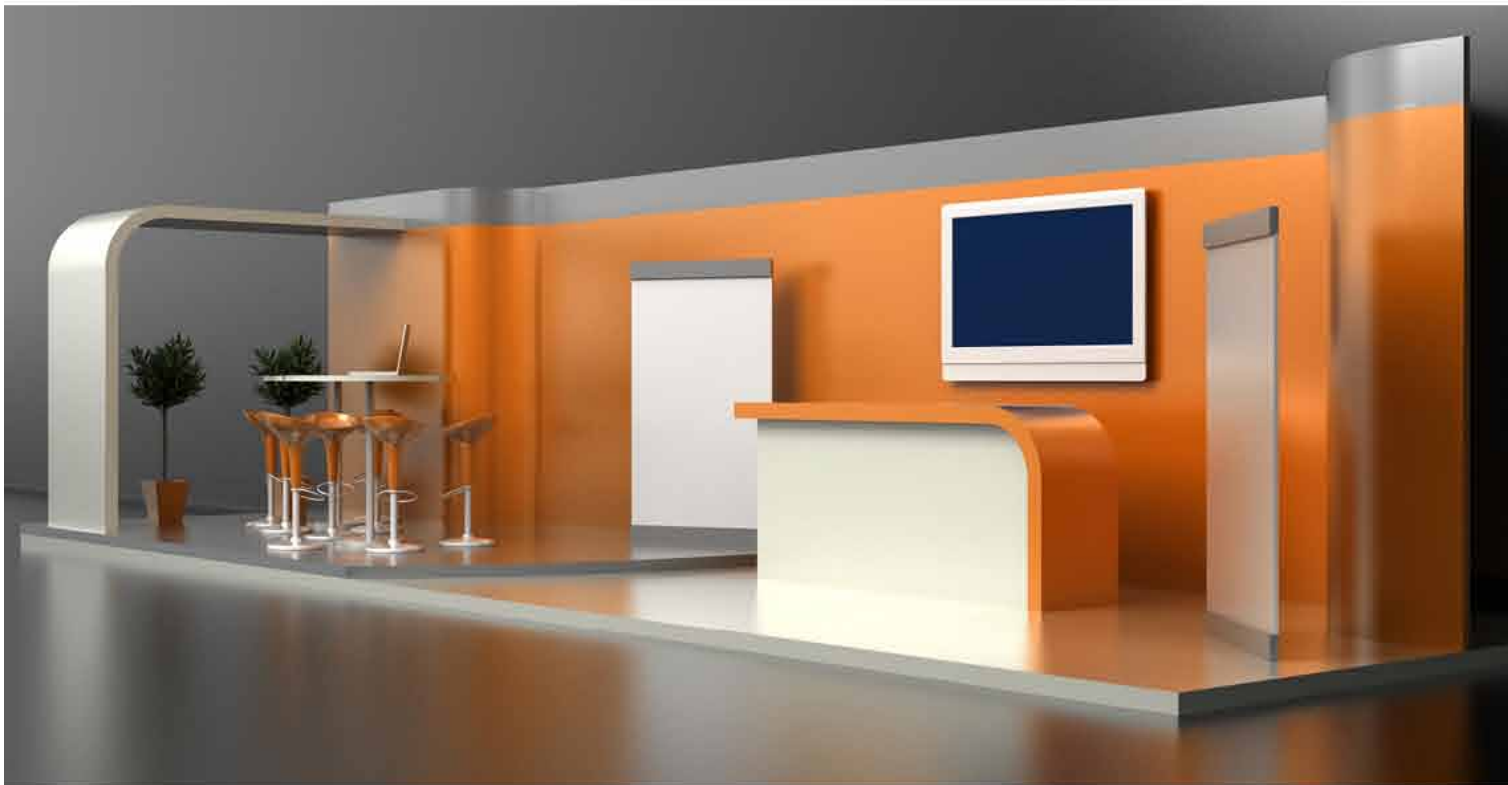
Toll-free
800 71 222 or
9275 5522

C.R. No.: 1365452



**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
EXHIBITION
BOOTHS/
DISPLAY
STANDS**

**Call us on
99614066**



**Contact us on wefix@mmg.com
or call/whatsApp 99614066/ 95405033
to make customized exhibition booths**



GRAND
MILLENNIUM

MUSCAT

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Gala Dinner

Special activities for kids will include

Special kids corner with NYE buffet, painting activities
and NYE themed movie

Live cooking & carving stations
Live DJ entertainment

31st December 2022

Taybat Restaurant 7:00 pm - 01: 00 am

Save 25 % when you book between
18th December - 28th December 2022

OMR 33 net per adult
OMR 15 per child from 5 - 12 years old
Complimentary below 5 years old

