

**IFJ CONGRESS TO KICK OFF TODAY**

The Sultanate of Oman will host today the 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The opening ceremony will be held under the patronage of HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan. **>A5**



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**HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES  
PHILIPPINES PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**MUSCAT:** His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Republic of Philippines on being elected as his country's president. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments to President-elect Marcos Jr., wishing him success in realising aspirations of the people of the Philippines. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries further development and growth. - **ONA**



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# ROYAL ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT UNVEILS ITS VISION, PROGRAMMES



The academy is under the honorary patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik

**MUSCAT:** The Royal Academy of Management has unveiled its strategy and launched the first package of national programmes.

At a press conference on Monday, Dr. Ali Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy of Management, said: "The academy is under the honorary patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. The academy works towards developing and empowering leaders in the public

and private sectors in a bid to become a beacon for executive leadership and management".

He said that the academy's fundamental pillars are based on Oman Vision 2040, developing the state's institutions in a manner that copes with current requirements and the prospects of the future, grooming leaderships in a new economy and adopting modern learning tools and methods. **Full report >A2**

## Bank Muscat launches special customer offer to win 51 hospitality packages to FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, courtesy of Visa

**MUSCAT:** In line with its customer-centric vision to serve its customers better every day, and commitment to providing top of the line features, services and rewards, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider has announced that it is giving away 51 match packages to visit FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, courtesy of Visa, as part of the run up to one of the biggest sporting spectacles on the planet. All Bank Muscat Visa Credit and Prepaid Cardholders will be automatically entered into raffle draws to select the winners once they use their Bank Muscat Visa Credit or Prepaid Card to make a minimum cumulative spend of RO 50 or more during the promotional period which will extend till 31 August 2022. For every RO 50 spent, customers get one chance in the draw, the more they spend the higher their chances of winning. All transactions will be included except for ATM withdrawals and Government spends.

Each winner will receive a Hospitality Package for two to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, courtesy of Visa. The packages, which include airline tickets, hotel accommodation and tickets for a number of matches during the month-long football carnival have been reserved exclusively for different card segments. As many as 10 packages (1 Opening Match, 1 Final and 8 Quarter Final matches) have been reserved for Bank Muscat Private Banking Visa Infinite and Asalah Priority Banking Visa Signature credit cardholders. Nine packages featuring Quarter final matches have been reserved for Al Jawhar Visa Platinum credit cardholders, while Visa Prepaid cardholders



can win one of the 8 Group Stage match packages reserved for them. Holders of Bank Muscat-Co-branded Visa Platinum credit cards, Visa Gold credit cards and Visa Classic credit cards are eligible to be entered into draws for one of the 24 Group Stage match packages reserved especially for them.

On this exciting occasion, Abdulnasser Al Raisi, General Manager - Personal Banking, Bank Muscat, said: "In line with its commitment to offering the largest range of benefits, and also recognising the great passion with which football is followed in Oman, Bank Muscat is delighted to offer a large number of football enthusiasts a great opportunity to win Hospitality Packages to FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, courtesy of Visa. Launching this offer comes within the bank's strategy of offering the best features and benefits to our customers, including Asalah and Al Jawhar customers. With a number of prizes

reserved for different segments, we invite everyone to participate enthusiastically and benefit from this offer by using their Visa credit cards and prepaid cards.

On his part, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashaani, General Manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said: "We thank Visa for their continuous cooperation and partnership with Bank Muscat, which helps the bank provide the best offers and services to our customers. As the leading financial services provider in Oman, the bank is always working to further develop and launch new products and offers. We hope that our customers will wholeheartedly participate in this promotion for a chance to win one of these exciting 51 hospitality packages to attend FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, courtesy of Visa. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their strong confidence in the bank and its cutting-edge products and services."

Bank Muscat has also launched an exclusive limited edition Visa Prepaid Card to celebrate FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ courtesy of Visa. Customers can easily apply for this Visa Prepaid card, which has been designed as a collector's item via their Bank Muscat Mobile Banking app or Internet Banking only.

Bank Muscat contactless cards feature best-in-class security for PoS and online transactions. In case of any loss or misplacement of the card, it can be blocked immediately by calling the Bank Muscat Contact Centre on 24795555. For more details on the bank's Visa Prepaid cards, please go to <https://www.bankmuscat.com/en/bm-cards/Pages/cards.aspx>.

**TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES**

### OMAN

#### It's raining part-time job offers for Omanis

**1** As part of the employment drive, the Ministry of Labour has announced the availability of 309,778 working hours for Omanis. These offers are within the initiative "One Million Working Hours". **>A2**

### OMAN

#### Omani staff integral to firm's success

**2** The CEO of Oman Cables Industry told *Times of Oman* that the Omani employees are the company's greatest assets as it pushes forward in its commitment to contribute effectively to the economy. **>A3**

### MARKET

#### Pact for plastics park in Sohar industrial area

**3** OQ, Madayn and Industrial Innovation Academy signed a MoU for a plastics park in Phase 7 of Sohar Industrial Estate with help from Oman Vision 2040 implementation Follow up Unit. **>B1**



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| Maghrib.....         | 6:54pm  |
| Isha.....            | 8:15pm  |
| Fajr (Tomorrow)..... | 3:54am  |

# Fulfilling Oman’s vision for the future – a cornerstone of Royal Academy of Management

The centre is also responsible for building future leaders in the public sector, reinforcing the leadership pipeline for both current and future challenges

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Developing and empowering existing and future leaders of Oman in both the private and public sectors is the guiding principle of the Royal Academy of Management.

That’s according to Dr Ali bin Qassim Al Lawati, the academy’s president, who added that the principles of the institution were based on the ambitious visions of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

## Fundamental pillars

“The academy’s fundamental pillars are: Oman Vision 2040, the development of the state’s institutions, the economic requirements of the future and the adoption of modern learning tools and methods,” he said.

“The academy is a dynamic hub for executive learning and a centre



for developing national leadership, managerial capabilities and future knowledge.

“Our work philosophy is built upon an innovative lean model based on portfolio management through independent teams,” added Al Lawati.

“These teams consist of graduates and professionals from the business community, working together with the academy in a flexible structure.”

## Board of Trustees

According to Royal Decree number 2/2022, the academy is governed by a Board of Trustees headed by the Minister of Diwan of Royal Court. The rest of the Board of Trustees are appointed by the Council of Ministers. The academy has two other boards: The International Advisory Board and the Alumni Board.

The International Advisory Board consists of world-renowned international experts ensuring

that the academy follows the latest practices and highest global standards. This board also helps to enhance the international reputation of the academy.

The Alumni Board is responsible for bringing together the academy’s alumni supporting them to deliver some of the academy’s training programmes.

## Centres of excellence

The Royal Academy of Management operates through four independent centres of excellence ensuring a rapid response to changes in the academy’s work priorities: The Centre for Government, the Centre for Leadership in Business, the Centre for Local Governance and the Centre for Future Studies.

These centres follow the guiding principles of the Royal directives on State institutions, the importance of the private sector, local sustainable development and Oman’s national priorities.

The Centre for Government is



primarily tasked with equipping the senior cadre of public sector officials in Oman who are directly responsible for the realisation of Oman’s 2040 vision.

The centre is also responsible for building future leaders in the public sector, reinforcing the leadership pipeline for both current and future challenges.

The Centre for Leadership in Business is mandated with providing cutting-edge innovations in private sector leadership at all levels, from middle management to CEOs. It will equip them with the skills and knowledge required to create dynamic organisations that compete at an international level.

The Centre for Local Governance will strengthen local administration in the governorates of Oman contributing to sustainable national development through decentralised economic and administrative decision-making. This will be achieved through a series of thought-leadership and capabili-

ty-building programmes.

Finally, the Centre for Future Studies is the Academy’s endeavour to help identify emerging opportunities leading to a better understanding of future trends. The centre prides itself on its expertise and ability to bring together national and world experts to contribute to shaping innovative solutions for current and future challenges.

## Leadership programmes

It is worth noting that the academy has already started delivering its leadership programmes, which his Excellency outlined in the conference.

These are the National Collaborative Leadership Programme in partnership with Said Business School at the University of Oxford and Train the Trainer aimed at creating and preparing a certified cadre of Omani executive education trainers in collaboration with Eller Executive Education at the University of Arizona.

“We would also like to announce the next suite of programmes, initiatives and studies that will be rolled out this year starting in the fourth quarter of 2022,” said Al Lawati. “The programmes are designed for undersecretaries, directors general, CEOs and future leaders in both the public and private sectors.

“The Royal Academy is delivering the programmes in collaboration with its extensive network of top tier providers from world class institutions to harness the talents of Omani leaders,” he added.

The Academy will also launch a flagship programme, a Master’s

in Applied Leadership and Management (Digital Economy) in co-operation with the Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona State University, the world’s premier leadership and management school.

The programme spans twelve months and will be delivered as blended learning offering middle managers in the public sector insight into the latest trends in leadership and management in public and global affairs in the 4IR era, public policy analysis and agile governance. The programme will be launched in the fourth quarter of this year.

The academy will focus on local development through the National Initiative for Local Governance. This will include a wide range of programmes for governors, walis and directors general in local governorates, offering them best practices in local governance with an aim to stimulate economic growth and local sustainable development.

In addition, the academy will develop a national index for measuring and tracking the quality of services provided by the governorates to citizens and businesses.

Finally, the Royal Academy of Management unveiled its official brand identity with an emblem that symbolizes the convergence of a great legacy and a prosperous future. It was inspired by the ancient Sultanate Tughra, traditionally adopted by the Sultans of Oman as a seal for their official documents and correspondence.

The academy launched its official website, [www.ram.gov.om](http://www.ram.gov.om) and their official social media accounts.

## 151ST MEETING

# Ministry of Health takes part in Geneva meeting of WHO

**GENEVA:** The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health took part in the 151st meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO), in Geneva on Monday. The meeting’s agenda covered, approving the schedule of the 151st edition of the WHO meeting and reviewing the report of the Executive Council’s Department of Budget and Management, among others. The event was attended by Dr. Mohammed Saif Al Hosni, the Ministry of Health’s Undersecretary for Health Affairs and Dr. Jumana Ahmed Al Abduwani, the ministry’s Director-General of International Relations and Organizations. -ONA



**MEETING:** Dr. Mohammed Saif Al Hosni, the Ministry of Health’s Undersecretary for Health Affairs and Dr. Jumana Ahmed Al Abduwani, the ministry’s Director-General of International Relations and Organisations attended the event. -ONA

## MEETING

# Foreign Minister receives Patriarch John X of Antioch

**MUSCAT:** Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received here on Monday Patriarch John X of Antioch in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The two sides reviewed the efforts exerted to enhance political and diplomatic dialogue in a bid to achieve regional and international stability, security and peace.

The Patriarch lauded Oman’s good will initiative in spreading peace, tolerance and coexistence.

The meeting was attended by several officials from the Foreign Ministry and the delegation accompanying the guest. -ONA



**MEETING:** Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received here on Monday Patriarch John X of Antioch in the Syrian Arab Republic. -ONA



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37°  
MUSCAT



## MINISTRY OF LABOUR

# It’s raining part-time job offers

**MUSCAT:** As part of the employment drive, the Ministry of Labour has announced the availability of 309,778 working hours for Omanis.

This part-time job offers are within the initiative “One Million Working Hours”.

A total of 644 persons will benefit from this opportunity.

The qualifications for jobs range from doctorate degree to below general education diploma.

The number of personnel required to perform various tasks include one with doctorate degree, 150 bachelor degree holders, 137 post- general education diploma holders, 334 general education diploma holders and 22 below general education diploma holders.

It is worth mentioning that this notice is the second of its type in

2022 and the fifth in the series of issued by the Ministry of Labour for jobs in the government units.

## Youth Centre

Meanwhile, the Youth Centre plans to continue with its orientation sessions under the Youth Virtual Academy programme to upgrade the skills and competence of 1,000 male and female youth from various governorates in the Sultanate.

Besides bridging the gap between skills and the employment market requirements, the programme aims to develop leadership and communication skills, innovation and project management expertise among youth through remote training techniques.

 Full story @ [timesofoman.com/xxxxxx](mailto:timesofoman.com/xxxxxx)

## MINISTER OF INFORMATION

# Hosting of IFJ conference to boost Oman’s image globally

**MUSCAT:** Dr. Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harassi, Minister of Information reaffirmed that the Sultanate is hosting the 31st International Conference of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) on Tuesday shows the country’s ability to organise major global events.

The event would enhance the Sultanate’s prestige at the world level, he added, pointing to the conference’s significance stems from the fact that it relates to media and press.

Over 350 journalists from various media and press institutions and establishments would participate in the conference, he said in an interview with the Radio programme “Sabah Al Shabab”,



adding that the event represents an opportunity for showcasing the Sultanate’s economic, natural, historic and cultural potentials.

