

HM greets President of Brazil

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Jair Bolsonaro of the Federative Republic of Brazil, on his country's National Day. In his cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and well-being to President Bolsonaro. His Majesty also wished the people of Brazil further progress and prosperity. — ONA



P10

SEEB ADVANCE TO AFC CUP WEST ZONE FINAL



P13

CHINA LIFTS 78% OF OMANI CRUDE EXPORTS IN JULY



P17

TREASURES HIDDEN INSIDE LOCAL DAMS



MUSCAT

PRIORITY FOR NEW PROJECTS IN 2023

The Ministry of Economy's special team for assessing and choosing priority development projects began its first seminar with various government units to highlight the new development projects submitted for 2023. The seminar also aims to evaluate and choose priority projects throughout its eight-week long sessions. The Ministry of Economy prepared a matrix model for the assessment and picking of development projects which meet current and future needs in line with Oman Vision 2040, the Tenth Five-Year Development Plan (2021-2025) and national strategies.

DETAILS ON P2

Oman underscores importance of just solution for Palestinians

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman underscored the importance of establishing a just solution for the Palestinian people, recognising the independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, the 1967 borders, and its accession to full-fledged membership in the United Nations (UN).

This was stated during Oman's participation in the 158th session of the Council of the Arab League in the Arab Republic of Egypt on Tuesday.

In his speech, Sayyid Badr

bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister and head of Oman's delegation participating in the meeting, underlined Oman's aspiration for the return of Arab solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic restoring its membership in the Arab League, based on the belief in the authentic Arab fundamentals sought to be consolidated by all countries in a bid to achieve ambitions and prospective goals.

The Council's members also stressed the significance of Arab



Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy at the Arab League session.

solidarity, joint cooperation and action to realise aspirations of the Arab peoples.

The delegation accompanying the Foreign Minister included Abdullah bin Nasser al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Shaikh Faisal bin Omar al Marhoon, Head of the Department of the Arab League, and officials at the Foreign Ministry. — ONA

TEHRAN

IRAN INSISTS ON 'FOUR TOPICS'

Iran said on Tuesday that, in its protracted talks with major powers to restore its tattered 2015 nuclear deal, it is insisting on resolving "four topics". The four points, addressed by the government spokesman, relate to US assurances a new deal will hold, relief from punishing sanctions, and to the UN monitoring of Iranian sites. "As Iran's President (Ebrahim Raisi) has said, we have pursued and will pursue four topics in the negotiations," the spokesman, Ali Bahadori-Jahromi, told a press briefing. He said that "the guarantees must be reassuring", referring mainly to Tehran's demand that future US administrations won't scrap the deal again, as Donald Trump's did in 2018. **DETAILS ON P7**



OMAN-EGYPT JOINT DRILL BEGINS

The joint Oman-Egypt military exercise 'Mountain Castle' began at the military drills zone in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdhar on Tuesday. The drill will run till September 15. During the exercise, the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) is represented by the Sultan of Oman's Parachute Regiment, while the Egyptian army is represented by units of the Special Forces, paratroopers and El Sa'ka Forces. The exercise comes within the framework of RAO's training plan aimed to sustain preparedness. 'Mountain Castle' is an annual training programme, which is conducted to achieve national goals and to exchange military expertise with friendly countries. — ONA



INSIDE



INDIA'S SILICON VALLEY BANGALORE FLOODED

P6



FEARS OF 'MASSIVE' BILLS HIT UK SCHOOLS

P9

35 monitoring stations in Oman ensure quality of air

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will join the world countries on Wednesday to celebrate the third International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies under the theme of "The Air We Share".

The event highlights the need for immediate and strategic international and regional cooperation for more efficient implementation of mitigation policies and measures to address air pollution.

On this occasion, the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, highlights the environmental dimension of the development process at the local, regional and international levels.

It also underscores the principle of balance between development requirements and preserving the integrity of the environment in order to achieve



sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Environment Authority conducts monitoring and control measures of air pollutants, to ensure its quality by monitoring any substances, gases or toxic substances in the air in quantities, properties, or periods that lead to a change in its natural, chemical or biological properties and cause

harm to humans, animals, plants or buildings or negatively affect life or property.

These measures and controls are represented in the distribution of ambient air quality monitoring networks in industrial and urban areas, which include approximately 35 monitoring stations scattered in various governorates. — ONA

Full-scale probe into causes of outage

DISRUPTION WAS DUE TO PURELY TECHNICAL REASONS

VINOD NAIR AND KABEER YOUSUF

MUSCAT, SEPT 6

The Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) launched a full-scale investigation into the causes of the power outage in the northern areas of Oman on Monday.

Based on the powers and tasks entrusted with the authority, its team will probe the reasons for disruption in the main network and suggest necessary steps to ensure the compliance of the licensed companies to implement the recommendations following a technical inquiry.

Dr Mansour bin Talib al Hinai, Chairman, Authority for Public Services Regulation, visited the Ibr

400/200 kV station as part of the technical investigation procedures with the Oman Electricity Transmission Company.

He said the technical failure which occurred in the transmission network and the outage was due to purely technical reasons and that the authority had started a technical investigation to evaluate the measures taken by the company to deal with the outage.

Dr Hinai said the two networks in the north and south of Oman will be interconnected by 2026, with the first phase of this process to be completed by 2023 and added that studies are under way on the implementation of the second phase of the interconnection process.

TURN TO P2





■ SHABAB OMAN II ARRIVES AT TANGIER



Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) vessel, Shabab Oman II, has arrived at the port of Tangier in the Kingdom of Morocco as part of its sixth international voyage themed “Oman, Land of Peace”. The vessel, through its voyage, continues introducing visitors to Oman’s maritime history and culture.

Ministry of Economy evaluates development projects of 2023

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy’s special team for assessing and choosing priority development projects on Tuesday began its first seminar with various government units to highlight the new development projects submitted for 2023.

The seminar also aims to evaluate and choose priority projects throughout its eight-week long sessions. The Ministry of Economy prepared a matrix model for the assessment and picking of development projects which meet current and future needs in line with Oman Vision 2040, the 10th Five-year Development Plan (2021-2025) and national strategies.

The special team comprises



representatives from the Ministry of Economy, the Secretariat General of the Tender Board, the

Ministry of Finance, Government Projects Management Office, the team of the National Programme

for Fiscal Balance and departments concerned with each project.

— ONA

Investigation launched into power disruption

FROM PAGE 1

The major power outage on Monday also affected some operations at Muscat International Airport though full services were restored by the same evening.

“We would like to announce that the operations at Muscat International Airport have resumed to full capacity. We would like to extend our appreciation to our valued passengers for their understanding and cooperation and apologise for any inconvenience caused by this emergency. We are very grateful to all our strategic partners for the rapid response and great support to prevent any impact on operations as per the approved plans,” the statement said.

Meanwhile, power supply was restored to all areas, according to the Authority for Public Services Regulation.

A spokesperson from the authority said that the technical issue with the power grid has been resolved and electricity distributors were able to ensure uninterrupted power supply



within few hours after the incident. “We were able to restore power supply to all parts of the country step by step in few hours after the outage on Monday afternoon,” he added.

Schools and other organisations in affected areas declared holiday on Tuesday as a precautionary measure.

“We took precautionary measures in view of any further power shortage and were well equipped with backups,” a representative of a medical supply firm in CBD area told the *Observer*.

The outage affected the governorates of Muscat, parts of North and South Al Batinah, North and South Al Sharqiyah, and Al Dakhiliyah.

Nama apologises over outage

MUSCAT: The Nama Group has issued a statement on the power outage of Monday after reviewing the causes of electricity outages, evaluating the incident and highlighted the lessons learned.

“Nama Group would like to apologise to all customers who were affected by the sudden electricity outage which occurred on September 5,” the statement said.

Despite the technical challenges, Nama achieved a 70 per cent restoration of service to all affected areas within

five hours, and to remaining customers on Tuesday.

The interruption was due to the sudden tripping of a high-voltage line between Ibri and Nahaida stations as a result of a defect in the control and communication systems, which automatically activated the self-protection system, and caused the line to go out of service to protect it from damage. This was followed by an automatic tripping of other lines and power stations, which in turn led to blackouts in several governorates.

Artists of Oman impress at Abu Dhabi art exhibition

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

Artists of the Sultanate of Oman are taking part in an art exhibition, which is a landmark historical survey of twentieth century modern art movements across the Arabian Peninsula, collectively known in Arabic as the “Khaleej.”

It traces the region’s ‘pre-boom era’ of the twentieth century through 2008 and examines the evolution of visual art movements as the discovery of oil began to transform the region. It delves into the shifting understanding of public and private spaces and their relationship to national identity as expressed through art practices.

Abdulkarim al Bosta, Abdulkarim al Orrayed, Abdulqader al Rais, Abdulhalim al Radwi, Abdullah al Qassar, Abdullah al Saadi, Abdullah al Shaikh, Abdulrahman Alsoliman, Ahmed Qassim al Sunni, Ali Mohamed al Mahmeed, Anwar Sonya, Budoor al Riyami, Ebtisam Abdulaziz, Hassan Meer, Hassan Sharif, Hussain Qassim al Sunni, Ibrahim Ismail, Issa Saqer al Khalaf, Khalid Albudoor, Khalifa Qattan, Mohamed Ahmed Ibrahim, Mohammed Ahmed Rasim, Mohammed al Saleem, Mohammed Kazem, Mojib al Dosari, Moosa Omar,

Mounirah Mosly, Munira al Kazi, Najat Makki, Nasser al Yousif, Nujoom Alghanem, Rashid bin Abdulrahman al Balushi, Rashid al Oraifi, Safeya Binzagr, Sami Mohammed, Thuraya al Baqsami, Yousef Ahmad, and Yousef Khalil are among the participants.

Curated by art historian Dr Aisha Stoby, the show will run from September 6 to December 11 at the art gallery of New York University in Abu Dhabi. According to Stoby, many of the works in this exhibition will be on view for the first time in decades, and it is a genuine privilege and honour to have been invited to bring this work to a wider audience. “Enhanced by the presence of rare and archival material, Khaleej Modern creates a space and offers resources for learning and re-understanding our own histories. More broadly, we hope the exhibition will contribute to wider regional and global understandings of modern visual art”, she said.

This project responds to emerging debates around recent art narratives, towards a more nuanced and inclusive appreciation of global art histories. “It has been incredible to be a part of this project and to see the artworks of these pioneering artists brought together for the first time”, she added.



For Khaleej Modern, Dr Stoby traces local art histories contextualised by deeply rooted traditions, the ongoing modernisation process and evolving national identities. Foregrounding the importance of community and early art institutions, the exhibition brings to life the curator’s research on the

artistic pioneers and collectives that sprang up in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, beginning with the first exhibition of Kuwait’s Al Mubarakiya School in 1941.

While Oman’s participation takes a considerable step in bringing Omani art to international audiences, Stoby’s curatorial approach focuses on the

historical presence of conceptual art in Oman, particularly the work of the local artist collective The Circle.

Saudi Arabia’s modern art community began as early as 1938 with Mohammed Racim (1911-1974) in Jeddah, and some of the artists in the exhibition include Mounirah Mosly, Safeya

Binzagr, Abdulhalim al Radwi and Abdullah al Shaikh. The Saudi House of Fine Arts in Riyadh, meanwhile, included to works by Mohammed al Saleem and Abdulrahman Alsoliman. By the 1950s, Bahrain’s Manama Group had formed (Abdulkarim al Orrayed, Nasser al Yousif and Ahmed Qassim al Sunni). In a recent interview with Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, referring to Oman’s participation in Venice Biennale, she said as a researcher for the region, she has always felt that the Gulf has suffered from marginalisation.

“I felt that the Middle East is often overlooked, and the Gulf is often overlooked within the Middle East. Even more so than that, I was really happy that Oman was given some attention”. Commenting on the exhibition, Executive Director of The NYUAD Art Gallery and University Chief Curator Maya Allison said, “An exhibition like this is quite rare, a kind of opening salvo and call to action, offering new vistas on art history and art practice in this region”. Rather than a definitive survey, this project sets us on a journey to explore the under-studied — and, for some people, unknown — the emergence of modern art in the Arabian Peninsula over the last century.



Oman set to welcome fans of World Cup



The football fiesta will be held in Qatar from November 20 to December 18.

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism will hold press conference in Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday to reveal the details of preparations to host the 2022 World Cup fans in Oman. The football fiesta will be held in Qatar from November 20 to December 18.

A number of official and private agencies will participate in the press conference to detail facilities that will be provided to the World Cup fans wishing to stay in the Sultanate of Oman.

The officials of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism; the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth; Royal Oman Police, Omran Group and Oman Airports are taking part in the conference

The press conference will also witness the presence of official representatives from Qatar, in order to reveal the procedures and facilities provided by the host country, which are of interest to all 2022 World Cup fans

A high-level delegation from

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism will hold press conference in Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre today

Mexico visited Oman in August which to look into the possibility of hosting Mexican fans in Oman They reviewed the arrangements Oman is making, including preparations to screen World Cup matches for fans at different locations on large screens, especially in Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, in addition to the availability of the hotel facilities.

Oman Air will operate 48 shuttle flights between Muscat and Doha from November 21 to December 3 for ticket holders to fly to Doha and return to Muscat on the same day.

Fares start from RO 49 for Economy Class and RO 155 for Business Class. Fares include fees, taxes, airport charges and hand baggage allowance.

OHRC new regulations in line with Royal Decree

MUSCAT: Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) held its second meeting of the fourth annual session under the chairmanship of Shaikh Abdullah bin Shuwain al Hosni, chairman of the committee, on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the OHRC discussed its newest authorities including complete autonomy in practising its activities and purviews.

The commission issued a decision to form a work team chaired by the OHRC deputy chairman. The team will draw up the new regulation of the commission in accordance with the Royal Decree restructuring the Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC).

In addition, the meeting debated ongoing preparations for conducting a workshop on September 25-27 on the Convention



against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Covenant on

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which were recently ratified by the Sultanate of Oman.

The aim is to follow up on the implementation of these conventions and develop more

mechanisms for their enforcement.

The commission also reviewed what has been achieved from the annual plan for the current year and what will be implemented during the upcoming period.

— ONA

■ RAO TAKES PART IN UK DRILL



The Royal Army of Oman (RAO), represented by the Sustainment Directorate, is taking part in the British drill "Army Sustainer", which runs from September 3 to 10 September. Sustainment units of different armies are taking part in this international exercise. The drill, held annually, is carried out at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks near Grantham, the United Kingdom (UK). RAO's participation aims at enhancing the preparedness of sustainment units and benefiting from the experiences of other armies in logistics and management. – ONA



Training programme for English language trainers



MUSCAT: The Directorate-General of Curriculum Development at the Ministry of Education, in coordination with the Specialist Centre for Professional Training of Teachers, conducted a training programme on optimal application of the chain 'Team Together Oman', one of the latest international educational chains produced by the British Pearson Education, from August 28 to September 1.

The training programme targets English language trainers at the Ministry of Education as well as supervisors and curriculum specialists.

The training programme includes but not limited to introducing the framework of the curriculum based on the European Framework of Reference for Languages, the future skills of educational curricula, the components of the educational chain, the teaching of English phonetics, the optimal use of the interactive version of the educational chain on the educational platform and assessing the students' performance and following up on their academic reports.



شركة الدقم لتوليد الكهرباء ش.م.ش.
Duqm Power Company S.P.C.

Tender Announcement

Introduction

Duqm Power Company SPC (herein the "Company" or "DPC") inviting proposals from qualified and experienced Tenderers to undertake the services based on the below Tender Titles. The Company Invites Bidders to submit their proposals as per Tender described below.

No	Tender Number	Tender Title	Tender Description	Tender Fees	Clarification Closing Date	Bid Submission Date
1	CUC-000-00-000-LE-TND-0022	Carry-out Maintenance for GT 5 units & ST 5 units and Control Oil ST 5 Units	The Contractor's scope of works will be to Carry-out Maintenance for GT 5 units & ST 5 units and Control Oil ST 5 Units that shall include the following main components: - The Contractor will carry out the testing and analyzing of the lube oil quality and will produce reports to DPC. - Sampling period is Twice a year for a period of 3 years - Testing parameters Criteria will be given by the Company.	N/A	12-Sept-22	22-Sept-22
2	DPC-DPW-00-000-LE-TND-0031	Provision of 4 Office Boys for DPC at Duqm Office	Providing 4 office boys to our Duqm Based Plant for daily housing keeping activities, for 3 building.	N/A	12-Sept-22	18-Sept-22

Request for proposal

The RFP will be available upon requests sent to tender@marafiq.om the email's subject shall be the tender title.

Contractor Minimum Qualifications

Contractor must hold valid registration with Government Tender Board for works of this nature and have necessary experience in Oman for similar projects. We particularly encourage suppliers currently operating in Duqm area (Al Wusta Region).

Interested Contractors shall contact DPC via email to tender@marafiq.om with the subject heading of "Tender Title and Tender Number" to receive the Tender Package.



