

OMAN WELCOMES POLITICAL AGREEMENT IN SUDAN

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the political agreement signed in the Republic of Sudan, a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said. Oman hoped that this agreement would serve Sudan's interests and meet the aspirations of the Sudanese people. The Sultanate of Oman also reiterated its backing for the unity, security and stability of Sudan. **-ONA**



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HM THE SULTAN GREETES UAE PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahayan, President of the UAE while His Majesty was crossing the UAE's airspace on his way back home. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to Sheikh Khalifa, praying to Allah the Almighty to grant him good health, wellbeing and long life to continue achieving aspirations of further progress and prosperity for the UAE people under his wise leadership. **-ONA**



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**Best Wishes to our Great Leader
and the People of Oman**



OMAN, QATAR FAVOUR TALKS TO RESOLVE ALL ISSUES OF REGION

Ties between Oman and Qatar are deep-rooted and their stands identical on regional and global issues, the communique said

DOHA: The Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar on Tuesday issued a joint communique reading as follows:

"Based on the strong fraternal relations and deep-rooted historical ties binding the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik made a historic state visit to Qatar on 22 and 23 November 2021 in response to an invitation from His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

His Majesty the Sultan and the Emir of Qatar held talks that reviewed bilateral relations and ways of developing them in various spheres. The two leaders also exchanged views about a number of regional and international issues. The talks showed that relations between Oman and Qatar are deep-rooted and their stands identical on regional and international issues. They reflected the two countries' emphasis on the significance of dialogue in resolving all issues of the region.

At the level of bilateral relations, the two sides affirmed the leaderships' strong political will and firm resolve to upgrade all areas of cooperation. The historic visit of His Majesty the Sultan to Qatar will open new vistas of consultation, coordination and cooperation between the two countries. **>A2**



His Majesty visits Qatar Foundation and Qatar National Library

DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, accompanied by HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar visited Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development here as part of His Majesty's visit to Qatar.

His Majesty the Sultan listened to a briefing about the objectives of Qatar Foundation and its role in promoting education, research, community development, innovation and entrepreneurship. Qatar Foundation houses branches of international universities and hosts programmes of cooperation with educational establishments in the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty and Sheikh Tamim toured the venues of world universities, research centres and academic facilities affiliated to Qatar Foundation.

Later, His Majesty the Sultan and Sheikh Tamim visited Qatar National Library. They were briefed about the main functions of the edifice, which comprises a wide range of sources, reference books, manuscripts and archives. **>A2**

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MUSCAT**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Country's first baby African Penguin

1 Oman Aquarium, located in Mall of Muscat, Al Mabella recently welcomed its first baby penguin and is now inviting visitors to meet the new member in the family. The baby African Penguin was born at the first and only indoor public aquarium in the Sultanate of Oman on September 9, 2021.

>A3

WORLD Bus crash kills dozens in Bulgaria

2 At least 46 people were killed in a bus accident in Bulgaria, officials said Tuesday. "Forty-six people were killed" on a highway west of Sofia, Nikolay Nikolov, the head of the fire safety department at the interior ministry, told public broadcaster BNT. The Bulgarian ministry later updated the toll to 46. **>A6**

MARKET Inflation rises by 3.35% in October

3 The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 3.35 per cent in the month of October 2021 compared to October 2020. The inflation rate also went up by 0.75 per cent compared to the month of September 2021, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). **>B1**



HIS MAJESTY GIVES AUDIENCE TO FIFA PRESIDENT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik gave an audience to FIFA President Gianni Infantino at his residence in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday to FIFA President Gianni Infantino. The audience reviewed areas of cooperation and means of promoting them between football authorities in the Sultanate of Oman and the FIFA. His Majesty the Sultan expressed his appreciation for the FIFA efforts to develop football globally. In his turn, Infantino expressed his utmost thanks and gratitude for His Majesty's continuous support to the Omani youth and different sports that sharpen their skills, particularly football. **-ONA See also>A2, A4**

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	11:58pm
Asr.....	3:04pm
Maghrib.....	5:25pm
Isha.....	6:39pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:09am

His Majesty the Sultan leaves Doha



His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at Doha International Airport by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar

DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik left Doha on Tuesday after a two-day state visit to the State of Qatar during which he met with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

His Majesty the Sultan was seen off at Doha International Airport by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

The farewell party also included Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Thani, Deputy Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani, Personal Representative of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Attiyah, Minister of State (Head of the Mission of Honour), Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Chief of the Emiri Diwan and Sheikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Ambassador of Qatar to Oman.

While leaving Doha, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of thanks to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation, which reflects the deeply-rooted relations binding the two countries and their peoples. His Majesty

prayed to the Almighty Allah to grant Sheikh Tamim good health, well-being and long life.

His Majesty also wished the people of Qatar further progress and prosperity under the wise leadership of Sheikh Tamim.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by an official high-level delegation which comprised His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed Al Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Dr. Mahad bin Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour and Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Qatar.

-ONA



COOPERATION

His Majesty, Emir of Qatar hail excellent relations binding the two countries

< FROM A1 His Majesty the Sultan and the Emir of Qatar commended the excellent bonds binding the two countries, notably their great scopes of cooperation and partnership. The two leaders reiterated their desire to promote cooperation in the areas of clean energy and their keenness to exchange expertise on ways to curb climate change.

The two sides stressed that tangible, diverse opportunities in the two countries constitute strong grounds for consolidating relations, expanding investment opportunities, establishing partnerships, realising value added projects across different sectors, augmenting and diversifying the volume of commercial exchange and enhancing the role of the private sector to achieve their common interests.

Several pacts were signed as part of the state visit, including an agreement on military cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman's Government and the Government of the State of Qatar, an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, an agreement in the field of investment, an agreement on cooperation in investment in Oman Shipping Company, a cooperation agreement for investment in hospitality sector and a memorandum of understanding in the field of labour and human resources development.

The Sultanate of Oman expressed its pride at the State of Qatar's hosting FIFA World Cup 2022, affirming Oman's confi-



dence that Qatar would show unprecedented success in organising the major global event in a manner that reflects the region's heritage and great potential.

At the regional and international levels, the two sides agreed on the importance of the role of Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf in enhancing security and stability in the region. They also underscored the significance of consolidating consultation and co-ordination of stands at a bilateral level, as well as regional and international arenas, with the prime aim of serving Arab, Islamic and legitimate humanitarian issues—on

top of which comes the Palestinian cause—and the need to bolster security and stability in the Middle East and the world at large."

At the conclusion of the visit, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar expressed his heartfelt appreciation for His Majesty the Sultan and his pride at this historic visit.

Meanwhile, His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik voiced his deep thanks to Sheikh Tamim and his great appreciation for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation during the visit. His Majesty the Sultan invited Sheikh Tamim to visit the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

ROYAL VISIT

HM accepts a souvenir



< FROM A1 These serve researchers and students reading in different disciplines.

His Majesty the Sultan accepted a souvenir commemorating his Royal visit to the National Library and Research Centre.

At the conclusion of the tour, His Majesty the Sultan signed the Visitors' Register, hailing the efforts of Qatar, led by Sheikh Tamim, in upgrading education, innovation and community development.

His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied during the two visits by the Head and members of Mission of Honour and members of the official delegation accompanying His Majesty. -ONA



HM the Sultan returns home

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik returned home after concluding a two-day state visit to the State of Qatar, which came in response to the invitation of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan held a round of official talks with Sheikh Tamim. The two leaders discussed aspects of cooperation and means of enhancing fraternal relations to achieve the aspirations of their peoples.

