

**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
IN OIL, GAS AND RENEWABLES
IN OMAN DISCUSSED**

The Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in conjunction with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Anglo-Omani Society, held a panel discussion in London. **>A5**



**OMAN SAIL'S UNDERWATER CLEAN-UP
OPERATION TO MARK WORLD OCEANS DAY**

Oman Sail on Tuesday marked the United Nations (UN) World Oceans Day, which falls on 8 June every year. In line with the UN theme of 'Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean' stakeholders came together to remove abandoned fishing nets entangled in the coral of the protected Damaniyat Islands. **>A2**



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PILGRIMAGE

Ministry begins providing vaccines for Hajj pilgrims

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health (MoH) said that health institutions on Tuesday began to provide vaccines for citizens and residents who have been accepted to perform the Hajj this year (1443/2022).

This process will run through till 3 July 2022.

According to the requirements of the authorities concerned in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the necessary vaccinations include COVID-19 vac-



cine (two doses of the vaccines approved in the Sultanate of Oman), the Quadric-vaccination against Meningococcal Meningi-

tis (ACYW135) and the seasonal flu vaccine.

Ten days

Therefore, MoH urges all citizens and residents who would like to perform Hajj this year (1443/2022) to adhere to taking the vaccinations ten days prior to travel.

The above mentioned requirements are considered a prerequisite for entering the KSA to prevent the spread of infection and safeguard public health. **-OMA**

SULTANATE ENTERS INTO SCHENGEN VISA WAIVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH EU

A representation office of the European Union to be opened in Oman soon, says a senior EU official



Sheikh Khalifa Ali Al Harthy with Enrique Mora during a press conference in Muscat on Tuesday. **-OMA**

Times News service

MUSCAT: The European Union (EU) has said that a decision regarding Oman's entry into the negotiations over Schengen visa waiver for Omani citizens will be taken within a couple of weeks.

During a press conference at the Foreign Ministry on Tuesday, Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary-General and Political Director of the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the EU stressed the 'historic role' of the Sultanate of Oman and its efforts in resolving many regional and international issues, particularly the Iranian nuclear file. He said,



including maritime security, training, energy and technology.

Mora described Oman Vision 2040 as 'ambitious' as it focuses on several themes and covers different aspects.

He pointed out that his current visit to the Sultanate represents an opportunity to review the bilateral relations between the EU and Oman, as well as ways to promote them and discuss foreign policy by the two sides.

Mora explained that the EU is striving to look for alternatives to provide liquefied gas and, in the long-term, exploring prospects for cooperation in the field of green energy. **>A2**

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MUSCAT

OMAN
**Effective management
key to success**

1 Employees thrive when they work under effective management and may leave firms when overseen by authoritarian managers, says Aseela Al Adawiya. **>A3**

WORLD
**Musk may walk
away from Twitter**

2 Elon Musk may pull out of his bid to purchase social media giant Twitter, according to a letter sent by his lawyers. **>A6**

MARKET
**Treasury bills worth
OMR183mn issued**



3 Oman's central bank raised OMR183 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from June 8 until September 7, 2022. **>B1**

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TRAVEL

Oman Air returns to Terminal 4 at London’s Heathrow Airport



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air has announced that its daily Muscat to London flight will return to Terminal 4 at London Heathrow Airport (LHR), from 22 June 2022. According to a statement from the airline, Flight WY 101 will take off from Muscat at 14:20 every day and land at London Heathrow at 19:10 on the same day.

Flight WY 102 will leave London Heathrow at 20:50 daily and arrive in Muscat at 07:15 next day. Oman Air has flown a daily flight into Terminal 2 on a temporary basis for the past one-and-a-half years of post-pandemic operations. The presence at one of the world’s busiest airports will further streamline the customer journey on one of Oman Air’s signature

routes, the airline’s statement said. Terminal 4 provides guests with a world-class shopping experience, including retail shops, book-sellers, electrical outlets, souvenir shops, and much more. **Dedicated lounge** Oman Air passengers flying out of Terminal 4 will continue to enjoy access to the dedicated lounge, which offers state-of-the-art

amenities to premium travellers prior to their journey. All remaining COVID-19 precautionary safety measures and procedures in place at airports across Oman were lifted on 22 May 2022. Guests departing Oman should ensure that they are aware of all pre-departure requirements and requirements during their flights, which are provided at omanair.com, it reminded.

EXPERT TALK

Effective management key to success of businesses

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Employees thrive when they work under effective management and may leave companies when overseen by authoritarian managers. That’s according to Aseela Al Adawiya, a business management analyst in Oman, who added that it is a misconception that people leave companies because of overwhelming workloads. It is, in fact, the controls upon them that is responsible for employees tendering their resignations. “While many corporates look for candidates with competence and great work appetite, there arises the question as to the increase witnessed in the resignation requests coming from proficient staff,” added Al Adawiya, who works at a leading financial institution in Oman. “Many hold the perception that staff resign due to in-house overwhelming workload, it is, in fact, the authority exercised by some managers at work. “An effective managerial stance has to be measured on the basis of any major transformations and additions it makes in various aspects at a departmental level,” she explained, “This, in essence, explains in a way the fact that staff assuming managerial positions fall under various categories according to a manner that shows their leadership and management capabilities.” She revealed that because authoritarian managers are characterised by certain unfavourable attributes, dealing with them does not seem to be an easy task. Staff, after all, join their workplace with the expectation that their managers will be supportive and help them grow, and make them feel they are a good addition to the department of which they have become a member. “Managers falling under this category justify their controlling

practices, assuming that never does the flow of business become successful, unless managerial control over staff is exercised, instructions are fulfilled as per requested without any excuse, and words they utter are taken as right and convincing,” Al Adawiya said. “Staff going through such challenges never experience any sort of growth and improvement at a professional level,” she admitted. “Worse than that, they are more likely to lose their work appetite, resulting in some job tasks being postponed or not looked at.” Because controlling managers are demanding, the responsibilities they ask the staff to perform – on the grounds that this instills professional discipline and ensures fulfilment of objectives – render the latter unable to place an equal amount of focus on all tasks. While a new task is assigned to them, stress has already started to overwhelm them and they are confused after they complete their former tasks, given that more instructions are in the way. Even task prioritisation might not always sound workable to help them cope with such workload, which causes both the staff and department to become less productive. “The whole scenario seems to resemble the example of a machine with which the more you play, the less functional it becomes,” said Al Adawiya. “More than that, staff begin to create disputes, complaining about the absence of a comprehensive strategy and the unjustifiable practices of managers. “Despite all these challenges, staff still exert their utmost effort not only to make the flow of the business efficient, but as an attempt also to fix the unsettled and inflexible manager-employee relationship,” she went on to say. Aseela Al Adawiya added that a flexible and understanding manager-employee relationship contributes to the creation of a posi-

tive working environment, which motivates staff to take the initiative on major matters concerning the department, boosts their critical thinking skills and allows them to make prompt decisions based on the objectives set previously. On the other hand, a working environment where there exists poor communication between managers and employees, and where the latter are only expected to practice active listening while their ideas or suggestions are unheard or unappreciated is unhealthy for staff seeking growth. “Corporates with a good public image must be of a management -- be it managers, leaders or heads - that does not only strive for high productivity rates and aim to top other competitive counterparts,” she said. “Successful businesses strike a balance between achieving objectives and promoting work ethics, an idea which must work in line with integrity seen as one of the values embraced at workplaces. Integrity is to act according to values and principles, but it must not be based on personal gains, since this breaks the distinction between what is right and wrong,” she said. “Proper and constructive management espouses values contributory to the development of employees and departments alike. “Nonetheless, this does not seem to be the case with managers who practise power in a controlling manner,” said Al Adawiya. “As an illustration, the unfair evaluation of staff, uncourageous communication they take part in, the destructive comments thrown around, and the fact that they dominate most discussions and meetings are obvious examples demonstrating the breach made in values. To conclude, effective management is an integral element for the success of any business, and it can be described as a pillar upon which a corporate’s stable and robust stance stands.”

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A story on additional weekly flights between Oman and India reached 51,709 people and had 2,306 link clicks on Facebook.

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1,300 VIEWS



Midday Update video

The Midday Update video had 1,300 views and reached 3,400 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,760 VIEWS



Morning Minute video on Oman oil price increase

The Morning Minute video on Oman oil price increase had 1,760 views and 112 likes on Instagram.