NIZWA: The Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences in Nizwa received a new batch of police recruits holding GED qualification after completing evaluation and admission procedures, on Tuesday. The move comes within the context of the efforts undertaken by ROP to provide employment to the national job-seekers in coordination with the Ministry of Labour. The new police recruits will receive an integrated military training programme and academic courses at the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences, which qualifies them to carry out various police tasks and duties. — **ONA**



India approves its first nasal vaccine for Covid-19

NEW DELHI: India approved a locally developed, needle-free and nasally administered Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use on Tuesday, in a boost to the country's homegrown pharmaceutical industry.

The new inoculation was developed by Bharat Biotech, the makers of another intravenous vaccine that was greenlit by the World Health Organization last

November.

India's drug regulator gave the new product emergency authorisation on Tuesday, which will allow it to be used as a primary dose by any unvaccinated or partially vaccinated adult, but not as a booster.

"This step will further strengthen our collective fight against the pandemic," health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said

on Twitter.

Bharat Biotech conducted third-phase trials in 14 sites around India and found that its safety was "highly comparable" to other vaccines, the company said in a statement.

Development data would be submitted to peer-reviewed journals and released publicly, the statement added.

"Despite the lack of demand for

Covid-19 vaccines, we continued product development in intra nasal vaccines to ensure that we are well prepared with platform technologies for future infectious diseases," Bharat Biotech chair Krishna Ella said.

It remains unclear when the product will be available for public use, with the company saying it would be rolled out in "due course".

The announcement comes two days after China launched the world's first inhalable Covid vaccine, Convidecia Air, which is administered through a nebuliser.

India was hit by a devastating spike in Covid cases last year that brought its healthcare system close to collapse, with oxygen supplies running out and patients struggling to source medicine from depleted pharmacies. — AFP



Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of Tender Document	Last date for Tender Submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
156 /2022	Supplying Sports Rehabilitation Equipment for the National Autism Center in AL-Khoud	Companies specialized in supplying sports equipment and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Excellent, First or Second Degree	Sunday 25-9-2022 02:00 PM	Wednesday 12-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
157 /2022	Supplying Rehabilitation of Office Equipment for the National Autism Center in Al Khoud	Companies specialized in supplying office and educational tools, materials, and supplies that are registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with Excellent, First or Second Degree	Sunday 25-9-2022 02:00 PM	Wednesday 12-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>). On Wednesday 7/9/2022.
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry, please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (**24402200**).

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

www.mosd.gov.om

EU lays out new hurdles for Russian visa applicants

BRUSSELS: The European Commission laid out on Tuesday the new hurdles facing Russian travellers seeking EU entry visas, in the latest punitive measures taken in response to Moscow's war of Ukraine.

Ministers from EU member states agreed last week to suspend the 2007 EU-Russia visa facilitation deal, stopping short of an outright travel ban but asking Brussels to draw up new rules.

On Tuesday, EU home affairs commissioner Ylva Johansson revealed the proposed new regime, which is expected to win quick approval from member state capitals in the days ahead.

Russian applying for visas to enter the Schengen travel zone — 22 EU member states plus Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein — will now pay a fee of 85 rather than 35 euros.

The standard processing time for such a request will be extended from 10 to 15 days and in some cases scrutiny will continue up until 45 days. Multiple-entry visas will be restricted.

And applicants will henceforth have to provide a longer list of documentary evidence to support their bids.

The European Commission will also propose that EU countries refuse to recognise Russian passports issued in the occupied regions of Ukraine which Moscow is attempting to annex.

"Russians should not have easy access to the European Union and travelling to the EU as a tourist is not a human right," Johansson said, promising greater security screening.

— AFP



MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. (31/2022)

Companies specialized in the field and registered with **Tender Board**, may obtain tender documents for the website through the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) against non-refundable fees as mentioned below starting from the date of this announcement and until the end of deadline stipulated below.

Tender No.	E- Tender No.	Description of Tender	Tender Fee	Last Date to Collect the Tender	Tender Return Date	Grade
PRE/22/108	2022/MM/ QS-50	Supply of Safety Barriers (E-Tender)	25	26/09/2022	16/10/2022	Specialist
PRE/22/104	2022/MM/ QS-51	Consultancy Services for Design of Muttrah Touristic Path (E-Tender)	25	26/09/2022	16/10/2022	First
PRE/22/040	2022/MM/ QS-34 Re-Call-01	Rehabilitation of Rainwater Drainage at Burj AL-Sahwa (Re-Tender) (E-Tender)	25	26/09/2022	16/10/2022	First
PRE/22/076	2022/MM/ QS-37 Re-Call-01	Construction of Proposed Solution to Resolve Water Stagnation at Bousher in Al-Khuwair Area (E-Tender)	25	17/09/2022	29/09/2022	Second
PRE/22/106	2022/MM/ HQ-10	Design and Construction of Internal Road Al Mubaila South (E-Tender)	35	26/09/2022	16/10/2022	First

Tender Conditions :-

1. Bidders shall submit their offers electronically accompanied with an electronic copy of a bond issued by any local bank in Oman addressed to Muscat municipality. The bond shall be (1%) of the tender value valid for ninety (90) days starting from the date of bids submission. Any tenders which do not meet the required bond shall not be accepted.
2. Tender Bonds shall be E-Bond and to be submitted through E-Tendering system, addressed to Muscat Municipality.
3. For any inquiries regarding tenders, please visit e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>).
4. For technical support of e-tendering system please send an email to (etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om) or call (+968 24402200).
5. For technical support of E-Bond through e-tendering system please send an email to (esnad@gstb.gov.om) or call (+968 24402200 / 24402330).



TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Holding invites the specialized companies to participate and submit their best offers for the tenders below:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR)
EHC/2022/020	Director's and Officer's liability Insurance	14-SEP-2022	27-SEP-2022	50/- Plus, VAT Amount: 2.5/- OMR Total:52.5/-OMR (Non-Refundable)
EHC/2022/021	Comprehensive General Liabilities Insurance	14-SEP-2022	27-SEP-2022	50/- Plus, VAT Amount: 2.5/- OMR Total:52.5/-OMR (Non-Refundable)

- Interested parties may purchase the tender through the company website (www.nama.om/ar/new-tenders). The supplier user guide is available to be downloaded on the same page.
- Payment of the tender fees to be done online through the link available on the website. The deposit on the last day of purchasing should be before 12.00 pm.
- Bids shall be submitted online through the I-supplier portal before 01.00 pm time of the Sultanate on Tuesday 27 Sep 2022.
- Each bid should be accompanied by temporary insurance, in the form of a bank guarantee from one of the banks operating in the Sultanate, covering (1%) of the total bid value and valid for a period of (90) days from the last date for submission of offers. Tenders that do not include the required temporary insurance will not be considered. The original hard copy of the bid bond should be dropped in the tender box at Nama Holding reception area.
- NH is not obliged to accept the lowest or any other bid.
- In the event of receipt of the tender document on behalf of another company, the interested purchasers in the above tender document should provide details of the person's name and the company details.



Nama Holding
In Beach One Building, 3rd Floor (Units 305 & 307), Shatti Al Qurum
P.O Box 850, Post Code 116, Sultanate of Oman.
Phone Number: +968 24559200 / 277
E-Mail: Yasmeen.allawati@holding.nama.om



SULTANATE OF OMAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref.	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 08:00 am Wednesday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)		
MOH/HQ-199/2022	Consultancy Engineering Services (Design and Supervision) for Construction of Ibra Health Center in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate	15/September/ 2022	12/October/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in The First Grade	R.O 25,000 Per set		
MOH/HQ-200/2022	Supply and Installation of Ultrasound Scanner Machine at Sinaw Hospital in North Sharqiah Governorate		05/October/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board			
MOH/HQ-201/2022	Supply and Installation Of Package Air Conditioning Unit at Oman College of Health Sciences in Muscat Governorate			Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in The Excellent Grade			
MOH/HQ-202/2022	Provision of Operation and Maintenance Services of Generators at Various Health Establishments		12/October/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 25,000 Per set		
MOH/HQ-204/2022	Replacement of Digitizer Intra-Oral Images Processing Machine at Al Nahdah Hospital		05/October/2022				
MOH/HQ-205/2022	Supply of Surgical Items (Laparoscopy) for the Royal Hospital						
MOH/HQ-206/2022	Replacement of Medical Equipment at Various Health Establishments		12/October/2022				
MOH/HQ-207/2022	Supply of Various Spare Parts for The Royal Hospital						
MOH/HQ-208/2022	Replacement of Air Conditioning Unit at Salalah Polyclinic in Dhofar Governorate						
MOH/HQ-209/2022	Supply, Installation & Configuration of Network Switches for Various Health Establishments						

- Tenders should be submitted on line on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> enclose **Electronic Bank Guarantee** issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.
- For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone: **24402200**, Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om



China approves world’s first Covid-19 inhalable vaccine

BEIJING: Chinese drug regulators have approved the world’s first inhalable Covid-19 vaccine, made by Tianjin-based manufacturer CanSino Biologics, boosting the company’s share price by seven per cent on Monday.

The National Medical Products Administration gave the go-ahead for the vaccine for emergency use as a booster, the company said in a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Sunday.

Following the announcement, company shares surged 14 per cent on Monday morning before closing 7.1 per cent higher than their opening value.

The needle-free vaccine — which can be stored and administered more easily than intramuscular jabs — will be given through a nebuliser, the company said.

“The approval will have a positive impact on the company’s performance if the vaccine is subsequently purchased and used by relevant government agencies,” the statement added.

The company did not offer details on when the adenovirus-

The needle-free vaccine, which can be stored and administered more easily than intramuscular jabs, will be given through a nebuliser

vectored vaccine — which a Lancet report in July 2021 said induced strong antibody responses — will be made available for public use.

Scientists in several countries including Cuba, Canada and the United States are also trialling inhalable Covid-19 vaccines.

China has so far approved eight other locally manufactured injectable vaccines since 2020.

But the country’s drug administrator is yet to greenlight any foreign vaccines, including mRNA shots produced by Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna that have better efficacy rates compared to other types of vaccines.

China is the only major economy sticking to a zero-Covid policy, disrupting travel and

businesses. Officials across the country are now under pressure to curb local virus flare-ups ahead of a key political meeting next month.

The southern tech hub of Shenzhen, with more than 18 million residents, imposed a weekend lockdown in most parts of the city on Saturday, while more than 21 million people in the southwestern metropolis of Chengdu are undergoing mass testing from Monday.

China has administered over 3.4 billion Covid shots, the National Health Commission said on Monday without offering details on the percentage of the population vaccinated.

Meanwhile, India on Tuesday approved a locally developed, needle-free and nasally administered Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use, in a boost to the country’s homegrown pharmaceutical industry.

The new inoculation was developed by Bharat Biotech, which had already developed an intravenous product greenlit by the WHO last November. —AFP

India’s Silicon Valley flooded; tech staff commute by tractor

BENGALURU: Authorities in the Indian city of Bengaluru used tractors on Tuesday to rescue residents of posh housing estates marooned by floods after two days of torrential rain brought chaos to the fast-growing technology hub.

Many parts of the city in which several global companies and home-grown start-ups are based were under water as more rain fell in an unusually wet monsoon season, which has brought 162 per cent more rainfall than average since June 1.

“Things are bad. Please take care,” Gaurav Munjal, founder of the Softbank-backed education technology firm Unacademy, said on Twitter after he, his family and his dog, Albus, were rescued on a tractor from his posh neighbourhood.

With city streets submerged and traffic in chaos, many companies asked staff to work from home. Some city residents struggled to empty out flooded basements and shops, Reuters partner ANI showed in video footage.

Environmentalists blamed the flooding on poor planning as the city has expanded and climate change.

“When you start building on this kind of a landscape and you start paving and crusting the area with homes and roads, the run-off starts to increase,” S Vishwanath, a Bengaluru-based water conservationist said.

India could expect more intense weather in future, said Leo Saldanha of the Environment Support Group.

“Extreme weather events are predicted to be a part of climate change impacts,” he said.

Bengaluru’s water supply company said on Monday it would stop the supply of water to



Members of a rescue team row their boat past submerged vehicles following torrential rains in Bengaluru.



People commute in tractors due to water-logged roads following torrential rains in Bengaluru.

Environmentalists blamed the flooding on poor planning as the city has expanded and climate change

more than 50 areas in the city for two days after a pumping station that brings in water from 100 km away was flooded.

Rain was expected to fall in the

city and neighbouring areas until Friday, an official with the Indian Meteorological Department said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday promised to take immediate steps to solve the problems while blaming the previous Congress governments for being responsible for the present mess.

The State Government has been working round the clock to meet the challenging situation, Bommai said while talking to media persons near his residence on Tuesday. — Reuters

2 dead as typhoon Hinnamnor rips across S Korea’s industrial area

SEOUL: A powerful typhoon tore through South Korea’s southern industrial hubs on Tuesday, leaving at least two people dead, 10 missing and thousands displaced, authorities said.

Typhoon Hinnamnor left the Korean peninsula early on Tuesday after battering the southeastern industrial cities of Pohang, Gyeongju and Ulsan with strong winds and heavy rain.

It was moving northeast across the Sea of Japan and was expected to brush past Japan’s northeastern city of Sapporo at around 9

pm, according to the Korea Meteorological Administration.

Japanese authorities said the island of Hokkaido, where Sapporo is located, will face high winds and waves overnight and on Wednesday. Train services and flights were cancelled in the southernmost island of Kyushu when the typhoon passed earlier on Tuesday.

In South Korea’s Pohang city, a resident was swept away and killed by strong currents, and eight others were reported missing in submerged underground parking



A signboard is seen damaged by Typhoon Hinnamnor in Changwon, South Korea.

lots, the Ministry of Interior and Safety said. Local broadcaster

YTN showed footage of a wrecked car being pulled out of an

underground apartment garage where muddy water blocked its entrance. Another person died after being buried in a house hit by a landslide in Gyeongju and one person was reported missing in Ulsan as of Tuesday afternoon.

The casualties could rise as rescue operations continue, with the military mobilising amphibious vehicles.

Some 2,900 people have been evacuated, mostly in the south of the country, and more than 66,000 homes experienced power outages, with 45 per cent of service

restored as of 3 pm.

The typhoon forced hundreds of flight cancellations, suspension of business operations and school closings. POSCO reported a temporary byproduct gas release at its Pohang plant due to a power outage caused by the typhoon.

Shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries based in Ulsan said there were no major losses though some parts of its factory were submerged. Some of its ships were sent to the west coast to head off damage and would return on Thursday. — Reuters

SHORT TAKES

TOKYO

Ex-PM Abe’s state funeral to cost over \$12 m

Japan will spend about 1.65 billion yen on the state funeral planned for former prime minister Shinzo Abe, according to the government’s new estimate that includes security and reception costs. The government had approved a more modest budget of 250 million yen for the funeral but then faced criticism for what was deemed an unrealistic figure that excluded hefty outlays for the security and hosting of VIPs.

The government is now estimating the security fee for



the funeral will reach about 800 million yen, while hosting foreign delegations will cost about 600 million yen, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno announced. — Reuters

NEW DELHI

India for economic talks with Bangladesh

India will start talks on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with Bangladesh, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

“We also decided to increase cooperation in sectors such as IT, space and nuclear energy,” Modi said after holding talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina, who is on a four-day visit to India. Both countries have been involved in a joint study on the CEPA, which has been



in discussions between the two neighbours for many years.

Bangladesh is India’s largest development partner and the largest regional trade partner, Modi said. — Reuters

SANAA

27 killed in suspected attack on Yemeni checkpoint

At least twenty seven security personnel were killed in an attack by suspected Al Qaeda fighters targeting forces in southern Yemen, a security source said.

Fighters launched an attack on a security checkpoint in Abyan province, manned by the Security Belt Forces, killing a senior commander and several of his aides. Clashes erupted afterwards between the two sides, which led to the killing of 27 fighters, the source added. A statement by the Security Belt Forces said the



attack took place at dawn. After the clashes, the forces captured several fighters and chased after those escaping into the mountains surrounding the area, the statement added. — dpa



omaobserver.com/podcast

world

OMADAILYOBSERVER

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 7 | 2022

7

I brief

■ RIGA



LATVIAN GOVT PLANS TO REINTRODUCE MILITARY SERVICE

Latvia plans to reintroduce military service in response to Russia's war against Ukraine. The government of the Baltic nation, which is both a member of the EU and Nato, supported a corresponding proposal in Riga on Tuesday by the Ministry of Defence, which is now to draw up a draft law. According to the draft, military service is to be introduced from 2023. Men between the ages of 18 and 27 are to be conscripted - initially on a voluntary basis, but later also on a compulsory basis. Women in the same age group will be able to volunteer for the 11-month military training. Parliament still has to approve the plan. — dpa

■ PRAGUE



EX-CZECH GENERAL LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT

Czech presidential candidate and former general Petr Pavel has officially launched his election campaign. He wants to be a president who moderates passions and leads people to a common goal, the 60-year-old said in Prague. His motto, he said, is "Let's give the Czech Republic back order and calm." As an independent candidate, Pavel needs to collect 50,000 signatures from supporters, about half of which he says he has already gathered. The populist former prime minister and billionaire Andrej Babi is considered the strongest opponent. Pavel was Czech chief of staff from 2012 to 2015. — dpa

■ OUAGADOUGOU



35 KILLED IN LAND-MINE EXPLOSION IN BURKINA FASO

At least 35 have been killed and another 37 injured, some of them seriously, in a land-mine explosion in Burkina Faso, officials said. The government in the country's Sahel region announced late on Monday evening that a vehicle driving in a military convoy had hit a land-mine. The victims of the explosion were all civilians, according to a government statement, with many children among the injured. The group was under military protection on Monday afternoon on its way from the city of Djibo to the capital Ouagadougou to stock up on basic necessities. — dpa

Truss becomes new UK prime minister

BALLATER, United Kingdom: Liz Truss on Tuesday officially became Britain's new prime minister, at an audience with head of state Queen Elizabeth II after the resignation of Boris Johnson.