His Majesty was received at the Royal Airport by His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, His Highness Sayyid Fatik bin Fahar Al Said, Special Envoy of His Majesty the Sultan, Sheikh Abdulmalik bin Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council, Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of the Shura Council, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Nasr bin Hamoud Al Kindi, Secretary General of the Royal Court Affairs, Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Salmi, Minister of Endowments and Religious Affairs, Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Health, Dr. Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education, Sayyid Saud bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat, Lt.Gen Hassan bin Mohsin Al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Lt.Gen



Said bin Ali Al Hilali, Head of the Internal Security Service, Maj. Gen Mattar bin Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Air Vice Marshal Khamis bin Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman, Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Maj. Gen Musallam bin Mohammed Ja'aboub, Commander of the Sultan's Special Force.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan was accompanied by an official high-level delegation comprised His Highness Sayyid

Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sultan bin Salim Al Habsi, Minister of Finance, Abdulsalam bin Mohammed al-Murshidi, Chairman of Oman Investment Authority, Dr. Mahad bin Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour and Najeeb bin Yahya Al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Qatar. -OWA



STRENGTHENING BOND

Strengthening Bonds of Friendship by Commemorating National Day of Oman



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A group of Pakistan Navy ships including PNS Behr Masah, PNS Dehshat and Pakistan Maritime Security Ship Hingol visited Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat from November 17 to 20, 2021 on a goodwill visit. The purpose of this goodwill visit was to commemorate the 51st National Day of Oman falling on 18th November 2021. The goodwill mission was led by Commodore, Commander 10th Patrol Craft Squadron (COMPATRON-10) as Mission Commander. On 17th November 2021, the Mission Commander and Commanding Officers called on Director General Operations and Plans at the headquarters of the Royal Navy of Oman. During the call on, matters concerning mutual interests and cooperation between RNO and PN were discussed. Officers and

men from Royal Navy of Oman visited PN ships for professional briefings and interaction. In the evening of 17th November, 2021, a reception was hosted onboard Pakistan Navy Ship Behr Masah (while abiding by the SOPs and instructions issued by Supreme Committee dealing with COVID-19) which was attended by members of Majlis Al Shura, Majlis-e- Daula, local dignitaries, diplomats including ambassadors and military attaches of various countries, senior officers from RNO, RAO, RFAO and prominent Pakistani community members. In order to pay tribute to Oman, Dr. Said Muhammad Al Saqlawi, Member Majlis-e-Daula was invited as the chief guest who along with Ambassador of Pakistan cut the cake. The Ambassador of Pakistan in his remarks paid rich tribute to Late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Bin Taimour

who played an exemplary role in transforming Oman as highly developed and progressive country. The Ambassador also conveyed greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on the auspicious occasion of 51st National Day of Oman on behalf of the President, Prime Minister and brotherly people of Pakistan and wished continued progress and development under the sagacious and wise leadership of HM. The visit by Pakistan Navy ships is aimed at strengthening the bonds of friendship between Oman and Pakistan in general and Royal Navy of Oman and Pakistan Navy in particular as well as exploring new vistas for future collaborative initiatives between the two countries. The goodwill visit will surely contribute towards improving interoperability and learning from each other experiences on maritime operations.





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IN WASHINGTON

Embassy of Oman in US celebrates 51st National Day

WASHINGTON: The Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the United States of America (USA) organised a ceremony for the Omani students studying in the US universities to mark the 51st Glorious National Day.

The ceremony, held at Sultan Qaboos Cultural Centre (SQCC) in Washington, saw the participation of Omani students and their colleagues, as well as professors.

Moreover, the Embassy organised a cultural event during which collections resembling the Omani environment were showcased.

Documentary screened

During the event, a documentary was screened on the most prominent cultural, economic and tourist aspects of the Sultanate of Oman.



AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

GCC Pavilion Commissioner-General briefed about Shabab Oman II activities

DUBAI: Khalid Ibrahim Al Sheikh, the Commissioner-General of the GCC Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai toured on Tuesday the Royal Navy of Oman's vessel Shabab Oman II.

He was briefed on the ship's route in its 5th international voyage themed 'Oman, Renewed Approach', as well as the activities held onboard the ship.

Afterwards, the Commissioner-General went on tour of the ship and its different sections. He lauded the ship's role in spreading the message of peace, love and harmony between peoples of the world. — OMA



MARITIME SECURITY CENTRE

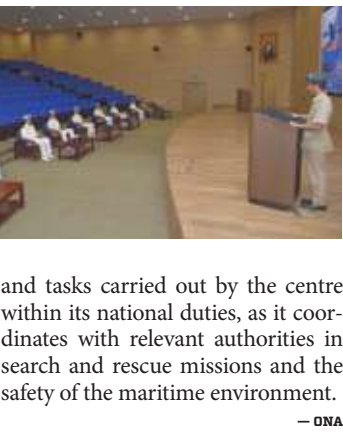
Delegation visits MSC's facilities

MUSCAT: Rear Admiral Alejandro Cuerva, Commander of the European Union Naval Force (EU-NAVFOR), Operation Atalanta and his accompanying delegation visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC) at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Tuesday.

Upon their arrival at the MSC, they were received by Commodore Mohammed Hamoud Al Zedjali, Head of the MSC.

The guest toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies.

He was also briefed on the roles



THREE-DAY EVENT

OCCI participates in World Chambers Congress in Dubai

DUBAI: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) participated in the 12th World Chambers Congress (12WCC) which kicked off on Tuesday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The OCCI delegation was headed by Eng. Rida Juma Al Saleh, OCCI Chairman.

The three-day event, organised by Dubai Chamber, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and its World Chambers Federation (WCF), came on the sidelines of Expo 2020 Dubai.



EXPO 2020 DUBAI: The event was organised by Dubai Chamber, the International Chamber of Commerce and its World Chambers Federation on the sidelines of Expo 2020 Dubai. — OMA

Interactive sessions

During the conference, delegates will participate in interactive sessions examining topics of common interest, including the digital revolution, global economic variables, and the role that chambers of commerce need to play during the next phase of global economic recovery.

The congress is attracting more than 1,000 participants from over 100 countries, with 80 expert

speakers and 40 panel discussions, presentations and workshops all focused on the role of chambers of commerce in a new digital era.

The forum will provide partici-

pants with the opportunity to discuss the global trade movement and the economy after an unprecedented period of downturn and new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. — OMA

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Workshop organised

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority (EA) on Tuesday organised the second workshop for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to prepare a national system for the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources.

Two-day workshop

The two-day workshop was organised in coordination and cooperation with the GCC Secretariat General and the United Nations Environment Programme for West Asia at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat.

The opening of the event was held under the auspices of Dr. Abdullah Ali Al Amari, EA Chairman. The workshop offers a better understanding of the current situation and trends related to the implementation of Nagoya Protocol, an assessment of the experiences of the countries implementing the protocol, and comprehending the issues arising under the protocol. — OMA

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Expats arrested

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP) has arrested 11 expats for violating labour and residence laws.

"The Police Command of South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, in cooperation with the Special Tasks Police, has arrested 11 infiltrators of various African nationalities for violating the labour and residence laws. Legal procedures were being completed against them," ROP said in a statement.



Ministry of Defence
TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defence invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Document Price per copy (RO)
THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR (5) YEARS FOR THE MILITARY TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE	36/2021	20/12/2021	27/12/2021	65 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman

FOR SALE

Building – Residential/Commercial, Area – 1572m2,
Location – Muscat- Sur Roadside, Wilayat of Bidiyah,
Hotel Apartment – 3 Floors & Ground Floor – 5 shops.
Already Rented/Invested

Building – Residential/Commercial, Area- 1044m2,
Location- Wilayat of Mahoot- Square Haj, Opposite
Duqum/Shindh round about. Two shops, One
reception hall at ground floor.
Strong Foundation can accommodate 3 Floors.

Contact :- 97421212, 97365922,
Email:- kamaljeetk666@gmail.com



شركة إسمنت عمان (س.أ.و.ع.)
Oman Cement Company (S.A.O.G.)