The conference reflects the appreciation and recognition of the history of Oman’s media dating

back to over fifty years, during which the media played a key role in awareness and in directing the society towards all that is of interest to the society, he said.

The Minister also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the efforts of Oman Journalist Association (OJA) in the Sultanate’s for hosting the 31 Conference of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), which required coordination with a number of press and media associations, societies and federations, worldwide.

He said that the conference would include meetings with international journalists dealing with the activities to shed light on Oman Vision 2040. -ONA



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INTERVIEW

# Omani employees are integral to company’s operation, success

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

**MUSCAT:** The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Oman Cables Industry (OCI) said Omani employees are the company’s greatest assets as it pushes forward in its commitment to contribute effectively to the Sultanate’s economy and progress.

Cinzia Farise believes Omanis are an integral part of the success of the company’s operations supported by the contributions of its expatriate workers.

**Learning curve**

“In OCI, young Omanis learn about creativity, emotional experience, collaboration, conflict management, time management, communication skills from the experience of expatriates in a wonderful environment where they work together side by side,” Farise told *Times of Oman* in an exclusive interview.

She added that OCI’s expatriate staff always act as a role model to Omanis, training them professionally and with great integrity for a

smooth operation. OCI employs 13 different nationalities to offer a multicultural diversity and a conducive of learning to its young Omani employee workforce.

**Rapid progress**

OCI, which is based in the Rusail Industrial Area, was established in 1984, with the aim of manufacturing and market electrical products, specifically a wide range of cables. It has contributed to the cable technology to different industries towards Oman’s rapid progress to both the manufacturing industries and domestic use.

But OCI is not only content to mix a professional workforce together but works hard to introduce more female employees to give equal employment opportunity for both gender.

“This year we were able to include female employees in our plant portfolio for the first time, showing an increased commitment to equality and opportunities throughout the company. Our efforts in identifying the right talent are not based on gender but in



Cinzia Farise, CEO of Oman Cables Industry

recognizing the potential of people,” Farise pointed out.

It may be noted that the OCI’s CEO is a woman with a deep interest to push forward the values of

the opposite gender in the workforce of a company she leads. She added that the company is “on target to achieve a 50-50 gender balance in recruitment.”

**In numbers**

According to official statistics, women slightly outnumber men in the population of Oman. Women make up 53 per cent of the total population. Moreover, statistics also showed that over 65 percent of colleges and university students in Oman are women.

OCI is also actively involved in seeking talent from young graduates in its programme called ‘Thymar’.

“It prepares young Omani talents by skilling their leadership and technical qualities to be ready for the broader corporate experience. With these measures in place, we believe that educating and empowering the local people and talents will guarantee a prosperous and sustainable future for our company, for Omani community and for the national economy,” Farise concluded.

COMEX 2022

# Tariq Al Barwani chosen ‘Youth ICT Influencer of 2022’

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Tariq Hilal Al Barwani has been honoured with the prestigious “Youth ICT Influencer of the year” award 2022

The honour was bestowed by Dr Ali Al Shidhani, Undersecretary for Communications and Information Technology at Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology at Oman’s spectacular official technology event, COMEX 2022.

“Tariq has been instrumental as a role model for the youth to adapt and prospect future technologies for two decades since he was a young boy,” said Sadiq Khan, Group COO of OITE and Arab Research Bureau.

During the three-day packed technology event, Tariq ran an innovative technology clinic where he encouraged students to pursue the right ICT education for job opportunities, advised young entrepreneurs on their business ideas, plans and operations, and



supported employees on courses to take in order keep up with the advancements and requirements of future technologies.

“Tariq’s contribution for COMEX helps individuals, societies and communities to embrace future technologies with confidence so as empower their personal and professional growth” added Sadiq The jury of the COMEX Awards for Excellence in Technology comprises of a mix of Industry experts and professionals, academia, corporate heads, journalists and respective members from the government.

COLLEGE OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL STUDIES

# CBFS student bags first place in ESCWA research competition

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Aya Al-Balushi, a student of the College of Banking and Financial Studies (CBFS) won the first place in the prestigious Student Research Competition of the Arab Competition Forum organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion.

The title of her research project was ‘Tech giants monopoly of the e-commerce.’

The ESCWA announced the

winners on a ceremony held at Oman Convention and Exhibitions Centre (OCEC) on May 24, 2022 and attended by Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion as well as the Secretary General of the Arab league.

**Second and third place**

Following CBFS were Sultan Qaboos University (in second place) and Buraimi University College (in third place).

Dr. Zahran Al Salti, Dean, CBFS, said: “I congratulate Aya on behalf

of the entire College of Banking and Financial Studies family. This is a proud moment for College of Banking and Financial Studies. This meritorious achievement was made possible by the efforts and hard work of Aya with the support and encouragement of her teachers and classmates. The College is posed to continue to blaze on the trail of excellence in its multifarious offerings across the fields of academic programs, professional certifications and training courses in the coming days with a focus on student centricity and all-round development.”



# Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA



## MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

38,802 REACH



Story on various incentives to attract foreign investment in Oman reached 38,802 people and had 1,765 link clicks on Facebook.



Story on various incentives to attract foreign investment in Oman



## MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

686 VIEWS



MIDDAY



Midday Update video news wrap

The Midday Update video news wrap had 686 views and reached 4,000 people on Facebook.



## MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

995 VIEWS



Foreign investment norms



Morning Minute video on foreign investment in Oman

The Morning Minute video on foreign investment in Oman had 995 views and 43 likes on Instagram



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FOUR-DAY EVENT

# Sayyid Asa’ad to preside over IFJ Congress on Tuesday

**MUSCAT:** The Sultanate of Oman will host on Tuesday the 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The opening ceremony will be held under the patronage of His Highness Sayyid Asa’ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan.

Oman Journalists Association (OJA) will represent the Sultanate of Oman in hosting the four-day event at Oman Convention



and Exhibition Centre. The congress gains importance locally, regionally and internationally as the most prominent journalism and media related event in the Middle East. As many as 350 journalists, representing associations from over

100 countries will be taking part in the event, in addition to 50 journalists and media personalities who represent newspapers, radios, television channels and e-newspapers from all over the world. During the event, OJA, in cooperation with the Secretariat General of the IFJ, will announce the Asian Federation for Journalists. In addition, the Sultanate of Oman’s award for the best press photo in the world will be announced and the families of 5 journalists who deceased on-job will be honoured. — OMA



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MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE

# CTF-152 Commander visits MSC

**MUSCAT:** Colonel Saif Abdulhadi Al Hamlan, Commander of the Combined Task Force (CTF-152) on Monday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC). The guest was received upon his arrival at the centre by the Deputy Head of the MSC. The guest was briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in search and rescue missions, as well as in the safety of the maritime environment. — OMA



## Invitation to Attend the Extraordinary General Meeting of Bank Muscat Oryx Fund

The Board of Directors of Bank Muscat Oryx Fund (the “Fund”) has the pleasure in inviting the unitholders to the Extraordinary General Meeting (“EGM”) to be held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022, at 3 pm, at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman.

Failing quorum, the EGM shall be reconvened on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022, at 3 pm, at Bank Muscat headquarters, airport heights, Seeb, Sultanate of Oman, to discuss and consider the following agenda:

1. To amend article (12) of the fund’s Articles of Association.

In accordance with the Fund’s Articles of Association, every unitholder has the right to appoint any other person in writing as his proxy to attend the meeting and

vote on his behalf, by way of a proxy card. Any such natural person should attach to the proxy card a copy of their ID for adults, their passport for minors or those who do not have a civil card or resident card, and resident card or passport for non-Omanis. For corporates, the proxy form shall be signed by one of the authorized signatories and sealed by the company’s stamp accompanied with copies of the commercial registration certificate and the specimen signature form.

The respected unitholder is requested to attend at the EGM venue half an hour before the meeting.

**For queries please contact**  
**Ms. Raghda Al Lawati**  
**on telephone: (+968) 24768265.**

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PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Colombia’s presidential race heads to a runoff

**BOGOTA:** Colombian leftist Gustavo Petro won the most votes in the country’s presidential election on Sunday but not enough to avoid a runoff. Petro will face a surprise contender, businessman Rodolfo Hernandez, in the second round in June. “What’s not in doubt today is change,” Petro told cheering supporters in central Bogota. “Now it’s about seeing what we

will do with Colombia, what Colombian society wants for its own country.” Hernandez edged out Federico Gutierrez, who was number two in the polls before the vote and had the support of outgoing President Ivan Duque. “Today we know citizens have a firm will to end corruption as a system of government,” Hernandez said on social media.

“The gangs who thought they would govern forever lost today,” he added. Petro, a senator, secured 40.4% of votes, national registry office tallies showed, while Hernandez won 27.9%. Petro needed 50% of the total votes to have avoided the runoff. Petro has vowed profound economic and social change in Colombia. He has plans to redistribute

pensions, make public universities free, and tackle the country’s inequality and poverty. He has also said he will put a stop to new oil and gas projects. A former member of the M-19 guerrilla movement, Petro has also promised to fully implement a 2016 peace deal with the FARC rebels and seek peace talks with the still-active ELN rebels. **DW**



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21 bodies recovered in Nepal plane crash

Out of 22 people on board the Tara Air plane who were suspected dead, 21 bodies have been recovered



**KATHMANDU:** 21 bodies have been retrieved from the incident site so far in the Tara Air plane crash that took place in Mustang district of Nepal on Sunday at an elevation of about 14,500 feet. The civil aviation authority of Nepal said that out of 22 people on board the Tara Air plane who were suspected dead, 21 bodies have been recovered from the

crash site. The condition of a few bodies recovered from the site is so bad that they are completely unrecognizable. Only one body is still missing and the search operation is still on to find it. The Tara Air’s 9 NAET twin-engine aircraft had crashed in Kowang village of the Mustang district hours after it went missing in the mountain-

ous district after taking off from Pokhara city and bound for Jomsom on Sunday morning. The aircraft that went missing around 9.55 am and later crashed at the mouth of the Lamche river under the landslide of Manapathi Himal had 22 people on board, including 4 Indians, and three crew members at the Sanosware of Mustang District. Mustang is one of the mountainous and fifth-largest districts of the Himalayan nation which hosts the pilgrimage of Muktinath Temple. The district, also known as “Land beyond the Himalayas”, is located in the Kali Gandaki valley of the Himalayan region of Western Nepal. Mustang (from the Tibetan Muntan meaning “fertile plain”) the traditional region is largely dry and arid. The world’s deepest gorge that goes down three miles vertically between Dhaulagiri and Annapurna mountains runs through this district. **ANI**

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Researchers discover two new species of lizard

**LIMA:** Officials announced the discovery — and the special names — of two, new lizard species, Peru’s Conservation Authority in a statement posted over the weekend. Tucked away in the high altitudes of the Peruvian Andes, the new species are shedding light on the plight of local wildlife threatened by rapid changes due to global warming. **Why do they have such unique names?** One of the new species was discovered in the wildlife sanctuary of Machu Picchu — where the historic ruins of an ancient Incan city are located. Scientists dubbed the new species Proctoporus optimus, named after the leading alien robot character Optimus Prime from the “Transformers” film franchise. The name is a nod to the “Transformer” movies, which were party filmed in Machu Pic-

chu, the conservation authority said. Another new species was also uncovered in the Cuzco region of Peru, where it was found in the protected Machiguenga Communal Reserve. Researchers gave this new species the name of Proctoporus katerynae, in honor of biologist Kateryn Pino Bolanos who has done extensive research in the Peruvian Andes. The new species were confirmed with the help of genetic sequencing. Researchers at Peru’s Museum of Biodiversity, the University of Texas, and the Museum of Natural History at the National University of Saint Anthony the Abbot in Cuzco. The two lizards have shiny, dark scales — one of which has a red-tinted underbelly. They belong to a type of medium-sized lizard that ranges in length between 2.7 centimeters to 7.8 centimeters (1.1 inches to 3.1 inches) depending on the species. **DW**

GUN CONTROL

Protesters confront gun enthusiasts at NRA exhibition

**CALIFORNIA:** Just days after a school shooting in Texas that shocked the world, outraged protesters confronted gun enthusiasts this weekend outside a massive National Rifle Association exhibition in Houston. Demonstrators held banners calling for more thorough sales background checks, bans on weapons with a faster kill rate, and an end to private gun ownership altogether. But protesters and gun advocates alike believe that the latest demands for reform will likely fade before they translate into US legislation. The NRA is banking on it. While the Democratic Party is calling for tougher control measures, vehement opposition by Republicans has resulted in a stalemate. This political divide played out dramatically at the site of the three-day NRA event that ended on Sunday. “Shame!” gun control advocates chanted outside the venue, to which supporters of the powerful gun lobby organization responded: “Arm the teachers.” The glitzy exhibition showcased 14 acres (about 57,000 square meters) of weapons and gear just a five-hour drive from the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, where a gunman killed 19 fourth-graders and two teachers on May 24. The event began less than 72 hours after the mass shooting. Among the hundreds of guns



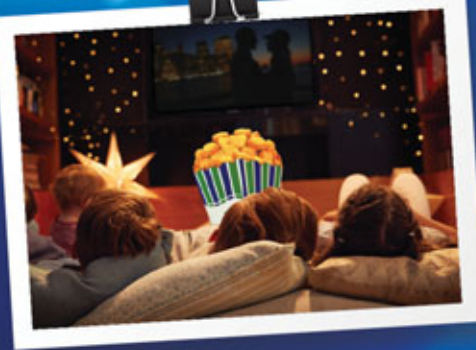
displayed were AR-15-style rifles similar to what 18-year-old Uvalde gunman Salvador Ramos used. Daniel Defense, the manufacturer of the rifle Ramos used, canceled its appearance at the annual convention. **Deeply entrenched gun culture** Gun ownership is protected under the Second Amendment of the US Constitution. The country is home to more civilian-owned guns than people, with a gun culture so normalized that families bring their children to events like the NRA convention. Inside the venue, a child could

be seen at a booth learning to shoot with the help of VR technology as a group of adults cheered him on. Scenes like this demonstrate how US gun culture has evolved from protecting a right to self-defense into an active community of gun enthusiasts. Supporters proudly don the merchandise of gun manufacturers and collect firearms, as they might with any other hobby. There are countless varieties of pistols, rifles, shotguns and revolvers, all with different finishes and colors to choose from. Some are even engraved or hand-painted. Part of what drove this shift toward a more open gun culture has

been an evolution toward a broader understanding of the Second Amendment. “Today, a contingent of Americans view it as a virtually unlimited right,” Patrick J. Charles, a legal scholar and historian who specializes in gun rights and the Constitution, told DW. “Even if it was the time when Americans in the 20th century looked at it as an individual right, it was quite a narrow scope to protect yourself at home, and maybe in public — but you needed a license. The right we talk about today ... it’s so far removed from what was originally intended,” Charles said.