The former foreign secretary, 47, was seen in an official photograph shaking hands with the monarch to accept her offer to form a new government and become the 15th prime minister of her 70-year reign.

The symbolic ceremony took place at the sovereign's remote Balmoral retreat in the Scottish Highlands, as the queen, 96, was deemed unfit to return to London due to ill health.

"The queen received in audience the right honourable Elizabeth Truss MP today and requested her to form a new administration," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

Ms Truss accepted Her Majesty's offer and kissed hands upon her appointment as prime minister.

The last time the handover of power took place at Balmoral was in 1885, when queen Victoria was on the throne. Normally, the outgoing and incoming prime minister meet the queen in quick succession at Buckingham Palace in central London.

It has only been held once outside London since 1952, when Winston Churchill met the new queen at Heathrow Airport after the death of her father, king George VI. Truss was announced winner of an internal vote of Conservative Party members on Monday, after a



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Britain's Prime Minister-elect Liz Truss meet at Balmoral Castle in Ballater, Scotland, where the Queen invited Truss to form a government. — AFP

gruelling contest that began in July. She was expected to make her first speech as prime minister outside 10 Downing Street at about 4 pm on Tuesday. Heavy rain and storms are forecast, mirroring the gloomy economic situation that she and her new senior ministers will now have to tackle.

The appointments are due to be finalised before she hosts her first cabinet meeting and faces questions in parliament on Wednesday.

Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng is expected to become finance minister, with Attorney General Suella Braverman moved to the tricky brief of home

The appointments are due to be finalised before Liz hosts her first cabinet meeting and faces questions in parliament on Wednesday

secretary, and James Cleverly to foreign affairs.

If confirmed, it would mean no white men in any of Britain's four main ministerial posts for the first time ever. The incoming prime minister faces a daunting to-do list, with the UK in the grip of its worst economic crisis in decades, with

double-digit inflation and skyrocketing gas and electricity bills.

Truss, who touts herself as a free-market liberal, has promised tax cuts to stimulate growth, despite warnings that greater borrowing could make inflation worse.

British media reported on Tuesday that she would freeze energy bills for hard-pressed households and business which could cost some £100 billion (\$116 billion). The contrast to her beaten leadership rival Rishi Sunak's more cautious approach has opened another rift in the Conservative Party that was already divided by Johnson's departure. Recent opinion polls suggest a sizeable

Britain's new Prime Minister



Age: 47

- Oxford graduate elected MP for Conservatives in 2010
- Campaigned against Brexit but after 2016 vote strong supporter
- International trade and later foreign minister in Boris Johnson's government
- Campaigned among party members for massive tax cuts
- Officially appointed British Prime Minister by Queen Elizabeth II on Sept 6

AFP Photos/Pool

AFP

chunk of the British public have no faith in her ability to tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

A new poll by YouGov said only 14 per cent expect Truss — the fourth Tory prime minister in six years — to do a better job than Johnson.

Johnson, whose tenure was dominated by Brexit and Covid and cut short by a succession of scandals, earlier promised Truss his unswerving support as he made a farewell speech in Downing Street.

"I will be supporting Liz Truss and the new government every step of the way," he said, before leaving for Balmoral to cheers and applause from supporters. — AFP

Canada extends manhunt for suspect in stabbing spree

JAMES SMITH CREE NATION, Saskatchewan: Canada's largest manhunt extended into its third day on Tuesday with hundreds of officers searching for the lone surviving suspect in a stabbing spree that killed 10 people on Sunday, roiling a country where mass violence is rare.

Myles Sanderson, 30, remained on the loose and possibly injured, police said, after they found his brother Damien Sanderson, 31, dead in a grassy area of the James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatchewan on Monday.

The brothers are suspected of murdering 10 people and wounding 18 more in a stabbing rampage that devastated an indigenous community in one of the deadliest attacks in Canada's modern history.

Police said some of the victims appeared to have been targeted, while others were apparently random.

Hundreds of police officers were searching for Myles Sanderson, who was considered armed and dangerous, said Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore of the Saskatchewan Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who has been briefing reporters.

Sanderson had previous run-ins with the law, and has been wanted since May when he stopped meeting his parole officer after serving a sentence for assault, robbery, mischief and uttering threats, CBC News reported.

Police said they were investigating whether Sanderson may also have killed his brother,



Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers at James Smith Cree Nation talk after multiple people were killed and injured in a stabbing spree on the reserve and nearby town of Weldon, Saskatchewan, Canada. — Reuters

Police had yet to offer details about the victims except they were men and women spanning a wide range of ages

and could have sustained injuries that might cause him to seek medical attention.

Police had yet to offer details about the victims except they were men and women spanning a wide range of ages.

People from the area said a mother of two, a 77-year-old widower and a first responder were among the victims. read more

Some First Nation leaders connected the killings with drug use, though police have yet to identify drugs or alcohol as a factor. In an unrelated incident that has further rattled the province, police in Saskatchewan

said on Monday they were investigating reports of a shooting on Witchehan Lake First Nation and warned the public that several armed suspects were at large.

Blackmore, who identified the two suspects as brothers, said Myles Sanderson "has a lengthy criminal record involving both persons and property crimes."

He is "armed and dangerous." "This brings the count of this tragedy to 11 deceased persons, 19 injured and 13 crime scenes," Blackmore said, including the brothers in the tolls.

Earlier in the day, police said Damien Sanderson and Myles Sanderson were both charged with murder.

Police said they received a first call about a stabbing in Saskatchewan's James Smith Cree Nation at 5:40 am, before receiving further reports of stabbing incidents including in the nearby village of Weldon.

—Agencies

Iran says insists on 'four topics' in nuclear talks

TEHRAN: Iran said on Tuesday that, in its protracted talks with major powers to restore its tattered 2015 nuclear deal, it is insisting on resolving "four topics".

The four points, addressed by the government spokesman, relate to US assurances a new deal will hold, relief from punishing sanctions, and to the UN monitoring of Iranian sites.

"As Iran's president (Ebrahim Raisi) has said, we have pursued and will pursue four topics in the negotiations," the spokesman, Ali Bahadori-Jahromi, told a press briefing.

On the first point, he said that "the guarantees must be reassuring", referring mainly to Tehran's demand that future US administrations won't scrap the deal again, as Donald Trump's did in 2018.

"Objective and practical verification should be foreseen in the deal," he added, to ensure that sanctions are lifted not just on paper, and that international companies can return to Iran and operate freely.

Bahadori-Jahromi also said the "removal of sanctions should be meaningful and sustainable" as oil-rich Iran hopes to truly reap the economic benefits of sanctions relief.

And the spokesman stressed that "political claims about the safeguard issues should be closed", referring to Iran's claim a UN nuclear watchdog probe into unexplained nuclear particles found at various Iranian research sites is "political" and must end before a new deal is implemented.

The original nuclear deal



promised Iran relief from crippling sanctions in return for guarantees it would not obtain a nuclear weapon, a goal Iran has always denied pursuing.

Trump also withdrew the United States from the agreement in 2018 and reimposed heavy economic sanctions on Iran, prompting the Islamic republic to roll back on its earlier commitments.

Iran has since April 2021 been engaged in EU-mediated talks to revive the deal, with Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia directly and the United States indirectly.

The European Union on August 8 put forward what it called a final text to restore the agreement, and Tehran and Washington then issued their responses and proposals.

Washington last Thursday labelled Tehran's latest response as "not constructive", adding that it would issue its own answer through the EU.

Bahadori-Jahromi said on Tuesday that "negotiations about the agreement are continuing, but the other side should stop its excessive demands". — AFP

Nurturing the lost skill of listening



Dr Nisma Haris

The writer is a general physician, content creator

You are all ready to leave for work and here comes your kid to explain all the details of that drawing that he has put on paper. You might be hearing him out but not ‘listening’.

So here on, an interesting add-on to acknowledge is hearing is not equivalent to listening.

We hear the sounds of birds, animals, a cell phone ringing, machines operating, vehicles running on roads, or people chatting around ‘subconsciously’ without putting much effort into it.

Active and efficient listening is more than that.

Listening requires immersing and absorbing yourself in a conversation without the urge to interrupt or juggle with the

thoughts and programming a reply.

Now, why is listening so important? Just recall any occasion when you narrated some incident to anyone and they listened to it with utmost attention and interest.

How elated you had felt then. When someone is heard effectively, they get a sense of acceptance and belonging.

Likewise, a child’s innocent narration of anything to his or her parents means a world of happiness for him when he is heard with full attention.

Genuinely, listening is one of the vital communication tools and sadly it is also the most neglected one.

A lot has been said and written about other components of

MOST OF US ARE INTERESTED TO SPEAK, BUT VERY FEW PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED TO LEND A SINCERE EAR TO SOMEONE ELSE. LISTENING IS ONE OF THE VITAL COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND SADLY IT IS ALSO THE MOST NEGLECTED ONE

effective communication like speaking and writing but when it comes to listening there is scanty information.

Most of us are interested to speak, but very few people are interested to lend a sincere ear to

someone else.

The reasons behind so many arguments, miscommunications, fights, or discords include our failure to listen to what other is saying, or even if we listen, we do it least efficiently.

The same goes for children; when they are not actively heard, they slowly drift away from expressing themselves.

What might seem minor issues, in the beginning, might be detrimental and impact their developmental process over the long haul.

Typically, kids do not follow any set timings to speak up to you for any query or anything that they want to share.

They might show up when you

are on an important call or maybe at a gathering.

This is the real challenge when you are doing something utmost important and they need you to be there mentally.

Reassure them you’ll revert as soon as you are done with the task you are in so they won’t feel shunned or unattended.

When you are letting them spill their thoughts without interrupting or correcting them in the midst, you are giving them their space to blossom and broaden their horizons.

You are letting them nurture this innate and lost skill of listening which will immensely enhance and elevate their personal and professional lives in the future.

Dream job: the Japanese man who gets paid to do nothing

TOM BATEMAN AND RIKAKO MARUYAMA

Shoji Morimoto has what some would see as a dream job: he gets paid to do pretty much nothing.

The 38-year-old Tokyo resident charges 10,000 yen (\$71) per booking to accompany clients and simply exist as a companion.

“Basically, I rent myself out. My job is to be wherever my clients want me to be and to do nothing in particular,” Morimoto said adding that he had handled some 4,000 sessions in the past four years.

With a lanky build and average looks, Morimoto now boasts nearly a quarter of a million followers on Twitter, where he finds most of his clients.

Roughly a quarter of them are repeat customers, including one who has hired him 270 times.

His job has taken him to a park with a person who wanted to play on a see-saw.

He has also beamed and waved through a train window at a complete stranger who wanted a send-off. Doing nothing doesn’t mean Morimoto will do anything.

He has turned down offers to move a fridge and go to Cambodia, and doesn’t take any requests of any adverse nature. Last week, Morimoto sat opposite Aruna Chida, a 27-year-old data analyst clad in a sari, having a sparse conversation over tea and cakes.

Chida wanted to wear the Indian garment out in public but was worried it might embarrass her friends.

So she turned to Morimoto for companionship.

“With my friends I feel I have to entertain them, but with the rental-guy (Morimoto) I don’t feel the need to be chatty,” she said.

Before Morimoto found his true calling, he worked at a publishing company and was often chided for “doing nothing.”

“I started wondering what would happen if I provided my ability to ‘do nothing’ as a service to clients,” he said.

The companionship business is now Morimoto’s sole source of income, with which he supports his wife and child. Although he declined to disclose how much he makes, he said he sees about one or two clients a day.

Before the pandemic, it was three or four a day.

As he spent a Wednesday doing nothing of note in Tokyo, Morimoto reflected on the bizarre nature of his job and appeared to question a society that values productivity and derides uselessness.

“People tend to think that my ‘doing nothing’ is valuable because it is useful (for others) ... But it’s fine to really not do anything.

People do not have to be useful in any specific way,” he said. — Reuters

Ukrainians in rural Ireland piece together new lives, step by step



Megan Specia

The writer is a NYT correspondent on the International Desk in London

There are two flags flying over the youth hostel on Arranmore Island, a speck of land off Ireland’s northwestern coast, visible from the ferry as it pulls into its tiny port: the Irish tricolour and the blue and yellow banner of Ukraine.

Yaroslava Risukhina, a refugee from Ukraine, remembers the joyous feeling that swept over her when she saw the flags fluttering above the village.

“When we arrived by ferry, it was the evening, and it was beautiful,” she said, marvelling at the view from the room her family shares at the hostel.

“Here, everyone knows everyone, everyone says, ‘Good morning,’ and for us that’s unusual.”

Since the middle of this summer, she and her children have been among 25 Ukrainian refugees living on the remote island, where the population had been steadily dropping for decades.

They are among the countless Ukrainians grappling with the uncertainty of how the next chapter of their lives will unfold as the war with Russia enters its seventh month, making it clear that their temporary displacement could become long term.

But the communities hosting them are also confronting the complexities of assimilating and providing for newcomers as they face their own economic and social challenges.

Across Donegal, the county containing Arranmore Island, at least 5,000 Ukrainians have been put up in hostels, hotels and other private accommodations, and more are arriving everyday, according to local authorities.

The arrivals are placing their children in schools and seeking jobs and housing.

It makes for a strange and untested alchemy as Ireland works to accommodate the largest number of refugees the country has ever accepted, mixing Ukrainians fleeing war with locals in the largely homogeneous towns and villages of its more rural corners.

Risukhina and her son and daughter are from Sievierodonetsk, a city in Ukraine’s east that was largely destroyed this summer after it became



A Ukrainian woman minds a child at a hostel that hosts Ukrainian families on Arranmore, a small island off the coast of Donegal, Ireland.

THE COMMUNITIES HOSTING THE REFUGEES ARE CONFRONTING THE COMPLEXITIES OF ASSIMILATING AND PROVIDING FOR NEWCOMERS AS THEY FACE THEIR OWN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES

a battleground. She doesn’t know if, or when, she will be able to return. For now she is focused on getting her children started at the small local school.

“But it’s like walking in the fog,” she said. “You just take it step by step.”

Some 50,000 Ukrainians have come to Ireland in the months since the nation announced visa-free travel and offered housing and support for the displaced in line with the European Union’s temporary protection directive. The number hosted in Ireland is just a fraction of the more than 7 million Ukrainian refugees that the United

Nations has recorded across Europe since the start of the war in February.

But it has proved to be a logistical challenge for a country with a population of only about 5 million, which is already experiencing a housing crisis and a shortage of doctors and teachers.

Newly arrived Ukrainians are taken to an emergency centre in Dublin, which has increasingly been overwhelmed, before being sent to privately owned hotels and homes that the government has contracted with across the country.

A number of departments in the Irish government involved in the programme did not respond to requests to comment for this story.

For the Ukrainians in cities and larger towns, it is often easier to find work and get to shops and schools.

Artem Baranovskyi, 35, who has been living in a hotel in the centre of Letterkenny, the largest town in Donegal, with hundreds of other Ukrainian families, already has two jobs — as an electrician and a health care worker — and is planning to move his family into an apartment and buy a car. As he took his son to school one day, he said, “I keep reminding him how lucky we are to be here.”

— New York Times

Global solidarity for sustainable development



Samuel Kutty @samkuttyvp

The writer is a senior journalist, author and columnist

Charity refers to a quality or virtue of unlimited love and kindness, and a conscious and unconditional practice of benevolent giving and caring. It is carried out selflessly, it is a one-way act where a person gives but asks for nothing in return.

Since 2012, September 5 has been celebrated as International Day of Charity to help those in need through philanthropic activities. The day facilitates social bonding with a focus on creating a common platform for charity across the world.

The day was officially declared by the UN General Assembly to commemorate the death anniversary of renowned missionary and Nobel laureate Mother Teresa, whose life was synonymous with charity. She worked tirelessly for the people who are in need, to overcome the poverty, distress, and suffering of the poorest in the world.

While the day puts focus on the power of community, promotes the rights of the marginalised and underprivileged section of society, and also educates the younger generations about generosity, the United Nations wants the world to know about the need to eliminate the effects of humanitarian crises and to help in promoting education, housing, and child protection.

Charity, like the notions of volunteerism and philanthropy, provides real social bonding and contributes to the creation of inclusive and more resilient societies. Charity can alleviate the worst effects of humanitarian crises, and supplement public services in healthcare, education, housing, and child protection.

SINCE 2012, SEPTEMBER 5 HAS BEEN CELEBRATED AS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CHARITY TO HELP THOSE IN NEED THROUGH PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES

The International Day of Charity 2022 theme is also announced by the United Nations every year to push the agenda of sustainable development with the governments around the world. Significantly, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development that was adopted

in September envisages “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality, and non-discrimination”.