P.O. BOX 560, RUWI, POSTAL CODE 112, SULTANATE OF OMAN
(Factory Al Misfah West, Bousher, Tel: # 00968 24437070 ext. 102, Fax # 00968 24437777)

TENDER

The company invites offers for the following tenders:

Sl. #	Tender No.	Description	Tender Fee	Deadline for Purchasing of Tenders	Deadline for Submission of Offers
1.	37/2021/ OCC	Crusher Rotor Hardfacing & Buildup	RO. 52.500	16th December, 2021 5 PM	21th December, 2021 11 PM
2.	38/2021/ OCC	Supply of Fly Ash	RO. 52.500	16th December, 2021 5 PM	21th December, 2021 11 PM
3.	39/2021/ OCC	Supply of Diesel	RO. 105.000	16th December, 2021 5 PM	21th December, 2021 11 PM

1. All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board participate and get the specifications and conditions of the tender from the website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>.
2. Tenders should submit their bids online on the given website Signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose a scanned copy of a temporary insurance in the form of a bank guarantee or a check certified by a bank, operating in the Sultanate of Oman of not less than (1%) of the Tender Value, valid for (90) days from the offers submission date, addressed to Chairman of the Tender Committee.
3. The original bank guarantee should be submitted to the OCC's Tender Box located at the reception area of the Administration Building at Al Misfah West factory Site not later than the time and date of the submission of tenders.
4. OCC is not bound to accept the lowest or any other bid, and reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reason

For Clarifications on e-Tendering, you may contact via
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Bus accident leaves 46 dead in Bulgaria

The site of the accident was cordoned off and Bulgarian interim Prime Minister Stefan Yanev rushed to the scene

SOFIA: At least 46 people were killed in a bus accident in Bulgaria, officials said on Tuesday. "Forty-five people were killed" on a highway west of Sofia, Nikolay Nikolov, the head of the fire safety department at the interior ministry, told public broadcaster BNT. The ministry later updated the toll to 46. The site of the accident was cordoned off and Bulgarian interim Prime Minister Stefan Yanev rushed to the scene.

"We have an enormous tragedy here," he told reporters. "I take this opportunity to send my condolences to the relatives of the victims," Yanev said. "Let's hope we learn lessons from this tragic incident and we can prevent such incidents in the future." Authorities were not immediately clear on how the accident took place, and did not state a cause of the crash. "Human mistake by the driver or a technical malfunction are the



BUS CRASH: The bus with North Macedonian licence plates was travelling from Turkey's most populous city, Istanbul, to Skopje in North Macedonia.

two initial versions for the accident," said Bulgarian investigative service chief Borislav Sarafov.

What do we about the accident so far?

Nikolov from the interior ministry told private bTV channel that the bus appeared to have either caught fire and crashed or crashed and then caught fire.

"Seven passengers were saved," and taken to a hospital in the capital with serious burns, Nikolov said. An official from a Sofia emergency hospital said the seven people receiving treatment had

jumped out of the burning bus. All were in stable conditions.

The bus with North Macedonian licence plates was travelling from Turkey's most populous city, Istanbul, to Skopje in North Macedonia. There had been 53 people, including at least 12 children, on board. The accident is believed to have taken place at 2 a.m. on the Struma motorway about 26 miles from Sofia.

Most of the passengers on the bus were from North Macedonia, an official at the North Macedonian embassy in Sofia told bTV. Prime Minister Zoran Zaev said the victims

were probably fellow Macedonians.

"We don't know if all the victims are from North Macedonia, but we assume so because the bus is registered in the country," he told Nova TV in an interview.

But Bulgaria's national police chief Stanimir Stanev said that while the two drivers of the bus were Macedonian, the passengers were Albanian.

"Initial information shows that 52 people were travelling in the bus, including two drivers with Macedonian nationality and 50 passengers with Albanian nationality," he said. -nw



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IHF CONFERENCE

Research paper of Royal Hospital bags second place

MUSCAT: Represented by the National Cardiology Centre, the Royal Hospital occupied second place worldwide after submitting a research paper on patient safety at the 44th conference of the International Hospitals Federation (IHF), held in Barcelona, Spain.

The research paper, titled "Sustained Improvement for Protection Against Post-surgery Inflammations in Children and Adults", contested alongside 250 papers from 70 countries, said Dr. Safiya Ali Al Shuhi, Specialist in Intensive Care in Post-surgery at the National Cardiology Centre.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), she said that the team which presented the paper

came up with scientifically proven innovations which started way back in 2017 and are ongoing.

Dr. Safiya added that the team gained many lessons from its study which benefited the team members and improved the quality of services rendered to patients. Besides Dr. Safiya (Head of the Research Team), the winning research team comprises Omai-ma Mahmood Al Ra'easi, Deputy Head of the Research Team, Dr. Alaa Hassan Al Lawati (member) and nurses Buthaina Khalaf Al Hamdani, Asmahana Nabhan Al Qarni, Laila Wajdad Al Balushi, Rayya Nassir Al Battashi and Oweina Hamoud Al Barwani.

- ONA



COVID HEROES

Oman's unsung heroes: Teamwork helped control COVID-19

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Teamwork from the entire healthcare sector in Oman helped rein in the spread of COVID-19 in the country, a senior doctor at the COVID-19 field hospital has said.

Assistant Director Dr Khalid Rashid Al Balushi, of the COVID-19 field hospital, said that the healthcare staff at the hospital battled valiantly for about a year to treat patients who had been infected with the virus, with many of them working to the point of exhaustion.

"We had divided hospital into Red and Green zones, and as you are aware, when you are near a patient, you need to put on all of your personal protective equipment (PPE)," he said. "That is why the challenges for the staff were manifold: they did work hard, but became exhausted over time, because working for long hours with full PPE was not easy.

"We had many challenges, but thanks to God that we made it



through and were able to oversee every step of health and safety, as well as patient wellbeing in this place," added the doctor. "Dur-

ing the pandemic, working with COVID, as everyone knows, is not easy. You have to have a full set of personal protective equipment for

each person."

The biggest challenge, however, was finding a suitable location in a fast-shrinking window to set up

the field hospital.

The idea for the COVID field came up in July 2020, when the first plans were drawn up, and the facility received its first patient on 6 October.

"The field hospital was a challenge for the Ministry of Health, because our location was not constructed as a hospital," he admitted.

"There were a lot of things we needed to modify to make this a suitable healthcare institution, so that we could take care of COVID patients.

"Another factor that took its toll on the medical staff at the hospital were the anguish they went through while treating a friend or relative infected with the disease who needed urgent care."

"When you talk about COVID patients, it is natural to get attached to some of them: many are our relatives or friends, but sometimes, we could not do anything for them," explained Al Balushi.

"That is a sad story for us: we lost many of friends and family

members. These were the main challenges we faced for over a year, but today, thanks to the Almighty that we are facing more relaxed conditions.

"We now have zero patients at the field hospital, and by the grace of God, we are going back to normal. But I remember a time, during the peak of the pandemic in Oman, that we had reached more than 100 percent occupancy. Patients were waiting for more beds to be brought here from other health centres."

He went on to say: "That was a very tough time for us, but here, I would like to salute our healthcare workers, the Ministry of Health, the Minister of Health, who have done a great job controlling the pandemic. We have controlled COVID, but still need to live in a good environment. We must be careful and protect ourselves and our families."

"My friends, please remember to continue to put on your masks, and continue to take the measures required to stay safe."

HOMICIDE

Wisconsin driver faces homicide charges over deaths during parade

WISCONSIN: "This was not a terrorist event," said Waukesha Police Chief Daniel Thompson on Monday, one day after an SUV rammed into bystanders and participants at a Christmas parade in the Milwaukee suburb.

"We are confident he acted alone," Thompson added, referencing the driver and prime suspect in the case.

More details emerge on the case

Thompson dispelled rumours that there had been a vehicular pursuit by officers prior to the attack. Authorities do not believe the attacker knew anyone at the parade.

He named the suspect that authorities apprehended on Sunday as 39-year-old Darrell Brooks Jr and said he would be charged with intentional homicide.

Brooks was known to police over a slew of assault and endangerment charges, including one previous incident where a woman said he had tried to run her over in a gas station.

Local press reported that he



had been released from prison on bail for other charges on Friday. Police Chief Thompson further elaborated that Brooks had been part of a domestic disturbance just minutes before he drove into the Christmas parade.

Six children still in hospital

Before providing new details into the case, a clearly emotional Thompson read out of the names of the deceased victims and praised first responders and the community for coming together in a time of crisis.

At least five people were killed and more than 48 hurt in the tragedy Sunday. Doctors said 18 patients between the ages of 3 and 16 were taken to Children's Wisconsin Hospital — among them three sets of siblings.