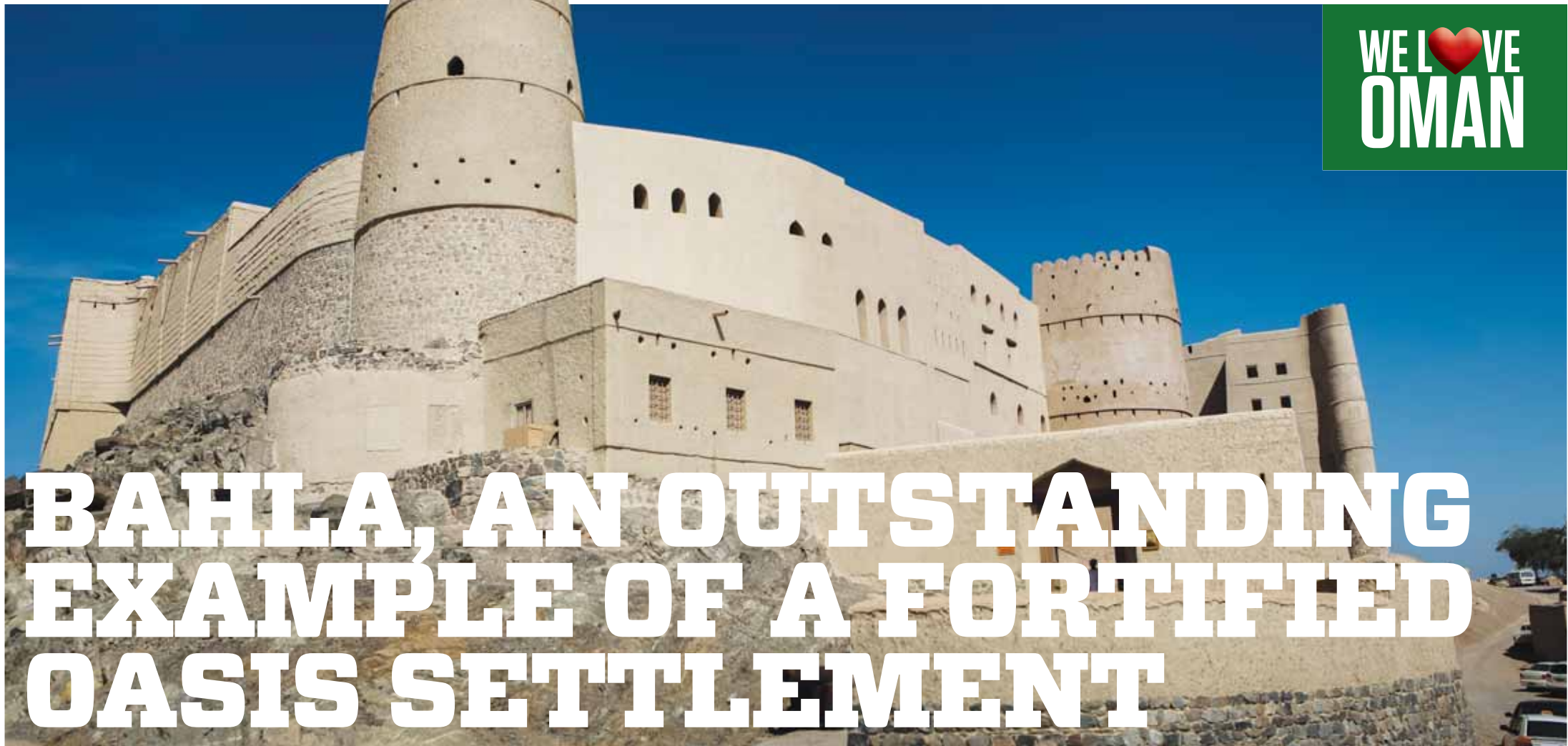


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THE CITY of Bahla lies 25 kilometres away from Nizwa, and is famed in Oman for its pottery making. The inhabitants of the city were also among the ones who mastered the use of the Falaj system, the ancient Omani practice of transporting water from natural reservoirs to agricultural areas where crops were cultivated.

Bahla Fort is situated at the foot of the Jebel Akhdar highlands in Oman and is a UNESCO-listed fort. The fort underwent massive restoration efforts and reopened in 2012. According to UNESCO, “Bahla is an outstanding example of a fortified oasis settlement of the medieval Islamic period, exhibiting the water engineering skill of the early inhabitants for agricultural and domestic purposes. The pre-gunpowder style fort with rounded towers and castellated parapets, together with the perimeter wall of stone and mud brick technology demonstrates the status and influence of the ruling elite.”

In terms of the history and presence of Bahla, UNESCO said, “The falaj system and water course on which the settlement depends, together with the historic routes linking the settlement to other towns in the interior, extend far beyond its boundary. Despite some urban development in the late 20th century and early 21st century, Bahla remains prominent in the desert landscape.

“Its continued prominence within the landscape and the visual approaches are vulnerable to community development and tourism requirements,” they added. “Maintaining the surveillance role of the fort in relation to the souq, the surrounding settlement and the gateways will similarly depend on careful management of development within the property.”



Royal Oman Police

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Supply, Printing and Delivery of Vehicle and Motorcycle Number Plates

Tender No.	Tender Name	Companies eligible to bid	Tender Document Fee	Date of obtaining documents	Deadline for bid submission
3/FA/2022	Management and operation of handling operations at land ports	Companies specialized in this field	RO 300/- (Non-refundable)	Starting from 12 June 2022 from 8 am to 12 pm	14 July 2022 no later than 12 pm

- Applicants who want to purchase a copy of the tender document have to visit the building of the Directorate General of Financial Affairs at the Royal Oman Police, Al Qurum. The representatives must present a proof of their authorization from their company / institution.
- Bidders have to submit a bank guarantee in the amount of RO 10,000/- (Ten thousand Omani Riyals) to enter the tender, valid for a period of (90) ninety days from the date of bid submission and addressed to ROP General Command - Directorate General of Financial Affairs. The bank guarantee must mention the tender name, without mentioning the name of the bidding party. The bank guarantee must be submitted in an envelope separate from the financial offer and any bid otherwise will be disregarded.
- Bidders can inspect the sites during the period from 12 June 2022 to 23 June 2022 (from 7:30 am to 12 pm).
- The deadline for responding to inquiries about tender documents shall be 12 pm on Thursday, 30 June 2022 by calling the phone number (24521209 or 24521106) or e-mail (CUSTOMS.ADMIN@ROP.GOV.OM).
- The two envelopes (financial and technical) shall be deposited separately at the Financial Affairs Department of the Directorate General of Customs. Bids that do not meet the conditions shall be disregarded. In the event of unwillingness to bid after purchasing the tender document, a written apology must be submitted before the date of bid submission.
- The Royal Oman Police has the right to cancel or re-float the tender without giving reasons, and no financial or legal claim may arise from such cancellation or re-tendering.
- The Royal Oman Police shall not be bound to award the tender to the lowest price.

SOHAR MUNICIPALITY

OMR3.3 million sanctioned for road projects in Sohar

SOHAR: Sohar Municipality, North Al Batinah Governorate awarded yesterday a project on rehabilitation of the service road at Falaj Al Qabayil Area, in the Wilayat of Sohar for OMR3.300 million.

The projects is on rehabilitation of two sites, the first is for the length of 3 kilometres and the width of 9 metres and the second site is for 1.7 kilometres and the width of 9 metres.



Final designs
Sohar Municipality is currently working with the company executing the projects on approval of the final designs. The project's works would commence during

the last quarter of the current year.

The project also comprises rehabilitation works at the roads parallel to the main road at

Masha'il Al Noor Street. The rehabilitation of these service roads would lead to smooth traffic and improve the traffic safety at the area. -ONA

WORLD FOOD SAFETY DAY

Safe food is necessary for wellbeing of humans

MUSCAT: The Sultanate celebrates, along with other countries, the World Food Safety Day (WFSF) 2022, which falls on 7 June every year.

The celebration of the World Food Safety Day aims to educate society on the diseases and risks and detection and management of the same to ensure the clarity of the procedures capable of improving human health.

This year's theme of the World Food Safety Day is “Safer Food, Better Health”. The motto has been identified by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Safe food is necessary for human health and wellbeing while unsafe food is responsible for various diseases.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, represented by the Food Safety and Quality Centre works to ensure food safety through inspection of food products at the Sultanate's border posts, testing



food products at the labs and organising visits to the food establishments to ensure the safety of the steps taken for processing and storage of food items.

The Ministry also organises programmes aimed at increasing awareness on food safety along with regular training plans for the personnel assigned

with food safety.

Food safety plays a vital role in curbing foodborne diseases. According to the statistics of the FAO, 600 million people are exposed to disease every year on account of some 200 types of foodborne diseases, which cause approximately 420,000 death cases, annually. -ONA



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PANEL DISCUSSION IN LONDON

Investment opportunities in oil, gas and renewables in Oman discussed

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in conjunction with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the United Kingdom (UK) and the Anglo-Omani Society, held a panel discussion in London.

The discussions covered major investment opportunities in the fields of oil, gas and renewable energy in Oman.

Present at the event were businessmen and representatives of private sector companies operating in these fields in both countries.

Dr. Mohammed Hamad Al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals reviewed the promising opportunities to secure

diverse energy sources to contribute to the comprehensive development in the Sultanate of Oman in these areas.

Clean energy alternatives

In his remarks, Al Rumhy said that serious response to all international requirements, foremost of which is the goal to reach zero carbon, greatly pushes towards clean energy alternatives and the renewal of local and international plans. He stressed that working in the field of green hydrogen might be one of the future solutions and that the Sultanate of Oman strives to develop its production capabilities and open new markets in this field. - **ONA**



FOR DEVELOPMENT: Present at the event were businessmen and representatives of private sector companies operating in oil, gas and renewable energy in both countries. - **ONA**

RABAT BOOK FAIR



Oman’s pavilion draws big turnout

RABAT: The pavilion of the Sultanate of Oman at the 27th International Book and Publishing Fair in Rabat, Morocco, is witnessing a remarkable turnout as the pavilion plays a pivotal role in introducing the visitors to the Omani culture.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports

and Youth, and the Ministry of Information are participating in activities of the fair. It will run from 2 June to 12 June.

Latifa Moftaqir, Director of the Fair praised the distinguished displayed publications at the Omani pavilion. - **ONA**

MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE



Pakistani delegation visits MSC

MUSCAT: A delegation from National Defence University in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, led by Brigadier Sajjad Hussein, on Tuesday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

The delegation was greeted

upon their arrival at the MSC by the Acting Head of the MSC.

Briefed on tactical roles

Members of the visiting delegation were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the

centre in the safety of the maritime environment.

They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties. - **ONA**

SULTAN’S ARMED FORCES

SAF Chief of Staff receives delegation from Pakistan

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdulah Khamis Al Ra’eesi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) received in his office at Al Murtafa’a Garrison on Tuesday a delegation from the National Defence University in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, led by Brigadier Sajjad Hussein.

The two sides exchanged views and discussed several matters of mutual interests.

A number of senior SAF officers attended the meeting. - **ONA**



CDAА URGES DRIVERS

Follow safety guidelines to prevent fire incidents at fuel stations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA) has urged drivers to adhere to safety guidelines at fuel filling stations to avoid fires.