The Agenda’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals emphasise the responsibilities of all countries to respect, protect and promote human rights. There is a strong emphasis on the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups such as children, young people, and persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. Defined, devised, and fully owned by countries after the broadest and most intensive global multi-stakeholder consultation in history, the SDGs are the main reference for development policies and programmes at the national level. Seven years have passed since the Agenda 2030 was announced. During these years, the Sultanate of Oman has resolutely endeavoured to honour its international commitment to achieving these goals by 2030 by integrating the latter into its long-term strategies and short and medium-term plans and programmes, whilst relying on the UN 2030 Agenda as a central pillar.

The Oman Vision 2040 and five-year plans and strategies, all underscore the fact that the country takes the agenda seriously and had devised the necessary policies, initiatives, and programmes to ensure the achievement of desired goals by the internationally agreed deadline

Oman’s determination to achieve the goals and targets constitutes a natural extension of the values and principles of sustainability, equality, justice, peace, engagement, and “leaving no one behind” that have been deeply rooted in Omani society since its inception. This reality is reflected in the Basic Statute of the country, which has always been a reference framework for all development plans and programmes in the Sultanate of Oman.

Since the onset of the blessed Renaissance in 1970, the Omani government focused on plans and programmes that enhance the living conditions of citizens. The Royal directives in this regard paved the way for significant progress towards achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals at the time and enabled the country to move forward steadily and confidently towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As a result, Oman is ranked today among high-level income countries and incarnates an inspiring model of focus on investment in human capital and infrastructure of the knowledge development necessary to deliver socio-economic sustainability. The social protection scheme in Oman encompasses an array of programmes and policies such as retirement and social insurance systems that are tailored to fit every sector in the country.



WATERLOGGED STREETS

Vehicles waded through a waterlogged street following heavy monsoon rains in Bangladesh capital Dhaka on Tuesday. — AFP

Fears of ‘massive’ bills as energy crisis hits UK schools

CAROLINE TAIK AND MARIE HEUCLIN

Rachael Warwick, who oversees three schools in southeast England, has had to sign a new contract to heat and light their buildings at tariffs that she describes as “eye-watering”.

The executive head teacher of Ridgeway Education Trust in Oxfordshire calculates that if the schools she runs use the same amount of energy as before, their annual bill will go up from £250,000 to £1.1 million (\$290,00 to \$1.3 million).

“It’s massive... We are looking for £900,000 additional, unbudgeted money,” she said, saying that paying this would exhaust financial reserves within a year.

The schools in the trust will do “sensible things” to cut energy use but raising such a large amount would require firing 30 teachers, she added.

Publicly funded schools in England are sounding the alarm as soaring energy prices hit their already tightly constrained budgets. This comes as schools are expanding activities after pandemic curbs.

UK households and businesses are also facing severe financial hits from energy bills that have soared in the post-pandemic era, exacerbated by Russia’s war on Ukraine.

A spokesperson for the government’s education department said: “We are aware of the inflationary pressures facing schools and know that rising costs will impact schools differently”.

The department pointed to a £4-billion rise in funding for schools announced last year and said it was recommending energy deals.

England’s commissioner for children, Rachel De Souza, vowed “schools must absolutely not close” in an interview with The Telegraph late on Friday. In the campaign to become the next

PUBLICLY FUNDED SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND ARE SOUNDING THE ALARM AS SOARING ENERGY PRICES HIT THEIR ALREADY TIGHTLY CONSTRAINED BUDGETS. THIS COMES AS SCHOOLS ARE EXPANDING ACTIVITIES AFTER PANDEMIC CURBS

Conservative party leader and UK prime minister, neither Liz Truss nor her rival Rishi Sunak, had made firm commitments to help schools cover huge additional costs.

“I really hope that when we have a new PM, things will be done with the urgency it requires,” said Warwick, stressing that while the energy crisis affects all sectors including health, “schools can’t be forgotten. It’s an essential public service.”

She called on the government to set an energy price cap for schools, similar to that for domestic users. “I think Liz Truss has been quite clear about what her priorities are — a lot of stuff about tax cuts — but there hasn’t been any mention of bailing out public sector bodies,” said John Dickens, editor of the Schools Week newspaper.

“The public sector — schools and other institutions — they seem to have been forgotten about a little bit.” Head teachers and unions are urging the government to do more.

“We will be making representations to the new government ministers when they are in post next week to put this at the top of their priority list,” said Julian Gravatt, deputy chief executive of the Association of Colleges, which includes institutions teaching children aged 16 to 18. “We need to do something. It is a national problem

and I think we should view it like that,” said Paul Gosling, headteacher of Exeter Road Community Primary School in Exmouth, southwest England, who is president of the NAHT headteachers’ union. From next month, Gosling’s small school of several hundred pupils will have to switch to a new energy contract at current market prices. He fears that will cost up to £60,000 — three times more the current sum.

“If the government doesn’t step in to help, many schools are predicting that they will be plunged into deficit this year,” NAHT general secretary Paul Whiteman said. Education is a devolved issue, with schools and policy the responsibility of the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The UK government in London is in charge in England, where state schools are either funded directly by local authorities or classed as “academies” with greater autonomy on budgeting, a reform introduced by former premier Tony Blair.

While schools are not profit-making businesses, the UK government has not committed to further help with energy bills.

Schools are going to have to “fire staff, stop doing extra-curricular activities, all these things that would have driven a recovery in our schools,” said Dickens.

“These things are going to have to be cut just so schools can keep heating and lights on.”

Schools have been “cash-starved” since 2010 when Conservative PM David Cameron’s government brought in “austerity policies” after the 2008 global financial crash, Dickens said.

Recently, the government has boosted money available but the newspaper editor said this will be “wiped out” by “new unforeseen costs” including energy.

— AFP



The education department says it is recommending energy deals to mitigate massive bills as schools expand activities after pandemic curbs. — AFP

sport

Follow us on
omanobserver.om/sports



Seeb advance to AFC Cup West Zone final

COACH STAN EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE WITH THE SQUAD

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

Oman's representatives Seeb inched closer to claim the historic title of AFC Cup 2022 as they defeated Kuwait's Al Arabi SC 2-1 in a thrilling West Zone semifinal late on Monday. At the Kuwait Sports Club Stadium, Mohsin al Ghassani and Salah al Yahyai goals in the extra time sealed the Omani side's significant triumph.

With this victory, Seeb advanced to the West Zone final which will take place in Muscat on October 4. The winners of the second semifinal between Bahraini clubs East Riffa and Al Riffa late on Tuesday will take on Seeb in the final.

The champions of West Zone will face off against the



winner of Inter-Zone as PFC Sogdiana, Eastern Long Lions, ATK Mohun Bagan and Kuala Lumpur City FC reached the semifinals. The overall final of AFC Cup 2022 will be held on October 22.

After a goalless draw in the

regulation time, Mohsin al Ghassani broke the deadlock as he opened the scoring five minutes later in extra time in extraordinary fashion and benefiting from Arabi defender's mistake. Three minutes later, Salah al Yahyai doubled the



score through a strong shot which the goalkeeper could not stop. Arabi's Kingsley Eduwo reduced the margin in the 115th minute.

Seeb head coach Ilie Stan said he was confident that Seeb would progress to the

final match of West Zone. "Congratulations to all the players. I had full trust on them since I arrived to Oman last summer," Stan said in post-match comments.

The Romanian coach appreciated the Seeb squad

for keeping their full focus and drive throughout the exhausting semifinal encounter. "I was confident with my existing squad. I have full backing from our solid management team. When I took in charge of the team, the players were already in a good condition. Special thanks to the physio team for maintaining the fitness of the players. Dedicated thanks to the management as well as they are very close to the players," coach Stan said.

Highlighting on the upcoming period, the Seeb head coach said he will focus to keep the organisation of their game. "I have perfect players. The players understand my philosophy and we will try to get better results in the coming fixtures," he concluded.

Oman women riders train hard for Jordan tent pegging

WALEED AL JAHWARI
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

Oman women's national team for tent pegging continues its intensive training for the second week in preparation to take part in the international women's tent pegging championship 'Grand Prize', which will be hosted by Jordan during September end.

The championship is expected to see participation of 28 women representing 14 countries namely

Sultanate of Oman, Jordan, Sudan, Russia, Belarus, Britain, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Norway, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia.

Oman team consists of Ghanima bint Abdullah al Shukailiyah, Turkiya bint Mahmoud al Balushiyyah and Amal bint Abdullah al Maskariyyah. Mohammed bin Salim al Malki is the team manager while Hilal bin Hassan al Balushi is the team coach.



Ahmed bin Saif al Abri, Secretary-General and Chairman of the Competitions Committee of the Oman Equestrian Federation (OEF), said, "the federation has completed preparations for the tournament, which is supervised by the International Federation for Tent Pegging and organised by the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation."

"The federation has selected the contestants according to efficiency and based on the results in the

last season, as this tournament is similar in its system to the international tournament for tent pegging that was held in Duqm. Only two riders and a reserve will compete in the championship. The OEF has completed the selection process and assigned Hilal bin Hassan al Balushi as coach of the team. The team started the internal camp since last week at Al Rahba Farm in Barka, and still continuing until the date of its travel to Jordan," he added.

OMAN TO HOST ICC MEN'S U19 CRICKET
WORLD CUP DIVISION 2 QUALIFIERS

Arjun Dhiman named skipper of U19 squad



MUSCAT: Arjun Dhiman has been named captain of the Oman squad for the forthcoming ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup (CWC) Division 2 Qualifiers. The eight-nation qualifying tournament will be played at the Oman Cricket Academy grounds from September 29-October 7. Oman are placed along with Bhutan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in Group A while Group B comprises Hong Kong, Thailand, Qatar and Singapore.

The two finalists of Division 2 will progress to the final round of Asia Qualifier. They will join Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal and UAE who are already granted a place in the final stage of qualification.

The winner of the final round of Asian Qualifier will book a place in the ICC Men's U19 World Cup in 2024. Arjun is one of the most experienced youngsters in the squad and has been part of the Premier Division season for the past couple of years.

Oman Cricket selectors and head coach Adeel Shafique picked a squad that boasts of maximum number of all-rounders. Aditya Gurmukhi, another youngster who has been playing in the Premier Division, has been appointed as the team's vice-captain. Both Arjun and Aditya are off-spinners and strokeful batters.

Besides the skipper and his deputy, the team revolves around all-rounders with Lakshmi Narayana one of them. The teenager shone with the bat last season when he hammered a record unbeaten 213 in an inter-school match [30-overs-a-side].

A handy leg-spinner, he will be joined by couple of other leg-spinners in Prateish Ramesh and Ashish Kumar,

the latter being a right-arm leggie and a left-handed batter.

The team's spin attack is bolstered by Glen Menezes, who has tasted good success at the school cricket level and with national U16 side.

Experienced Siddh Mehta's off-spin will be one of the ingredients in the national team's attempt to win the group. Siddh is also a useful middle order batter.

Another off-spinner in the side is Tanuj Sivakumar, whose batting skills have been honed in the domestic A Division league last season.

Aryan Bisht completes the line-up of all-rounders.

Born in Muscat, Aryan has been playing competitive cricket in the Indian state of Uttarakhand for the past couple of years.

Rahil Habibulla is the lone wicketkeeper and the batting keeper has been among runs in the domestic cricket with a tidy showing behind wickets.

The pace battery is led by Mohammed Arafat Islam, whose raw pace has impressed the coaches. Another pacer who will shoulder lot of responsibility is Devansh Loya. The lanky seamer has made good use of his height [6'3"] while picking up wickets and is considered to be one of compact batters in the squad with couple of centuries under his belt.

Ahmed al Zadjali is another bright prospect included in the team and the only Omani will be hoping to make his debut for his country. A trainee at the Oman Cricket Academy for the past three years, Ahmed is a medium pacer.

The pace quartet is completed by Chaitra Thanki, the most experienced fast bowler, who is also playing in the Premier Division.

GREEN STEERS AUSTRALIA TO 2-WICKET WIN OVER NZ

CAIRNS, Australia: Emerging star Cameron Green held his nerve with a career best 89 not out in Australia's thrilling two-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first one-day international on Tuesday in Cairns.

After Glenn Maxwell starred with four wickets and a spectacular catch to restrict New Zealand to a modest 232-9, Australia slumped to 44-5 against inspired new ball bowling from quicks Trent Boult and Matt Henry under lights.

A composed Green and Alex Carey (85) turned the match on its head with a brilliant 158-run partnership to overwhelm an increasingly ragged New Zealand attack.

But Carey's dismissal in the 40th over triggered a late twist as Australia crashed to 207-8 and still needing 26 runs, a target made more difficult with Green in discomfort with cramps.

Green, however, would not be denied as Australia sealed victory in an anti-climax through a wide delivery from quick Lockie Ferguson to start the 46th over.

Australia drew first blood in the three-match Chappell-Hadlee series, which continues at the same venue on Thursday. "It was an amazing effort in his 11th (ODI) game to play a match-winning knock," Australia skipper Aaron Finch said of 23-year-old Green.

Australia's batting order appeared set for another humiliating performance in the wake of being dismissed for a lowly 141 in a stunning three-wicket loss to underdog Zimbabwe on Saturday. Their chase started disastrously when under-pressure Finch fell lbw to Boult for five.

The 35-year-old opener unsuccessfully reviewed the decision and trudged off with his ODI career seemingly hanging in the balance having scored just 26 runs in his last six matches.

Left-arm quick Boult was on a roll when he dismissed in-form Steve Smith and recalled Marnus Labuschagne then Henry took over to leave Australia teetering before Green and Carey produced a record sixth-wicket partnership for Australia against New Zealand in ODIs.

"It ebbed and flowed. We weren't able to get that extra breakthrough after they were five down early," said captain Kane Williamson as New Zealand's 13-year drought in ODIs against the home team in Australia continued.

After Finch won the toss and



chose to bowl, Maxwell's part-time off-spin stole the show as New Zealand's batters failed to convert starts with Devon Conway (46), Williamson (45) and Tom Latham (43) falling short of half-centuries.

Maxwell's purple patch started

when he brilliantly caught veteran opener Martin Guptill one-handed in the gully in the fifth over before he took over with the ball.

The day-night contest ended an 18-year drought of international cricket in Cairns. — AFP

BRIEF SCORES

New Zealand 232-9, 50 overs (D Conway 46, K Williamson 45, T Latham 43; Glenn Maxwell 4-52, J Hazlewood 3-31)
Australia 233-8, 45 overs (C Green 89 not out, A Carey 85; Trent Boult 4-40, Henry 2-50)

Bavuma back to lead South Africa at T20 World Cup

JOHANNESBURG: Temba Bavuma will captain South Africa at the International Cricket Council's T20 World Cup in Australia in October after recovering from an elbow injury.

Bavuma was injured during a T20 international in India in June and was forced to miss South Africa's multi-format tour of England which ends next week. He made a return to action during a low-key T20 tournament currently being played in Namibia.

The squad announced by Cricket South Africa selection convener Victor Mpitsang on Tuesday includes explosive

batsman Tristan Stubbs, 22, who hit eight sixes in scoring 72 off 28 balls against England in his first international innings in Bristol in July.

"He's young, he's exciting and he's fearless and he plays the brand of cricket that (coach) Mark Boucher wants the team to play," said Mpitsang.

There was no place, though, for Dewald Brevis, 19, who set a run-scoring record in the Under-19 World Cup in the West Indies in January. Brevis, nicknamed 'Baby AB' for his similarities to retired star AB de Villiers, has been signed up by T20 franchises in India, the



Caribbean and South Africa — but has yet to play a first-class or List A match.

Middle order batsman Rassie van der Dussen was a notable omission.

Mpitsang said Van der Dussen needed six weeks to recover from a broken finger suffered in the second Test against England.

Bavuma, 32, was appointed South African white-ball captain in March 2021 — the first black African to lead the country — but critics have pointed out that his batting strike rate of 120.60 is lower than that of other specialist batsmen competing for a place in the starting line-up.

Mpitsang said Bavuma would open the batting at the World Cup and said it was "difficult" to envisage a situation where Bavuma might not be in the playing eleven.

Mpitsang said the World Cup squad of 15 players as well as three travelling reserves for the global event would play in a three-match T20 series in India, starting on September 28.

South African T20 World Cup squad: Temba Bavuma (captain), Quinton De Kock (wkt), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs. Travelling reserves: Bjorn Fortuin, Marco Jansen, Andile Phehlukwayo.

TIAFOE ENDS NADAL RUN



Top left: USA's Frances Tiafoe hits a return to Argentina's Diego Schwartzman during their 2022 US Open match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. Right: Spain's Carlos Alcaraz serves to USA's Jenson Brooksby. Bottom: Russia's Andrey Rublev reacts after defeating Canada's Denis Shapovalov.

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal put his first Grand Slam defeat for more than a year down to a “bad match” as he was stunned by American Frances Tiafoe in the fourth round of the US Open.

Nadal was looking for his third slam title of the year after winning the Australian Open and French Open to take the lead in the overall race but he was overpowered by Tiafoe in a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory that blows the tournament wide open.

Having pulled out of Wimbledon injured earlier in 2022 and missing both the US Open and Wimbledon tournaments in 2021, this was Nadal's first defeat at a slam since his loss to Novak

Djokovic in the semifinals of the French Open last spring.