Six of the children remain in the hospital in critical condition, officials confirmed on Monday.

They suffered injuries ranging from scratches and bruising to broken bones and serious head injuries, said Dr Amy Drendel, medical director of the hospital's emergency department.

"This is unique and truly demonstrates the devastating effects of this on our community," said Dr. Michael Meyer, head of the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit.

Three of those who died were from the Milwaukee Dancing Grannies. The group said it on its Facebook page it was dedicated to "putting smiles on faces of all ages, filling them with joy and happiness."

Waukesha struggles to return to normality

At the crime scene, emergency workers had cleared up most of the debris and the roads around the area were re-opened.

There was an outpouring of sympathy across the US for those in Waukesha, including from President Joe Biden, who said he and his family were "praying for those suffering."

The parade is an annual event attended by community groups and local residents on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This year's event, the 59th, was titled "Comfort and Joy." -nw

DELAY IN LANDING

Jeff Bezos lawsuit delays NASA's lunar mission

WASHINGTON: NASA denied Jeff Bezos private space firm, Blue Origin, a contract to develop a moon lander for America's return to the moon following which Bezos filed a lawsuit against his country in response.

"Bezos couldn't win the NASA contract on merit because he charged millions of dollars more than his competition. His Plan B of having his home-state US senator force NASA to select a second contractor for the mission, which would have cost taxpayers \$10 billion, also failed. So, his strategy of getting more money from the public treasury hinged entirely upon this NASA lawsuit," reported the *Washington Times*. The Court ruled against Blue Origin and permitted the development of the lander to continue.

Recently, NASA administrator Nill Nelson at a press conference revealed that NASA will have to delay the landing a year because of the lost development time it incurred because of the lawsuit filed

by Bezos, reported *Washington Times*.

The delay due to Bezos lawsuit puts the US at the backfoot. Experts believe that China's lunar programme is extremely capable of reaching the moon in the coming three to four years.

China is planning to launch a fleet of solar panels into space as an energy source and to return it to earth by 2035. The energy generating system is anticipated to have equal power as a nuclear plant by 2050, reported the *Washington Times*.

China is further planning to establish and set up an enormous space station, mine asteroids, have gas stations, etc., to have control over NASA.

Russia and China reportedly have agreed to establish a moon base. US National security experts fear consequent geopolitical consequences in the years ahead, including but not limited to anti-American military operations, reported the *Washington Times*. -ANI

US issues advisory for people going to Germany over COVID-19 surge

Germany, the EU's most populous nation, is currently grappling with its fourth, and most severe, wave of the pandemic

BERLIN: The US State Department warned Americans on Monday not to travel to Germany due to the "very high level of COVID-19 in the country."

The advisory came after fresh advice from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

"Avoid travel to Germany. If you must travel to Germany, make sure you are fully vaccinated before travel," the CDC warned.

"Because of the current situa-



COVID CASES SURGE: The advisory came after fresh advice from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

tion in Germany, even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants," it added.

Denmark, Belgium, Croatia, Hungary, Austria and the Netherlands have also been issued with

the CDC's highest Level 4 warning.

How bad is the current COVID situation in Germany?

Germany, the EU's most populous nation, is currently grappling with its fourth, and most severe, wave of

the pandemic.

On Tuesday, 45,326 new cases were reported, an increase of almost 13,000 a week ago. The seven-day incidence rate hit a record of 399.8 new infections per 100,000 people.

Intensive care units are filling up with COVID-19 patients at a rate German hospitals have never seen before, not even in 2020.

The latest surge has been blamed on a sluggish vaccine uptake. Only 68% of the country's population is fully vaccinated.

'Vaccinated, recovered or dead'

Health Minister Jens Spahn made a bleak remark on the course of the pandemic on Monday, as he urged people not to be too picky about the vaccines.

"Probably, by the end of this winter, as is sometimes cynically said, pretty much everyone in Germany will be vaccinated, recovered or dead," he told reporters.

However, Hendrik Streeck, one of the country's top virologists, told DW in an interview that he disagreed with the comment.

"While I agree that the situation is serious right now ... I don't agree with the sentence that everyone after this fall or winter 'will be either vaccinated, recovered or dead,' Streeck, a professor and director of the Institute of Virology at the University of Bonn, said.

"That would mean that eve-

ryone will come into contact with the virus this winter," he said, adding that was not how it works.

Outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel said current measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 were insufficient to tame a vicious fourth wave of infections.

"We have a highly dramatic situation — the current rules are not enough," Merkel was reported to have told a meeting of leaders of her conservative Christian Democrats on Monday.

US lifted travel curbs

Earlier this month, the United States reopened its borders after more than a year-and-a-half of international travel restrictions.

The Biden administration further announced details on how the US plans to reopen with new guidelines on international travel.

Beginning November 8, "non-citizen, non-immigrant air travelers to the US will be required to be fully vaccinated" and must provide proof of their status prior to boarding, "with only limited exceptions," according to a White House statement. **bw**

US to release 50m barrels of oil from nation's reserves to bring down prices

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's administration on Tuesday announced that the US would release some 50 million barrels of crude oil from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve in an effort to bring down prices for gasoline and halt rising inflation.

The White House said the move, which will see oil released in the form of loans and sales, was coordinated with the governments of China, Japan, South Korea, the UK and India.

Shortly after the US announcement, India, too, said it would release 5 million barrels from its own strategic reserve.

Officials in Washington say the coordinated effort is the first of its kind and should be seen as a warning to OPEC nations to increase production in order to control the rise in prices for gasoline, which in the US has been averaging around \$3.40 (€3.03) a gallon — twice that of 2020.

The global coronavirus pandemic has sent energy markets on a roller-coaster trajectory over the past year and a half with demand and prices originally tanking only to rebound and become further compounded by increased demand and faltering production.

With prices rising and supply short, Republican lawmakers have attempted to pin the issue of rising fuel prices on the Biden adminis-



tration's efforts to minimize drilling and foster renewable energy as the main reason for decreased US production.

"As we come out of an unprecedented global economic shutdown, oil supply has not kept up with demand, forcing working families and businesses to pay the price," Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm tweeted Tuesday, adding, "This action underscores the president's commitment to using the tools available to bring down costs for working families and to continue our economic recovery."

The Biden administration says it expects consumers to begin reaping the benefits of the decision by mid-December.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer on Tuesday, said the move would provide "temporary relief" but noted long-term alleviation would only come once the country dropped its dependence on fossil fuels altogether and finally created a "robust green economy."

On Monday, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki sought to put the blame on oil companies: "We will continue to press oil companies who have made record profits and are overseeing what we consider to be price gouging out there when there's a supply of oil or the price of oil is coming down and the price of gas is not coming down. It does not take an economic expert to know that's a problem." **bw**

Belarus opposition leader criticises Merkel's 'strange' calls with Lukashenko

MINSK: Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya criticized Angela Merkel on Monday after recent phone calls the acting German chancellor had with Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko.

Last week Lukashenko and Merkel spoke by phone twice, discussing the crisis on the border with Poland and agreeing to maintain contact, but Tsikhanouskaya took a dim view of the interaction. "From the side of the Belarusian people, it looked very strange," Tsikhanouskaya said in Vienna after attending a conference on Belarusian civil society.

Though the opposition leader did concede that she understood why Merkel engaged with Lukashenko, in order to "deescalate the situation at the borders," Tsikhanouskaya said Lukashenko should not be legitimized through diplomatic dialogue. Tsikhanouskaya said that EU leaders should "refrain from any contacts" with Lukashenko.

Later on Monday, Merkel spoke with Tsikhanouskaya in a telephone call, where Merkel reiterated her support for the democratic process during the political crisis in Belarus.

"The chancellor underlined the continued support of the federal government for the Belarusian democracy movement,"



government spokesperson Stefan Seibert said. He said Merkel "stressed" that Lukashenko's government "must end the repression against the opposition and independent journalists, release prisoners, and enter into a serious dialogue with society in order to resolve the crisis through fair and free elections."