For Bookings call + 968 97 43 32 03



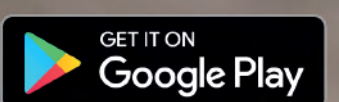
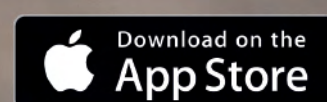
Get your Mojab card



www.thawani.om

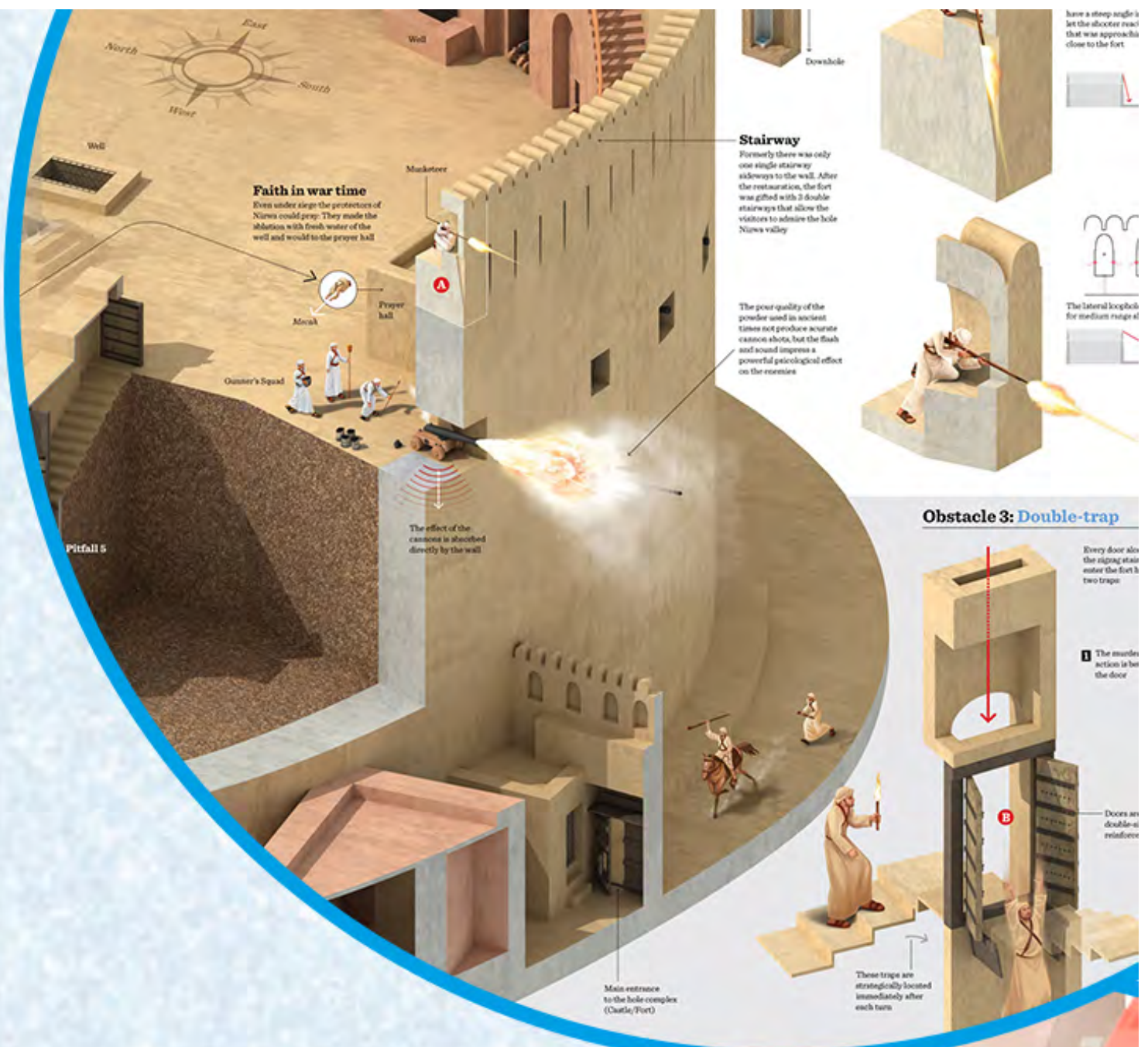
Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to download
and order your card for free





novagram



Let Novagram tell your story

Infographics
Infomercials
TV Ads
Corporate Videos
Insta Reels
Video Editing
Multimedia & Animation
Studio Services

CALL US:
97211869

sales@novagram.om



مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group





GMAX60

MAXimum Power. MAXimum Cooling.



MAX Power - Stable Operation at high temperature

High-efficiency heat dissipation technology, results in stable cooling even at 55°C....



MAX Guard - 5 Anti-corrosion Measures

5 Anti-corrosion measures, for all-round protection,
Longer service life and less maintenance.



MAX Safety

The Main board and electric box is enclosed in fire proof material for additional safety.

GS18GMAX60
18000 BTU
EER: 11.70

GS24GMAX60
22178 BTU
EER: 11.60

GS26GMAX60
24000 BTU
EER: 12.00

GS30GMAX60
27500 BTU
EER: 11.96



جينتكو
Genetco

C.R. No. 1009680

MUSCAT
97693496, 96742452

Available at
Major Hypermarkets & Electronics Retailers

SALALAH
79011363

www.genetco.net

@GenetcoOman

@GenetcoOman

Genetco Oman