Nadal gave a blunt assessment of his performance on Arthur Ashe Stadium, saying: “The difference is easy: I played a bad match and he played a good match.

“I was not able to hold a high level of tennis for a long time. I was not quick enough in my movements. He was able to take the ball too many times very early, so I was not able to push him back.

“Tennis is a sport of position a lot of times. If not, you need to be very, very quick and very young. I am not in that moment any more. Well done for him. He was better than me.”

No American man has won

a Grand Slam title since Andy Roddick at Flushing Meadows in 2003, by far their longest drought in tennis history.

Now Tiafoe, the 24-year-old son of immigrants from Sierra Leone who as a child slept in the office of a tennis centre in Maryland where his father was the caretaker, is right in the mix in a tournament that has lost first defending champion Daniil Medvedev and now Nadal.

RUBLEV, ALCARAZ THROUGH

Cameron Norrie's US Open run ended with a fourth-round defeat by Andrey Rublev.

Norrie, who was once again the last British singles player standing at a Grand Slam, was looking to follow-up his run to the Wimbledon semifinals but was below his best in a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 loss.

There is no Grand Slam winner left in the men's draw after Spanish

Tiafoe said of his win: “I don't even know what to say right now. I can't believe it. He's one of the greatest of all time. Something special happened today

third seed Carlos Alcaraz beat 2014 champion Marin Cilic 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in Monday's night session.

It is also the first time in nearly 20 years that Nadal, Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams are all missing from the latter stages of a major tournament.

Tiafoe, who took to the court in a hoodie celebrating Williams' greatness, said of his win: “I don't even know what to say right now. I can't believe it. He's one of the greatest of all time. I played some really good tennis. Something special happened today.”

Nadal went into the US Open short on matches after suffering an abdominal tear that forced him to withdraw from Wimbledon ahead

of the semifinals. He dropped sets to Rinky Hijikata and Fabio Fognini in the first two rounds but looked more like his usual self in a straight-sets victory over Richard Gasquet on Saturday.

Tiafoe, whose only previous slam quarterfinal came in Australia three years ago, had not lost a set going into the match and he exploited some sluggishness and unexpected errors from Nadal to clinch the opener.

There were some boos for Nadal when he returned from an eight-and-a-half-minute break, which included having his wrists taped to try to counter the humidity, but he took his chance at the end of the second to level the match. — **dpa**

Swiatek battles back to reach quarters, Pliskova wins

NEW YORK: World number one Iga Swiatek survived a scare to defeat Jule Niemeier and reach the quarterfinals of the US Open for the first time.

The Pole trailed by a set and a break to German Niemeier, who showed her potential by reaching the quarterfinals of Wimbledon in just her second main draw appearance at a Grand Slam.

Swiatek has not been in great form since her 37-match unbeaten run was ended by Alize Cornet at Wimbledon, and she made plenty of errors again here.

But the world number one fought hard to gain the ascendancy in the second set and dominated the third to win 2-6, 6-4, 6-0.

Swiatek said: “I'm just proud that I didn't lose hope because she was playing really good in the first



USA's Jessica Pegula serves to China's Yuan Yue at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York. — **AFP**

set. I'm pretty glad that I used my experience to keep the same kind of level throughout the whole match.”

In the quarterfinals, Swiatek

will face American Jessica Pegula, who is through to the last eight at a slam for the third time this season following a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Petra Kvitova.



Poland's Iga Swiatek reacts while facing USA's Lauren Davis during their 2022 US Open third round match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. — **AFP**

Pegula is part of a famous American sporting family, with her parents Terry and Kim Pegula the owners of NFL team the Buffalo Bills and NHL team the

Buffalo Sabres. She is enjoying the extra support that brings, saying: “It's definitely different playing overseas, I feel people don't make the connection as often as they do

here. “There is a lot of people from Buffalo that are kind of all over the place, you always find somebody that's a Bills and Sabres fan.

“And to me I think I have more embraced it and find it fun and cool that these people, because there's not a lot of tennis in Buffalo, know nothing about tennis but they will come and watch the match in Cincinnati or here or wherever, just because they are a fan of the teams.”

Sixth seed Aryna Sabalenka battled from a set down to defeat American Danielle Collins 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 and reach the quarterfinals for a second straight year.

In the last eight, Sabalenka will take on former finalist Karolina Pliskova, who saw off 26th seed Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 6-7 (7-5), 6-2. — **dpa**

business

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE
4,544.536



CRUDE OIL PRICE
Oman Crude \$95.09
Brent Crude \$93.07
Light Crude \$86.61



Follow us on
omanobserver.om/business

Banking Services Made Special to Suit Your World

BankDhofar provides you with a host of innovative products, services that are specially designed to suit your needs and exceed your expectations.

For more information:
<https://bit.ly/BankDhofarEng>

Al Riadah Priority Banking Services

Al Ri'aa Special Banking Services

Elderly Banking Services

Youth Banking Services

Expat Banking Services

Children Banking Services

بنك ظفار BankDhofar

the best bank for you

24731111 www.bankdhofar.com

Oman targets RO 11bn worth investments by 2025

PROJECT PIPELINE: New wave of investment opportunities in food security, health, culture and sport to be unveiled next month

CONRAD PRABHU
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

A new tranche of investment options focusing on four key sectors – food security, health, culture and sports – is due to be unveiled next month, a high-level official of Oman’s Vision 2040 programme has revealed.

Aisha al Saifi (pictured), Vice-President of the National Investment&ExportDevelopment Programme (Nazdaher) — an initiative set up under the auspices

of Oman Vision 2040 — said the investment proposals are part of a prodigious pipeline of opportunities, worth an estimated RO 11 billion in total investment, which are being offered up to local and international players over the 2021 – 2025 timeframe.

Al Saifi made the announcement at the MSX Roadshow, hosted by Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), which concluded at Shangri La’s Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa on Tuesday.

“We aim to facilitate the attraction of RO 11 billion worth of investments by the end of the programme in 2025, into projects that are now distributed across eight sectors with manufacturing and tourism leading those target sectors,” the official said.

“Of this target, investments



of around RO 4.3 billion have been achieved so far, and we have another RO 6.7 billion to go before

INVESTMENTS OF AROUND RO 4.3 BILLION HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR, AND WE HAVE ANOTHER RO 6.7 BILLION TO GO BEFORE THE END OF 2025. IN ALL, A TOTAL OF 175 PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL INVESTMENT POTENTIAL OF RO 11 BILLION ARE BEING OFFERED UP FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT OVER THE 2021 – 2025 TIMEFRAME

the end of 2025.”

In all, a total of 175 projects with a total investment potential

These are distributed across

eight key sectors: Manufacturing (29 per cent); Food Security (17 per cent); Energy (12 per cent); ICT (6 per cent); Logistics (14 per cent); Aviation (1 per cent); Tourism (21 per cent); and Mining (1 per cent). Significantly, a new wave of proposals will be unveiled for investment next month, according to the official.

“As we speak today, our teams are now sprinting with other concerned authorities to ensure that we are working together in fleshing out investment opportunities in four key sectors,” she said.

“Right now, we are working closely with the Ministry of Health to ensure that we will be fleshing out investment opportunities in the health sector, as well as culture and sports.”

Oman, South Korea strengthen cooperation on energy supply chain

JOMAR MENDOZA
@JmObserver

The Sultanate of Oman and South Korea agreed to strengthen cooperation on energy supply chain, renewables and hydrogen, this according to South Korea’s Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

South Korea’s Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Lee Chang-yang met on Monday in Seoul with Oman’s Energy and Minerals Minister Salim bin Nasser al Aufi and called on the two countries to work more

closely as major energy partners amid skyrocketing LNG prices from rising uncertainties in the international gas market.

In 2021, Oman is the fourth largest LNG supplier to South Korea, with 9.6 per cent of South Korea’s total LNG imports. On the other hand, South Korea is Oman’s largest LNG importer with 44.2 per cent of Oman’s total LNG exports.

Minister Lee noted the participation of South Korean firms in projects to build a desalination plant and refinery in Oman, and called for Oman’s

special interest in and support for the Korean companies that have taken on various projects in solar power, wind power, renewables and hydrogen.

The two countries agreed to have great prospects of cooperating in the green hydrogen area, which can utilise Oman’s rich renewable energy resources.

Accordingly, joint measures across green hydrogen production, overseas hydrogen supply chain establishment, hydrogen cars and fuel cell are potential areas for cooperation.

China lifts 78% of Omani crude exports in July

QASIM AL MAASHANI
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

The average total production of crude oil and oil condensates in the Sultanate of Oman for the month of July 2022 amounted to about 1.08 million barrels per day (bpd), an increase of 1.4 per cent compared to the previous month, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals announced on Tuesday.

Crude oil production climbed 15.4 per cent in July 2022 compared to the same period last year, it stated. The average price of Oman crude oil traded during July 2022 (for delivery in September 2022) was \$103.21 per barrel. Exports totalled 28.9 million barrels.

Production of crude and oil



condensates totalled 33.6 million barrels in July 2022.

Countries importing Omani crude oil for the month of July 2022 were led by the People’s Republic of China with 78 per cent of the total, followed by South Korea with 9 per cent, with the remainder distributed primarily between India, Japan

and Thailand.

Natural gas production averaged 148.6 million m3/day in July 2022, a decrease of 1.5 per cent compared to the previous month’s average.

The decrease was attributed to maintenance of some sites and the replacement of some gas pipelines.

Abraj showcases successful corporate track record at MSX Investor Roadshow



MUSCAT: Following the successful roll-out of its new brand identity, Abraj Energy Services (“Abraj”), a leading Omani oilfield and gas services company and a wholly owned subsidiary of OQ, participated in the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) Investor Roadshow that included potential IPO candidates. The company demonstrated to investors and key stakeholders its robust business model underpinned by strong financial and operational performance.

The MSX Investor Roadshow emphasized the extensive reforms being implemented to boost the Sultanate’s capital markets and bolster its privatization efforts. Abraj’s newly appointed CEO Saif Al Hamhami was joined by Business Development Director Salah Al Harthy in presenting the company’s role as an Omani oilfield services champion to a group of local, regional and global investors.

Al Hamhami said: “Through targeted investments and an experienced workforce, Abraj has grown into a leading Omani oilfield services company that is underpinned by strong financial performance, a modern drilling fleet and an unwavering commitment to providing clients with quality

services. At Abraj, we promote consistently high standards of excellence and a culture of safety across our operations. Abraj is focused on strengthening its role as a quality oilfield services provider that enhances in-country value and seeks to develop more productive, efficient and greener services that contribute to the Sultanate’s sustainable economic growth.”

Al Hamhami and Al Harthy highlighted that Abraj’s commitment to excellence has sustained the company’s robust financial standing, which is supported by stable, contracted income from a diversified blue-chip customer base. In 2021, the company generated \$323 million in revenues and \$121 million in EBITDA, which grew at 21% CAGR in the last 3 years.

Al Hamhami and Al Harthy attribute this success to their experienced management team and dedicated workforce. Abraj’s team of experts is part of a strong base of more than 2,500 dedicated employees, 93% of which are Omani citizens.

About Abraj

Abraj Energy Services SAOC (Abraj) is a wholly owned subsidiary of OQ, Oman’s integrated energy company. Established in 2006, Abraj

has grown significantly to become one of Oman’s leading drilling companies with one of the youngest and most advanced drilling fleets in the GCC. The company has successfully diversified its service offerings in innovative drilling and well services operations and integrated project management services. Abraj benefits from long-term contracts with leading national and international exploration and production companies.

Abraj has successfully leveraged years of experience and made targeted investments to deliver comprehensive engineering solutions to provide high quality services to a local and international client base. Abraj was the first MENA-based company to launch integrated fracking services, pioneering the development of unconventional deep tight gas wells.

Abraj has forged a robust network of suppliers, enabling adoption of advanced technologies, at optimal cost, across its portfolio. It leverages its talented workforce across activities to ensure high levels of safety and efficiency across its operations.

For more information about Abraj, visit our website www.abrajenergy.com.

Bank Muscat extends strong support and participates in MSX Investor Roadshow

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has extended its strong support to the first ever hybrid meeting of the rebranded Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).

Titled the “MSX Investor Roadshow”, the event, which was held at Shangri-la Barr Al Jissah from September 5-6, 2022, was designed to attract the attention of the global investment community to listed companies in the Sultanate of Oman and also introduce the latest developments and growth prospects of the local listed companies on the MSX to global funds.

The two-day event was attended by a number of the bank’s Management Team members. Bank Muscat also participated in the event by hosting a stall where bank employees were able to explain more about the bank’s operations, various financing facilities and solutions to local and international investors and analysts alike. The participation of the bank is in line with its aim to partner with different governmental institutions within the parameters of Oman Vision 2040.

The banking sector in Oman has



performed relatively well over the last few years and remained resilient to the challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Thanks to proactive measures taken by the Government and the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), today, the sector

is well positioned with good capital and liquidity levels supported by promising economic prospects, lower budget deficit, higher levels of oil prices and the lifting of pandemic-related restrictions.

Improved money supply as a result of implementation of the Supply Chain Financing Scheme and greater business opportunities stemming from projects related to education, fisheries, logistics and transportation, housing welfare schemes and tourism are expected to further boost Oman’s banking sector in the coming years.

Building on the government emphasis to diversify the economy, develop human resources and encourage private sector participation in national development, Bank Muscat has been playing an integral part in projects, developments and efforts of national importance in the Sultanate of Oman over the last 40 years.

The bank has been associated with major syndicated financing programmes across various sectors as the Mandated Lead Arranger. The Bank’s clients include both domestic companies engaged in

activities across all sectors of the economy such as contracting, trading, power, water, telecommunications, oil and gas, aviation, shipping, airport and ports, petrochemicals, real estate and international trading.

The bank is also complementing government efforts in strengthening the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the economic development of Oman.

The largest bank in the Sultanate by total assets, Bank Muscat continued its financial performance and growth by posting a net profit of RO 99.26 million for the six months ended June 30 2022, an increase of 4.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2021. It has consistently demonstrated its leadership position in Oman, winning a number of international and local awards and accolades in the process.

Recently, Bank Muscat was ranked by Forbes Middle East as one of the Top 100 Listed Companies and one of the Top 30 Banks in the Middle East. Previously, the bank has also won the MSM Quality of Disclosure Award for its timely disclosures and transparency.

Toyota Camry now with summer thrills campaign

MUSCAT: Toyota Camry customers have a fantastic opportunity to make the most of this season. Customers owning a brand new Camry can benefit with service 2 years/20,000 kms to 3 years/30,000 kms (whichever is earlier) and 1 year insurance (or cash gift in lieu of insurance from RO 250 – RO 275).

The campaign is valid until September 15, 2022. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details. Toyota Camry is one of the most popular sedans that continues to grow in popularity among its fan



base. The Camry has made its mark as a dependable, fuel-efficient and longer-lasting companion for numerous journeys. The Camry is available with a choice of three powertrain options, including a new 2.5-litre four-

cylinder Dynamic Force engine that produces 204 hp and 243 nm of torque and is paired with an eight-speed Direct-Shift Multi-mode automatic transmission; a 3.5-litre V6 engine with D-4S fuel injection system that produces 298 hp and 356 nm of torque and

is mated to an eight-speed multi-mode automatic transmission; and an electrified hybrid system, which combines a petrol engine and two electric motors.

The combined power of the two power sources is 208 hp. It is also paired with an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (ECVT), delivering heightened driving pleasure.

For the latest press releases, test drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, and instagram.com/toyotaomanoofficial/. For any further details and to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota Showroom.

Sohar International participates in MSX Investor Roadshow



MUSCAT: With an intention of bringing the best of the world to Oman and taking the best of Oman to the world, Sohar International recently participated in the Muscat Stock Exchange SAOC (MSX) Investor Roadshow as a Strategic Partner. The platform provided an ideal opportunity for Sohar International to showcase to potential investors the bank’s ongoing performance alongside the county’s overall positive trajectory in terms of economic growth.

Representing Sohar International alongside the executive management of the bank was Ahmed al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer who delivered an insightful presentation on the current operating environment, business strategy and the bank’s stellar financial performance.

Held at Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah, the MSX Roadshow was the biggest and first-ever hybrid meeting of Oman’s new rebranded stock exchange.

Commenting on Sohar International’s participation in the event, Ahmed al Musalmi said, “We are indeed delighted to be part of the MSX Investor Roadshow which has been organised at an idyllic time.

With the Sultanate’s keen focus on economic diversification and the strong impetus on accelerating public offerings, foreign investments in the country have been

gaining momentum. Through this event, we have been able to support the nation’s vision of introducing and promoting the listed companies on the Muscat Stock Exchange to a wide range of international investment institutions while simultaneously driving additional financial liquidity to the stock exchange.”

Strongly aligned to Oman Vision 2040, the roadshow was designed to attract the attention of the global investment community towards the listed companies in the Sultanate while simultaneously informing the global fund managers of the latest developments and growth prospects in the local market.

The event provided an ideal networking opportunity for leaders to present their organization’s performance and engage in effective communication with portfolio and asset managers as well as other local and global investors.