Germany doesn't address Lukashenko as president

Shortly after last week's phone call, the German government released a statement confirming that communication between Merkel and Lukashenko had taken place about "the difficult situation on the border between Belarus and the European Union — especially about the need for humanitarian aid for the refugees and migrants there," though the statement did not refer to Lukashenko as the

president of Belarus.

The dialogue between Merkel and Lukashenko is the first time a Western leader has spoken with the Belarusian strongman since the contested 2020 presidential elections, the outcome of which has been widely disputed in the West.

Maas describes Belarus situation as 'worse than ever'

Acting German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas attended the Vienna conference via video link.

"The domestic situation in Belarus is worse than ever," Maas said, adding that the exiled opposition must now remain united.

Pressure on Lukashenko must be maintained, Maas said, referring to the European Union's fifth package of sanctions on Belarus, which is still being drafted. **bw**

Six die, 14 rescued as ferry capsizes in eastern Sri Lanka

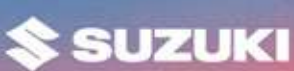
COLOMBO: The Sri Lanka Navy on Tuesday afternoon said six people died and 14 people including children were rescued after a ferry capsized in Kinniya in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province earlier in the day.

Navy Spokesperson Captain Indika De Silva told Xinhua that the ferry capsized early Tuesday while it was crossing a waterway as the bridge above has been damaged.

Police said the ferry capsized due to overcrowding. Initial reports showed that 22 people including students were on board the ferry.

Navy divers recovered six bodies, including four children, while 14 people were rescued and admitted to nearby state hospitals.

Search and rescue operations are still underway. **ANI**



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SPORTS



Will fight for a podium finish at 24h Dubai: Al Faisal Al Zubair

On Tuesday, Al Faisal announced that he has signed up for Haupt Racing Team (HRT) to launch his 2022 season by competing in the Hankook 24H Dubai



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Faisal Al Zubair loves to take up fresh challenges. Following a satisfying season in 2021 that saw Oman's talented endurance racer climb up the overall podium in the International GT Open Series for Lechner Racing team in a Porsche GT3 R in Barcelona, Spain, last month, the Muscat-based racer is all set for a new competition early next year. On Tuesday, Al Faisal announced that he has signed up for Haupt Racing Team (HRT) to launch his 2022 season by competing in the Hankook 24H Dubai, which will be held at the Dubai

Autodrome on January 14-15. HRT, which has an excellent track record at the Dubai 24H, will field two teams at the 2022 edition just like last year. Al Faisal will be part of the four-driver line-up in a Mercedes-AMG GT3 #7777 car along with Dutch Indy Dontje, German Luca Stolz and Austrian Martin Konrad. The other car #4 will comprise owner and 2020 champion Hubert Haupt, Khaled al Qubaisi, Manuel Metzger and Raffaele Marciello. Lights go green on January 14 and an excited Al Faisal is looking

forward to his 24h appearance. The Omani racer had competed last year at the same event but rains had forced the abandonment of the event just after seven hours of the 24-hour race. Al Faisal said, "I am very excited to compete in the 2022 Dubai 24h race with Haupt Racing Team, which has got many winners on their rolls and have done very well in endurance races across the world. "The HRT team had won the title last year in a rain-curtailed event and has also done well in the past editions. We have a strong

drivers' line-up in Stolz, Dontje and Konrad. I also have a new car team for the Dubai 24h but I am confident that we can fight for a podium finish." He added, "This will be my first proper 24h. So it will be a new challenge but after my season in 2021 with Porsche GT3 R, I am much more confident. My experience in the International GT Open will definitely help me when I take on the wheels of Mercedes in Dubai." Last year, Al Faisal had teamed up with Maximilian Gotz, Maximilian Buhk and Christopher Bruck with HTP Winward Motorsport at the Dubai 24h. The 23-year-old Al Faisal announced himself as a rising star on the regional circuit in 2018, when he won the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East title and then extended his dominance by claiming the overall title for the second time in a row in 2019. Last year the motorsports calendar was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic but the Omani proved his credentials as a competitive and skillful endurance racer this season with an overall third in the 2021 International GT Open despite missing one round due to illness. Out of the 12 races he competed in 2021, he won four and took eight podium finishes underlying his potential at the top level.

Oman to host Legends League Cricket in 2022



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Legends League Cricket (LLC), a professional T20 cricket league of former starplayers, announced that the inaugural season of the League will take place at Al Amerat Cricket Stadium in Oman in January 2022. Al Amerat Cricket Stadium in Oman was the co-host of recently concluded ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 along with Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi as the other three venues. The global league where former cricketers, legends of the game, will be playing competitive cricket is looking at emerging as a global professional league, where the Legends can relive old rivalries on the field. With Oman as the host nation, the League shall well and truly start its journey on a global platform. "It is an honour for Oman Cricket to host the Legends of the game. This is going to be very big for Oman Cricket. Such a gathering of star cricketers is unprecedented in Oman and I am sure this will just be the beginning, opening up a completely new opportunity for Oman Cricket. We at Oman Cricket would extend the best hospitality to the Legends while they

entertain the fans with cricket", Pankaj Khimji, Chairman - Oman Cricket, stated. Ravi Shastri, Commissioner, Legends League Cricket, said, "We see our League as an opportunity to promote Cricket in new destinations. Amongst all options, Oman came out as the best package. It would a great start to a new journey ahead." Raman Raheja, co-founder and CEO, Legends League Cricket, said, "Oman has proved its credential as a world-class international venue and host in the T20 World Cup and we felt it will be the best place for the League to start with. I am sure we will have fantastic tournament and all the players will have an experience of a lifetime. This will be the first time that such big names will play in Oman and perhaps once in a lifetime opportunity for the cricket fans of Oman." Vivek Khushalani, Chairman of the Legends League Cricket said, "We are looking forward to the League being hosted in Oman. It is an upcoming destination for international cricket and this event would further enhance their position. You don't get such opportunities every day to bring such legends together in one venue."

CRICKET ROUND-UP

Al Muthla pip Aflag Group by 14 runs, Mazoon Dairy win

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Al Muthla Golden CT beat Aflag Group CT by 14 runs in a E Division match of the Oman Cricket League over the weekend. Batting first after winning the toss, Al Muthla Golden CT scored a respectable 178 for the loss of nine wickets in their allotted 20

overs. Shinu Prasad led the scoring with 43 off 26 balls, studded with four boundaries and one six. Syed Osama Afaq, Arnold Lewis, and Ahmed Mohammed picked up two wickets apiece for Aflag. In reply, Aflag opener Junaid Iqbal started aggressively with 62 off 32 balls, with seven boundaries and three sixes. But the team got all out for 164, falling short of the

target by 14 runs. Sajith Chenganassery was the pick of the bowlers for Al Muthla, taking three wickets for 29 runs. Brief Scores - Al Muthla Golden CT 178/9 in 20 overs (Shinu Prasad 43 (26) 4x4; Ahmed Mohamed - 30/2) won against Aflag Group CT 164/10 in 20 Overs (Junaid 62 (32) 7x4, 3x6; Sajith Chenganassery 29/3) by 14 runs

In another E Division match of the Oman Cricket League, Mazoon Dairy beat against Y Horizon by 38 runs. Batting first, Mazoon Dairy scored 172 for the loss of seven wickets in their allotted 20 overs, with opener Manish Bhatia scoring 69 off 52 balls, studded with 11 boundaries. Sakil Khan also ably supported

with a quickfire 55 off 21 balls, including four boundaries and one six. Amar Pal Singh was the pick of the bowlers for Y Horizon with three wickets for 18 runs. In reply, Y Horizon got off to a good start, but faltered their way to the target, scoring only 134 for the loss of six wickets in their allotted 20 overs. Opener Vikram Soni was the top scorer with 53 runs off 46

balls with five boundaries. Mayoore Krishnakutty Jithin picked up two for 23. Brief Scores - Mazoon Dairy 172/7 in 20 overs (Manish Bhatia 69 (52) 11x4, Sakil Khan - 55 (21) 4x4, 1x6; Amar Pal Singh 18/3) beat Y Horizon 134/6 in 20 Overs (Vikram Soni 53 (46) 5x4; Mayoore Krishnakutty 23/1) by 38 runs.