“The reasons for petrol station fire are due to the non-compliance of drivers, using unsuitable containers, and fuel leaking from the vehicle tank while filling petrol,” the CDAA said in a statement.

“In addition workers’ inability to deal with the fire in its early stages and filling the fuel tanks without discharging the static electricity,” it added.

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority urged drivers to abide by the safety instructions issued, not to move the vehicle prior to ensuring that the station attendant has removed the fuel nozzle from the vehicle. Also not to use mobile phones while filling petrol and not to smoke at the petrol station.

The petrol stations are considered high risk locations, especially during the high temperature conditions in summer, considering the large quantity of hazardous and highly flammable material, which require utmost care and diligence.

SCHEDULE II FORM B PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF M/s. Punj Lloyd Limited	
1. NAME OF CORPORATE DEBTOR	Punj Lloyd Limited
2. DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE DEBTOR	26 th September 1988
3. AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE DEBTOR IS INCORPORATED/REGISTERED	Registrar of Companies, Delhi, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
4. CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE DEBTOR	L74899DL1988PLC033314
5. ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE DEBTOR	Address of Registered Office: Punj Lloyd House, 17-18, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019. Address of the Principal (Corporate Office): Corporate Office I, 78, Institutional Area, Sector-32, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana.
6. DATE OF CLOSURE OF INSOLVENCY RESOLUTION PROCESS	27 th May 2022
7. LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE DEBTOR	27 th May 2022 (Order published on 31 st May 2022)
8. NAME, AND REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE INSOLVENCY PROFESSIONAL ACTING AS LIQUIDATOR	Mr. Ashwini Mehra Regn No: IBBI/PA-001/IP-P00388/2017-18/10706
9. ADDRESS AND E-MAIL OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AS REGISTERED WITH THE BOARD	C 1201, Salarpuria Magnificia, Old Madras Rd. Bangalore 560016 Email: mehra.ashwini@gmail.com
10. ADDRESS AND E-MAIL TO BE USED FOR CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE LIQUIDATOR	Correspondence Address: Mr. Ashwini Mehra, Liquidator Punj Lloyd Limited C/O Mr. Surendra Raj Gang GT Restructuring Services LLP L-41, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001 Tel: + 91 1242620150/ 776/ 790 For submission of Claims, Kindly upload your claims on the link given below. https://pllclaims.wcgt.in OR email at claims.punj@in.gt.com
11. LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	26 th June 2022
Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has ordered the commencement of liquidation of the M/s. Punj Lloyd Limited on 27 th May 2022 (Order was published on the official website of Hon'ble NCLT on 31 st May 2022). The stakeholders of M/s. Punj Lloyd Limited are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 26 th June 2022 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 10. The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post, by electronic means, or on the link as mentioned in item no. 10. Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.	
Date: 2 nd June 2022 Place: Bengaluru	
Name of the Liquidator: Sd/- Mr. Ashwini Mehra	
Form C- proof of claim by operational creditors except workmen and employees Form D- proof of claim by financial creditors Form E- proof of claim by a workman or employee Form F- proof of claim by authorised representative of workmen or employees Form G- proof of claim by any other stakeholder The above-mentioned forms can be downloaded from IBBI website, Alternatively, the forms are also available on the link given in item no.10.	



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
21/2022	General maintenance work for al-wafa center for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the wilayat of rustaq	Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Monday 27-6-2022 02:00 PM	Sunday 17-7-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Wednesday 8/6/2022

❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.

❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

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

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Boris Johnson survives no-confidence vote, calls ‘decisive’ victory

The under-pressure PM managed to garner the support of 211 out of 359 Conservative lawmakers

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson survived a no-confidence vote on Monday after threats to topple him emerged from within his own party.

It means MPs cannot bring another such challenge for at least 12 months. The under-pressure PM managed to garner the support of 211 out of 359 Conservative lawmakers, or 59% — a percentage lower than Johnson’s predecessor, Theresa May, received after a similar vote in 2018. Just over six months later, she resigned.

However, Johnson described the vote as a “decisive result” meaning that “as a government we can move on and focus on the stuff that I think really matters to people.”

How did lawmakers react to the vote?

Monday evening’s result was welcomed by some, including Chancellor Rishi Sunak.

“I am backing him today and will continue to back him,” the finance minister posted on Twitter. “Tomorrow we get back to work growing the economy and delivering better public services.”

But others said the outcome meant Johnson and his party had been rendered powerless by its divisions.

In the wake of the ballot, opposition leader Keir Starmer tweeted: “The choice is clearer than ever before: divided Tories propping up Boris Johnson with no plan to tackle the issues you are facing. Or a united Labour Party with a plan



NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE: Johnson described the vote as a “decisive result” meaning that “as a government we can move on and focus on the stuff that I think really matters to people.”

to fix the cost of living crisis and restore trust in politics.”

The beleaguered Johnson has been fighting off one controversy after another in recent months over revelations that he and his staff repeatedly held parties that flouted the country’s COVID-19 restrictions — rules Johnson’s government itself had imposed upon the public.

What were the mechanisms of the vote?

The vote was only held among lawmakers from Johnson’s ruling Conservative party, and not in parliament. It was triggered after 15% of all Tory MPs called for Johnson’s resignation.

Graham Brady, the chair of the 1922 Committee that represents backbench Conservatives, said in a statement that the threshold of 54 MPs seeking a confidence vote had “been exceeded.” However, 180 would have had to vote against Johnson in private for him to fall.

The ballot was held anonymously, though many chose to make their feelings known, either by letter or on social media.

Johnson was made aware of the outcome of the vote shortly before the public did.

No cell phones were permitted in Monday’s meeting after some lawmakers shared images during a no-confidence vote regarding former Prime Minister Theresa May’s leadership in 2018. May survived that vote, although some at the time called on her to resign, saying she had fared poorly enough to demonstrate she no longer carried broad Tory support.

By the rules of the 1922 Committee, a prime minister who survives such a vote cannot be challenged again within their own party for another year. A prime minister losing such a vote must step down as party leader and is unable to run in the leadership race their exit would trigger.

However, this process is entirely separate from the confidence votes that Johnson can in theory face at any time in the House of Commons. But there, the onus would be on the opposition to bring a motion of no-confidence, something that is not common when a governing party enjoys a large majority.

‘Partygate’ pressure increases

Earlier this year, what has become known as “partygate” led to Johnson becoming the first ever British prime minister found to have broken the law while still in office, receiving a small fine from police for the transgression.

As news of the parties came to light, Johnson first said he had not attended certain gatherings. Once it was clear he had been present, he then said that he did not think them to be parties but rather work events.

He ultimately apologised, but said he had not broken the ministerial code by lying in Parliament, claiming that anything he had said that was false was true to the best of his knowledge or recollection — if ultimately incorrect. He has also since proposed changing the ministerial code.

Writing to Conservative lawmakers ahead of Monday’s vote, Johnson defended his record. He said he had delivered Brexit, fought the pandemic and more recently shown support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. **bw**



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TWITTER DEAL

Musk threatens to walk away from Twitter takeover bid

CALIFORNIA: Billionaire Elon Musk threatened to pull out of his multi-billion dollar bid to purchase social media giant Twitter, according to a letter sent by his lawyers on Monday.

Twitter and Musk have gone back and forth for several weeks ever since the Tesla and SpaceX CEO announced his intention to purchase the social media giant in April.



What did the letter say?

In the letter, which was filed by Musk’s lawyers to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the billionaire said he had repeatedly asked Twitter to send data on fake accounts and spam bots on the site.

According to Musk’s legal team, Twitter has so far offered to provide details about the company’s testing methods on how they calculate their fake account estimates. Musk’s lawyers, however, said that the offer is “tantamount to refusing Mr. Musk’s data requests.” His legal team further described the lack of data as “a clear material breach” under the merger agreement between Twitter and Musk.

They added that the billionaire reserves his rights “not to consummate the transaction” as well as “his right to terminate the merger agreement.”

Twitter did not immediately comment on the letter, however it previously released what it called details of Musk’s takeover bid that appeared to show Musk taking no interest in this issue before launching his bid. According to the account of Twitter’s proxy statement for investors, Musk did not “seek from Twitter any non-public info regarding Twitter.”

It is the first time that Musk has officially threatened to withdraw his bid to buy the company, Musk did not instead of airing his grievances on his Twitter account. **bw**

ARRESTED

India-born Gupta brothers arrested in UAE for graft case in South Africa

DUBAI: The South African government on Monday said authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have arrested Rajesh Gupta and Atul Gupta. The Indian-born brothers are friends of former South Africa President Jacob Zuma.

They are accused in South Africa of using their connections with Zuma to profit financially and influence senior appointments.

The pair deny any wrongdoing.

On Tuesday Dubai police confirmed the brothers had been arrested in connection with money laundering and criminal charges in South Africa.

In a statement posted on Twitter, Dubai police said the arrests



were made “after receiving a red notice for the Gupta brothers by Interpol.”

The statement went on to say that authorities were coordinating with South African counterparts regarding extradition of the pair.

The two countries ratified an extradition treaty in April of last year, which South African President Cyril Ramaphosa hoped would lead to the return of the Guptas.

The Gupta brothers left South Africa after Zuma was ousted in 2018. An inquiry was established in 2018 to examine allegations against Zuma.

Interpol issued a red notice for their arrest in July 2021. The or-

ganization said the Gupta brothers were being sought for fraud and money laundering in connection with a 25-million rand (\$1.6 million, €1.5 million) contract paid to a Gupta-linked company.