Ahmed al Musalmi further stated, “For Sohar International, the event provided a unique opportunity to update investors on the bank’s latest business development agenda, growth strategies, and potential investment opportunities.

On a holistic level, the bank will remain committed to nurturing a sustainable financial ecosystem while continuing to set new benchmarks and spearheading change in the banking sector as it continues to grow.”

UK lags behind Europe in easing high fuel costs



ANDY JALIL
andayjalil@aol.com

The writer is our foreign correspondent based in the UK

Amid a cost-of-living crisis, the UK is lagging behind many of its European Union rivals when it comes to easing the burden of high fuel prices. Data received by motoring group RAC has shown that among the EU countries that have cut petrol taxes since March, only Luxembourg and Croatia have done less for drivers than Britain. The 5p per litre cut introduced in the Spring Budget by former chancellor Rishi Sunak trails behind Germany’s 25p per litre, Italy’s 21p and Portugal’s 16p. Meanwhile, France and Spain

have introduced forecourt discounts of 15p and 17p per litre respectively.

Luxembourg and Croatia cut petrol prices by 4.5p per litre, ending at the bottom of the chart for petrol and diesel respectively. Britain also dragged behind most EU countries that did not implement any tax cut as nine out of 15 already have a cheaper fuel duty than the UK.

“This analysis lays bare an uncomfortable truth for the UK government – that compared to other European countries, it’s pretty much done the least to support drivers through the current period of record high fuel prices,” said the RAC.

Prices have started to drop a little in recent days following pressure on retailers to reflect the drop in wholesale costs that started a few weeks ago.

Commenting on the research, a Treasury spokesperson said the 5p per litre reduction was the government’s “biggest ever cut to fuel duty” and saved the average UK driver around £100. Fed-up drivers had staged a series of demonstrations, going back to July, blocking major arteries in

protest of alleged profiteering by forecourts which failed to pass on the all in wholesale gas prices.

Meanwhile, the UK has gone into the early stages of a drawn out recession that will tip millions of households into financial crises, reveals new forecasts. The inflation surge driven by an unprecedented rise in energy bills will steer the economy into recession this quarter and keep it there until the early months of next year, according to the National Institute of Economics and Social Research (NIESR), Britain’s oldest independent research institute.

The economy will shrink by 0.1 per cent this quarter and 0.5 per cent in the final quarter of this year and the first quarter of next year. Professor Stephen Millard, deputy director for macroeconomics at the NIESR, said: “The UK economy is heading into a period of stagflation with high inflation and a recession hitting the economy simultaneously.”

People have lost around £110bn in real disposable income since the financial crisis, dealing a huge blow to their

capacity to weather the present cost of living crunch. The poorest households will be forced to raid all their savings to pay for basic necessities, doubling the number of families with no savings to 5.3m by 2024.

The new prime minister, Liz Truss takes office at, indeed, a difficult period for the country. Some 1.2m households will be unable to buy food and cover energy bills with their income without more help. Average annual energy bills will climb to a peak of over £3,700 next spring, according to Cornwall Insights.

The NIESR called for reinstating the £25 universal credit uplift installed during the Covid-19 crisis. It also called for the £400 energy bill grant to climb to £600.

Inflation will climb to a peak of 11 per cent later this year and surge above 15 per cent next year, according to a top think tank, Resolution Foundation, who said governor of Bank of England (BoE) Andrew Bailey and the rest of the monetary policy committee (MPC) face “a protracted period of challenging policy making”.



Tejarah Talks tackles green economy transition

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, SEPT 6

While the responsibilities of governments in combatting climate change are widely acknowledged and their obligations well documented, there is a powerful belief among consumers that brands have equally strong obligations in taking action to mitigate their environmental impact and the transition to a green economy.

This economic transformation along with its business repercussions and opportunities is the topic slated for discussion at the next Tejarah Talks, the recently launched discussion forum organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth, Oman

Business Forum and supported by HSBC, SOHAR Port & Freezone and Omantel.

Entitled “Green Transition” the event will be held 7:30pm, on Wednesday, September 14, at Omantel’s Headquarters in Airports Heights.

Moderating the evening’s discussions will be His Highness Sayyid Dr Adham al Said, Managing Partner, The Firm while the panel comprises Rayan al Kalbani, Partner & Executive Director, METS; Dr Sausan al Riyami, Director, Oman Hydrogen Centre, GUtech; Talal Hasan, Carbon General, 44.01; and HH Sayyid Fahar al Said, Co-founder and CTO, YUZU Agriculture.

Speaking ahead of the event, MoCIIP Director and Tejarah Talks organiser, Maymuna al Adawi said: “The effort needed for this change in the way business



HH Sayyid Fahar al Said



Talal Hasan

and industry operate cannot be underestimated. It requires a fundamental rethinking of all sectors, from manufacturing, logistics and mining to energy, tourism and transport. And we have to recognise that despite recent positive economic figures, many Omani businesses — like their international counterparts — are still recovering from what has been a very difficult few years.

So, we need to help them as they reimagine their business models,

procedures and processes.”

The Tejarah Talks organiser went on to explain that the Omani public are more and more aware of the impact businesses are having on natural resource consumption and emissions, adding: “More recently the evolution towards a low carbon future has shifted from being a topic of debate to a matter of urgency for many Omani companies.

In fact, greening initiatives like offering more environmentally

friendly products or services, introducing green processes internally, hiring employees to promote sustainable practices, or going beyond compliance requirements, are helping Omani firms capture new business opportunities as well as spur innovation.”

Al Adawi also noted that the shift toward a green economy is influencing the way governments worldwide think about competitiveness and investment attraction. Expanding on this point, she explained: “As multinationals look to decarbonise their supply chains, robust national green policies and local supplier capabilities will become a key selling point to prospective investors, as they in turn look to meet the sustainability standards expected by end consumers.”

She continued: “This is an

exciting time for local businesses who want to make this switch and we are delighted to have a panel of experts who are helping lead Oman’s efforts towards a sustainable and more resilient economy. Let us be clear, employees, customers, funders and shareholders alike are all demanding more from businesses when it comes to their environmental credentials.

This session could not be more timely. Preserving and improving the environment are central features of Oman Vision 2040 and we hope the 14 September Tejarah Talks will encourage more Omani businesses to understand their importance as well as the rewards they offer.”

Tejarah Talks is free-of-charge and open to everyone. To reserve your seat at “Green Transition” email your name and mobile number to: TT@tejarah.gov.om

United States job market hints at progress in Fed’s inflation fight



STÉPHANE MONIER

The number of Americans looking for work remains close to fifty-year, pre-pandemic lows. Until now, record inflation and slowing growth had barely increased unemployment.

Last week saw initial signs of a potentially looser labour market, one pre-condition for the Federal Reserve to slow the pace of its interest rate hikes, and avoid a severe recession.

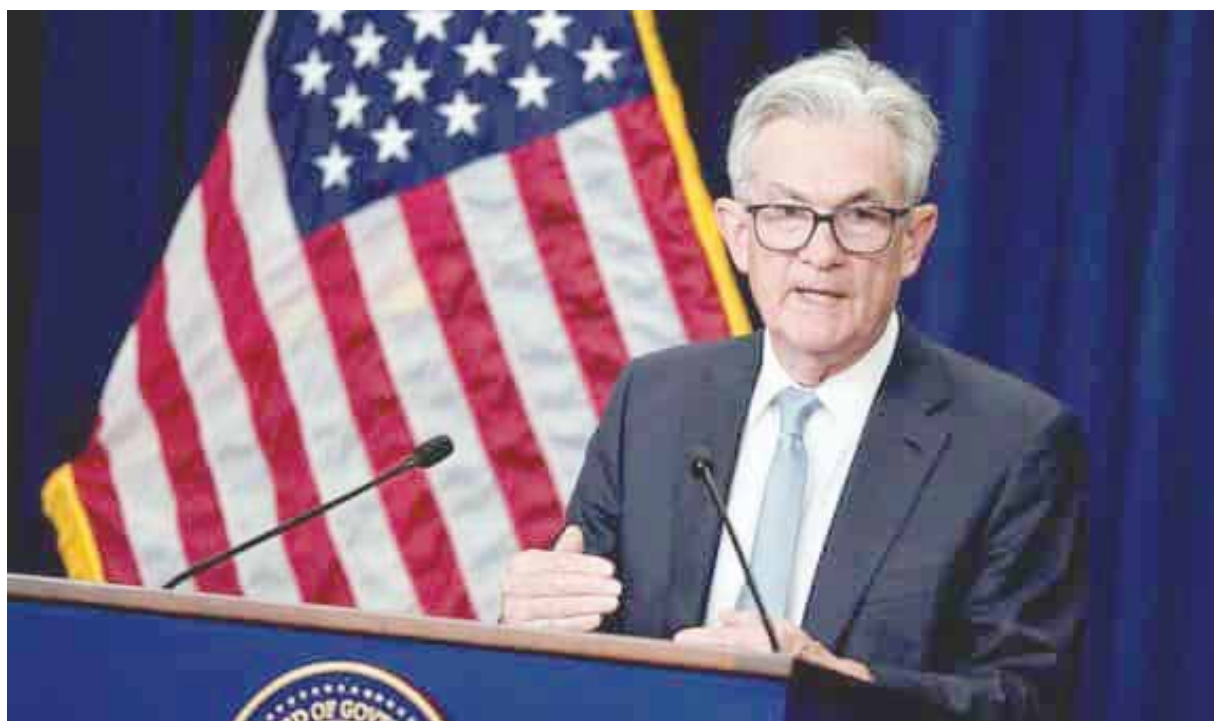
The US job market is moving, but slowly. Last week, the US reported an increase of 315,000 jobs in August compared with July, and an unemployment rate rising for the first time in six months to 3.7 per cent from 3.5 per cent a month earlier to a total of 6 million.

As the Covid pandemic’s impact on the economy faded and businesses re-opened, labour supply fell even as consumer demand for goods and services increased. That has left companies trying to keep existing staff, or hire the fewer available workers, on higher wages. The resulting inflation presents a challenge for the Fed to redress without triggering a severe recession.

While the central bank cannot increase the number of workers, higher interest rates should eventually reduce demand for them.

Price stability, or bringing inflation under control, remains the number one goal for the Fed. But until workers feel that there are fewer jobs available, they may ask for higher pay, so ‘anchoring’ expectations of higher future prices. That makes inflation more persistent.

While there is some lag in the effect of monetary policy on job markets, the longer that the job



market looks unresponsive to higher interest rates, the tighter monetary policy must become, increasing the risk of tipping the US economy from a mild slowdown into a more severe contraction.

The labour market “is clearly out of balance,” said Fed Chair Jerome Powell in a speech on 26 August. “History shows that the employment costs of bringing down inflation are likely to increase with delay, as high inflation becomes more entrenched in wage and price setting.”

Mr Powell’s speech, delivered at the Jackson Hole, Wyoming gathering of central bankers, was notable in underlining the Fed’s determination to continue monetary tightening. That determination appears to lower the chances of the rate hiking cycle reversing in 2023.

Inflation has started to show signs of easing and hourly wages declined in August. However, wage growth is on course to rise by an annualised 5 per cent, which is clearly incompatible with the Fed’s average inflation target of 2 per cent. The next inflation report scheduled for release on 13 September will be an important indication for the Fed in its decision between a 50 or 75 bps rate hike. We see the US benchmark rate peaking at 3.75 per cent early in 2023, enough to slow the economy into

a mild recession.

For now, economic data is not consistent with a contraction in the first half of 2022, and many of the other conditions for an improving inflation outlook are already in place. With the hiking cycle well under way, the US economy is slowing as the cost of borrowing and mortgages rise, commodity prices and demand decelerate, and supply chains and shipping prices improve, allowing firms to rebuild inventories.

In the first half of 2022, solid corporate earnings supported demand for labour. Investors’ focus is now moving to lower valuations as firms prepare for slowing demand and pressure on their margins. That may be contributing to less call for new hires.

Out of office

Still high employment levels are a least in part a consequence of some 3 million workers leaving the labour market. The US still has fewer workers in the economy than before Covid, although in August more people joined the workforce. While the headline unemployment rate has recovered to its pre-pandemic lows, the ‘participation rate’ in August was 62.4 per cent, slightly higher than July, but still a full percentage point below its pre-pandemic level.

That difference may overstate the change over the past two-

and-a-half years because an estimated two-thirds of these missing workers are thought to be the natural result of an ageing population, and people choosing early retirement.

In addition, the pandemic saw immigration fall by two-thirds since a recent high in 2017 (see chart 1), and the still-poorly understood impact of ‘long Covid’ symptoms, which may affect as many as one-fifth of those who have been infected, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, this still leaves some ‘prime age’ workers — aged between 25 and 54 — missing from the labour force, compared with pre-pandemic, although that too is narrowing. We see two scenarios. First, in our base case, the Fed’s hiking cycle is succeeding in curbing inflation and inducing a mild recession in 2023, consistent with rates peaking at 3.75 per cent. As markets get closer to fully pricing in this scenario, risk assets should find support. However, if inflation remains persistently high, the Fed may need to resort to even more restrictive monetary measures to cool economic activity. That could tip the US economy into a severe recession, weakening the outlook for risk assets further.

(The writer is Chief Investment Officer, Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA)

Flower and jackfruit business thrives in Oman



KABEER YOUSUF

@kabeeryousef

Flower merchants in the Sultanate of Oman are in an upbeat mood as several tonnes of flowers are being sold these days prior to the culmination day of Onam, a festive day for expatriate Indians.

Tonnes of diverse flowers are being imported majorly from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, two states of India known for their large assortment of flower cultivation and exports.

“Flower business this year is proving to be overwhelming as many tonnes of them are already sold off during the Onam days and many will be in disposal in the coming days in the run up to September 8,” said Naushad KN, Amana Shopping which imports the largest amount of flowers into Oman.

However, the prices of flowers too have shot up and a kilo of flowers would cost anything between RO 5 to 7 and or above depending upon the demand and availability.

Onam is celebrated during the first 10 days of the month of Atham, a Malayali month which denotes flowers and colourful flowers and prosperity heralds a myth of the king Mahabali who believed to have lived for truth and peace.

Believers arrange floral carpets on every single day with a grand finale on the tenth day, which falls on September 8. Several kilos of flowers are

Flower business this year is proving to be overwhelming as many tonnes of them are already sold off during the Onam days and many will be in disposal in the coming days in the run up to September 8

NAUSHAD KN

Flower importer

needed for flower decorations on the patio everyday. A range of jackfruit varieties is adding fervour to the gusto of Onam and there’s a steady demand for jackfruit from both citizens and expatriates alike.

The often neglected fruit back home receives an enthusiastic welcome when it crosses the seas and a kilo of jackfruit would cost RO 2 and above. Thus, an average jackfruit would cost around RO 6 to 8 and above.

“There’s an increasing demand for jackfruit in Oman as citizens as well as expatriates love this fruit and the prices too are high owing to the transportation costs,” admits Naushad. Jackfruit cultivation is seasonal and it grows during the monsoon which usually is from June to November and during summer, from April and May, the crop takes a break and exports of the same dips.

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com

Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
Choose from a wide range of brands & models
PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

Classifieds

لوئو 20 شوبين جفت
GET 20 OMR with every purchase of TallyPrime single user

Contact: Guruprasad +968 79248644, 98753781
Email: guru.prasad@asiasolutions.net
https://www.asiasolutions.net

Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY
TALLY FOR VAT
ASIA SOLUTIONS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 SAFAR 10, 1444 AH

Observer Classified Section

Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230
m.alrahdi86@yahoo.com

Ali al Maashari: 99639264
ali.almashari@omandaily.om

Saada al Rashdi
95919344

94501166
24649593
24649595

- WORLDWIDE DOOR TO DOOR CARGO
- PACKING & SHIFTING SERVICE
- WAREHOUSE FACILITY

www.pcsinternational.co.in

PCS CARGO
Prompt Cargo Services LLC

TOLL FREE
800 22822

Head Office
AL GHUBRA
Near Makkah Hypermarket
91 787 812
91 787 814

AUDIT, ACCOUNTING, VAT, TAXATION

Contact:
97239696
95355638

Gulf Center
Consultancy & Audit
Muscat, Sohar, Salalah, Sur

HOTEL FOR RENT/SALE

PRIME LOCATION IN QURUM HEIGHTS

LUXURY HOTEL

7 STORIED BUILDING

Contact Nos. : 99643760/92192020

■ SIT. VACANT

■ SIT. WANTED

SALES EXECUTIVE
for building material items. Male, with valid driving license. Sales Experience of minimum 1 year. Contact: 93559800. E-mail: sangita@dhiyahilal.com

ACCOUNTS & FINANCE — MBA finance, Muscat experienced over 35 years — Accounts, Audit, Vat, Tax, Payroll. Full time/ part time accounts, audit — NOC available. Contact 99061298. vijayaraghavan1960@gmail.com

■ SIT. WANTED

INDIAN finance manager, M com 20 years experience. Good experience in Mis reports, budgets, tax and banking. NOC available. GSM 95392251.

INDIAN male 48 years M Com 15 years experience in managerial positions in finance and accounts in Oman. Looking to join managerial positions. Ready to move to any GCC countries. DL and NOC available. GSM 95392251.