**More ‘extreme’ gun advocacy** In the 1970s, nearly a century after it was founded, the NRA started pursuing a more hard-line approach. According to Charles, this pull to the extreme was not inherently part of the NRA leadership’s agenda, but was necessary to appease its growing membership. Today, the NRA says it has more than 5 million members. “The NRA knows it has to keep going further to the right to keep its members happy,” Charles said. “Even if the NRA disappears tomorrow, this group of advocates ... will still exist and find other ways to assemble and be politically active.” Glenn Keels, a combat veteran and former NRA member, agreed that gun advocates have grown more extreme over the years. While he doesn’t want guns banned altogether, he said that tougher restrictions should be imposed, and that certain types of weapons like the one used by the Uvalde gunman should be outlawed. “We are calling for sane gun laws. We purposefully used the word sane,” Keels told DW. “They say, ‘Oh they could do the same thing with a shotgun.’ Bull\*\*\*\*,” Keels said, before pulling out his phone to show a video of him shooting a similar assault rifle at an outdoor range. “No one can defend against that unless you have prepared gear,”

he added. “You can’t hide behind a desk. It goes straight through! Don’t tell me you need those for self-defense. It goes through walls!” **Gun advocates blame ‘evil’** In 2020, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — the latest available to date — indicated that firearms had become the leading cause of death for children, followed by traffic accidents. NRA members routinely deflect the blame away from guns, claiming that mass killings are an inevitable “evil” that can’t be weeded out by gun legislation. “There are evil people in the world,” said Kenny Dobbs, an international slam dunk champion who was engaging with protesters outside the convention. “Even if you take the guns away, you can have an evil person take a vehicle like an SUV and [ram into] 40, 50 people ... You can’t legislate that away,” he told DW. “I feel bad for people [protesting], but they’re blaming the guns, and it’s not the guns,” gun owner and NRA member Mark Duncan said. Political polarization Guns are a central culture war issue in US politics. The Republican Party staunchly opposes gun control and blocks legislation so it can ensure campaign funds from the NRA — and votes from its supporters. **DW**



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# Six suspects held in Indian singer Sidhu Moose murder case

Sidhu Moose Wala was shot dead on Sunday by unidentified assailants as he drove past Mansa district

**DEHRADUN:** Punjab Police on Monday detained six people from Dehradun's Peliyon Police Chowki area in connection with Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala's murder, said STF sources.

According to the sources, Uttarakhand STF and Punjab STF, in a joint operation with Dehradun Police, have detained six people who helped in the killing of Sidhu Moose Wala by cordoning off the Shimla bypass Naya Gaon outpost.

All six detained persons are being questioned by Punjab Police.

Confirming the same, Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar told ANI that he has been told by the Uttarakhand STF that some of the detained people have been taken by the Punjab Police for questioning.

Six persons were travelling to Punjab from Hemkund Sahib Yatra in a vehicle which was intercepted by Uttarakhand STF and local police following a tip-off.

According to the information, the person who helped the main accused in providing a vehicle and shelter has also been detained.

Sidhu Moose Wala was shot



**SECURITY COVER:** The gruesome incident took place two days after Punjab Police withdrew the security cover of 424 persons including him.

dead on Sunday by unidentified assailants as he drove past the Jawaharke village of Mansa district. The gruesome incident took place two days after Punjab Police withdrew the security cover of 424 persons including him.

Notably, the singer had joined the Congress party last year in December ahead of the Assembly elections. Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar claimed responsibility for Moose Wala's murder in a Facebook post on Sunday evening. Goldy Brar is a close aide of gang leader Lawrence Bishnoi, who is also said to be involved in the

singer's murder.

Meanwhile, Punjab Police in their preliminary investigation linked the murder with an inter-gang rivalry.

Punjab Police has registered an FIR against unknown persons after Sidhu Moose Wala was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Jawaharke village of Mansa district. The FIR has been registered under sections 302, 307, and 341 of the Indian Penal Code and sections 25 and 27 of the Arms Act at City-1 at Mansa Police Station.

Additionally, Delhi Police Special Cell earlier today said that it

will probe the role of those linked with gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar, after Canada-based Brar claimed responsibility for the recent murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala.

Delhi Police said that it had been investigating Brar for allegedly planning several murders and attempts to murder from Canada.

However, Punjab BJP blamed the Bhagwant Mann-led government for the singer's death and demanded an independent National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe. **ANI**

## ECONOMIC CRISIS



# Sri Lanka PM pitches for reform to quell protests

**COLOMBO:** A political reform in Sri Lanka would empower lawmakers and see young protesters and activists included in parliamentary committees, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Sunday.

"The youth are calling for a change in the existing system," Wickremesinghe said, noting that young people would "be able to learn about problems and provide solutions to them on their own."

The comprehensive political reform aims to give lawmakers more power and reduce the influence of government ministers.

"According to the new system we have proposed, the President will be held accountable to the Parliament," he was quoted as saying by Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror.

The reform, according to Wickremesinghe, was inspired by the system that was in place before the island country won its independence from the UK in 1948. It would involve creating 15 parliamentary committees, with four youth representatives being appointed to each committee, three of them chosen by activist and protest groups. Protesters, many of them younger, have been camped out outside the president's offices for more than 50 days demanding that he resign.

Police clashed with one group of students outside the president's official residence on Sunday. Rajapaksa moved to his offices at the end of March when the first crowds assembled outside his home.

His comments come as the country faces an unprecedented crisis and shortages of medicine, fuel, and electricity.

The president has so far refused to resign. However, in an apparent bid to appease the protesters, he has sacked several of his close relatives from top government positions, including two of his brothers who until recently served as the country's prime minister and finance minister.

Wickremesinghe was appointed prime minister earlier this month, and is currently also in charge of heading the Finance Ministry. He has pledged to establish a relief program and a new economic plan which would allow him to seek a bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

Sri Lanka is also negotiating with Russia to arrange shipments of crude oil and other energy sources as the whole country is running out of fuel. Yesterday, a Russian oil shipment docked in Colombo after waiting for over a month for the cash-strapped country to raise the required \$75 million (roughly €70 million) to pay for 90,000 tons of oil. **ANI**

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

# Barack Obama virtually reunites with boy from viral 'Hair like mine' photo

**WASHINGTON:** Former US President Barack Obama reunited virtually with Jacob Philadelphia, the boy from the viral "Hair Like Mine" photo, 13 years after the iconic picture was taken in the Oval Office.

Jacob reconnected with the former president ahead of his high school graduation. In 2009, Carlton Philadelphia, Jacob's father, a U.S. Marine who served on the National Security Council, brought his family to the White House. Jacob was only then five years old and that was the first time President Obama and Jacob met.

Young Jacob asked President Obama, "Is your hair like mine?". President Obama leaned down and encouraged the little boy to touch his hair, to find out for himself. Obama said, "Go ahead, touch it," reported CBS News.

"I think that is pretty much what I got," Jacob declared, according to Obama.

This innocent question by the innocent young man yielded a photo that hung for years in the White House until Obama's tenure in the office. The photo has deeply inspired many with the American dream in their hearts.

Now Barack Obama in a video posted on his official website can be seen in a virtual reunion with now 18-year-old Jacob. "Is that Jacob? It's Barack Obama. Do you remember me?" the former president asks Jacob.

From the small monitor on his desk, a smiling young man replies, "Yes, and you said your hair would be gray next time."

"And I was not lying," responds Obama. White House photographer Pete Souza captured the moment in a photo that spent the rest of Obama's presidency hanging on a wall in the West Wing, as per the media portal.

"I think this picture embodied one of the hopes I had when running for office," Obama said in the video posted to his website on Friday.



Young Jacob asked President Obama, "Is your hair like mine?". President Obama leaned down and encouraged the little boy to touch his hair, to find out for himself. Obama said, "Go ahead, touch it"

face," he says in the video released by the former president's office. "I just thought the president was my dad's boss. I didn't know how powerful he was... I kinda remember him towering over me, and me touching his hair."

"If I get to see another Black man be at the top, at that pinnacle, then I want to follow that lead," he said.

It was the former president who initiated the video call to pass along his congratulations to Jacob. Obama said that he had heard Jacob was about to graduate.

Jacob said his plan was to study at the University of Memphis, with the goal of a degree in political science. Obama smiled and said, "I hope the White House has clearly inspired you."

This short virtual chat ended by coming full circle back to the hair, with Obama ending with a question of his own, "Is that some facial hair you are growing there, some kind of a moustache?" before closing with, "It sounds like you are doing great."

The former President wrote on his website, "I couldn't be more proud of him." **ANI**

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# Rafael Nadal sets blockbuster clash with Djokovic in quarters

Auger-Aliassime pushed Nadal to the limit but in the final set, Nadal turned on the style to finish off a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory

**PARIS:** Rafael Nadal set up a mouthwatering clash with Novak Djokovic in the ongoing French Open 2022 after a barnstorming fourth-round battle with Felix Auger-Aliassime on Sunday. No.9 seed Auger-Aliassime pushed Nadal to the limit but in the final set, Nadal turned on the style to finish off a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory. In a dramatic clash, Nadal lost the first set in a match at Roland Garros



**FRENCH OPEN:** The 13-time champion kept his composure and demonstrated his trademark winning mentality to advance

for just the 11th time. However, the 13-time champion kept his composure and demonstrated his trademark winning mentality to advance after four hours and 23 minutes on a court he has had so much success on. Prior to Sunday, Nadal had been taken to five sets in just two of his 111 matches at the event. He defeated John Isner 6-4, 6-7(2), 6-7(2), 6-2, 6-4 in 2011 and overcame Djokovic 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-7(3), 9-7 in 2013. With his victory, the 35-year-old has now reached the quarter-finals in 16 of his 18 appearances in Paris. The fifth seed will next face Djokovic after the top seed defeated Diego Schwartzman 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. The Serbian defeated the Spaniard in the semi-finals last year before he downed Stefanos Tsitsipas to lift the trophy in Paris for the second time. Djokovic leads Nadal 30-28 in their head-to-head series. Nadal has won seven of their nine matches at Roland Garros.