South African opposition welcomes arrests of the Guptas The centrist Democratic Alliance, which is South Africa’s largest opposition party, welcomed the arrests. “We hope that this is indeed the beginning of arrests and prosecution of those who have — locally and abroad — looted our country for years and are directly responsible for the hardships that millions of South Africans face today,” the Democratic Alliance said. **ANI**

OBITUARY



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WORLD

Mexico snub casts shadow on Joe Biden’s Americas summit

The snub is another blow to President Joe Biden’s attempt to reboot Washington’s relationships with Latin America

WASHINGTON: Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador announced late on Monday that he would not be attending the US-led Summit of the Americas. The snub is another blow to President Joe Biden’s attempt to reboot Washington’s relationships with Latin America. Meant to be a weeklong showcase of cooperation, in a time when the US is worried about rising Chinese influence, Biden’s decision to exclude the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela risks turning into a display of deep divisions. The White House said it would not invite the three countries because of their “lack of democratic space and the human rights situations.”



What did Lopez Obrador say? “You cannot have a Summit of the Americas if you do not have all the countries of the Americas attending,” Lopez Obrador said, complaining of US “hegemony” and “lack of respect for nations.”

Although Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard will represent Mexico instead, the leftist leader’s absence will diminish the impact of a summit where US-Mexico relations are at the heart of major immigration and trade issues. The Biden administration in-

sisted that there was no bad blood between Washington and Mexico City, insisting that the US was simply sticking up for its principles. “We do not believe that dictators should be invited,” Biden’s press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters. **Venezuela slams US ‘discrimination’** Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who is being investigated by the International Criminal Court on allegations of crimes against humanity over rights violations, said on Monday that the US decision to exclude three nations’ leaders from the summit was “an act of discrimination.” In Havana, the communist Cuban government issued a statement calling its exclusion “anti-democratic and arbitrary.” The Summit of the Americas this week will be the first held by the US since the inaugural meeting in 1994. The agenda focuses on regional economic and health issues, climate change and migration as President Biden seeks to convince regional players that the US can compete with China’s lavish investments in infrastructure projects. **How is the search operation going?** Navy spokeswoman Cibelly Lopes said the search team would arrive at the isolated base of Atalaia do Norte around 7 p.m. local time (10 p.m. UTC) and then head to the location where the two men were last seen, the riverside town of Sao Gabriel. Human Rights Watch urged Brazilian authorities to make use of “all available means” to find Phillips and Pereira. Brazilian presidential frontrunner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva tweeted “I hope they are found soon (and) that they are safe and well.” **Who are the missing men?** Phillips is a freelancer who has written about Brazil for the Guardian, Deutsche Welle, the Washington Post, the New York Times and others. Pereira is one of Brazil’s

British journalist and Indigenous expert missing in Amazon

BRASILIA: The Brazilian Navy dispatched a crew of ten people on Monday to search for British journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira. The pair went missing while reporting in a remote part of the Amazon rainforest near Brazil’s border with Peru. The Javari valley is home to the most uncontacted indigenous people in the world. It is under threat from illegal miners, loggers, hunters and coca-growers.



foremost experts on isolated and uncontacted peoples. Phillips and Pereira were on a reporting trip to the Javari Valley. Two local Indigenous rights group said in a statement that Phillips and Pereira had received threats the same week they went missing. Survival International, an NGO that defends tribal peoples, said Pereira had received threats because of his many years of work with indigenous tribes “which makes the need for immediate action to locate him and Dom all the more pressing.” The pair had traveled by boat to Jaburu lake and had been expected to return to the city of Atalaia do Norte by around 9 p.m. on Sunday, the Union of Indigenous Organizations of the Javari Valley (UNIVAJA) and the Observatory for the Human Rights of Isolated and Recently Contacted Peoples (OPI) said. However, the pair never arrived. **ANI**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Bonn Climate Change Conference to lay groundwork for success at COP27

BONN: This year’s Bonn annual UN Climate Change Conference kicked off on Monday, designed to lay the groundwork for success at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. “Governments are meeting for the first time since the conclusion

of the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow last November, at which the operational details of the Paris Agreement were finalized, thereby ringing in the era of implementation of the agreement,” the UN Climate Change said in a statement.

In Bonn, governments will focus on work in the key areas of mitigation, adaptation, support to developing countries - particularly finance - and loss and damage. Speaking to delegates at the opening of the Bonn sessions, UN Climate Change Executive

Secretary Patricia Espinosa said: “We urgently require political-level interventions and decisions in each of these areas in order to achieve a balanced package. Doing so will send a clear message to the world that we are headed in the right direction. Because

the world is going to have one question in Sharm El-Sheikh: what progress have you made since Glasgow?” The UN’s top climate change official warned that climate change is progressing exponentially. With the world currently on

track to more than double the 1.5 Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement by the end of the century, ambition must urgently be raised to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and immediate action and progress in Bonn are needed. **ANI**

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Croatia hold France to a 1-1 draw; Denmark edge past Austria 2-1

Both sides were reeling from Matchday 1 defeats and that produced a cagey opening to the game

SPLIT: Croatia put in a much-improved performance to prevent France from snaring all three points in the UEFA Nations League Group A1 encounter on Monday which ended 1-1 at Poljud Stadium.

Both sides were reeling from Matchday 1 defeats and that produced a cagey opening to the game. However, with France coach Didier Deschamps making ten changes following his team's loss to Denmark, it was no surprise that it was the hosts who ultimately carved out the first real opportunity. Mateo Kovacic's through ball split the French defence, though Ante Budimir's first touch forced him slightly wide and his eventual shot was straight at goalkeeper Mike Maignan. Les Bleus then grew into the match as the half wore on, and



both Moussa Diaby and Aurelien Tchouameni forced saves from home goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic in just under a minute as the interval approached.

Croatia started brightly after the restart, but it was Les Bleus who opened the scoring with a well-worked team goal. Adrien Rabiot and Wissam Ben Yedder exchanged passes just inside the

Croatia half, with the Juventus midfielder outpacing Josip Juranovic down the flank and expertly picking his spot with a cool left-footed finish.

In response, Croatia captain Luka Modric attempted to mark his 150th appearance for the national side with the equaliser, but Maignan was equal to the Real Madrid midfielder's curling effort.

Nevertheless, just when it appeared that time was running out for Zlatko Dalic's charges, Jonathan Clauss - only just on as a substitute - sent fellow replacement Kramaric tumbling in the box, and the Hoffenheim forward kept his cool to slot home the resultant spot kick, sending Maignan the wrong way.

There were chances to win it in

the closing stages for both teams, but neither Antoine Griezmann nor Luka Sucic were able to find the target.

Croatia are still searching for the first-ever win against France, with this their ninth meeting. Prior to this game, Les Bleus had won each of their last five Nations League matches outside of France.

France began a competitive international without Griezmann in the starting XI for the first time since June 2016.

Jens Stryger's late winner helps Denmark edge Austria

Denmark made it two wins out of two in the UEFA Nations League as Jens Stryger curled in a classy late winner to earn his side a 2-1 victory in Austria on Monday.

Having secured impressive victories on Matchday 1, both sides looked in a confident mood during an opening period scant on chances in Vienna. That would change when Christoph Baumgartner collected a raking pass from home captain David Alaba and crossed for the unmarked Sasa Kalajdzic in front of goal, the Stuttgart forward going agonizingly close to prodding the opener.

Austria would rue missing that chance when a neat passage of Denmark passing gave Rasmus Kristensen a crossing opportunity from the edge of the penalty area, the ball deflecting into the path of

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, who swept his side ahead with a ruthless finish. Yussuf Poulsen would have made it two but for a smart close-range save from debutant Patrick Pentz, and Alaba almost scored directly from a corner, Schmeichel tipping his vicious effort over the crossbar. Ralf Rangnick made three changes at the break in a successful effort to threaten Denmark more, sending on Marko Arnautovic for his 100th cap in a bid to provide more presence inside the penalty area.

The changes paid off when fellow substitute Michael Gregoritsch pounced on uncertain defending and allowed Arnautovic to tee up Xaver Schlager, who fired a clinical equalizer.

Denmark almost regained the lead when Christian Eriksen hit a post via Pentz's fingertips with a spectacular long-range effort, and Arnautovic also had a shot denied by the woodwork three minutes later. There was no such frustration for Jens Stryger, who curled a superb winner beyond Pentz from distance with six minutes remaining to send Denmark three points above their opponents at the top of Group A1.

Denmark have won 12 of their last 15 international matches, losing the other three. Kasper Hjulmand's side made it six wins out of the last seven for their nation in matches against Austria. **ANI**

ATP RANKINGS

Nadal jumps to No. 4 in ATP rankings, Casper Ruud attains career-high No. 6

LONDON: The 14th French Open title and his 22nd Grand Slam trophy powered Rafael Nadal to move up a place from fifth to fourth in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday, while Roland Garros' runner up Casper Ruud jumped to career-high No. 6.

The Spaniard has climbed to No. 4 spot in the ATP Rankings after he captured a historic 14th Roland Garros title and record-extending 22nd Grand Slam trophy in Paris last week.

The 36-year-old is the oldest men's champion in the history of the clay-court tournament and has now moved level with countryman Carlos Alcaraz on a Tour-leading four titles in 2022.

Ruud, the 23-year-old, jumped to a career-high No. 6 after he became the first Norwegian man to reach the final at a Grand Slam following his campaign at Roland Garros 2022.

While World No. 1 Novak Djokovic remained at the top of the rankings chart with 8770 points despite defeat in the quarterfinals of French Open 2022 at the hand of Nadal.

Croatian Marin Cilic has jumped back in the Top 20 on the back of his standout run in Paris.



The 33-year-old stunned World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev en route to the semi-finals. Medvedev remained in the second spot with 8160 while Alexander Zverev, with 7795 points stayed in the third place.

Holger Rune continued to make waves at Roland Garros, becoming the first Danish man to progress to the quarter-finals at a Grand Slam in the Open Era.

The 19-year-old, who grasped his maiden tour-level trophy in Munich in April, earned the second Top 10 victory of his career when he downed World No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas in the fourth round.