CMA qualified finance professional, Indian male with 21+ years of wide ranging managerial experience in budgeting costing, financial analysis & reporting, cash flows, banking & auditing in major manufacturing, contracting, FMCG & hospitality companies in Oman, available to join immediately with local NOC & valid Oman driving licence. Can reach me on 94839479

INDIAN youth experienced in Marketing & HR, Start-up Ventures, Online advertising, with a MBA seeking suitable placement. Immediate availability. Connect: +968 77427494

INDIAN with 25 years of sales and marketing experience in Oman & UAE, having driving licence, release, ready to join immediately. Previously worked as a marketing manager in a food packaging material manufacturing industry in Sohar. Having thorough knowledge of all freezones industrial estates of UAE & Oman. Having knowledge of manufacturing, trading retail and agricultural sectors. 78501743

GENERAL manager with 16+ years experience in Oman, MBA — BE, seeks suitable placement. Contact: 94008034.

STAFF NURSE
Indian female, graduate nursing, good experience (17 years MoH Oman). Available MoH license and clearance, seeking suitable job. Currently in Oman and ready for immediate joining. Tel: 92428842/ 99533369

INDIAN Female, MCom, Good experience in VAT, payroll, Inventory, Book keeping until finalisation. Seeking suitable position and available for join immediately. Contact. 96974566

PLANNING engineer, PMP. Indian male Civil Eng. Around 10 years experience in construction projects. Softwares: Primavera P6, MS Office, ERP, having Oman driving licence. Ready to join, email: engineer4planning@gmail.com, Call: 78002582.

INDIAN female (M Tech Civil Structural Engineering) having 7 years experience as Quantity Surveyor cum Quality Control Engineer, looking for suitable position. Contact: 96154505.

INDIAN male graduate Executive Secretary/ Stenography/ Oman DL and Muscat experience available. Contact: 79256679.

■ FOR RENT

FLATS 2bhk and 1 bhk in Mumtaz. Contact 99341138 and 90991079

FIRST FLOOR HOUSE: 3 spacious bedrooms, 3 toilets, 1 spacious hall, kitchen, with reserved parking shade. 350 metres far away from the beach. 18th November Street, North Al Ghubra, behind Automatic Restaurant. Contact No: 92433668

FLATS, 2BHK in Ghubra near Indian School. 99341138/ 90991079.

A LARGE apartment in Darsait, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a hall and a balcony with sea view. Rent RO 260 per month. T: 99315986

BUILDING of 1.500 sqm 3 stories, accommodation, store and office at Misfa. 99432177, 99010964.

Driving School
Special offers for those wishing to learn driving in (Aziba - Khwair Qurum - Ruwi Al Amirat)
Contact No: 99074072

مجمع السلامة الطبيه الحديث
modern Al Saloma Polyclinic
Muscat, Sohar, Salalah, Sur

د. نورا بركات
اختصاصية في الأمراض الجلدية والعلاجات التجميلية
DR. NORA BARAKAT MD, MS
DERMATOLOGY AND AESTHETICS MEDICINE SPECIALIST

CONSULTATION AVAILABLE SAT TO WED 10AM TO 6PM THU 9AM TO 2PM

CONTACT US
TOLL FREE: +968 24451726 - +968 79235354
AL MAHJAL (DEAR TRAFFIC SIGNAL) - SULTANATE OF OMAN
E: ALSALAMAMANGMAIL.COM

EMERGENCY NO
+968 94612100

HAVE A PROPERTY FOR RENT?
Advertise with us.
Contact us on: **99639264**

سماء الخضراء للتجارة
SAMA AL KHADRA TRADING

SERVICES:

PIPING SYSTEMS VALVES
DRAINS INTERCEPTORS

Tel: 24501568, 24502479 • Fax: 24503566
Email: sales@samaalkhadra.com
Website: www.samaalkhadratradingco.com

مستشفى ومركز صحي صدم للعلاج الايروفيدي ش م م
Saham Ayurvedic Hospital & Health Center LLC

Saham Ayurvedic Hospital
Al Kishda, Saham, Sohar

AYURVEDA AT ITS BEST!

Saham Ayurvedic Clinic
Bait Al Reem, Al Khuwair, Muscat

GCC'S FIRST IN-PATIENT AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL
AYURVEDA | REHABILITATION | PHYSIOTHERAPY | SPEECH THERAPY | YOGA

26721707 (HOSPITAL) 97000533 (HOSPITAL)
24403783 (CLINIC) 99230005 (CLINIC)

WWW.SAHAMAYURHOSPITAL.COM
INFO@SAHAMAYURHOSPITAL.COM

LAMASAT BUSINESS CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Accounting Services, VAT and Consultancy Services

Contact: **24571454** GSM: **95392251**

MODERN GATEWAY SOLUTIONS LLC
Location: Ruwi Bus Station
Tel.: +968 24706951, Mobile: +968 96210055
E-mail: moderngatewayolutions@gmail.com

Services: Laptop Repair • Desktop Repair • Printer Repair
• CCTV Installation • Annual Maintenance Contracts

النعماني للشحن
AL NAMANI CARGO
DOOR TO DOOR AIR AND SEA CARGO WORLD WIDE

WORLD WIDE DOOR TO DOOR CARGO
INDIA • BANGLADESH
NEPAL • SRILANKA • INDONESIA
PHILIPPINES • AFRICA • EUROPE
USA • ALL GCC

TOLL FREE NUMBER
80066766
www.alnamanicargo.com

FREE PICK UP 24/7
Branches: Ruwi, Hamriya, Ghala, Seeth, Barka, Suwail, Sohar

SERVICES

AUTOCAD/ REVIT ARCH MEP, part/full- time. Contact WhatsApp: 79037728.

AL SUMRI AC maintenance. We are ready to repair and install all types of Air-Conditioner within Muscat Governorate. 94301888.

PEST CONTROL OMAN CO. L.L.C.
Supply of Pesticides, Gel (crocoraches), Public Health chemicals, Agriculture chemicals, Snake repellent, Rodent baits and other insect repellent from UK & USA

PROFESSIONALS in Pest Control Service, Bedbug Treatment, Rodent Treatment, Snake Treatment and Termite Treatment [Pre & Post Construction]

Tel: 24787606, 24787503
Direct Line: 24786077
GSM: 99382355, 99172309
pcomctom@omantel.net.om
P.O. Box 565, Al Wadi Al Kabir 117, Sultanate of Oman



OMAN **Observer** DAILY

For Advertisements

Please Contact with our Team:

Head Office

Mohd Al Rashdi
99841230
m.alrahdi86@yahoo.com

Ali Al Maashari
99639264
wadiameeh@yahoo.com

Salalah Office

Bakhit Al Shihri
92998577
bakhit.omandaily@gmail.com

Nizwa Office

Abdullah Al Abri
99429094
nizwaofc@omandaily.net.om

Suhar Office

Musalam Al Saidi
99429192
sohardaily@outlook.com



Treasures hidden inside local dams

DAMS in Oman have a main purpose — to hold back water, especially during the rainy seasons that usually cause massive floods. Dams are not only a good source of water especially in cases of drought but are highly valued for their flood control functionality.

While this purpose is known to everyone, there are many secrets hidden in these dams that many don't know about. They contain precious materials that could be economically profitable.

The silt accumulated in these dams is used in a variety of industries, including the production of fertilisers, the textile industry, building preservatives, artistic ceramic industries, and others. The initiative of the Arkan Foundation for Research, Development and Agricultural Innovation "Your Land" came to exploit the accumulated silt soil and transform it into innovative products.

An agreement was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources to exploit the accumulated silt in five dams in the Sultanate of Oman in the first phase of the project at a total cost of RO 7 million, to be expanded later.

Abdullah al Shehi, CEO of "Your Land" Corporation, explained that the first phase of the project started in April this year in Wadi Al Jizi dam in Suhar, Wadi Ahin dam in Saham, Wadi Al Hawasna dam in Al Khabourah, Wadi Mistal in Nakhal, and Wadi Dhayqah dam in Qurayat. The value-added project's investments are estimated at three million, ranging from innovative projects for agricultural inputs, industrial projects and raw materials for the construction sector targeting the local, regional and international markets.

The project will provide a number of direct job opportunities for Omanis, no less than 29,

in addition to more than 70 indirect job opportunities in the first years of the initiative, and it will also support opportunities for small and medium enterprises.

The Arkan Foundation for Research, Development and Agricultural Innovation conducted a study to implement targeted value-added projects in partnership with investment funds and local, regional and international companies to achieve the strategic objectives of the initiative.

The objectives include cleaning dam lakes from accumulated soil to raise their storage efficiency and benefiting from dam resources to produce high-value-added products. It also aims at attracting investments to the Sultanate of Oman and supplying the local, regional and international market with innovative Omani industries to increase the utilisation of local natural resources.

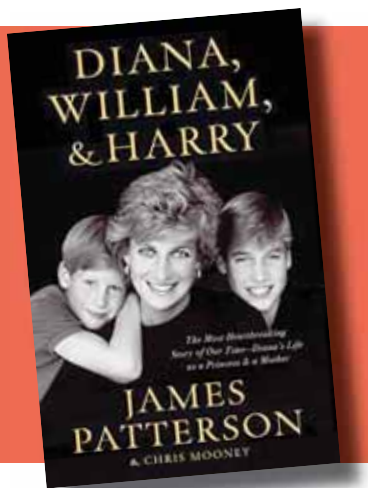


READ

DIANA, WILLIAM, AND HARRY

BY JAMES PATTERSON
AND CHRIS MOONEY

A biography of the late Princess of Wales and her sons.



A FESTIVAL IN RIO

Music fans enjoy fireworks at the Rock in Rio music festival, at the Olympic Park in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on September 4, 2022. — AFP



FASHION TREND

A model displays a creation from Saint. joy by Bian Huizhong during China Fashion Week in Beijing. — AFP





A Panorama of Design

FOR THE GERMAN-BORN designer Jan Kath, now living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, rugs are not just decorative objects; they also reflect global politics. His "Rug Bombs" exhibition of 11 handknotted works at the Alte Bröderkirche, a church in Kassel, Germany, follows a modern tradition by artisans in troubled countries of weaving images of violence and warfare into textiles.

"They're very personal," he said. On view through September 25, in

the world, to upload — and thereby keep — any piece of ephemera. Inspired by "A People's History of the United States," Howard Zinn's 1980 book that broadened the definition of events deemed worth documenting, the archive embraces multiple perspectives. "To tell a bigger history of culture represented through graphic design, you need to account for all the things produced by that culture," said Louise Sandhaus, who directs the project with Brockett Horne,

ade-long renovation, visitors to its ornate Oval Room may notice that its previous assortment of chairs has been replaced by much sleeker seating. The Orria chair — designed by Patrick Jouin, prototyped by the French national furniture-heritage association Atelier de Recherche et Création du Mobilier and manufactured by Alki, a company in the Basque region of France — is crafted from oak and features a black leather seat and backrest. It is the first chair

Basque for the page of a book.

A NEW MASSACHUSETTS THEATRE OFFERS A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Imagine stepping into a theatre lobby and peering into the dressing rooms. You can do just that at the Prior Performing Arts Center at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, now that the \$107 million building, which was completed last month, is welcoming students for the fall semester. (And don't worry, the performers will be able to close a curtain for privacy.) "The Beehive," as the space is known, is no ordinary theatre lobby. It is a grand central atrium with a cafe that will act as a hub for the performing arts, as well as for the larger Holy Cross campus. The atrium's glass walls will give visitors a glimpse into the school's inner workings, from classrooms to gallery and event spaces. Designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, the Prior Performing Arts Center is organised in a cross shape (not a reference to the college or its Catholic affiliation), with four wings flanking the Beehive: a 400-seat proscenium-style wood-lined main theatre; a 200-seat flexible black box theatre; a wing of practice and production spaces; and the Cantor Art Gallery wing, which includes a media lab geared towards augmented



conjunction with the art exhibition "Documenta," the pieces in "Rug Bombs" range from throw sizes to 10-by-14-foot opuses that can command an entire room. Their scenes — rendered in a Pop Art-inspired style — incorporate fighter jets, guns, tanks and refugees. In one, a Syrian family disembarks from a boat on a Greek island, as a military helicopter circles overhead against a starry night sky. In another scene, adapted from the 2006 book "Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes," by Kyle Cassidy, a man seated in a living room with his family proudly shows off an automatic rifle. Kath executes each design digitally before translating it into handspun wool and silk coloured with natural dyes. The handknotting technique he uses descends from ancient Persia. Each rug takes from three to five months to compete, he said. — SHIVANI VORA

A NEW ARCHIVE CELEBRATES EVERYDAY DESIGN Graphic designers create the look of communications, from books to billboards to gum wrappers. Yet whether printed or digitised, the life span of these designs is fruit-fly short, and there are not enough archivists in the world to sort through the mountains of such artifacts with an eye toward preservation. Coming to the rescue of leaflets, typefaces and ticket stubs is the People's Graphic Design Archive, a crowdsourced database that recently went live after eight years of development. The digital archive, which currently contains about 5,000 items, allows anyone, anywhere in



Briar Levit and Morgan Searcy. This means ensuring the survival of designs like a South Korean crayon package and a 200-peso coin from Colombia, "not just the select few canonised and fetishized items" celebrated by design historians, Sandhaus said. Participants are asked to upload material that is at least 10 years old. Submissions may include finished projects and sketches, photos, correspondence, oral histories and other sources that illuminate the designs. — STEVEN HELLER

A CENTURIES-OLD LIBRARY GETS AN UPGRADE When the centuries-old Richelieu Library in the Second Arrondissement of Paris reopens this month after a dec-

commissioned specifically for the Oval Room. Before drafting his design, Jouin visited the Richelieu and saw a mix of seating in various rooms, including rows of high-backed caned chairs. "They had chairs that didn't belong to the space," he said by telephone. "They were too ornate, too French classic. This is working well in Versailles, but it doesn't work in this library. So I wanted to design a little-bit-serious chair for a place to study. I wanted it to be discreet." While the unfussy Orria has an air of the mid-century modern about it, Jouin said he was more inspired by the room's existing wooden tables. "If I am influenced," he said, "I would say I am more influenced by the Shaker style than anything else, this idea of beauty with a simple, pure function." The chairs suit the library's space in another way as well: The name Orria is

reality, virtual reality and electronic music composition. The goal, according to Charles Renfro, the project's lead architect, was to make the building adaptable to spontaneous creative uses. "Many education spaces are very prescribed," he said. "We wanted to provide a space so welcoming and flexible students would feel compelled to make it their own." Alluding to the red brick and limestone of Holy Cross's 19th century Collegiate Gothic architecture, the centre is clad in Cor-Ten steel and glass fiber-reinforced concrete. The building replaces part of a parking lot, and will serve as a central point for pedestrians on the campus. Students will enter the arts centre from the building's corners, which are planted with different landscapes, including a small amphitheatre and a meditation garden. — NYT

ENTERTAINMENT

Music, acting and activism: Life Lessons with Stevie Van Zandt



IT IS RARE enough to have one career that becomes part of a pop-culture phenomenon. Stevie Van Zandt has two. As a musician, including as a member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, and as an actor with "The Sopranos," Van Zandt has bottled lightning twice. For the latest in Reuters' Life Lessons series, Van Zandt sat down to talk about his bestseller "Unrequited Infatuations: A Memoir."

Q: WAS MONEY PRETTY TIGHT IN THOSE EARLY DAYS? A: Soon after high school, I was playing regularly at a place called the Upstage Club. It went from 8 pm to 5 am, and if you jammed all night, you made \$5. If you led the jam, you made \$15. That was three nights a week, so I was living on that \$45. But the only expense

Africa that I made the leap from artist to activist. It was just too repulsive, and I had to get involved. I could see that the problem wasn't going to get fixed, and I decided to help bring down the South African regime. **Q: WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO SWITCH GEARS AND FORGE A SECOND CAREER PATH, WITH "THE SOPRANOS"?** A: Success comes when preparedness meets opportunity. For some reason I had always been fascinated with the world of gangsters. I had read every book, seen every movie, brushed up against it in New Jersey. That opportunity was offered to me by David Chase, and I said, "What the hell? Let's try a new craft." I learned on the job, and all I can say is that it was a hell of an acting



was rent at \$150 a month, and sometimes I was living with three or four guys, so we did not really need much money in those days.

Q: WHEN DID YOU FEEL LIKE YOU COULD MAKE A CAREER OUT OF MUSIC? A: When we were at the Stone Pony (New Jersey music venue), that turned into a raging success for a local residency. I was there for a year before I joined the E Street Band. When you are a bar band, you do not really feel like a success, but when you look back on it, it is probably the richest you'll ever be. A thousand people a night, \$3 a head, that's \$9,000 a week. It was a big band, but if you're making \$1,000 a week, back in 1974 that was a big success.

Q: WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE BUSINESS END OF MUSIC? A: Bruce jumped in first, and I learned from watching him. He had signed one of the last old-school contracts, giving away 50 per cent, and I pointed that out to him. So by the time I signed my first deal a couple of years later, I owned my publishing rights from the beginning.