**Carlos Alcaraz downs Karen Khachanov**  
 The No. 6 seed Carlos Alcaraz

stormed into the second Grand Slam quarter-final of his young career with a commanding performance over Karen Khachanov on Sunday evening at the ongoing French Open 2022. After quickly snatching up the first two sets, Alcaraz stayed calm as he was dragged into a battle by the No.21 seed in the third. The Spaniard reached his first Roland Garros quarter-final with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 win against 21st seed Karen Khachanov. The sixth seed will next play third seed Alexander Zverev for a place in his first major semi-final. Alcaraz, who has still only lost one match on clay this season, is now the youngest men's player to reach two Grand Slam quarter-finals since 1993, when 19-year-old Andrei Medvedev reached this stage at Roland-Garros and the US Open. Zverev leads the pair's head-to-head series 2-1, but Alcaraz has significantly improved since his two losses against the German last year. At the Caja Magica, he lost just four games against Zverev to lift the trophy. **ANI**

PREMIER LEAGUE

Mohamed Salah completes hat-trick of end of season PL awards

**LONDON:** The sensational solo run and goal by Mohamed Salah against Manchester City has been voted as the Premier League 2021/2022 Goal of the Season. The Liverpool star won the award after showing sublime skill and strength to weave past three players, before twisting and turning past a fourth and drilling a shot beyond Ederson from a tight angle with his right foot. Salah's goal came in the 2-2 draw at Anfield in October and received the most combined votes by the public and a panel of football experts, topping a shortlist that featured each of the season's Budweiser Goal of the Month winners plus one standout strike from May. **ANI**

FORMULA ONE

## Red Bull's Perez, Verstappen retain Monaco GP results

**MONTE CARLO:** Red Bull's Monaco Grand Prix winner Sergio Perez and P3 finisher Max Verstappen have been cleared of crossing the pit exit in separate incidents on Sunday. Both drivers were summoned to the Stewards on Sunday after two protests by Ferrari, who wanted to clarify whether they had stayed to the right of the yellow line while exiting the pits during the race around Monte Carlo. The Stewards' verdict, in two separate documents but combined here, read that, after hearing arguments from both Ferrari and Red Bull: "All parties agreed that Car 1 [Verstappen] did have part of its front left and rear left tyre on the left side of the yellow line. All parties agreed that most of the left front and left rear tyres of that car remained on the yellow line." "At the hearing Ferrari conceded that Car 11 [Perez] did not have any part of its front or rear tyres on the left of the yellow line



and conceded that the Protest was unfounded," the statement added. Perez won a Monaco Grand Prix held in difficult wet-dry conditions beating Carlos Sainz, as Max Verstappen finished in third-place finish to extends his title lead over Charles Leclerc who took the flag in fourth place after Ferrari lost a strategic battle with Red Bull.

**Silvio Berlusconi's Monza earn promotion to Serie A**  
 Thanks to the 4-3 away success in

the return leg of the Playoff Final, Monza achieved their first promotion to Serie A on Sunday. After a 2-1 victory in the first leg, the Biancorossi managed to win the match in Pisa in extra time thanks to goals from Machin, Marrone and Gytkaer's brace. "Congratulations to Patron Silvio Berlusconi, President Paolo Berlusconi, CEO Adriano Galliani, the club, the technical staff and the entire Monza team for this historic promotion to Serie A," the top Italian league stated. After more than a century in the lower leagues, the Biancorossi will play in the top tier of Italian football after edging a seven-goal thriller. Goals for Luca Marrone and Christian Gytkjaer ensured the Stadio Brianteo outfit - owned by former Prime Minister of Italy and ex-Milan supremo Silvio Berlusconi - made history on Sunday, with a 6-4 win on aggregate. **ANI**

WEST INDIES VS NETHERLANDS

## West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran says he is 'instinctive' on the field

**ST. JOHN'S:** West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran said he is very instinctive in his decisions on the field ahead of the three-match ODI series against the Netherlands in Amsterdam starting on Tuesday at VRA Cricket stadium. Left-hander had previously captained West Indies in two ODIs and eight T20Is and Guyana Amazon Warriors in the CPL. "I'm very instinctive. On the field, I like to make decisions on how I feel. My teammates know I'm very instinctive when I'm batting as well. As a captain, I want to approach it in the same way," Pooran said at a virtual press conference on Friday. "I'll try my best to lead from the front. I want to talk the talk and walk the walk," he added. "I live in the present, try to be the best version of myself, try to be the best leader I can be. It's as simple as that," he said. West Indies had picked new young players for this series and the upcoming tour of Pakistan, with Jason Holder rested. Pooran said that this series against the Netherlands will be a wonderful opportunity for young players and we should focus on winning. "I wouldn't say there's a right time. We want to win games, it doesn't matter who the opposition is. We're not looking at it like that. The time is now and that's all we need to focus on," he added. "Everyone deserves an opportunity at some point in their career and it's really good that the younger players are getting an opportunity now. It's a good opportunity for them to showcase their



**ODI SERIES:** The left-hander had previously captained West Indies in two ODIs and eight T20Is and Guyana Amazon Warriors in the CPL

talent and try to grab a spot in the team," he said. "It has been good. I think a lot of guys are happy in terms of it being free here and Amsterdam is a beautiful place. We're looking forward to the opportunity to play some cricket and feed off each other," said Pooran. Talking about the T20 World Cup coming up in October, Pooran said Sunil Narine's availability for the T20 World Cup later this year was a matter for him to discuss directly with the selectors. "What Sunil wants, I'm in no control of that. But that's a conversation between him and the selectors - what his aspirations are when it comes to West Indies cricket," he said. "The end goal is to win cricket games and to win tournaments. But obviously, there is a process behind that. It's a new time for us. I believe that we have a lot of talented players with us here but we need to really work hard and come up with the goods." West Indies squad for ODI series against Netherlands and Pakistan: Nicholas Pooran (C), Shai Hope (VC), Nkrumah Bonner, Shamarr Brooks, Keacy Carty, Akeal Hosein,

Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Shermon Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Anderson Phillip, Rovman Powell, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, and Hayden Walsh Jr. West Indies tour of Netherlands: May 31: 1st ODI at VRA Cricket Ground, Amstelveen, June 2: 2nd ODI at VRA Cricket Ground, Amstelveen, and June 4: 3rd ODI at VRA Cricket Ground, Amstelveen. West Indies tour of Pakistan -- June 8: 1st ODI at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi, June 10: 2nd ODI at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi, and June 12: 3rd ODI at Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi. **ANI**

COMMENTARY

### Hardik Pandya led from the front for Gujarat Titans

Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

Hardik Pandya showed why he was rated as the best captain and leader from the front when he bowled four overs of fire to knock the stuffing out of Rajasthan Royals and restrict them to a below par score of 130 in their 20 overs. Hardik Pandya came on to bowl when Jos Buttler and Sanju Samson were putting on a decent partnership. He first got Sanju Samson with a ball which was quick and Sanju Samson was late on the pull to be caught by Sai. He then got the big wicket of Jos Buttler with a beautiful outswinger which got the prolific run scorer edging to Saha. He was not yet done when he deceived the dangerous Shimron Hetmyer and had him caught and bowled. From 50 for one in seven overs, Rajasthan Royals just could not get their innings going. That was due to the smart captaincy of Hardik Pandya who brought on the right bowlers and they did not disappoint him be it the ever reliable Rashid Khan, young left arm spinner Sai Kishore and Mohammed Shami who never allowed any batsman of Rajasthan Royals to free their arms. When chasing the small target, Titans were in a spot of bother losing Saha and Wade. Pandya walked in and played bravely. He kept his calm



and guided Gill who was a bit edgy and scored a vital 34 and put on a vital partnership that took the score to 86 before he got out but the damage was done and it was too late for the Royals to lead a fight back. This was without a doubt the best example of captain leading from the front and marshalling his troops to get the maximum out of them. That they dominated the league phase and were at the top of the table as every player put their hand up be it Saha, Shubman Gill, David Miller, Rahul Tewatia and bailed their team out and won game from losing position. Hardik had said he was worried his luck might run out one day but when you have a captain who leads from the front and calls the right shots, even luck can't go against that team and Hardik Pandya proved in this IPL to lead his team to their first title in their first ever outing. Take a bow Hardik.

## OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by July 2022 reaching \$110.84, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$1.43 from the price of Friday, which was \$112.27. - **ONA**

# MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



## MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,138.28 points, up by 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.02 per cent at 464.52 points. Al Anwar Investment, up 7.23 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman REIT Fund, down 5.41 per cent, was the top loser.

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# Pact signed to develop plastics park at Sohar Industrial Estate

The project will play a key role in creating job opportunities in an increasingly competitive and innovation-based economy, broaden the scope of the private sector's contribution to diversified economic growth and encourage the shift to higher value-added sustainable products



**COLLABORATION:** The MoU was signed by Hilal Ali Al Kharusi, Chief Executive Commercial & Downstream at OQ on behalf of OQ, Hilal Hamed Al Hasni, Chief Executive Officer of Madayn and Dr Ayman Abdullah Al Fudhaili, Acting CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy. - **ONA**

**MUSCAT:** OQ, Madayn (Public Establishment for Industrial Estates) and Industrial Innovation Academy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a plastics park in Phase 7 of Sohar Industrial Estate with support from Oman Vision 2040 implementation Follow up Unit.

The MoU comes in line with one of Oman Vision 2040's objectives: achieving a competitive, diversified and integrated economy as the project is envisaged to open major

investment opportunities, especially in plastics conversion, with OQ as the major provider of raw materials.

The MoU was signed by Hilal Ali Al Kharusi, Chief Executive Commercial & Downstream at OQ on behalf of OQ, Hilal Hamed Al Hasni, Chief Executive Officer of Madayn and Dr Ayman Abdullah Al Fudhaili, Acting CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy.

The project will play a key role in creating job opportunities in an increasingly competitive and in-

novation-based economy, broaden the scope of the private sector's contribution to diversified economic growth and encourage the shift to higher value-added sustainable products.

OQ will remain the major provider of high-quality raw material for plastic-based products required for basic uses as sustainable packaging to speciality uses in healthcare, fibres and textile, agriculture, construction to furniture and more.

The plastics park, equipped with

the requisite facilities and offering streamlined processes for ease of doing business, will attract more domestic and international investors in the plastic value chain like raw material suppliers, additive manufacturers, plastic converters, recyclers and testing facilities.

The plastics industrial park is located 16km from Sohar Airport, 18km from Sohar Port and 20km from the OQ raw material plant. Under this MoU, Madayn has allocated 1 million m2 of land in the Sohar Industrial estate for

the park to manufacture semi-finished and finished high value-added plastic products. Easily available raw material from OQ at competitive prices will result in minimising raw material stocks, shortening delivery time and saving transportation costs.

Madayn has offered the land at incentivised rates and the Plug and Play concept that offers common facilities like a workshop, administrative building, an excellence centre, lab, and recycling at attractive rates besides power, gas and telecommunications lines.

The park will also open investment in new, breakthrough, innovative, high quality and sustainable products for polymer conversion to gain competitive advantages.

As investments grow, the plastics park will help develop an industry-specific local equipped with technical skills through training and integration of well-educated unemployed young Omanis and also by introducing a polymer curriculum in Oman's universities.

Commenting on the MoU, Hilal Al Kharusi, Chief Executive Commercial and Downstream at OQ said, "This MOU will fill the gap in plastic converters in this industry and fuel Oman's underdeveloped polymer downstream industry. This MoU is part of OQ plans to create opportunities from the conversion of its raw material and diversify economic growth.

"We see major potential in the plastics industry as demand will continue to remain high from various important sectors like healthcare, food packaging, construction and agriculture."

On his part, Hilal Al Hasni CEO of Madayn said, "Our mission is to help industries find their true potential by meeting their basic requirements and supporting them in their growth. The plastics industry is one area that holds great growth potential. We are happy to sign this MOU with OQ which has foreseen the returns investments in this area will bring for the people of Oman."

Dr Ayman Al Fudhaili, Acting CEO of the Industrial Innovation Academy affirmed that this agreement comes within the framework of a development programme, which is one of the programs developed by the Academy to create Hi-Tech industrial complexes in various industrial cities managed by Madayn to localise industries and attracting foreign investment to specialised cities.

"The Academy will establish according to this agreement a company for this project to develop and market the master plan of the plastic complex, in addition to creating an integrated ecosystem of incentives through the Research, Development and Testing Centre. The company will also serve as an investment interface to bring investments and study, prepare and localise business opportunities," Dr Ayman concluded.

The signing ceremony was attended by Dr Khamis Saif Al Jabri, Chairman of Oman Vision Implementation and Follow Up Unit and Dr Saleh Said Al Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry and Chairman of Madayn Board of Directors. - **ONA**

### INVESTMENT PROJECT

## Sohar Freezone signs agreement for construction of Cloud Data Centre

Times News Service

**MUSCAT:** Sohar Port and Freezone has signed an agreement with China's United Projects Achievement (FZC) for the lease of 25,000 sqm of land at the freezone on which a new Cloud Data Centre is to be constructed.

The data centre will include a multi-functional server room combined with artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing. Anticipated to be in operation towards the end of 2022, Cloud Data Centre will be the first investment project of information technology at Sohar Freezone.

"This agreement represents a major milestone for us in line with our plans to make Sohar Freezone a frontrunner in innovation and a smart, technologically advanced ecosystem. It is the second Chinese land-lease investment project at the Freezone, as we continue to promote its enormous potential as a hub for Chinese investment. A diverse number of industries, projects and countries have chosen to bring their business to Sohar Freezone, and we are confident that China's United Projects Achievement facility will help attract future investments, particularly in IT, diversifying our income sources with wide-ranging economic benefits for Oman," said Omar Al Mahrizi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar Freezone.