Iga Swiatek extends lead, Pegula makes top 10 debut

World No.1 Iga Swiatek's second triumph at the French Open extended her lead to almost twice as many points as the second-ranked Anett Kontaveit in WTA rankings of singles on Monday.

The Polish star's Roland Garros title triumph solidified her place atop the WTA world rankings and she has 8,631 points. She has won 6 straight titles this season. Despite a defeat in the first round of the French Open 2022, Kontaveit has attained No.2 for the first time with 4326 (+3) points. Paula Badosa (4245), Ons Jabeur (4150) and Maria Sakkari (4016) round

out the current Top 5.

After the tournament, Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff both reached new career-highs.

Following her first appearance in a Grand Slam final, 18-year-old American Coco Gauff jumped 10 spots to reach from No.23 to a career-high ranking of No.13. Gauff advanced to the championship match in Paris without falling a set and collects 1,300 rankings points. Her doubles partner, Jessica Pegula, moved to No. 8 for the first time from No. 11. Pegula had won a career-best 36 matches last season and already has earned 23 wins in the 2022 season following a clay-court campaign in which she finished as runner-up at Madrid and advanced to the quarterfinals at Roland Garros.

Italy's Martina Trevisan, who advanced to the semifinals in Paris in her eighth Grand Slam appearance climbed 32 spots, from No.59 to a career-high No.27.

Belgium's Elise Mertens returned to the top of the doubles rankings this week, replacing Katerina Siniakova.

The French Open's effect on the rankings of Maria Sakkari and Aryna Sabalenka was great as they gained 4016 and 3966 points respectively. **ANI**

SPECULATIONS DISMISSED

Pacer Stuart Broad dismisses speculations of rift with former Test skipper Joe Root

LONDON: England pacer Stuart Broad has rubbished the speculations of a rift with former Test skipper Joe Root over his omission from the tour of West Indies earlier this year, remarking that it would be pathetic if he was to fall out with someone over not being picked in the squad.

Leading English pacers James Anderson and Stuart Broad were left out of the squad for the three-Test series against the Windies. The series ended in a 1-0 defeat for the English and led to Root resigning from his role as Test captain. Joe and I spoke at length when he stood down as captain and I said to him how much he has meant to me as a captain, and what a privilege it was playing under him. I told him I hope he really enjoys the next few years. All that pressure has gone now. He is already a legend of the game, so he can just go out there and enjoy it," Sky Sports quoted the pacer as saying.



"Joe and I are great friends. And I have always been someone who can distinguish between business and pleasure. I cannot fall out with someone because they do not pick me in a team, that would be a bit pathetic," he added.

The pace duo made its return to the squad for the home series

against New Zealand and was pretty instrumental in England's five-wicket win in the first Test at Lord's in Ben Stokes' first assignment as Test skipper.

The 35-year-old Broad picked up four scalps in the match, including two in one over in the second innings that turned the match in England's favour.

"It's been one of the most fun weeks we have had as a team. I started this season not knowing if I would pull on the England shirt again, I was just enjoying every day for what it was. Jimmy [Anderson] turns 40 this year, four years ago was he thinking 2018 might be his last at Old Trafford? Probably not. I will attack this week with the same mindset: I will walk out on that first day, look around the stands, and know how lucky I am to be there," he said.

"These last two years, what was it, one win in 17? I never took Test wins for granted but there was a period where they came more often than not and your attention can switch to the next game. Stuff that, enjoy the win and then get ready after that," he added.

Broad remarked that starting the Stokes and McCullum era with a win is huge for the side.

Coming to the first Test, England won the match by five wick-

ets, chasing down the target of 277. England finished at 279/5 in 78.5 overs. Root's unbeaten 115 took the team to a victory.

Earlier, batting first, New Zealand was bowled out for 132. Only all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme (42*) and Tim Southee (26) could offer some resistance as debutant Matty Potts (13/4) and James Anderson (66/4) shook the NZ batting lineup with their pace.

In the second innings, England became victims of the pace of Boult (3/21) and Southee (4/55) and was bundled out for 141, gaining a thin nine-run lead.

In the third innings, NZ looked in trouble at 56-4 but Daryl Mitchell (108) and Tom Blundell (96) turned the match on their head and performed a brilliant rescue act to help their side reach 285/10. This helped set up a target of 277 for England.

England will take New Zealand in the second test on June 10 in Trent Bridge Cricket Stadium. **ANI**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Men's National Team en-tour of USA for the final leg of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 tri series between USA and Nepal start their campaign today against in-contention USA for the qualifications to the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in 2023.

Ahead of the tri series , Oman played MLC's Invitational XI twice as practice games for the CWC League 2 matches. Both sides were evenly poised - MLC beating Oman in the 1st game and in return Oman beat MLC in the later. Of the squad , Kashyap Prajapati and Zeeshan Maqsood looked in sublime form in the batting department while Bilal Khan and Payyaz Butt looked sharp delivering with the ball.

USA are coming into the series having played their previous leg of the series vs Scotland and UAE winning a game each to both and losing a game as well. Nepal on the other hand , come into the series fresh but not having played any ODI's in the last 2 months.

Oman sitting at 40 points of 32 matches on top of the CWC League



2 table yet does not let them relax as they look to strengthen their lead attaining 8 achievable points. Oman will play USA on 8th June and 12th June while they play Nepal on 9th June and 14th June respectively. All matches will be starting at 7:30pm GST.

All the matches will be broadcasted live on icc.tv and Willow TV on YouTube. Oman Squad : Zeeshan Maqsood (captain), Jatinder Singh, Kashyapkumar Prajapati, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Mohammad Naseem (WK), Ayaan Khan, Nester Dhamba, Khawar Ali, Payyaz Butt, Kaleemullah, Suraj Kumar (WK), Bilal Khan, Sandeep Goud ; Support Staff: Duleep Mendis (Head Coach), Evert Laubscher (Assistant Coach), Zeeshan Siddiqui (Analyst), Sean Nowak (Physio), Mazher Saleem Khan, Amir Ali.

T20I SERIES

Sri Lanka announce playing XI for T20I against Australia

COLOMBO: Hosts Sri Lanka announced their strong XI against T20 World Champion Australia for the first clash of the three-match T20I series in Colombo on Tuesday.

All-rounder Dasun Shanaka will captain Sri Lanka during the series, with international league stars Wanindu Hasaranga, Dushmantha Chameera, Maheesh Theekshana, Chamika Karunaratne, and Bhanuka Rajapaksa also included in the final XI. Top-order batting pair Kusal Mendis and Pathum Nissanka are named in the top six while young quick Matheesha Pathirana is yet to make his debut.

Matisha Pathirana, who bowled in a manner similar to that of Lasith Malinga, has also won the confidence of the selection committee. He had impressed in two innings for Chennai Super Kings in Indian Premier League 2022. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by August 2022 reaching \$115.59, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 1 cent from the price of Monday, which was \$115.60. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,129.72 points, down by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.87 per cent at 460.84 points. Aman REIT, up 4.44 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 8.97 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR183mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from June 8 until September 7

MUSCAT: Oman's central bank raised OMR183 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from June 8 until September 7, 2022.

The average accepted price reached 99.607 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.605 per OMR100. Whereas the average discount rate and the average yield reached 1.57777 per cent and 1.58400 per cent, respectively.

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 1.50 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 2.00 per cent, for the same period.

The treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the CBO on behalf of the Government, which



helps the licensed commercial banks to gainfully invest their surplus funds, with the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchasing facilities (Repo) offered by the Central Bank.

Further, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for

short-term interest rates. The government (MOF) may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**

OMAN ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY



OETC receives certification for safety standards again

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To adopt local and international best practices, Oman Electricity Transmission Company (OETC) is working effortlessly to develop its performance through continuous updating in the international certificate.

Hence, OETC celebrates the achievement of international certification for the second time of ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OSHMS) and ISO 14001:2015 Environment Management System (EMS) as per the international new standards.

The ceremony was held at the headquarters of OETC, hosted by the CEO Eng. Saleh Nasser Al Rumhi with the presence of the management and QHSE team. Eng. Saleh Al Rumhi acknowledged the achievement which demonstrates employees, consultants and contractors' commitment to ensuring working

with the highest safety standards and applying safe work practices through the implementation of the HSE management system and procedures. The CEO congratulated the entire QHSE team, contractors and consultancies for their contribution and urged them to sustain their efforts and commitment to move to higher levels of performance.

QHSE Senior Manager Acting. Fahad Al-Kiyumi stated, "This is a remarkable achievement in HSE milestone for the company, which represents a commitment and involvement with the management and employees to maintain the high level of HSEMS performance which is regularly reviewed and monitored by the executive management team. Especially in a challenging environment where there are a lot of Over Head Lines projects within the OETC network."

EQUITY MARKET

India's Sensex tumbles 568 points tracking global markets' sell-off

MUMBAI: Selloff in global equities markets amid a surge in crude oil prices spooked Dalal Street on Tuesday leading to around one per cent slump in the key indices, Sensex and Nifty.

The 30 stock S&P BSE Sensex slumped 567.98 points or 1.02 per cent to close at 55,107.34 points against its previous day's close at 55,675.32 points. Earlier, the Sensex opened in the negative at 55,373.18 points and slumped to a low of 54,882.41 points in the intra-day. The Sensex had lost 93.91 points or 0.17 per cent on Monday.

The broader Nifty 50 of the National Stock Exchange slumped 153.20 points or 0.92 per cent to 16,416.35 points against its previous day's close at 16,569.55 points. The Nifty started the day sharply down at 16,469.60 points and slumped to a low of 16,347.10 points in the intra-day. The Nifty had lost 14.75 points or 0.09 per cent on Monday.

Selloffs in the global equities markets dampened investors'

sentiments. Foreign institutions sold heavily. Reacting on the recent volatility in the markets, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said retail investors have joined the Indian stock markets in a big way and seem to act as shock absorbers.