BEST PLAYER

Ronaldo, Messi top nominees for FIFA Best Men's Player award



ZURICH: Argentina striker Lionel Messi and Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo headlined the nominations for The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 revealed the governing body. The winners of awards will be revealed at an online ceremony on January 17 2022. The candidates have been selected by two expert panels - one for women's football and one for men's football. Liverpool star Mohamed Salah has also been shortlisted for the awards following his incredible form this year. Magdalena Eriksson, Pernille Harder and Ji Soyun are some of the prominent names shortlisted for the awards. "Public voting is open on FIFA.com and will run until 23:59 CET on 10 December 2021," FIFA said in a statement. The apex body of football will announce the three finalists in each of the seven categories listed above in early January 2022. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by January 2022 reaching \$78.86, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 20 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$78.66. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,050.96 points, down 0.26 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.73 per cent at 543.14 points. Sembcorp Salalah was the top gainer, up by 9.86 per cent, while Al Jazeera Services, down 4.12 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's inflation rises by 3.35%

The Consumer Price Index increased by 0.75 per cent in October compared to September 2021

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 3.35 per cent in October 2021 compared to October 2020.

The inflation rate also went up by 0.75 per cent compared to September 2021, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The rise of prices in October 2021 compared to the same month in 2020 is attributed to the surge of prices in main groups, such as the transportation group by 9.58 per cent, education by 5.10 per cent, food and non-alcoholic beverages by 3.42 per cent, miscellaneous goods and services by 3.24 per cent, tobacco by 2.98 per cent, recreation and culture by 2.64 per cent, furniture, household equipment and routine household main-



NCSI REPORT: The inflation rate went up by 0.75 per cent compared to September 2021, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information. - **File picture**

tenance by 1.37 per cent, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group by 1.01 per cent, restaurants and hotels by 0.70 per cent, clothing and footwear by 0.37 per

cent and health by 0.06 per cent.

On the other hand, prices of the communication group went down by 0.07 per cent.

According to the NCSI, prices

soared during October 2021 compared to the same period in 2020 in the fish and seafood group by 14.82 per cent, vegetables by 7.62 per cent, fruits by 2.87 per cent, oils and fats

by 2.39 per cent, bread and cereals by 2.04 per cent, non-alcoholic beverages by 1.70 per cent, sugar, jam, honey and sweets by 1.68 per cent, meat by 1.50 per cent, other food-

stuffs by 1.45 per cent, milk, cheese and eggs by 0.42 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.75 per cent compared to September 2021. A surge was recorded in the prices of education by 5.10 per cent, food and non-alcoholic beverages by 1.43 per cent, transportation by 0.83 per cent, recreation and culture by 0.58 per cent, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group by 0.56 per cent, miscellaneous goods and services by 0.20 per cent, furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance by 0.07 per cent and clothing and footwear by 0.06 per cent.

Meanwhile, the prices of restaurants and hotels fell by 0.21 per cent. Meanwhile, the prices of tobacco, health and communication remained unchanged.

At the level of governorates, the CPI recorded a rise in October 2021 compared to the same month in 2020. The Governorate of North Al Batinah recorded an increase in inflation by 4.03 per cent, the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah by 3.83 per cent, the Governorate of Dhofar by 3.59 per cent, the Governorates of North and South Al Sharqiyah by 3.58 per cent, the Governorate of A'Dhahirah by 3.33 per cent, the Governorate of Al Buraimi by 3.14 per cent and the Governorate of Muscat by 2.77 per cent. - **ONA**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR75mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR75 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from November 24, 2021 until February 23, 2022.

The average accepted price reached 99.820 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.815 per OMR100. Whereas the average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.72332 per cent and 0.72462 per cent, respectively.

Added advantage

The Central Bank of Oman acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

The treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Central Bank of Oman on behalf of the government, which helps the



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

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

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

CMA digitalises all investors and policyholders services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To achieve the Oman Vision 2040 toward digital transformation, smart government and to facilitate the services rendered by the Institutional Services Department to the public, the Capital Market Authority (CMA) announced the provision of six electronic services to enhance communication with the insurance policyholders, investors and stakeholders.

The e-services are available via the website and smartphones application of the CMA.

System for complaints

They include a system for complaints against the companies operating in the insurance sector (insurance companies, brokers, agents and valuers of cancelled motor vehicles), a system for complaints against the companies operating in the capital market sector (public joint-stock companies and the companies operating in the field of securities) beside the other electronic services such as enquiries, whistleblowing, the system for applications for assistance from

the Fund for Assistance of the injured and heirs of the deceased and compensation for damage incurred in traffic accidents as well as the service for calculation of the value of the cancelled vehicles.

Capital market and insurance complaints related service are the most popular as it emphasises the CMA keenness to safeguard the rights of insurance policyholders and investors in the capital market as it allows the user to file the complaint electronically and attach all the statements and documents related to the issue.

The complainant receives a response in three working days unless the nature of the complaint requires more time, plus the whistleblowing service which relates to any irregularities in the companies operating in the capital market and insurance sector. The services assure the confidentiality of the whistleblower to avoid any inconveniences.

The Capital Market Authority also provides an electronic enquiries service that allows the user to enquire about the procedures and services rendered by the CMA. Furthermore, a service for calculation of the value of cancelled vehicles was added to the website and CMA's application. The service requests information about the vehicle, first time buying value or insurance value, date and date of the accident and then informs the user of the value of compensation from the insurer.

CMA added service for applications for assistance provided by the Fund for Assistance of the injured. CMA also introduced a platform for communication with the insurance companies to discuss the developments and the issues related to the insurance industry.

Package

The Capital Market Authority launched this year a package of electronic systems to facilitate for the customers of the capital market and insurance sectors to file their applications electronically whether institutional or individual applications to cope with the CMA's endeavours to achieve its strategy in the current five years (2021-2025) to enhance the performance in line with the national priorities in the Oman Vision 2040.

OXFORD BUSINESS GROUP

Report explores Oman's privatisation drive and plans to revive non-oil growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate's efforts to put privatisation and diversification at the heart of its strategy for sustainable economic growth has been highlighted by a new report.

The new report was conducted by the global research and consultancy firm Oxford Business Group (OBG) and produced in partnership with the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI).

The Oman Economic Briefing provides in-depth analysis of the recent challenges that the Sultanate faced due to depressed global oil prices, and its long-term targets for economic development, in an easy-to-navigate and accessible format, focusing on key data and infographics.

It highlights the segments of the economy that have been identified as ripe for development, such as mining, tourism and logistics, and which, will be key in helping the Sultanate achieve its Vision 2040 objectives.

In its coverage of Oman's industrial sector, the report examines the country's bid to boost economic growth outside of Muscat



by investing in special economic zones and encouraging the expansion of industrial estates. The economic briefing puts the coastal city of Duqm, the Salalah Free Zone, Sohar Port and Freezone, and Khazaen Economic City under the microscope, highlighting the incentives and advantages they offer and the government's plans for developing them further.

Oman's plan to accelerate development through public-private partnerships (PPPs) is

another focus. In this section, the economic briefing looks at the Sultanate's plans to privatise \$1.8bn of state assets under the Tanfeedh initiative.

Sustained growth

Licence holders will also find details of the measures and initiatives that are spearheading Oman's efforts to improve its fiscal position after years of sustained growth were curtailed by lower global oil prices and fallout from the pandemic.

The report contains in-depth interviews with high-profile representatives from both the public and private sectors, in which topical issues are explored, including the Sultanate's privatisation plans and the role of new legislation in enhancing its business environment.

Commenting before the report's launch, Redha Juma Al Saleh, Chairman, OCCI, said the private sector had expanded its role in the Omani economy over the years, with investors today not only providing most of the funding for projects, but also assuming more of the risk, rather than being focused solely on the execution stage.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

The top gainer was Oman Chlorine which closed higher by 3.45% while top loser was Al Madina Investment which closed lower 5.41%.