**Global trade route**  
Yu Xiao, CEO of China's United Projects Achievement added, "As



**MULTI-FUNCTIONAL:** The data centre will include a multi-functional server room combined with artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing.. - **Supplied picture**

the world's fastest-growing Port and Freezone complex and offering a strategic location at the heart of global trade routes, there are significant advantages for us to invest. The new data centre will enable us to replicate our achievements in our home market, serve the increasing demand for affordable and secure cloud computing, and add further impetus to the

country's economic diversification plans. This partnership is reaffirming our success as we remain in China's top 10 when it comes to cloud computing platforms."

Presenting a wealth of benefits to investors, Sohar Freezone offers an abundance of land available for new construction as well as allowing investors to lease warehouses and commercial offices. With

competitive rates starting from one to three years, companies can register for a Sohar Freezone GTL electronically from anywhere in the world and secure all required permits through the on-site one-stop-shop. Investors also enjoy zero per cent personal income tax, zero per cent import and re-export duties and a corporate tax holiday of up to 25 years.

### REPORT

## Small businesses see 134% increase in cyber attacks

**MUSCAT:** When a small business owner is faced with the responsibilities of production economics, financial reports and marketing all at the same time, cybersecurity can often appear complicated and, at times, unnecessary. However, this disregard for IT security is being exploited by cybercriminals.

Kaspersky researchers assessed the dynamics of attacks on small and medium-sized businesses between January and April 2022 and the same period in 2021 to identify which threats pose an increasing danger to entrepreneurs.

In 2022, a popular attack tool used on small businesses is Internet attacks, specifically, web pages with redirects to exploits, sites containing exploits and other malicious programs, botnet C&C centres, etc. The number of these attacks also increased in the first trimester of 2022 by 134%. In comparison to 33,124 infections in 2021, Kaspersky researchers detected almost 77,562 in the first four months of 2022.

Also notable is that the number of Trojan-PSW (Password Stealing Ware) detections increased by almost a quarter (27%) compared to the same period in 2021, 165 compared to 4,022. Trojan-PSW is a malware that steals passwords, along with other account information, which then allows attackers to gain access to the corporate network

and steal sensitive information.

With the shift towards remote working, many companies have introduced the Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP), a technology that enables computers on the same corporate network to be linked together and accessed remotely, even when the employees are at home. However, the number of attacks on RDP has slightly decreased and this might be the result of companies steadily welcoming employees back to the office. For example, in the first trimester of 2021, there were about 1,184,000 attacks in Oman, whereas for the same period in 2022 the number had decreased to 191,000.

Having a special security solution enables attack visualisation and provides IT, administrators, with a convenient tool for incident analysis. The faster they can analyse where and how a leak occurred, the better they will be able to solve any negative consequences. The new edition of Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud, dubbed Kaspersky Endpoint Security Cloud Pro, contains advanced new capabilities, including automated response options and an extended set of security controls in a single solution. The Pro version also includes built-in training for IT workers seeking to boost their cybersecurity skills and make the most out of their specialised security products.



# MARKET



## SHOP NOW

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# MSX index ends higher

Al Anwar Investment, up 7.23 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman REIT Fund, down 5.41 per cent, was the top loser



**MUSCAT:** The MSX index closed at 4,138.28 points, up by 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.02 per cent at 464.52 points. Al Anwar Investment, up 7.23 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman REIT Fund, down 5.41 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Al Anwar Investment were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 725 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR246 million, with more than 14.68 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 18 advanced, 7 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers of OMR97,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR92,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,593.75 points, up 0.56 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, United

Finance, Global Financial Investments and Bank Muscat were up by 7.23 per cent, 4.55 per cent, 4.49 per cent, 2.82 per cent and 1.89 per cent respectively. Financial Corporation was the only loser down by 1.25 per cent.

Industrial Index closed at 6,054.68 points, up 0.26 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, Voltamp Energy, Construction Materials, Raysut Cement and Galfar Engineering were up by 6.52 per cent, 4.04 per cent, 3.49 per cent, 2.44 per cent and 0.92 per cent respectively. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Cement and Al Maha Ceramics were down by 0.63 per cent, 0.48 per cent, 0.4 per cent and 0.39 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.18 per cent before closing at 1,580.84 points. Prices of National Gas, Oman National Engineering, OIFC, Ooredoo and Oman Oil Marketing were up by 1.41 per cent, 0.94 per cent, 0.7 per cent, 0.63 per cent, and 0.5 per cent respectively. There were no losers for the day. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT  
STOCK  
EXCHANGE

INDICES

| Index             | High     | Low      | Value    | Prev. Value | Diff  | Diff % |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|-------|--------|
| MSX 30 INDEX      | 4,142.71 | 4,120.54 | 4,138.28 | 4,120.54    | 17.74 | 0.43   |
| FINANCIAL INDEX   | 6,599.95 | 6,565.35 | 6,593.75 | 6,556.93    | 36.82 | 0.56   |
| Industry Index    | 6,059.66 | 6,041.59 | 6,054.67 | 6,038.69    | 15.99 | 0.26   |
| Services Index    | 1,580.84 | 1,577.84 | 1,580.84 | 1,578.01    | 2.83  | 0.18   |
| MSX Shariah Index | 465.39   | 464.52   | 464.52   | 464.63      | -0.10 | -0.02  |
| MSX TR INDEX      | 5,218.50 | 5,190.58 | 5,212.92 | 5,190.58    | 22.34 | 0.43   |
| FINANCIAL TR IDX  | 6,900.28 | 6,864.10 | 6,893.79 | 6,855.29    | 38.50 | 0.56   |
| SERVICES TR IDX   | 1,629.00 | 1,625.91 | 1,629.00 | 1,626.09    | 2.92  | 0.18   |
| INDUSTRIAL TR IDX | 6,288.91 | 6,270.15 | 6,283.73 | 6,267.14    | 16.59 | 0.26   |

Trading Summary

| Volume     | Turnover  | Trades | Market Cap     | Up | Down | Equal | Sec. Traded |
|------------|-----------|--------|----------------|----|------|-------|-------------|
| 14,689,340 | 2,463,827 | 725    | 22,432,187,853 | 18 | 7    | 23    | 48          |

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, MAY 30

| SEC.            | SECURITY NAME      | VOLUME    | TURNOVER  | TRADES | OPEN PRICE | HIGH  | LOW   | CLOSE PR. | PREV. CLOSE | DIFF (RD) | DIFF % | LAST PR. | LAST BID | LAST OFFER | P/B VALUE | MARKET CAP    |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| REGULAR MARKET  |                    |           |           |        |            |       |       |           |             |           |        |          |          |            |           |               |
| OM0000002440    | AL SHARQIA INV.    | 356,930   | 33,002    | 22     | 0.092      | 0.093 | 0.091 | 0.092     | 0.088       | 0.004     | 4.545  | 0.091    | 0.091    | 0.091      | 0.100     | 8,280,000     |
| OM0000003125    | GLOBAL INV H.      | 407,258   | 29,658    | 33     | 0.073      | 0.073 | 0.072 | 0.073     | 0.071       | 0.002     | 2.817  | 0.072    | 0.072    | 0.073      | 0.100     | 14,600,000    |
| OM0000002796    | BANK MUSCAT        | 2,230,210 | 1,256,950 | 59     | 0.532      | 0.540 | 0.532 | 0.540     | 0.530       | 0.010     | 1.887  | 0.536    | 0.536    | 0.538      | 0.100     | 2,026,727,207 |
| OM0000001152    | OMAN NAT. ENG.     | 112,965   | 12,107    | 15     | 0.107      | 0.108 | 0.107 | 0.107     | 0.106       | 0.001     | 0.843  | 0.107    | 0.107    | 0.108      | 0.100     | 14,980,000    |
| OM0000003398    | SOHAR INT. BANK    | 92,000    | 10,166    | 2      | 0.111      | 0.111 | 0.110 | 0.110     | 0.109       | 0.001     | 0.917  | 0.110    | 0.108    | 0.112      | 0.100     | 328,906,852   |
| OM0000001525    | OMAN INVEST & FIN. | 969,349   | 139,073   | 33     | 0.142      | 0.147 | 0.142 | 0.143     | 0.142       | 0.001     | 0.704  | 0.144    | 0.144    | 0.146      | 0.100     | 33,891,000    |
| OM0000003968    | OOREDOO            | 160,855   | 51,574    | 13     | 0.318      | 0.324 | 0.318 | 0.320     | 0.318       | 0.002     | 0.629  | 0.324    | 0.322    | 0.324      | 0.100     | 208,302,154   |
| OM0000001087    | OMAN UNITED INSUR. | 500       | 170       | 1      | 0.340      | 0.340 | 0.340 | 0.338     | 0.338       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.340    | 0.336    | 0.340      | 0.100     | 33,800,000    |
| OM0000001483    | NATIONAL BANK OMAN | 12,000    | 2,400     | 1      | 0.200      | 0.200 | 0.200 | 0.200     | 0.200       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.200    | 0.196    | 0.202      | 0.100     | 325,189,271   |
| OM0000001333    | OMINVEST           | 28,710    | 9,210     | 10     | 0.310      | 0.310 | 0.310 | 0.310     | 0.310       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.310    | 0.310    | 0.310      | 0.100     | 207,193,282   |
| OM0000002176    | HAZERA STEEL PROD. | 25,000    | 9,250     | 6      | 0.370      | 0.370 | 0.370 | 0.370     | 0.370       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.370    | 0.368    | 0.370      | 0.100     | 46,212,245    |
| OM0000002236    | ALJAZEERA SERVICES | 40,000    | 10,786    | 6      | 0.270      | 0.270 | 0.268 | 0.270     | 0.270       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.268    | 0.268    | 0.272      | 0.100     | 16,525,154    |
| OM0000003026    | OMAN TELECOM       | 1,400     | 1,210     | 2      | 0.864      | 0.864 | 0.864 | 0.868     | 0.868       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.864    | 0.864    | 0.000      | 0.100     | 651,000,000   |
| OM0000003224    | RENAISSANCE SER.   | 1,000     | 420       | 1      | 0.420      | 0.420 | 0.420 | 0.420     | 0.420       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.420    | 0.420    | 0.440      | 0.100     | 99,292,220    |
| OM0000005005    | ALMAHA CERAMICS    | 91,754    | 46,795    | 7      | 0.510      | 0.510 | 0.510 | 0.510     | 0.512       | -0.002    | -0.391 | 0.510    | 0.508    | 0.512      | 0.100     | 28,050,000    |
| OM0000001749    | OMAN CEMENT        | 43,623    | 10,916    | 9      | 0.250      | 0.251 | 0.250 | 0.250     | 0.251       | -0.001    | -0.388 | 0.250    | 0.250    | 0.255      | 0.100     | 82,718,178    |
| OM0000002168    | AL ANWAR CERAMIC   | 8,805     | 3,663     | 3      | 0.416      | 0.416 | 0.416 | 0.416     | 0.418       | -0.002    | -0.478 | 0.416    | 0.416    | 0.424      | 0.100     | 91,520,000    |
| Total           | 17                 | 4,683,329 | 1,627,349 | 223    |            |       |       |           |             |           |        |          |          |            |           |               |
| Parallel Market |                    |           |           |        |            |       |       |           |             |           |        |          |          |            |           |               |
| OM0000001772    | ALANWAR INVESTMENT | 2,814,244 | 250,115   | 139    | 0.089      | 0.090 | 0.087 | 0.089     | 0.083       | 0.006     | 7.229  | 0.087    | 0.087    | 0.090      | 0.100     | 17,800,000    |
| OM0000001319    | ALUMINIUM PROD.    | 493,202   | 48,181    | 48     | 0.096      | 0.100 | 0.096 | 0.098     | 0.092       | 0.006     | 6.522  | 0.096    | 0.096    | 0.096      | 0.100     | 3,290,002     |
| OM0000002374    | UNITED FINANCE     | 311,300   | 20,039    | 21     | 0.090      | 0.095 | 0.090 | 0.093     | 0.089       | 0.004     | 4.494  | 0.095    | 0.090    | 0.095      | 0.100     | 32,470,430    |
| OM0000003601    | VOLTAMP ENERGY     | 85,996    | 8,821     | 14     | 0.100      | 0.103 | 0.100 | 0.103     | 0.099       | 0.004     | 4.040  | 0.103    | 0.103    | 0.108      | 0.100     | 8,384,483     |
| OM0000001368    | CONSTRUCTION M.    | 1,056,541 | 94,440    | 62     | 0.088      | 0.091 | 0.088 | 0.089     | 0.086       | 0.003     | 3.488  | 0.090    | 0.090    | 0.090      | 0.100     | 5,562,500     |
| OM0000001418    | RAYSUT CEMENT      | 10,000    | 1,680     | 1      | 0.168      | 0.168 | 0.168 | 0.168     | 0.164       | 0.004     | 2.438  | 0.168    | 0.160    | 0.170      | 0.100     | 33,600,000    |
| OM0000001160    | NATIONAL GAS       | 49,292    | 7,097     | 6      | 0.144      | 0.144 | 0.140 | 0.144     | 0.142       | 0.002     | 1.408  | 0.140    | 0.141    | 0.143      | 0.100     | 12,240,000    |
| OM0000001590    | MUSCAT FINANCE     | 1,456,463 | 107,373   | 41     | 0.075      | 0.075 | 0.073 | 0.074     | 0.073       | 0.001     | 1.370  | 0.073    | 0.073    | 0.074      | 0.100     | 22,728,828    |
| OM0000003521    | GALFAR ENGINEER    | 250,446   | 27,456    | 11     | 0.110      | 0.110 | 0.109 | 0.110     | 0.109       | 0.001     | 0.917  | 0.109    | 0.108    | 0.113      | 0.100     | 22,328,509    |
| OM0000001517    | HSBC BANK OMAN     | 44,978    | 5,017     | 5      | 0.111      | 0.112 | 0.111 | 0.112     | 0.111       | 0.001     | 0.901  | 0.112    | 0.110    | 0.114      | 0.100     | 224,035,032   |
| OM0000002372    | OMAN OIL MARKETING | 10,000    | 8,080     | 2      | 0.808      | 0.808 | 0.808 | 0.808     | 0.804       | 0.004     | 0.498  | 0.808    | 0.724    | 0.000      | 0.100     | 49,510,200    |
| OM0000001509    | DHOAFAR INT.       | 24,094    | 3,253     | 3      | 0.135      | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135     | 0.135       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.135    | 0.135    | 0.135      | 0.100     | 55,248,253    |
| OM0000001566    | OMAN FISHERIES     | 982,044   | 121,276   | 66     | 0.125      | 0.125 | 0.122 | 0.123     | 0.123       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.122    | 0.122    | 0.123      | 0.100     | 22,395,643    |
| OM0000001608    | OMAN PACKAGING     | 160       | 40        | 1      | 0.250      | 0.250 | 0.250 | 0.280     | 0.280       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.250    | 0.250    | 0.270      | 0.100     | 8,433,324     |
| OM0000001681    | OMAN EMIRATES HO.  | 235,000   | 20,210    | 10     | 0.086      | 0.086 | 0.086 | 0.086     | 0.086       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.086    | 0.084    | 0.086      | 0.100     | 10,481,250    |
| OM0000002267    | GULF MUSHROOM P.   | 1,262     | 300       | 1      | 0.238      | 0.238 | 0.238 | 0.239     | 0.239       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.238    | 0.238    | 0.240      | 0.100     | 9,943,660     |
| OM0000002275    | SHELL OMAN MRK.    | 490       | 398       | 1      | 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    |
| OM0000004420    | BANK NIZWA         | 699,010   | 66,404    | 23     | 0.095      | 0.095 | 0.094 | 0.095     | 0.095       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.095    | 0.095    | 0.095      | 0.100     | 212,510,338   |
| OM0000004735    | SEBICORP SALALAH   | 3,440     | 244       | 1      | 0.071      | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.071     | 0.071       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.071    | 0.070    | 0.072      | 0.100     | 6,774,608     |
| OM0000004788    | MADINA TAKAFUL     | 47,952    | 4,507     | 9      | 0.094      | 0.094 | 0.094 | 0.094     | 0.094       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.094    | 0.093    | 0.094      | 0.100     | 16,450,000    |
| OM0000004925    | ALBATINAH POWER    | 62,500    | 3,113     | 9      | 0.049      | 0.051 | 0.049 | 0.050     | 0.050       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.050    | 0.049    | 0.050      | 0.100     | 33,744,372    |
| OM0000005983    | PHOENIX POWER      | 220,000   | 11,008    | 4      | 0.050      | 0.051 | 0.050 | 0.050     | 0.050       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.050    | 0.050    | 0.051      | 0.100     | 73,130,073    |
| OM0000007043    | NATIONAL LIFE INS. | 1,500     | 492       | 2      | 0.328      | 0.328 | 0.328 | 0.330     | 0.328       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.328    | 0.318    | 0.328      | 0.100     | 87,450,000    |
| OM0000007084    | MCT DESALINATE.    | 4,000     | 448       | 1      | 0.112      | 0.112 | 0.112 | 0.113     | 0.113       | 0.000     | 0.000  | 0.112    | 0.110    | 0.120      | 0.100     | 17,577,195    |
| OM0000002804    | ASAFA FOODS        | 85,000    | 13,370    | 3      | 0.158      | 0.158 | 0.152 | 0.157     | 0.158       | -0.001    | -0.633 | 0.152    | 0.152    | 0.173      | 0.100     | 18,840,000    |
| OM0000002911    | FINANCIAL CORP.    | 10,476    | 831       | 5      | 0.072      | 0.080 | 0.072 | 0.079     | 0.080       | -0.001    | -1.250 | 0.080    | 0.080    | 0.088      | 0.100     | 5,532,367     |
| OM0000008447    | OMAN REIT FUND     | 15,900    | 1,113     | 5      | 0.070      | 0.073 | 0.070 | 0.070     | 0.074       | -0.004    | -5.405 | 0.073    | 0.070    | 0.081      | 0.100     | 32,393,047    |
| Total           | 27                 | 8,978,390 | 834,306   | 494    |            |       |       |           |             |           |        |          |          |            |           |               |