"Retail investors have come in a big way that they seem to act as shock absorbers... if FPIs went away, our markets did not really have to show their ups and downs in a very distinct way because small investors in the country have come in a big way," Sitharaman said at an event organised by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration.

There was across the board selling pressure in the Indian equities markets. Consumer durables, realty, IT and financial stocks were among the worst hit.

Titan tumbled 4.47 per cent to Rs 2101.10. Dr Reddy's Laboratories slumped 3.87 per cent to Rs 4142.15. - **ANI**

SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

Al Mouj Muscat's impact campaign creates ideal location for SMEs to thrive

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat has contributed to significant sustainable socio-economic growth as Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC), with the award-winning lifestyle destination creating targeted support that has benefitted 150 Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

As SMEs form the backbone of the economy and contribute 15 per cent to GDP, the Sultanate recognises them as a key driver for growth. Small businesses create job opportunities as well as diversification in the economy, an essential factor in ensuring that an economy remains robust. The partnership behind Al Mouj Muscat, between Majid Al Futtaim, Omran and Tannia, is committed to Oman's vision of long-term sustainable expansion and its support for SMEs has had a notable effect, details of which are set out in its Al Mouj Impact campaign.

In total, 150 SMEs are now connected to Al Mouj, with a blend of location and support from the organisation creating the ideal con-



ditions for enterprise to flourish. The lifestyle destination attracts over 3.9 million visitors each year, and with 8,000 residents, the location has very high footfall.

Al Mouj also offers businesses access to regional and international markets as it is connected to

150 SMEs are now connected to Al Mouj, with a blend of location and support from the organisation creating the ideal conditions for enterprise to flourish

all major transport networks. The ITC has also invested in world-class amenities, such as the Gold anchor Marina, which creates opportunities for local businesses to set up businesses that serve the growing tourism sector.

There are now 30 SMEs operating within Al Mouj with a further 120 utilising trading platforms it supports, such as pop-up markets like Muscat Eats and Souq Es Sabt. Adding to this, Al Mouj provides

access to investment and training, such as in customer service and booking systems for sea tour operators. Its strategy is to support companies as they establish their offer and grow.

Aisha Al Kharusi, owner of fashion brand Junoon Kanga, recognises the impact that this support has had. "Al Mouj understands enterprise and partners with businesses so that entrepreneurs can succeed. With 85 shops and outlets already operating here, its lifestyle, retail and leisure offering drives considerable footfall. Add to that the opportunities that it creates through including SMEs in its marketing and its year-round calendar of events, and Al Mouj is the place to do business."

Nasser Al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said: "From our inception, Al Mouj set out to have a positive socio-economic impact on Oman. Part of that is our commitment to creating an eco-system for enterprise, where local talent can thrive, where employment opportunities will be created, and where the next generation of successful businesses can grow."

STATISTICS

Saudi Arabia's real GDP grew by 9.9% in first quarter of 2022

RIYADH: The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia grew by 9.9 per cent in first quarter of 2022 (Q1/2022) compared to the first quarter of 2021 (Q1/2021) (Y-o-Y) and the seasonally adjusted real GDP increased by 2.6 per cent compared to Q4/2021 (Q-o-Q), according to the Gross Domestic Product Report for First Quarter of 2022 released by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT).

This growth is due to the high increase in oil activities by 20.3 per cent in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the first quarter of 2021 (2.9 per cent Q-o-Q). The non-oil activities increased by 3.7 per cent (0.9 per cent Q-o-Q).

GASTAT is the only official statistical reference for statistical data and information in Saudi Arabia. - **SPA**

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MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Aman REIT, up 4.44 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 8.97 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,129.72 points, down by 0.13 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.87 per cent at 460.84 points. Aman REIT, up 4.44 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 8.97 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Sohar International Bank were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 395 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR 2.36 million, with more than 11.26 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded securities, 10 advanced, 26 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR407,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR399,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR7,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,591.23 points, up 0.12 per cent. Prices of Ahli Bank, Bank Dhofar, Al Anwar Investment, Bank Muscat and National Bank

Oman were up by 4.24 per cent, 2.66 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 0.75 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively. Prices of Sohar International Bank, Global Financial Investments, Ominvest, Al Sharqia Investment and Oman Arab Bank were down by 3.67 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.11 per cent and 1.56 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,918.95 points, down 0.89 per cent. There were no gainers for the day. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Voltamp Energy, A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics and National Aluminium were down by 8.08 per cent, 6.54 per cent, 3.51 per cent, 3.23 per cent and 3.16 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 1 per cent before closing at 1,591.57 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Oman Telecom and Barka Desalination were up by 4 per cent, 1.39 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Renaissance Services, National Gas, Ooredoo and Al Jazeera Services were down by 8.97 per cent, 3.23 per cent, 2.55 per cent, 1.86 per cent and 1.46 per cent respectively.— **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES					
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff
MSX 30 INDEX	4,143.25	4,099.63	4,129.72	4,135.00	-5.28
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,618.01	6,534.05	6,591.23	6,583.65	7.58
Industry Index	5,972.33	5,918.95	5,918.95	5,972.33	-53.39
Services Index	1,612.94	1,588.98	1,591.57	1,607.70	-16.13
MSX Shariah Index	464.88	460.84	460.84	464.88	-4.04
MSX TR INDEX	5,221.28	5,166.31	5,204.23	5,210.89	-6.65
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,919.16	6,831.38	6,891.15	6,883.23	7.92
SERVICES TR IDX	1,642.97	1,645.65	1,662.32	1,668	-16.68
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,198.28	6,142.87	6,142.87	6,198.28	-55.41

Trading Summary					
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down
11,266,070	2,358,790	395	22,452,577,621	10	26

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 7

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PREV. VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000002200..... AHILI BANK	75,599	8,891	7	0.117	0.123	0.117	0.123	0.118	0.005	4.237	0.123	0.117	0.123	0.100	239,807,868
OM0000003026..... OMAN TELECOM	82,783	71,550	11	0.864	0.876	0.864	0.876	0.864	0.012	1.389	0.876	0.864	0.876	0.100	657,000,000
OM0000002796..... BANK MUSCAT	1,668,803	895,816	39	0.532	0.538	0.532	0.538	0.534	0.004	0.749	0.538	0.538	0.538	0.100	2,019,220,810
OM0000001483..... NATIONAL BANK OMAN	128,762	25,479	4	0.201	0.201	0.201	0.201	0.200	0.001	0.500	0.201	0.198	0.201	0.100	326,815,218
OM0000001087..... OMAN UNITED INSUR.	500	170	1	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.340	0.000	0.000	0.340	0.334	0.340	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000001749..... OMAN CEMENT	3,000	750	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.100	82,718,178
OM0000003000..... AL MAHA MARKTING	300	210	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.700	0.672	0.700	0.100	48,300,000
OM0000001525..... OMAN INVST&FIN.	280,400	40,151	18	0.144	0.145	0.142	0.142	0.143	-0.001	-0.699	0.142	0.141	0.144	0.100	33,654,000
OM0000005005..... ALMAHA CERAMICS	542	275	1	0.508	0.508	0.508	0.512	0.508	-0.004	-0.781	0.508	0.510	0.530	0.100	27,940,000
OM0000001152..... OMAN NAT. ENG.	42,307	4,345	5	0.103	0.104	0.102	0.104	0.105	-0.001	-0.952	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	14,560,000
OM0000002226..... ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,000	270	1	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.274	-0.004	-1.460	0.270	0.255	0.270	0.100	16,525,154
OM0000003968..... OOREDOO	289,700	91,855	28	0.320	0.320	0.316	0.316	0.322	-0.006	-1.863	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.100	205,698,377
OM0000002440..... AL SHARQIA INV.	251,000	23,343	16	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.096	-0.002	-2.105	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	8,370,000
OM0000001533..... OMINVEST	43,371	13,212	4	0.308	0.308	0.304	0.304	0.312	-0.008	-2.564	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.100	203,183,090
OM0000003125..... GLOBAL INV. H.	300,432	21,182	16	0.072	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.068	0.075	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000002168..... AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,000,000	420,000	1	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.434	-0.014	-3.226	0.420	0.410	0.432	0.100	92,400,000
OM0000003224..... RENAISSANCE SER.	5,236	2,199	3	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.434	-0.014	-3.226	0.420	0.420	0.430	0.100	99,292,200
OM0000003398..... SOHAR INT. BANK	4,453,100	467,576	14	0.105	0.109	0.105	0.105	0.109	-0.004	-3.670	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	313,956,540
Total	18	8,624,765	2,087,275	171											