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,050.96 points, down 0.26 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.73 per cent at 543.14 points. Sembcorp Salalah was the top gainer, up by 9.86 per cent, while Al Jazeera Services, down 4.12 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of OIFC were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded. A total number of 466 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.22 million, with more than 17.03 million shares changing hands. Out of 44 traded securities, 8 advanced, 20 declined and 16 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR160,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR90,000 followed by do-

mestic investors for OMR69,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 6,421.40 points, down 0.31 per cent. Vision Insurance and Ahli Bank were up 2.20 per cent and 0.91 per cent respectively. Al Anwar Investment, Al Sharqia Investment, Madina Takaful, Muscat Finance and Bank Dhofar were down 3.13 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 2.11 per cent, 1.79 per cent and 1.48 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,084.48 points, down 0.48 per cent. Oman Cement was the only gainer by 0.42 per cent. While Voltamp Energy, Jazeera Steel Product, Raysut Cement, NAPI and Galfar Engineering were down 2.54 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 2.01 per cent, 1.48 per cent and 1.33 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,069.60	4,047.07	4,050.96	4,061.36	-10.40	-0.26
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,456.87	6,414.59	6,421.40	6,441.18	-19.79	-0.31
Industry Index	6,109.91	6,084.49	6,084.49	6,114.11	-29.62	-0.48
Services Index	1,634.94	1,618.64	1,624.02	1,617.65	6.38	0.39
MSX Shariah Index	545.92	542.53	543.14	547.13	-3.99	-0.73
MSX TR INDEX	4,893.76	4,866.66	4,871.34	4,883.85	-12.50	-0.26

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
17,026,342	3,220,652	466	22,070,145,227	8	20	16	44

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	6,000	558	2	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.091	0.002	2.198	0.093	0.087	0.093	0.100	9,300,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	7,247,897	1,012,301	56	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.140	0.137	0.003	2.190	0.139	0.138	0.141	0.100	33,180,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	127,878	57,034	30	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.446	0.440	0.006	1.384	0.446	0.436	0.446	0.100	105,438,860
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	66,411	7,372	4	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.001	0.909	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	216,411,979
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	30,000	7,170	3	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.238	0.001	0.420	0.239	0.230	0.238	0.100	79,078,578
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	974,406	302,296	16	0.324	0.324	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.310	0.320	0.100	31,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	49,000	15,288	1	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.312	0.000	0.000	0.312	0.290	0.320	0.100	252,024,967
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	354,412	177,282	23	0.500	0.502	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.502	0.492	0.502	0.100	1,787,237,396
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	694,833	73,882	10	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.000	0.000	0.106	0.105	0.107	0.100	316,946,603
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	334,269	245,815	23	0.736	0.736	0.732	0.736	0.740	-0.004	-0.541	0.736	0.732	0.736	0.100	552,000,000
OM0000003968	QOREDOO	257,000	92,577	20	0.360	0.362	0.360	0.360	0.362	-0.002	-0.552	0.360	0.360	0.362	0.100	234,339,923
OM0000002077	AL OMANITA FIN.	220,000	25,960	9	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.118	0.119	-0.001	-0.840	0.117	0.117	0.120	0.100	34,448,350
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	76,000	4,500	8	0.055	0.056	0.055	0.055	0.056	-0.001	-1.786	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	16,893,048
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	52,823	12,912	7	0.245	0.245	0.244	0.244	0.249	-0.005	-2.008	0.244	0.225	0.244	0.100	48,800,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	108,967	39,228	14	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.368	-0.008	-2.174	0.360	0.352	0.360	0.100	44,963,266
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	56,200	4,710	8	0.085	0.085	0.083	0.084	0.086	-0.002	-2.326	0.083	0.083	0.084	0.100	7,560,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	286,889	26,652	20	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.096	-0.003	-3.125	0.093	0.092	0.093	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	10,200	3,325	4	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.326	0.340	-0.014	-4.118	0.326	0.306	0.326	0.100	19,952,593
Total	18	10,952,987	2,108,692	258												
Parallel Market																
OM00000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	100,000	7,800	6	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.071	0.007	8.859	0.078	0.075	0.078	0.100	74,458,612
OM00000007084	MCT DESALINATE	5,343	508	3	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.093	0.002	2.151	0.095	0.094	0.095	0.100	14,777,288
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	8,505	1,262	1	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.194	0.000	0.000	0.194	0.190	0.194	0.100	315,433,593
OM0000001517	HSCB BANK OMAN	142,469	12,966	4	0.091	0.092	0.090	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.100	182,028,464
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	2,000	1,000	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.065	0.068	0.100	8,287,500
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	198	170	1	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.920	0.920	0.000	0.000	0.860	0.880	0.928	0.100	87,400,000
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SR.	376	225	1	0.598	0.598	0.598	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.000	0.598	0.000	0.598	0.100	107,902,440
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	5,000	260	1	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.052	0.053	0.100	18,504,654
OM0000002372	OMAN OIL MARKETING	200	179	1	0.896	0.896	0.896	0.904	0.904	0.000	0.000	0.896	0.900	0.940	0.100	55,352,600
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	399,600	20,380	15	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.000	0.000	0.051	0.051	0.051	0.100	34,419,259
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	103,447	5,379	7	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.052	0.000	0.000	0.052	0.051	0.052	0.100	37,149,130
OM0000004947	OMAN REIT FUND	11,000	990	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	58,928,305
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	815,311	78,247	14	0.095	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.097	0.097	0.098	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	400,930	36,886	36	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	11,960,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER.	646,480	47,840	26	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.333	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.100	15,020,997
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	26,000	1,988	3	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.071	0.072	0.100	18,004,860
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	25,530	3,405	9	0.135	0.135	0.131	0.133	0.135	-0.002	-1.481	0.131	0.131	0.140	0.100	4,465,003
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	399,961	53,095	6	0.132	0.135	0.132	0.133	0.135	-0.002	-1.481	0.132	0.130	0.135	0.100	398,514,741
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	21,000	3,433	4	0.164	0.164	0.162	0.163	0.166	-0.003	-1.807	0.163	0.163	0.163	0.100	4,800,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	551,412	26,435	37	0.050	0.050	0.046	0.048	0.049	-0.001	-2.041	0.049	0.046	0.049	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	367,450	34,349	22	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.093	0.095	-0.002	-2.105	0.093	0.093	0.095	0.100	16,275,000
OM0000003961	VOLCAN ENERGY	10,003	1,150	3	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.118	-0.003	-2.642	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	9,363,316
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	7,492	2,402	3	0.320	0.322	0.320	0.320	0.330	-0.010	-3.030	0.322	0.300	0.320	0.100	22,324,800
Total	23	4,049,707	339,485	205												

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INDIAN EQUITY MARKET

Equity benchmark indices close in green, Sensex up by 198 points

MUMBAI:

Indian equity market closed in the green on Tuesday as the metal and power sector shares gained. At the closing bell, the BSE S&P Sensex was up by 198.44 points or 0.34 per cent, while the Nifty 50 gained by 86.80 points or 0.50 per cent.

In BSE Sensex all the sectors, other than the Information Technology (IT) sector gained. The sectors that saw maximum gain were the metal sector that was up by 3.48 per cent, the power sector that was up by 3.20 per cent, the utilities sector that was up by 3.11 and the realty sector was up by 2.35 per cent.

Among stocks, the top gainer was the Power Grid Corp, which

surged 3.91 per cent to Rs 201.85, followed by NTPC Limited up by 2.53 per cent to Rs 133.50 per share. Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel and Sun Pharma also traded with a positive bias.

Meanwhile, IndusInd Bank cracked by 2.59 per cent, Asian Paints was down by 2.35 per cent and Infosys by 1.49 per cent.

REPORT

China to see green investment boom

BEIJING:

Further green investment is in sight for China as the country gradually shifts toward a more institutionalised phase of decarbonisation, according to a research report by Morgan Stanley.

"We expect policymakers to step up support for green investments from 2022 - such as renewables, smart grid, power storage equipment, and manufacturing equipment upgrades," said Robin Xing, Morgan Stanley's chief China economist, in the co-authored report.

The green push is expected to inject new impetus into the Chinese economy. The investment bank forecast a recovery in infrastructure driven by green investment, saying it expects infrastructure investment growth to rebound to 4 per cent next year.