**TRADE RELATIONSHIP**

Saudi Investment Minister, Greek PM explore ways to enhance investment

**ATHENS:** Eng. Khalid Al-Falih, Saudi Minister of Investment, met with the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, as part of the Minister of Investment's 3-day official visit to bolster strategic partnerships and explore ways to enhance investment and trade relationships.

The minister is leading a delegation of government officials and businesspeople from the private sector. Eng. Al-Falih emphasised the importance of the strategic relationship between the two countries and ways of developing bilateral cooperation. In particular, the two officials discussed investment opportunities in the energy, tourism, trade, and services sectors, as well as how to enhance cooperation in relation to logistics and digitisation. -SPA

## Asian stocks swing to 3-week high



# BEING EXPOSED TO NEW THINGS MAKES PEOPLE ‘READY TO LEARN’

**E**ven before they enter a classroom, people learn to identify commonplace objects like a dog and a chair just by encountering them in everyday life, with no intent to learn about what they are. A new study is one of the first to provide experimental evidence that people learn from incidental exposure to things that they know nothing about and aren't even trying to understand. The study was published in the journal Psychological Science.

Exposure to new objects makes humans “ready to learn,” said Vladimir Sloutsky, co-author of the study and professor of psychology at The Ohio State University.

“We often observe new things out in the real world without a goal of learning about them,” Sloutsky said. “But we found that simply being exposed to them makes an impression in our mind and leads us to be ready to learn about them later.”

Sloutsky conducted the research with Layla Unger, a postdoctoral researcher in psychology at Ohio State and the lead author of the study.

The study included five different experiments with 438 people, with all experiments showing similar results.

In the studies, participants first took part in an “exposure phase” in which they played a simple computer game while seeing colourful images of unfamiliar creatures. The game

**In another experiment in the study, the simple computer game that participants played in the exposure phase involved hearing sounds while seeing the images of the creatures. Participants simply hit a key whenever the same sound was played two times in a row**

did not provide any information about these creatures, but for some participants, unbeknownst to them, the creatures actually belonged to two categories - Category A and Category B.

Similar to real-world creatures such as dogs and cats, Category A and Category B creatures had body parts that looked somewhat different, such as different-coloured tails and hands. Control group participants were shown images of other unfamiliar creatures.

Later in the experiment, the participants went through “explicit learning,” a process in which they were taught that the creatures belonged to two categories (called “flurps” and “jalets”), and to identify the category membership of each creature.

The researchers measured how long it took participants to learn the difference between Category A and Category B in this explicit learning phase.

“We found that learning was substantially faster for those who were exposed to the two categories of creatures earlier on than it was in the control group participants,” Unger said.

“Participants who received early exposure to Category A and B creatures could become familiar with their different distributions of characteristics, such as that creature with blue tails tended to have brown hands, and creatures with orange tails tended to have green

hands. Then when the explicit learning came, it was easier to attach a label to those distributions and form the categories.”

In another experiment in the study, the simple computer game that participants played in the exposure phase involved hearing sounds while seeing the images of the creatures. Participants simply hit a key whenever the same sound was played two times in a row.

“The images were randomly attached to the sounds, so they could not help participants learn the sounds,” Sloutsky said. “In fact, the participants could completely ignore the images and it would not affect how well they did.” Still, participants who were shown the images of Category A and B creatures later learned the differences between them more quickly during the explicit learning phase than participants who were shown other unrelated images.

“It was pure exposure to the creatures that were helping them learn faster later on,” Sloutsky said.

But was it possible that they had already actually learned the difference between Category A and B creatures during the early exposure, without needing the explicit learning?

The answer is no, Unger said.

In some of the studies, the simple computer game in the exposure phase involved first seeing a creature in the centre of the screen. Participants were then asked to hit one key if the

creature jumped to the left side of the screen and a different key if it jumped to the right, as quickly as possible.

Participants were not told this, but one type of creature always jumped to the left and the other always jumped to the right. So if they learned the difference between the two creature categories, they could respond faster.

Results showed that participants did not respond faster, suggesting they didn't learn the difference between Category A and Category B creatures in the exposure part of the experiment.

But they still learned the difference between them more quickly in the explicit learning part of the experiment than those participants who were exposed to images of other creatures during the earlier exposure phase.

“The exposure to the creatures left participants with some latent knowledge, but they weren't ready to tell the difference between the two categories. They had not learned yet, but they were ready to learn,” Unger said.

Sloutsky said this is one of few studies that has shown evidence of latent learning.

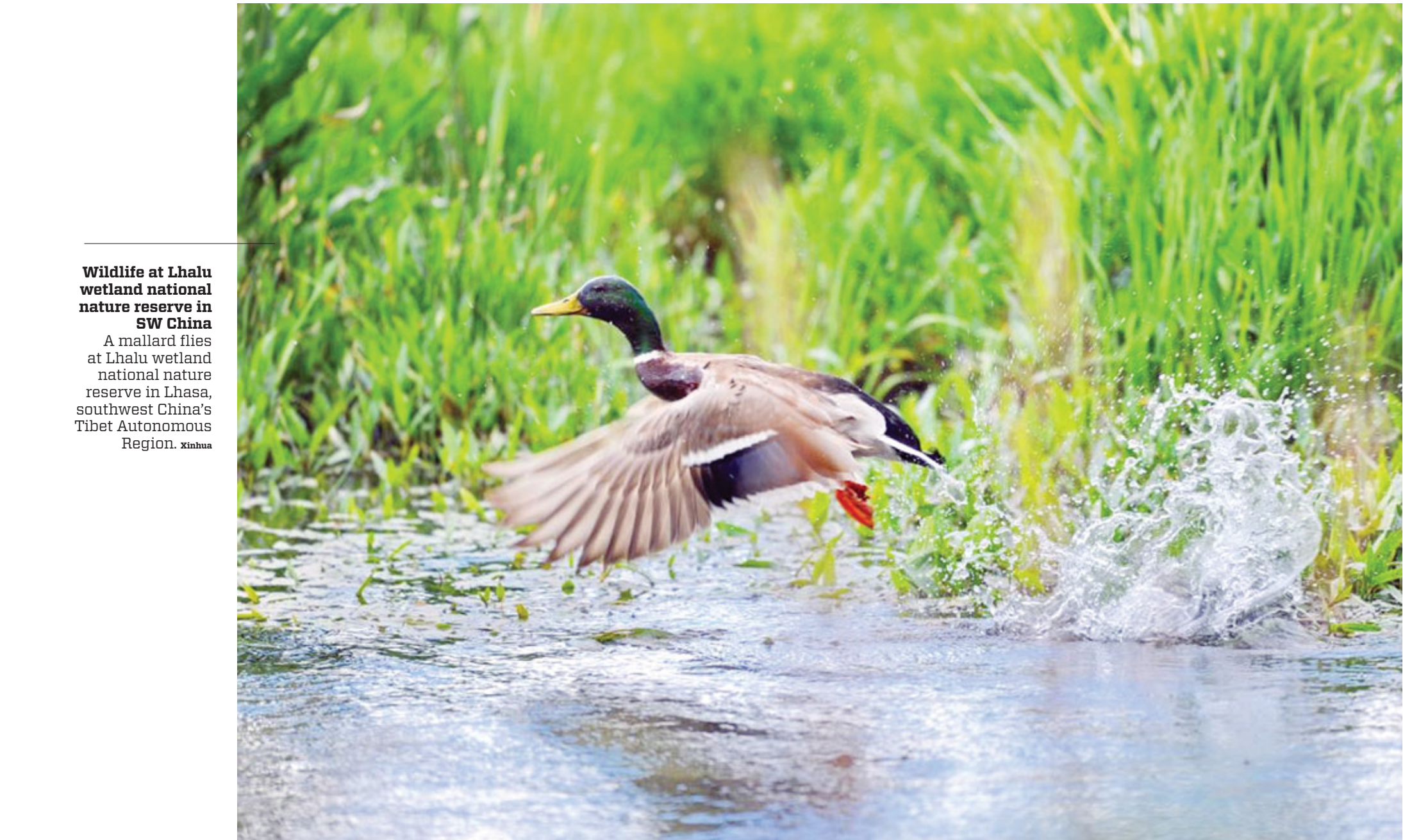
“It has been very difficult to diagnose when latent learning is occurring,” he said. “But this research was able to differentiate between latent learning and what people learn during explicit teaching.” -ANI