Parallel Market

OM0000007910..... AMAN REAL ESTATE	11,120	1,045	4	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.090	0.004	4.444	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000005963..... PHOENIX POWER	1,380	72	2	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.050	0.002	4.000	0.052	0.049	0.052	0.100	76,055,276
OM0000002549..... BANK DHOFAR	1,238	140	2	0.113	0.116	0.113	0.116	0.113	0.003	2.655	0.116	0.113	0.116	0.100	347,578,767
OM0000001772..... ALANWAR INVESTMENT	450	40	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.328	0.088	0.085	0.087	0.100	17,900,000
OM0000003610..... BARKA DESALINATION	80,382	11,414	5	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.141	0.001	0.709	0.142	0.138	0.143	0.100	10,724,124
OM0000001418..... BAYSUT CEMENT	63,500	10,351	11	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.000	0.000	0.163	0.161	0.163	0.100	32,600,000
OM0000001517..... HSBC BANK OMAN	211	24	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	224,035,032
OM0000001590..... MUSCAT FINANCE	401,100	28,094	18	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.071	0.100	21,500,243
OM0000001681..... OMAN EMIRATES HO.	152,726	14,624	21	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.093	0.096	0.100	11,578,125
OM0000002275..... SHELL OMAN MKR.	14,532	11,800	9	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.000	0.000	0.812	0.808	0.812	0.100	77,140,000
OM0000002572..... OMAN OIL MARKETING	5,204	4,224	2	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.812	0.000	0.000	0.812	0.732	0.812	0.100	49,755,300
OM0000004420..... BANK NIZWA	151,453	14,388	10	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.097	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004669..... SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	7,980	878	3	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.100	10,758,238
OM0000004925..... ALBATINAH POWER	165,500	7,944	10	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000004933..... AL SUWADI POWER	51,918	2,544	3	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.051	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000008447..... OMAN RETT FUND	15,000	1,050	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.065	0.070	0.100	32,983,047
OM0000006979..... OMAN QATAR INSUR.	10,000	2,150	1	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.216	-0.001	-0.463	0.215	0.200	0.215	0.100	21,500,000
OM0000002267..... GULF MUSHROOM P.	64,342	18,142	7	0.282	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.282	-0.002	-0.709	0.280	0.274	0.290	0.100	11,649,476
OM0000007084..... MCT DESALINATION	21,700	2,430	3	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.112	-0.001	-0.885	0.112	0.112	0.113	0.100	17,421,645
OM0000004768..... MADINA TAKAFUL	767,250	71,009	28	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	16,100,000
OM0000005260..... OMAN ARAB BANK	35,083	4,247	7	0.121	0.126	0.121	0.126	0.128	-0.002	-1.563	0.126	0.121	0.126	0.100	210,345,660
OM0000003521..... GULFAR ENGINEER	100,000	10,410	7	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.104	0.112	0.100	21,110,590
OM0000001368..... CONSTRUCTION M.	65,000	5,770	7	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	-0.002	-2.222	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	3,500,000
OM0000001566..... OMAN FISHERIES	62,700	7,246	6	0.118	0.118	0.115	0.115	0.118	-0.003	-2.542	0.115	0.115	0.117	0.100	20,929,016
OM0000001160..... NATIONAL GAS	113,190	17,413	17	0.154	0.155	0.153	0.153	0.157	-0.004	-2.548	0.153	0.153	0.153	0.100	13,005,000
OM0000001319..... ALUMINIUM PROD.	65,140	6,022	3	0.095	0.095	0.092	0.092	0.095	-0.003	-3.158	0.092	0.092	0.094	0.100	3,088,573
OM0000002804..... ASAFAA FOODS	55,000	9,150	7	0.169	0.169	0.165	0.165	0.171	-0.006	-3.509	0.165	0.162	0.166	0.100	19,800,000
OM0000003661..... VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,656	166	3	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.107	-0.007	-6.542	0.100	0.100	0.108	0.100	8,140,275
OM0000002028..... GULF INT CHEMI	11,950	1,067	2	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.099	-0.008	-8.081	0.091	0.091	0.091	0.100	1,911,000
OM0000004735..... SEMBPCORP SALALAH	25,209	1,790	6	0.073	0.073	0.071	0.071	0.078	-0.007	-8.974	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.100	7,477,608
Total	30	2,521,924	265,665	207											

CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Turnaround in crypto market conditions expected to benefit some digital assets

NEW DELHI: Almost all financial markets, including crypto, are experiencing high volatility and sell-off due to investors' fears about the US Federal Reserve's handling of inflation. The majority of cryptocurrencies are way off from their all-time highs and will need to push higher for some retail investors to break even.

Despite this reality, a turnaround in crypto market conditions will benefit some digital assets more than others. This is true for new projects such as CashFi (CFI) and mainstream cryptocurrencies that have held their nerves during the sell-off.

Cryptocurrencies are not created equal. Some have more util-

ity and trust than others. Those that have an edge will benefit their holders during the next crypto market turnaround. Bitcoin (BTC) and BNB Coin (BNB) are likely to appreciate and rise closer to the previous all-time highs.

CashFi

There is something special about being new and young. CashFi is a new platform taking liquid staking to the next level. Through liquid staking, CashFi will address legacy challenges that include asset inefficiency, lower yields, and lack of instant access to staked tokens.

Investors will buy CFI tokens because they know that they will enjoy the benefits of unlocking

their staked tokens whenever they want to.

Bitcoin

Bitcoin is by far the most popular and trusted cryptocurrency in the world. A cryptocurrency market turnaround will immediately favour the leading digital asset as institutional investors are comfortable investing in the asset.

New investors dipping their feet in the crypto sector are likely to invest in BTC before they can make their way to altcoins such as CFI. Bitcoin enjoys the first-mover advantage and it is also the starting point for many people who want to buy other tokens.

The market downturn has seen

many cryptocurrencies lose a fair share of their value. Bitcoin has managed to trade above USD 28K for some time. This is a good starting point for the leading cryptocurrency to charge towards another all-time high.

BNB Coin

A turnaround in the cryptocurrency market will likely favour BNB Coin, the native token of the Binance ecosystem. Binance is one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges in the world by traded volume. As more people trade crypto, Binance will generate income through trading fees. This will increase the value of BNB Coin in the long run. **-ANI/ATK**



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WILL EMBELLISH
ITS ONGOING
POPULAR TITLES
WITH A STRING
OF BEYOND
AMAZING SPIDER-
MAN VARIANT
COVERS**

According to Marvel's official website, the comic book company will commence the celebration of Spider-Man's 60th anniversary from August onwards. Marvel had announced 20 Amazing variant covers for its ongoing most popular titles back in May. Some of the industry's greatest artists have banded together for this incredible variant cover programme. "From key moments in Spider-Man publish-

ing history to Spider-Man's forays into other media, these 20 show-stopping covers showcase a wide range of Spidey inspiration and prove why the hero's impact on pop culture is simply unmatched," Marvel's website said. The series of covers include an Ozgur Yildirim cover for Moon Knight #14, Mark Bagley's cover for

Peter Parker first appeared in 1962's 'Amazing Fantasy #15' and has since been featured in numerous stand-alone comics, storylines, feature films, television shows, video games and more.

Avengers #59, Leo Castellani's cover for Captain America: Symbol of Truth #4, Javier Rodriguez's cover for Miles Morales: Spider-Man #41, and Marcos Martin's cover for Amazing Spider-Man #10 among others. Spider-Man, created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, has been featured in several comic book series with the protagonist being Peter Parker, who evolves and transitions with a different set of behavioural traits over the years. From being a shy high school student to becoming an outgoing one in college, then to becoming a single freelance photographer, Spider-Man, over time

has become a prominent member of the Avengers. Peter Parker first appeared in 1962's 'Amazing Fantasy #15' and has since been featured in numerous stand-alone comics, storylines, feature films, television shows, video games and more. The story that continues to thrill everyone even after so many years wasn't a safe bet for Marvel, as nobody thought it would sell. At a time when teenagers and kids were immersed in the world of Archie comics, nobody thought that a story about a boy getting superpowers after being bitten by a radioactive spider would have any fan following. However, to the surprise of the creators, Spider-Man has paved the way to become one of the most loved superheroes! -ANI

ROUND-UP



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Civilians wounded in Afghanistan's Kabul bicycle bomb explosion
Sanitation workers clean the site of a bicycle bomb explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan. Several people were wounded following a bicycle bomb explosion in the central part of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, the capital police confirmed. *Xinhua*

Blossoms of alpine azalea seen at Giant Panda National Park in SW China's Sichuan
Blossoms of alpine azalea are seen at Giant Panda National Park in Longmen Mountains in southwest China's Sichuan Province. *Xinhua*



Scenery of grasslands in Bashang area of Fengning
Aerial picture shows the scenery of the grasslands in Bashang area of Fengning Manchu Autonomous County, north China's Hebei Province. *Xinhua*



Skateboarding helps Gazan youths cope with psychological effects of war
Palestinian boys skateboard near northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahia. *Xinhua*



Palmyra palm fruits harvested in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Labourers process palmyra palm fruits at a wholesale market in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Xinhua*

Preview of old technology exhibition held in Singapore

A visitor takes a photo of a Nintendo video game console at the preview of 'Off/On: Everyday Technology that Changed Our Lives, 1970s-2000s' exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore. The exhibition will be held from June 10 to October 30. *Xinhua*



Daily life in Timor-Leste
Boys sell eggs at a fruit market in Dili, capital of Timor-Leste. *Xinhua*



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ROUND-UP

Lincoln Presidential experience: More than just a luxury experience



Currently available for the Aviator and Navigator SUV models, Lincoln Presidential grade is intricately detailed to surround luxury enthusiasts with the finest materials and features to make their experiences every bit unique

MUSCAT: Lincoln takes luxury experiences to an even heightened level with the exceptional Lincoln Presidential range.

Currently available for the Aviator and Navigator SUV models, this grade is intricately detailed to surround luxury enthusiasts with the finest materials and features to make their experiences every bit unique. Luxury automotive enthusiasts looking forward to experiencing the Lincoln Presidential range can visit their nearest Lincoln showroom.

The Lincoln Aviator is available

in two Presidential themes – ‘Destination’ and ‘Flight’. Travel becomes art with the Lincoln Destination theme. A Lincoln Presidential logo is etched into the Khaya wood appliqué to create an elegant driving environment that’s as adventurous as your next destination.

Taking inspiration from the rich history of aviation, the Lincoln Presidential Flight theme uses rich leathers like that of a bomber jacket, dark full engine turn metallic appliqué and an instrument panel that has aviation-like dials to give one the sensation

of taking to the skies.

The Lincoln Aviator Presidential range is equipped with standard twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine that is paired with a 10-speed SelectShift® automatic transmission. Delivering an impressive 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque for effortless acceleration.

The Lincoln Navigator is available in two Presidential themes – ‘Destination’ and ‘Yacht Club’. Diamond-weave, leather first- and second-row seat inserts combined with Khaya Mahogany Appliqué makes the cabin the place to see

and be seen. Inspired by cool sea breezes and full sails, Yacht Club pairs coastal blue leather with Whitewashed Teak wood – a cabin truly worthy of captain and crew.