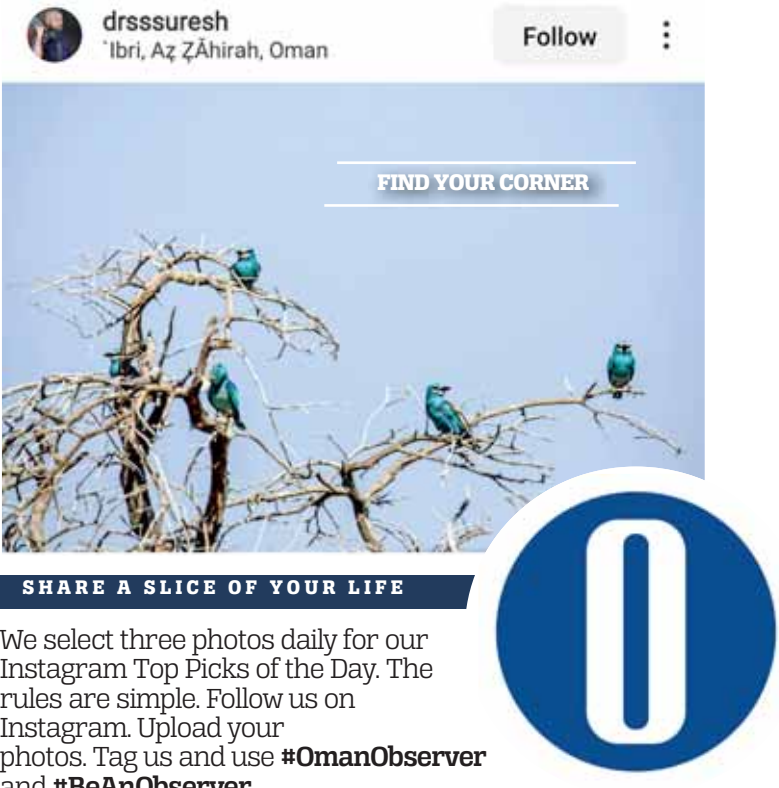
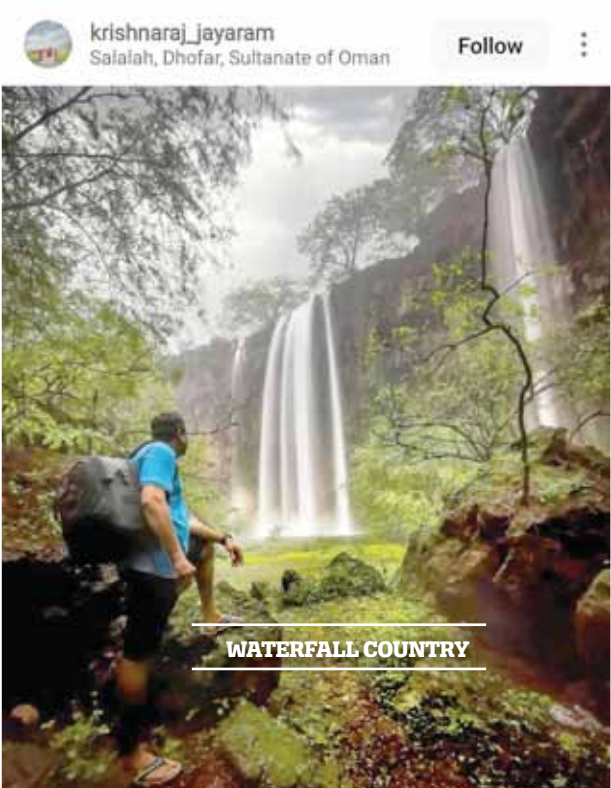
Q: AT WHAT POINT DID THE ACTIVIST PART OF YOU GET UNLEASHED? A: It was on the subject of (apartheid in) South

school. **Q: WE LOST JAMES GANDOLFINI, BUT DID HE GIVE ANY ADVICE THAT STAYS WITH YOU?** A: He wasn't really a verbal guy. I learned from him by observing. I can turn acting on and off like a switch, but he was more of a method guy. You do a scene with him, and you walk away a better actor. He had to compose everything around him, like a painting. **Q: WHAT HAS THE PAN-DEMIC BEEN LIKE FOR YOU?** A: I had just done three years' on the road. Suddenly I had a clear schedule, which is not good. One of my new managers said, "Maybe it's a good time to write a book." It's the only way this book would have happened. **Q: WHAT LIFE LESSONS WOULD YOU PASS TO THE NEXT GENERATION?** A: This generation has challenges we did not have. We had three channels on TV, pinball games and that was pretty much it — and it was still tough for us to focus! Now, how the hell are you supposed to focus on something long enough to get great at it? Nobody is born great, it has to develop. Try to turn off your devices long enough to focus on some kind of craft. — Reuters



find us on
TWITTER
Scan the QR Code or follow us on
www.twitter.com/omanobserver

INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



SHARE A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE
We select three photos daily for our Instagram Top Picks of the Day. The rules are simple. Follow us on Instagram. Upload your photos. Tag us and use #OmanObserver and #BeAnObserver.



AROUND THE WORLD

MUSIC

Kate Bush reaches new heights as 'Running Up That Hill' biggest summer UK hit



KATE BUSH'S record-breaking hit "Running Up That Hill" was Britain's biggest song of the summer for 2022, according to the Official Charts Company. Originally released in 1985 as the lead track on her "Hounds Of Love" album, the new-wave song had a global resurgence in popularity after it was featured in the fourth series of "Stranger Things." The song recorded 762,000 chart units over the summer period from the first week of June to the last week of August, the Official Charts Company has said. It also secured the most streams of any song this summer with 86.6 million and the most digital downloads with more than 42,000. In June, the British singer-songwriter broke a trio of chart records with the song including the longest time taken for a single to reach number one, after the 1980s track finally reached the top spot 37 years after it was released. She also claimed the title of the longest gap between number one singles, as her only other chart-topping moment was 44 years ago with her debut single, "Wuthering Heights," in 1978. To round off her trio of records, the song's summer success made her the oldest female artist ever to score a British number one as she was 63-years-old at the time. The revival of the song has meant Bush has seen off competition from music superstars including Harry Styles, George Ezra and Beyonce in the Official Songs of the Summer 2022 chart. Styles has ranked second in the summer chart with his smash hit "As It Was," which holds the title of the longest-running number one single of the year so far. The former One Direction singer has also placed at number 10 in the chart with "Late Night Talking" and number 22 for "Music For A Sushi Restaurant." LF System's "Afraid To Feel" takes third place while Ezra's "Green Green Grass" secures fourth. London-born singer-songwriter Cat Burns' "Go" comes in at number five, US singer Lizzo's "About Damn Time" at six and David Guetta, Becky Hill and Ella Henderson's "Crazy What Love Can Do" at seven. The lead single from Beyonce's new album "Renaissance," titled "Break My Soul," claimed eighth place and Burna Boy's "Last Last" took the ninth spot. — PA Media/dpa

TOURISM

Sour grapes: Rankings divide a French wonderland



WHEN THE new rankings of Saint-Emilion wines drop on Thursday, Jean-Luc Thunevin could see the value of his vineyard double overnight, the payoff for years of efforts to meet France's most exacting — and mystifying — taste test. "It's the reward, or the non-reward, for your work," Thunevin, a relative newcomer to this revered corner of Bordeaux, said among his manicured rows of vines laden with grapes just days from their harvest. The assessment, held every ten years, aims to encourage more of the vintages that make Saint-Emilion one of the world's most sought-after grape drink, with bottles that can fetch hundreds, if not thousands, of euros each. Yet recent rankings have been bitterly contested by estates who say that marketing — having a cellar designed by a star architect, or placing your bottle in a Hollywood blockbuster — now counts as much as how a grape juice actually tastes. The rancour deepened after three of the current top four estates — Angelus, Ausone and Cheval Blanc — surprised everyone by pulling out of this year's rankings altogether. Ausone's owner Alain Vauthier told Le Monde newspaper he was riled by requests for favourable press clippings and hints he should invest in tourist facilities like parking spaces. "This totally contradicts our environmen-

tal efforts." Others suspect jealousy of new arrivals, or fears of being demoted despite providing hundreds of pages of documentation alongside their bottles. Whatever the reasons, the controversy could leave fans wondering what a Saint-Emilion ranking really amounts to. "It's such a big deal but it's just become increasingly confusing for anybody on the outside," the British Bordeaux expert Jane Anson said. "And it's fair to say it's a system that doesn't seem to be pleasing anyone at this point." **- TRUTH IN THE GLASS? -** The rankings began in 1955, when owners created a more restrictive Saint-Emilion Grand Cru appellation that called for lower-density yields and other restrictions to ensure the distinctive taste by the soil and climate, which combine to make up the "terroir." Within the new grouping, estates could also apply for a quality ranking: Grand Cru Classe, Premier Grand Cru Classe B, and the ultimate Premier Grand Cru Classe A. Making the grade secures a reputation and allows premium pricing, but more important is the boost to land values in what has become one of the most coveted parcels in the world. "No other grape-growing region has dared to create a ranking system that gets revised every 10 years —

you're constantly being challenged," said Jean-Francois Galhaud, president of the Saint-Emilion wine council. He dismisses claims that taste matters less these days — "The truth is always in the glass" — but believes that investments to promote the grape drinks and attract more tourists will benefit all vineyards and the regional economy as a whole. "We have a million, a million and a half visitors a year" to the medieval city and its surroundings, deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1999, Galhaud said. "It's good that we encourage our drinkmakers to open their doors." Thunevin, whose Chateau Valandraud wines were catapulted to Premier Grand Cru B in 2012, has since built an onsite hotel alongside a sparkling modern cellar topped with solar panels. Rentals for wedding receptions are already being booked for next summer. "It certainly changed how my banker looked at me! I had a lot of debt and now he knew the money was backed by something with real value," he said. His nine hectares (22 acres) dedicated to Valandraud wines were catapulted to Premier Grand Cru B in 2012, has since built an onsite hotel alongside a sparkling modern cellar topped with solar panels. Rentals for wedding receptions are already being booked for next summer. "It certainly changed how my banker looked at me! I had a lot of debt and now he knew the money was backed by something with real value," he said. His nine hectares (22 acres) dedicated to Valandraud wines were catapulted to Premier Grand Cru B in 2012, has since built an onsite hotel alongside a sparkling modern cellar topped with solar panels. Rentals for wedding receptions are already being booked for next summer. "It certainly changed how my banker looked at me! I had a lot of debt and now he knew the money was backed by something with real value," he said. — AFP

ENTERTAINMENT

Brendan Fraser learns new way to move in Venice obesity drama



US ACTOR Brendan Fraser, returning to the big screen as a leading man after a nine-year absence, said on Sunday playing the obese hero of "The Whale" was the biggest challenge of his career. The movie, directed by Darren Aronofsky, is receiving its premiere at the Venice Film Venice, with Fraser already being touted as an Oscar contender for his portrayal of Charlie, a gay, 600-pound (270-kg) man, desperately trying to reconnect with his estranged daughter. The role required Fraser to don prosthetics and makeup that could take up to six hours to apply, leaving him barely able to walk in the cramped confines of Charlie's dilapidated home. "I needed to learn to absolutely move in a new way. I developed muscles I did not know I had," Fraser told reporters ahead of the red-carpet opening. "It gave me an appreciation for those whose bodies are similar, because I learnt that you need to be an incredibly strong person physically and mentally to inhabit that physical being," he said. The film is an adaption of Samuel D. Hunter's 2012 play of the same name, chronicling the rapid decline of Charlie, a gentle soul struggling to come to terms with the death of his partner and eating himself to death in his distress. Despite the pain and anguish, Charlie's compassionate heart, trapped

beneath a wheezing mountain of skin, shines out as he looks to rekindle his relationship with his daughter, a deeply troubled teenager, played by "Stranger Things" star Sadie Sink. "By far and away I think Charlie is the most heroic man I have ever played because his superpower is to see the good in others and bring that out," said Fraser. Aronofsky, whose movie "The Wrestler" won Venice's main Golden Lion award in 2008, said one line in the script ("People are incapable of not caring") inspired him to make the film. "It's the most important message to put out in the world right now. Everyone is leaning into the cynicism and darkness and giving up hope. That is exactly what we don't need right now," Aronofsky said. Fraser has suffered his share of darkness over the past decade, with his glory days starring in films such as "The Mummy" and "George of the Jungle" appearing to be well behind him. "I looked different in those days," he said on Sunday. Aronofsky said he spent a decade searching for the right lead actor and cast Fraser after spotting him in a trailer for a low-budget Brazilian film. Fraser said he had put his all into the part. "My journey to where I am now has been to explore as many characters as I can. This (role) presented the biggest challenge to me." — Reuters

Why ‘September Is the New May’ When It Comes to Planting Flowers

ON THE CUSP of fall, the direction that a flower garden is headed may not be the stuff of viral social media images. And it may not inspire a weary gardener's delight.

But don't stop now. As Jenny Rose Carey, a long-time flower gardener and vocal believer in the possibilities of the weeks ahead, puts it, "September is the new May."

Of course, in the garden, May is a moment neither short on colour nor marred by what she calls "the crispy bits." (First action item: Tease those out with your snips and push ahead.) But Carey offers some encouraging words. Think fresh, she advises us, and think vivid — even as autumn comes on, and right through to frost.

Carey, a popular lecturer and author, is former senior director of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm, a public garden in a historic estate setting. So it is no surprise that her recipe for a design with staying power relies on strategic plant choices.

It also involves something that gardeners too often skip: proactive maintenance tactics that help coax the maximum output from flowering plants — even annuals planted months ago. At her garden in Pennsylvania, the nasturtiums are still at it, welcoming fall as enthusiastically as they do at Giverny — painter Claude Monet's garden in France — where they lead visitors down the literal garden path into the next season. You just have to know the trick.

As the heat begins to wane, Carey, who taught horticulture at Temple University for years, is in back-to-school mode. That means taking field trips, visiting gardens in search of ideas, especially during the seasons that often stump us. She has taken inspiration from public gardens such as Wave Hill in New York City, where fall has long been a celebrated season, and Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, Pennsylvania, where last month and this month are still prime time, too.

How do you keep your garden going strong until

the frosty end? Start by looking at landscapes like those for clues.

Flower Shape and Scale (and Color, Too).

The title of Carey's new book makes her approach clear: "The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide: How to Combine Shape, Color, and Texture to Create the Garden of Your Dreams."

Colour is just one element of her strategy — and it's not even the first thing on her list. Although it may be what many gardeners focus on when they're plant shopping, a colour palette alone will not ensure cohesion in the garden.

And strong colour elicits strong opinions: Hot-coloured gardens have their detractors as well as their adherents, and so do pastel ones.

"But in general, everyone agrees that a garden that looks really pretty, nice, joyful," Carey said, "has a variety of shapes of flowers, textures of leaves and heights."

She advises us to look more closely at form in the garden — including the forms of flowers. How often do we gardeners consciously consider that?

The pollinators do. A diversity of insects responds to a range of shapes. Each species' evolution alongside particular native plants has engineered intimate relationships; flowers are not one-size-fits-all.

Think about the forms that inflorescences take: As summer winds down, Patrinia (Patrinia scabiosifolia) and the taller sedums are still going strong with their flat-topped blooms. Spherical choices include globe amaranth (Gomphrena globosa) and rattlesnake master (Eryngium yuccifolium). Great blue lobelia (L. siphilitica) offers up vertical spikes, as does obedient plant (Physostegia virginiana).

Other options include the later-blooming varieties of the surprise lilies (Lycoris), with their trumpets, and lots of flowers shaped like daisies.

Carey's reminder to choose diverse forms is particularly important from high summer onward, when so many daisylike flowers come on.

Among them: sneezewoods (Helenium), various Rudbeckia and Silphium, asters and perennial chrysanthemums.

Visualise what even something as common as cleome (Cleome hassleriana), with its explosive, spidery blooms, could do to punctuate such a scene, she said.

Play with scale, too. "Some of the asters are very cute, little, tiny daisies, and then you get the bigger, bolder ones," Carey said. "Get your eye in a little bit more and be a little more critical of your compositions."

Make the most of flowers with subtle differences, such as Rudbeckia Henry Eilers, with its quilled petals. Here's where colour can really help at a time when there is often too much yellow: Mix it up with the orange-and-yellow flowers of Rudbeckia hirta Irish Eyes, with their showy green centres, or the red-and-yellow petals of the annual blanket flower (Gaillardia pulchella).

Annuals That Can Go the Distance, With Care

The first plants we may think of to bolster the garden's late show are classic fall perennial combinations, such as asters and goldenrods.

Two goldenrods that behave better and spread more slowly than others in mixed plantings, Carey said, are Solidago rugosa Fireworks and the compact cultivar S. sphacelata Golden Fleece. Also recommended: aromatic aster (Symphyotrichum oblongifolium Raydon's Favorite) and white wood aster (Eurybia divaricata), which "makes a good mixer and mingler," she said.

But Carey is equally fond of the annuals grown mostly from seed and planted in spring: Zinnias, spiky Celosia, flowering tobacco (Nicotiana) and orange Cosmos sulphureus, with its bonus of ferny-textured foliage. All are still going strong in late summer, thanks to the regular trimming of stems that held spent blooms. So are cleome, Gomphrena and various salvias, with their tubular flowers that invite hummingbirds to make a pit stop on the way south.

— NYT



WELCOME
TO THE WORLD OF

الشموخ
AL SHUMOOKH