# IN-PICTURES



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**Wildlife at Lhalu wetland national nature reserve in SW China**  
A mallard flies at Lhalu wetland national nature reserve in Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. *Xinhua*



**Closing ceremony of 75th Cannes Film Festival**  
Cast members of the South Korean film Broker arrive at the red carpet during the closing ceremony of the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. *Xinhua*



**FIBA 3x3 World Tour Manila 2022 quarterfinal match**  
Mike Harry (left) of Cebu Chooks from the Philippines competes against Stefan Kojic of Liman Huishan NE from Serbia during their quarterfinal match in the FIBA 3x3 World Tour Manila 2022 in Paranaque City, the Philippines. *Xinhua*



**Aamir Khan at the trailer preview of his upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha'**  
Bollywood actor Aamir Khan relishes on pani puri at the trailer preview of his upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha', in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*

**Ancient decarburisation kiln discovered in central China**  
Undated aerial photo provided by Henan Provincial Institute of Cultural Heritage and Archaeology shows a view of the Houduanwan cast-iron relics site in Xinzheng, central China's Henan Province. *Xinhua*



**Palmyra palm fruits harvested in Dhaka, Bangladesh**  
Picture shows bunches of palmyra palm fruits at a wholesale market in Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Xinhua*



**People mourn for victims of school mass shooting in Texas, US**  
People attend a vigil to mourn for victims of a school mass shooting at Town Square in Uvalde, Texas, the United States. At least 19 children and two adults were killed in a shooting at Robb Elementary School in the town of Uvalde. *Xinhua*



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ROUND-UP



# Enjoy thrilling drives in Kia Sonet SUV

Designed around the driver with a well laid-out, intuitive infotainment and cluster interface, Sonet has been built taking into consideration the end user's experience

**MUSCAT:** The Kia Sonet SUV is the perfect vehicle to fulfil tasks within the city or enjoying a quick getaway by the countryside. Loaded with impressive power, space, feature and more, the Sonet offers more than you wish for. The Sonet is a 5-seater that is



equipped with 1.5L Engine paired to a CVT Transmission and offers 17.5KmpL fuel average. Designed around the driver with a well laid-out, intuitive infotainment and cluster interface, the Sonet was built taking into consideration the end user's experience. The Sonet comes with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay feature, Audio Remote Control, Bluetooth, USB charger. Harbours functional

qualities in every inch of its ergonomic space. The Sonet's attractive exterior is underlined by the body colour outside mirror, 2-tone bumper, power outside mirror, body colour door handles, side repeater lamps in outside mirror, 16" alloy wheels, chrome radiator grille, rear fog lamps, LED front fog lamps, roof rack, LED headlamps, LED daytime running lamps and more.

Boasting multiple segment-first features that offer the ultimate driving experience for customers, the Sonet provides comfort, convenience, and safety. Fitted with 8" Audio Display, the Sonet also comes with other smart features such as remote engine start, auto cruise control and more. Adding to increased levels of convenience as features like keyless entry system, smart key with button start, central door lock and more. Kia has ensured that every drive with the Sonet is as hassle free and safe as possible, thanks to a rigorous set of measures created in line with Kia's pillars of safety. Among the Sonet's key safety features are driver and front passenger airbags, ABS (anti-lock braking system), ESC (Electronic Stability Control), Rear parking assist system, Rear view camera, tyre pressure monitoring system and ISOFIX child-seat anchoring points. Reliable International Automotive, the distributor for Kia in Oman provides a rewarding ownership experience for customers.

## Drastic change is expected in emergency medicine: Azad Moopen



**KERALA:** Dr Azad Moopen, Chairman and managing director of Aster DM Healthcare, said that Emergenz 2022, the Emergency Conclave, will make a drastic change in Emergency treatment in the country. Speaking at the inauguration function of Emergenz 2022, the largest emergency conclave in Asia, being organised by Aster Mims Kozhikode he said that the conclave will be a milestone to create awareness about the latest developments in Emergency Medicine treatment among the common man as well as doctors and other health professionals. Dr Mohanan Kunnummal, vice chancellor, Kerala University of Health, who inaugurated the conclave said that as Emergency Medicine Departments are very vital in the modern era, all the medical colleges in the State will establish this section by 2024. He said that those Medical Colleges which do not have the Emergency Medicine Department may not be able to serve the society properly. He pointed that there are severe scarcity of trained professionals in Emergency Medicine in the country and the Kerala Government would take all steps to ensure that their services are made available here. Farhan Yasin, Regional Director, Kerala and Oman Cluster of Aster, said that Aster MIMS and Dr Venugopalan PP, chairman, Emergenz 2022, was instrumental in creating awareness on the need for establishing Emergency Medicine Departments in the country. Dr Venugopalan made a presentation about Emergency Medicine.

Dr K N Gopakumaran Kartha presented memtoes to the chief guests. Dr Bipin Batra delivered the keynote address. Dr Ramesh Bhasi, Padmashree Dr Subroto Das, Dr Abdulla Cherayakkatt, Dr Abraham Mamman, Dr Kate Douglas, Prof Parag Singhal, Dr Sweta Gidwani, Dr Sudha Krishnanunni, Dr Mehroof Raj, Dr Lili M and Sheelamma Joseph spoke.

Scientific sessions and classes will conclude on May 29. Thirteen workshops, two-stream scientific sessions, keynote sessions, special streams for emergency medicine staff and paramedical staff, various scientific competitions like oral presentation, poster presentation and quiz, scenario based discussion, problem solving and decision making, CPR competition, cultural evening, Banquet are part of the Conclave.

As part of the Conclave a pre-conference workshop on 'Neonatal Resuscitation Program: a workshop teaching Emergency Life Saving concepts for Newborns' and 'Rhythm - Practical ECG Workshop was held to help both doctors and nurses to get acquainted with treatment.

The Epigon-Emergency care Workshop on basic life saving skills, 'Safe I3' workshop on Safe Infusion Practice and Infection Control, Erimia - Workshop on Wilderness Medicine, Point of care ultrasound, aero medical transport workshop, Toxicology workshop, Disaster management workshop and Procedural sedation and workshop on trauma was organised at various hospitals in Malabar region.

### RECOGNITION

## Nexen Tyre scoops coveted Red Dot Awards

**MUSCAT:** Leading global tyre brand Nexen Tyre came away with a pair of prestigious prizes at the renowned Red Dot Awards 2022 held in Germany recently. They were the latest in a series of accolades garnered by the reputable Korean tyre brand over the past several years. Nexen Tire's N'blue 4Season 2 and N'blue 4Season Van scooped the coveted honours in the product design category of this year's Red Dot Awards - one of the world's best-known design competitions. More than 7,900 product entries from over 60 countries competed for recognition in this category. They were evaluated against nine design elements, including aesthetics, functionality, quality, ergonomics, durability, and innovation. An all-weather tyre that performs reliably even in the most



challenging climatic conditions, the N'blue 4Season 2 is simply revolutionary in its design. A wide range of grooves on its surface allows for smooth drainage performance on wet roads, a feature that is further augmented by the fine micro cuff design on the pattern surface. This V-pattern design

is an improvement over the first-generation version, thereby ensuring superior performance on wet or snow-covered roads. Additionally, the shoulder block incorporates 3D cuff technology, which contributes to increased block rigidity for stable handling performance in all kinds of weather

conditions. Besides, the block edge design, which has saw-blade like features, improves braking performance in snow conditions. While the N'blue 4Season 2 is ideal for passenger cars, the equally successful N'blue 4Season Van is an all-season tyre designed specifically for vans. Its wide longitudinal and transverse groove ensures smooth drainage performance on wet roads, thus enabling stable driving even in difficult weather conditions. Likewise, the application of a wave-shaped cuff ensures smooth performance in snowy conditions. Further, to prevent abnormal wear and tear, the ground surface with the road is evenly maintained. And, in anticipation of heavy loads, the tyre features a reinforced structure and long durability compound.

### GLOBAL WELLNESS DAY 2022

## Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort to launch new wellness initiatives

**MUSCAT:** Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort marks Global Wellness Day on June 11 with a day of wellness activities for guests, the launch of new wellness treatments at Anantara Spa, and wellness cuisine by award-winning Chef Gabriele Kurz. Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort provides the perfect setting for guests to retreat, unwind and recharge, with a remote setting, fresh mountain air and inspiring vistas. Located in the Hajar Mountains of Northeast Oman, a two-hour drive from Muscat, an active and healthy lifestyle comes easily, with hiking, mountain climbing and archery in the open surrounds. For Global Wellness Day this year, the resort has an exciting programme of activities lined up for guests. The day begins with yoga overlooking the wadi, followed by a couple's connection massage class. Guest chef and consultant Gabriele Kurz will also introduce a healthier way of eating, with a garden tour to highlight the health benefits of local herbs and plants, followed by a cooking demonstration. Chef Gabriele Kurz hails from



the mountains of Bavaria, where healthy living is naturally a way of life. She is the author of numerous cookbooks, in which some of which were co-written with her mother, Christl Kurz, and both of them are the recipients of several awards. As the Executive Wellness Chef of a luxury hotel chain in Dubai, Chef Gabriele was responsible for launching the first healthy fine dining restaurant in the Middle East. Currently, in residence at Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, Chef Gabriele has created exciting new wellness dishes to be incorporated into the menus of the resort's many restaurants. The dishes are healthy yet rich in flavour, utilising fresh,

seasonal produce from the resort's gardens. Guests can also learn how to adopt wellness cuisine into their daily lives with a Spice Spoons cooking class. As part of the Global Wellness Day activities, guests will be among the first to experience the resort's new wellness treatments. Massage therapies that not only relax but heal, draw inspiration from indigenous Omani ingredients and the Anantara brand's Thai roots. For example, the signature Al Jabal Delight incorporates Moringa peregrine, which blooms naturally in the wadi and has been used by Omani healers for centuries, while the Thai Warrior Journey, which will be showcased on Global Wellness Day, combines stretching, breathing and Thai massage to relieve physical and mental tension. The resort also offers an extensive selection of Ayurvedic treatments and yoga classes. Multi-day retreats that begin with a personalised wellness consultation combine gentle movement, adequate rest, a nutritious diet and selected wellness treatments to renew from within.

### NAVIN ASHER-KAZI AWARDS

## Indian School teachers win awards for excellence

**MUSCAT:** The prestigious 'Navin Asher-Kazi Awards for Excellence in Teaching' instituted by the Board of Directors of Indian Schools in Oman, were conferred on ten teachers from Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman at a ceremonious function organized on 28th May 2022 at Indian School Al Seeb. Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shununa Salim Al Habsi, Assistant Director-General for Special Education, Ministry of Education was the Guest of Honour. Dr Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, Indian Schools in Oman presided over the function. Dr Maha Kobeil, Dean and CEO of Majan University College, Muscat, delivered the keynote address. The function was attended by Kiran Asher and family, the patrons of the Award; Members of the Board of Directors, Presidents, Principals and the award nominees of Indian Schools. In the introductory address, Manickam highlighted the relevance of teachers made more visible by the pandemic and stressed the significant role teachers play in the lives of students. Dr Man-



ickam announced the Board's plan to institute school-wise awards in addition to the existing Awards for Excellence to motivate and encourage more participation of the teachers. Navin Asher Kazi Award for Excellence in Teaching was conferred on 10 teachers by Amit Narang and Shununa Al Habsi. The teachers who won this prestigious award in different categories are Manjubashini Saiprasanna (Indian School Al Mabelah) and Rejani Baiju (Indian School Nizwa) in the Kindergarten category; M. Dhanya and Neethu Chandran from Indian School Al Mabelah in the Primary School Category; Abida

Akthar and Anu B. Mathew from Indian School Muscat in the Middle School Category; C.P. Sudheer (Indian School Al Maabala) and Dr N. Sujatha (Indian School Sur) in the Senior School Category; Vijayarajakumar (Indian School Muscat) and Afzalkhan Sherkhan (Indian School Al Ghubra) in the Co-scholastic Category. In addition to the above, 18 teachers in different categories were given Certificates of Recognition for their outstanding contribution in the field of education. The awards were given away by Sirajudeen Nhelat, Academic Chair, Indian School Board and Jesal Asher, Executive Director, Al Ansari Group of Companies.