The Lincoln Navigator Presidential range is equipped with a twin-turbo V6 engine producing 450 horsepower delivered through a 10-speed transmission. Navigator’s lighter, high-strength aluminium-alloy body helps create a more refined ride.

In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

MENU OF RESTAURANTS AND E-CAFES

Member of Zubair EDC launches new product ‘Menutree’

MUSCAT: Smart Technologies Company, ‘Smartech’, owned by Abdulaziz Saleh Al Maawali, one of the members of the Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC), recently launched its new product, Menutree, which comprises a menu of restaurants and e-cafes. Smartech specialises in providing the retail sector with a range of technical products and digital solutions.

Abdulaziz Al Maawali, owner of ‘Smartech’, expressed his delight at the launch of ‘Menutree’, considered to be the first of its kind in the Sultanate. It allows customers of restaurants and cafes to choose their meals by scanning a barcode or entering an electronic link and selecting from a menu and a place of delivery or pickup options from the relevant restaurant. It also provides the option for customers to choose the table at the restaurant.

After the customer has completed their order, the restaurant owner receives a notification of approval, which then allows customers to pay electronically through the application.

The programme will contribute toward the shift from traditional means of transactions to more digital-based ones, saving effort and money, while enhancing quick and quality services. It will also support efforts to increase sales and commercial offers by providing outreach to the largest possible segment of society.

Additionally, the new solution enables customers to download the platform for free and digitally obtain meals and product menus. This further allows them to choose the products they want, and how they would like to receive them and pay electronically, without having to wait for a long time in front of the restaurant.

Menutree allows customers of restaurants and cafes to choose their meals by scanning a barcode or entering an electronic link and selecting from a menu and a place of delivery or pickup options

Ali Shaker Head of Business Development and Partnership at Zubair EDC said, “We are pleased with the development of Smartech’s project, with the company successfully obtaining the trust of over 3,000 establishments, both within and outside the Sultanate, in the F&B and retail sectors. Through the launch of Menutree, Abdulaziz Al Maawali was able to bring about a shift from traditional to digital process, through the implementation of the latest smart accounting systems and using Artificial Intelligence to serve its customers.”

“Following the launch announcement of his latest product to customers, we look forward to seeing a rise in demand for this service, especially from small, medium and large enterprises in the Sultanate, including restaurants, cafes and related establishments,” he added.





ROUND-UP



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Ministry of Social Development honours Bank Muscat for CSR

Bank Muscat’s programmes and social initiatives are aligned to Oman’s development goals, especially the pillar of CSR and Partnership in Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat was recently honoured by the Ministry of Social Development at a grand event held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Kamil bin Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs, in recognition of its pioneering role in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The accolade was received by Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat at the ceremony, which was attended by a number of ministers, under-secretaries and senior officials from the public and private sectors.

On this occasion, Sheikh Al Hashar said: “Bank Muscat’s programmes and social initiatives are aligned to Oman’s development goals, especially the pillar of CSR and Partnership in Oman Vision 2040, and this award is a great honour and inspiration to drive forward the bank’s pioneering role in social responsibility.

“We thank the Ministry of Social Development for this accolade, and for enabling Public-Private Partnership in a manner that benefits our society and the nation. Bank Muscat always pays great attention to occasions of national importance, community-based activities and social responsibility programmes including those that aim to develop facilities and services for persons with disabilities. It is our privi-

lege to continue to work tirelessly to serve everyone better, every day, through a number of sustainable initiatives and programmes.”

Every year, as part of its commitment, Bank Muscat implements different CSR and sustainability programmes that serve various segments of society including the youth and children, people with special needs, social welfare families, entrepreneurs, students and communities across the country. It is a matter of great pride that Bank Muscat works in partnership closely with the Ministry of Social Development on a number of programmes including the Tadamun programme, which has benefitted over 1,690 families since it was first launched in 2013.

Earlier in 2021, the bank provided laptops and tablets to 1,240 students from low-income families intending to support the government’s efforts to make online education available for all students in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its partnership with the ministry, the bank has supported a number of students facing financial constraints in completing their higher education.

In line with its commitment to helping persons with disabilities integrate into mainstream society, the bank previously partnered with the Ministry for a number of activities including the construction of a playground at the Al Aman Rehabilitation Centre for



children with severe disabilities and a sports field at the Al Wafa Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.

The bank has also provided an agricultural Greenhouse at the Vocational Rehabilitation and Evaluation Centre in Al Khoudh to help in the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

In 2022, Bank Muscat partnered with the Omani Association of the Hearing Impaired to provide a number of hearing aids to school and university students in Oman

while training a number of its employees at different branches across the Sultanate in Arabic Sign Language to improve financial inclusion for all.

For the past five years, the bank has extended its strong support to the Fak Kurba initiative launched by the Oman Lawyers Association to help secure the release of over 1,000 people, especially from lower-income groups, who have been jailed for failing to clear financial obligations. Previously in 2020, the bank joined hands with the

Ministry of Tourism and Heritage to develop the old village of Misfat al Abriyeen in Al Hamra to boost heritage tourism in Oman.

It also partnered with Muscat Municipality to complete a 15,000 square metre Al Khoudh Park project in Seeb to promote domestic tourism and the quality of life for the local community.

Bank Muscat, which is Oman’s leading financial services provider, runs over 10 long-term social responsibility projects including Green Sports, Al Wathbah SME

Academy, the Maliyat financial literacy programme and Irshad financial coaching, which are aimed at supporting different segments of Omani society.

As part of its strong commitment to Public-Private Partnership, the bank works closely with both government institutions and several civil society organisations to support programmes targeting different sections of society to create sustainable, positive changes in communities across the Sultanate.

EXCLUSIVE PRODUCTS

Bakehouse Café offers variety of premium fresh products

MUSCAT: Bakehouse Café was founded by young Omani entrepreneurs in 2019. It started its operations with a small elegant branch in Al Khoudh, on Mazoon Street, where it distinguished itself as a provider of premium fresh products.

The Café started to offer a variety of products such as premium speciality coffee, fresh pastries such as croissants and desserts such as cakes and cookies. They have since then expanded their menu to include breakfast options as well as a wider variety of beverages. Furthermore, the brand has been able to adapt to the seasonality of products, for instance, they launched their Winter Exclusive products which were the signature Winter Hot Cocoa and Winter Churros (btw, (if you haven’t tried them yet, you’re missing out) and Summer Exclusives, like the refreshing Iced Teas and Acai bowl. They are soon launching products for this summer season (stay tuned!).

One of the major strengths of the brand’s products is their quality as it is the utmost priority at Bakehouse; the premium ingredients that are used and the high standard of equipment is reflected in the rich and flavourful taste of their products, which have been created in collaboration with world-renowned Chefs.

In January 2022, Bakehouse opened its second branch, at Souq



Al Madina, in Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos. The new location immediately gained popularity when it started operations; it started operations in late December 2021 and was set up with emphasis on the Winter Season due to the lovely outdoor seating area. The brand marketed their Winter Exclusives with the quote “Winter in Muscat” which turned out to become synonymous with Bakehouse. The same enthusiasm is expected this summer, with many new products to be introduced very soon.

Bakehouse has also made remarkable efforts to reduce its carbon footprint; like offering sustainable reusable glass bottles for takeaway beverage orders, and introducing edible pasta straws which were an option to have instead of the regular plastic straws. In a market saturated with F&B establishments, it is nice to see one standing out and making a conscious effort to be more envi-

ronmental-friendly.

Some of the best sellers from their beverage menu are the Saffron Latte, Forest Berries Iced Tea & Caramel Frappe. In terms of their pastries, Kinder Croissant & the Garlic Cheese Croissant are customer favourites. Other products that can’t be missed out on are the French Toast, Ferrero Cake and Mini Cookies. They also offer delivery through Talabat & Tm-Doner. Furthermore, both branches offer the option to order through their website where customers are able to get discounts as well as loyalty cashback rewards.

The Cafe was granted financial and advisory support by the Fund for Development of Youth Projects “Sharakah” in December 2021, as Sharakah aims to support promising local businesses. Sharakah has been guiding small and medium enterprises in the Sultanate towards maintaining profitability and sustainability since 1998.

GOLF



Ras Al Hamra hosts inaugural Omantel Monthly Pairs contest

MUSCAT: The inaugural Omantel Monthly Pairs competition took place at Ras Al Hamra golf club on May 27 with the participation of 48 golfers (maximum field size).

The event was played in a format of ‘country pairs’ whereby two golfers of the same nationality play together as a team. A total of twelve countries were represented with two teams playing under the United Nations flag as the team members were from two different countries. A total of 24 teams took part with several teams decorating their golf carts with their countries’ flags making the event feel like a mini-golf Olympics in Oman.

The competition commenced with a 3pm shotgun start and was

scored under stable ford format. With many improved temperatures and pleasant light winds following the recent heat wave, it was a perfect day for golf at Ras Al Hamra. Golfers were able to enjoy a variety of beverages served at the halfway house while on the golf course and by 7pm competing teams made their way back to the clubhouse to enjoy a buffet dinner and refreshments while eagerly waiting for the competition results announcement.

A team from Ireland represented by Trevor Grainger and Gordon Mooney secured the top spot with a score of 48 Stableford points with a second place going to a team of Jas Dhanju and Atulya Sharma representing India who scored 46 points.

In third place was a team from Oman represented by Haider Al Lawati and Suhail Al Junaidy who scored 44 points winning on countback from a team of Terence and Michelle Shelby representing South Africa who also scored 44 points.

Simon Walker, Ras Al Hamra Golf Club Captain thanked Omantel for their support in promoting golf in Oman and at the club. Captain thanked all participants who took part in this inaugural event which will now become a monthly fixture at Ras Al Hamra golf club with different formats played every month. Special thanks to the golf operations and F&B teams at the club who put considerable effort to ensure the success of the event.





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