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ROUND-UP



# Renault Duster’s inherent attributes and SUV capability appreciated

Displaying Renault’s essential characteristics of strength and SUV capability, Duster features robust strength, functionality and safety



**MUSCAT:** Renault Duster truly understands the aspirations of customers who wish to own a sports utility vehicle at a competitive price. Its powerful engine, attractive modern design, spacious cabin continues to resonate completely with proud customers in Oman. Displaying Renault’s essential characteristics of strength and SUV capability the Duster’s features robust strength, functionality and safety. A die-hard fan of Renault Duster Tariq Al Abri from Rustaq says, “The sports utility vehicle offers

an invigorating take on 4WD driving experience, equipped great off-road capability and affordability. It outclasses the best in the market. Renault Duster adds more magnificence and refinement with its distinctive features.” Owner of a 1.6 litre 2WD Renault Duster Khalil Balushi from Salalah praises the car for its superior SUV capabilities and enhanced features. “It is equipped with multiple outstanding features and technology enhancements. It is an embodiment of strength, functionality and safety. The great driving experience, off-road capability and affordability make you a proud owner.”

Describing it an state-of-the-art vehicle, Amal Al Zedjali from Muscat says, “I appreciate the car for its distinctive exterior styling, markedly self-assured look and fuel efficiency. Renault Duster 2WD and 4WD’s inspiring exteriors, elegant interiors and advanced equipment reiterates the maker’s pledge for setting new standards in the SUV segment. With its proven strength to handle all challenges, the Renault Duster equipped with multiple outstanding features and technology enhancements, continues to set new standards in Oman.” Labelling Renault Duster’s 4WD an impressive all-terrain vehicle

Ramesh C from Sohar says, “I have been a long-time fan of Renault Duster and will vouch for the vehicle performance and mileage. Showcasing a host of extraordinary features, the aspirational SUV Renault Duster has won the respect of customers for being a perfect package in terms of looks, performance, strength, functionality, and safety. I am a very proud of owner of this brand.” A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “Setting new standards in the SUV segment, the trendy Renault Duster continues to be a bestseller in

Oman. The vehicle plays a pivotal role in Renault Oman’s product portfolio and has the widest offering in the segment and caters to evolving customer needs. Its sleek style and innovative design, and its impressive interiors complement the striking exteriors, makes it a style statement inside out. The brand, which is embodied by top attributes, continues to resonate completely with proud customers in Oman.” Renault Duster has an exclusively self-assured look and features a brand-new exterior styling with a more full-bodied look and boosted by a wide chrome-finish grill which extends to the headlights at the car’s front corners. With a front skid plate and Renault’s signature C-shaped lighting with LED daytime running lights, Renault Duster further reinforces the SUV’s personality as a sturdy, yet a smart city vehicle. Renault Duster adds more splendour and elegance with its distinctive features.

at the car’s front corners. A front skid plate reinforces the Duster’s adventurer credentials and ensures that the vehicle never loses its smart looks. Finished with Renault’s signature C-shaped lighting with LED daytime running lights the Duster is a modern SUV with a rugged personality. All-new Duster means a new front end as well as modern and powerful lines. It features robust and all-terrain styling with high ground clearance, chrome grille surround and Hill Descent Control. Every road is open to you from now on.

**High-quality interior**  
All-new Duster has a brand new, comfortable, ergonomic and high-quality interior. For the driver’s well-being on board, the Duster interior has been reinvented with new adjustable seats and a new ergonomic dashboard and central console. The highly modular layout of the seats allows you to arrange the cabin to suit your needs. Carry everything you need for a weekend getaway. The 1/3 -2/3 foldable bench seat and numerous storage options make all kinds of adventures a reality. The ergonomics of the all-new Duster dashboard has been redesigned. It makes life easier with new adjustment systems for the driver’s seat and steering wheel.

PROMOTION

## Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar appoints Room Division Manager



**MUSCAT:** Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar recently promoted Salim Said Abdul Rahim Al Zadjali to Room Division Manager, a new role that oversees the hotel’s rooms division services, front office and housekeeping departments along with leading the related teams. The room division manager is responsible for perfecting performance and operations and further providing memorable stay experiences and maintaining the unparalleled service excellence of Radisson Hotel Group, Oman. Salim first joined Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar as Duty Manager/In-charge of Security in 2017; since then he has successfully worked his way up within the organization, taking steady steps that were accelerated by a certain drive which helped propel him into his new role. Earlier in his career, Salim was an HR Coordinator at Al Rayan Qatar, Doha and Duty Manager/ Front Office in-charge in various IHG properties in Oman. These

roles provided him with an extensive background in not only guest services, but training in day-to-day hotel operations, managing teams, and maintaining budgets. His dedication and hard work during the recent unprecedented times, going even beyond his duties, has set an example and inspiration for the entire team. Salim had the following to say about his new appointment, “I am delighted to have been granted this opportunity to become the hotel’s Room Division Manager. I will be working hard to achieve even higher levels of hospitality, delivering our guests the kind of resort experience that only Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar can offer.” Salah Al-Mamari, General Manager of Radisson Blu Hotel, Sohar added Salim’s promotion reinforces the initiatives and direction of Al Nabri Global Investment Group and Radisson Hotels’ commitment which aims to nurture and shape the careers of talented Omanis in the industry.

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**MUSCAT:** Giving its customers more of what they love, Ooredoo’s free 5G bonus data offer gives users an unbeatable data experience. Customers can take advantage of up to a massive 4TB free 5G data on Shahry Omanuna 100 with total data of 6TB and 30GB on Shahry Endless 10 free with total data of 44GB, and all bonus data is valid for two months. With plans starting from as little as OMR 10, there’s no better way to enjoy supercharged internet wherever and whenever.

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TEST DRIVE EVENT

## Audi RS 3 make its first regional appearance in Oman

**MUSCAT:** Audi Oman, represented by Premium Motors, organised an exciting driving event for the all-new Audi RS3 at Oman Automobile Association where the model made its first regional appearance. The Audi Driving Experience Team supported Audi Oman in organising the special event. The objective was for media and prospective customers to experience the new RS3 and also demonstrate the new torque splitter rear differential. Audi Driving Experience instructors set up two identical dynamic handling courses in a head-to-head format. Each guest got to test their skill levels in the new RS3 having practice laps first before competing against the clock. The coned handling course included a staggered gate slalom showing the agility and steering feel. The course also featured a large U-turn corner demonstrating the torque splitter. A full acceleration zone followed by a target braking box was included in the last section showing the performance of the five-cylinder engine and larger brakes. Once everyone in the session had completed their timed laps the winner was then taken on a quick



lap in the car by Omani drifter Ali Al Balushi and then the Audi Driving Instructors demonstrated the full advantages of the torque mode in a drift lap. As the most powerful and dynamic RS3 ever, the all-new Audi model delivers intelligent and responsive performance. Equipped with a 294 kW (400 HP) five-cylinder, the high-performance engine delivers rapid acceleration with an exhilarating sound. The

power unit now delivers 500 Nm of torque and responds even faster than previous models. Externally, the RS3 demonstrates its sporty DNA with a widened body, RS sports exhaust system, and cockpit displays comparable to those found in race cars. Christian Nehme, General Manager of Premium Motors Oman, said: “The new Audi RS3 sedan offers driving dynamics of the highest calibre and the best numbers

in its segment. It provides impressive performance, and a powerful design, in a 2.5-litre TFSI engine providing the driver with new thrills every single day. Its 5-cylinder turbocharged engine produces a whopping 401 horsepower and, paired with the standard seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, helps propel the RS 3 from 0-62 mph in only 3.8 seconds.” He added, “Engagement with prospective customers is one of our key priorities, and we are confident that Audi enthusiasts enjoyed the high level of individual focus we offered during the test drive event. We thank the Audi Driving Experience Team for their meticulous, exhilarating and exciting session.” The design of the Audi RS3 is dynamic and powerful. In the front, the wide RS bumper, the redesigned single frame with its distinctive honeycomb grille, and the large air intakes give the compact sports car an expressive appearance. The RS 3 comes standard equipped with flat, wedge-shaped LED headlights and LED taillights including dynamic turn signal lights.



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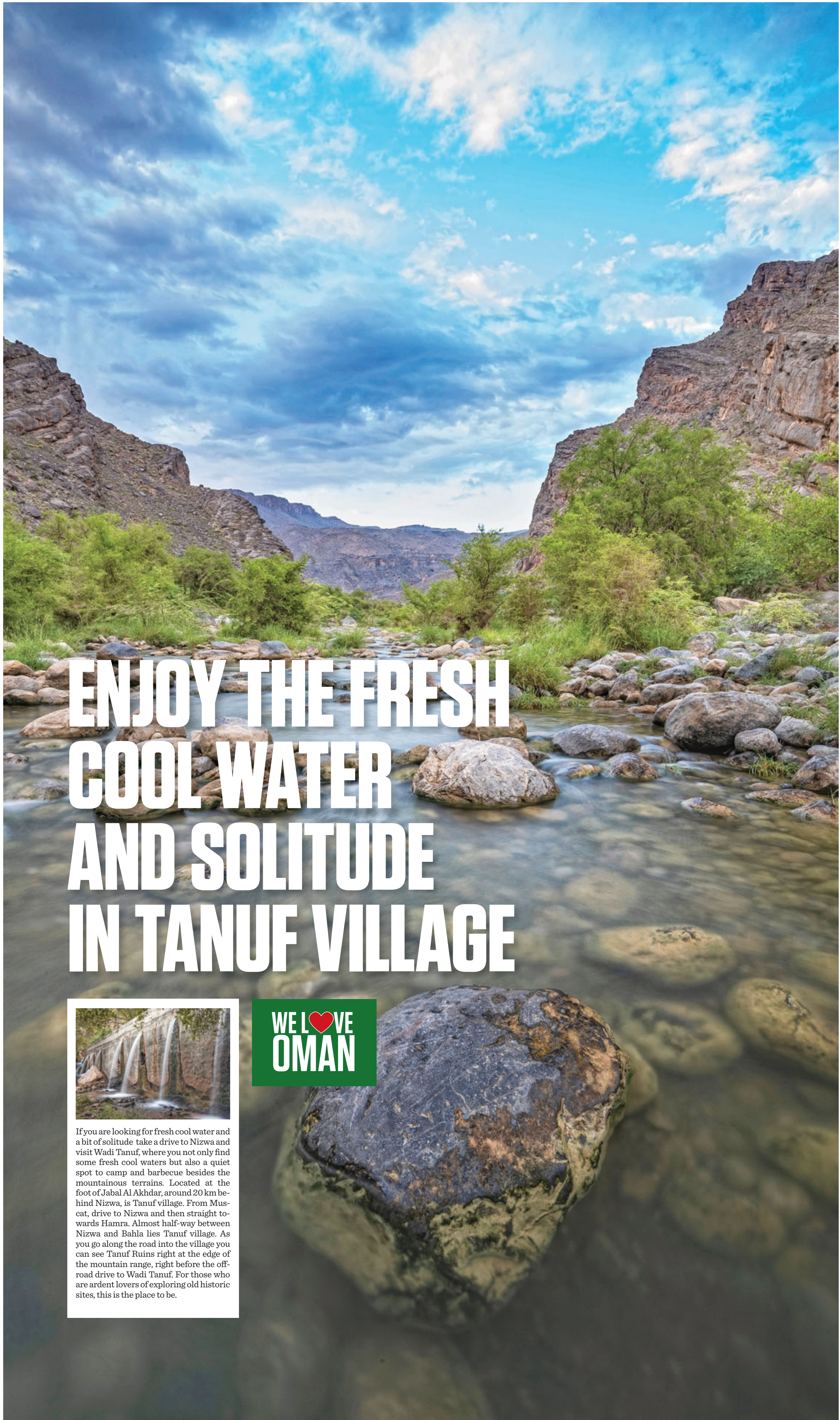


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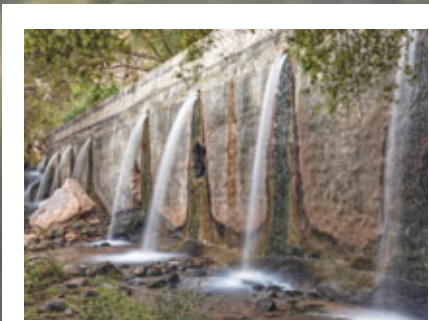


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If you are looking for fresh cool water and a bit of solitude take a drive to Nizwa and visit Wadi Tanuf, where you not only find some fresh cool waters but also a quiet spot to camp and barbecue besides the mountainous terrains. Located at the foot of Jabal Al Akhdar, around 20 km behind Nizwa, is Tanuf village. From Muscat, drive to Nizwa and then straight towards Hamra. Almost half-way between Nizwa and Bahla lies Tanuf village. As you go along the road into the village you can see Tanuf Ruins right at the edge of the mountain range, right before the off-road drive to Wadi Tanuf. For those who are ardent lovers of exploring old historic sites, this is the place to be.