Manufacturing investment demand is also predicted to rise as manufacturers upgrade their equipment to improve energy efficiency, according to the report.

The projections came amid China's continuous efforts to decarbonise to fight for blue skies and mitigate the impact of climate change. China in October unveiled an overarching guideline to achieve its carbon peak and carbon neutrality goals, as well as an action plan to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030.

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Contact: 78370670
Email: abid.khan.a@gmail.com

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email: shuhaibusman313@gmail.com

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E-mail: suneel.suneel@gmail.com

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Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

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92408363
sawad.mohammed@outlook.com

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Contact +968 7902 4220

Indian male, BBA, 26 years, having 3 and half year experience in Sales and Marketing, D/L, looking for suitable placement. Contact 96550844
Email: arshaqrajan000@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA, BCOM having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340.
Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs.Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately,, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact +968 79975463 nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com

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Indian male having 21 years HR & admin experience in Oman seeks suitable job. Contact 79329696

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman driving license and 20 years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. Contact 79256679

Indian HR - Professional (MBA-HR with 14yr exp) 8yrs oman Exp(HR/SAP/Admin) with Oman DL& NOC. Seeking openings in Human Resource & Admin jobs. Contact: +968-78539053
Email: rkkambat@gmail.com

Looking for a Job: **“Office Clerk” “Encoder”** Filipino Male, age 23 with 2 years relevant experience holding a Bachelor's Degree, computer literate with good communication skills & keen to details.
Email: abelgasjasper@gmail.com
Contact No: 9356 2783

Msc. Chemistry 1 year Exp as Quality control chemist. Contact 95662771
Email: nijan19077@gmail.com

Indian Male, MBA,BCOM having 7 yr Oman & 4 yr India experience in HR / Administration & Purchaser looking for suitable placement. Contact 97914340.
Email: sampathrajkv@gmail.com

Indian male graduate Executive Secretary with Stenography/Oman D/L & 20years experience in Muscat available with NOC for immediate joining. CTC 79256679

Indian male, smart, excellent English, Masters, Arabic speaker, 18years Oman experience. Immediate. Contact 99283938.

Omani Male 35 years old looking for PRO Job with 15 years of experience of same. # 92049106, 95422144

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Looking for driving jobs, 3 year experience in Oman. Contact 94447012

Driver need job with own car. Contact 94722609

An experienced Oman heavy duty driving license holder seeking a job. Contact 7830 8268

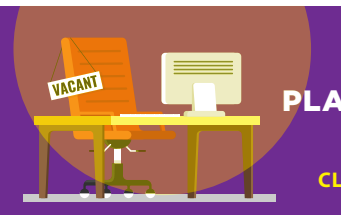
EDUCATION

MA in Clinical Psychology M.Ed in Learning Disability B.Ed in Special Education Looking for jobs in schools as a main stream teacher
Contact: 96646771

Indian Female, B.Ed, MSc Maths - with Distinction, 6 yr's exp seeking teaching jobs. Contact 92106767

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Indian, 18 yrs experience in driving, sales, stores, aluminium fabricator holding Omani D/L. # 99743709



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TIPS TO KEEP YOUR SKIN HYDRATED AND MOISTURISED

All of us crave soft and glowing skin but obviously that is not quite simple with the increasing pollution level and exposure to UV rays. Hydrated skin is an indication of healthy and radiant skin. Hydration and ample moisturisation are big contributing factors in maintaining the youthful properties of the skin. Further, our skin yearns for hydration not just during winter but throughout the year to deal with the loss of moisture due to sun exposure and pollution. Here are some suggestions by beauty expert Shahnaz Husain that you can follow to increase the level of skin hydration naturally:

Use natural moisturisers for skincare and masks

Aloe Vera gel or juice can be applied directly to the skin daily. Leave on for 20 minutes and wash off with plain water. Aloe Vera is a natural moisturiser and helps the skin to retain moisture. It is an antioxidant and protects the skin from oxidation damage,

thus delaying the visible signs of ageing on the skin. Aloe Vera keeps the skin soft and has healing properties too. You can also make a moisturizing cream with it. Mix equal quantities of aloe Vera gel and mineral water and heat till it forms a cream. When it cools, store it in an airtight jar.

Another less talked about ingredient but an absolute elixir when talking about skin benefits is ripe papaya. A ripe papaya and honey face mask is filled with vitamins and antioxidants. Papaya is a fruit that has abundant amounts of Vitamin C, flavonoids and papain which helps in getting rid of dead cells and facilitates the unclogging of pores. Making a blend of papaya puree, with one tablespoon of honey and two teaspoons of milk will give you a highly nutritious mixture. Put this mask on for 15 minutes and rinse it off with warm water.

Make sure to include vitamin and zinc-rich food
When we talk about incorporating food rich in Vitamin, we are specifically considering Vitamin

A, Vitamin C, Vitamin D and Vitamin E along with Zinc in your daily diet. Further, the intake of green tea, an antioxidant, and turmeric can also help in making your skin more supple and soft. Vegetables, fruits and beverages such as sweet potato, Watermelon, kiwi, almond, oats, milk, avocado, etc, have numerous health benefits.

Avoid hot water

Water is an important factor because we use it every day. So, avoid hot water and ensure that you wash and bathe with lukewarm or cool water. What happens with hot water is that it causes the skin to dry out too quickly, leading to visible signs of premature ageing.

Embrace regular exfoliation

Regular exfoliation is important to remove the dead skin cells that accumulate on the skin. Exfoliation, with the use of scrubs, helps to remove dead cells effectively when applied and rubbed gently on the skin. This also helps the skin to absorb other products.

There are many ingredients easily available at home that can be used to make a great exfoliator such as oats, green tea, honey and sugar, cinnamon powder and honey, ground almonds and yoghurt.

Keep your body hydrated

This cannot be stressed enough that for supple and hydrated skin, your body would logically require plenty of water. Drinking two litres or eight glasses of water a day is advised for glowing skin.

Apply sunscreen

Make sure that you are applying sunscreen before venturing out of your home every single day. Apply the sunscreen 20 minutes before going out in the sun. Sunscreens prevent moisture loss from sun exposure.

Apply moisturiser

Apply moisturiser daily on your face and body to moisturise the skin and prevent moisture loss. After bathing, apply moisturising body lotion immediately, while the skin is still damp, to seal in moisture. -ANI



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Picture: Mohamed Mustafa

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos speaks to the nation during the 13th National Day and Youth Year celebrations. The full text of his address and eight pages of celebration pictures are inside this issue of the "Times".

Ban on 3 brands of corn oil

— Roki, Zora and 3-Corn, contained impurities and the contents did not conform to what was written on the containers.

The banned products, he added, were not only found to be injurious to health but they constitute a case of fraud.

The Directorate of Internal Trade has sent circulars to all importers informing them of the ministerial decision.

by Muzaffar Mohammad

Under the ban no consignment of the banned corn oils will be allowed into the country. Supermarkets have been advised to dispose of their existing stock of the banned oils as soon as possible.

The banned corn oils come from Far Eastern countries.

State Council meets in January

The first session of the newly reconstituted State Consultative Council will be held in the first week of January, the Council's new President Sheikh Hamoud bin Abdullah al-Harthy has announced.

Sheikh Hamoud said that the Council will set up four routine committees: economic, legal, utilities and services.

In addition to these committees, the Council will consider setting up another one to look into complaints received from the social and economic sectors.

The State Consultative Council chairman said that the Council is in touch with the ministries concerned with the economic and social sector to acquaint itself with any obstacles blocking the implementation of the second five year plan programmes.

The Council will suggest solutions to help ministries carry out their programmes.

US ship to visit Muscat

The U.S. Navy ship "Whipple" will pay an official visit to Mina Qaboos from November 26 to November 28.

The vessel is a frigate named after commodore Abraham Whipple (1733-1899) of the United States Continental Navy who was credited with firing the first naval gun at a British vessel at the outbreak of the American Revolutionary war.

The "Whipple" has a length of 438 feet and displaces 4200 tons. It carries 18 officers and 255 enlisted crew members, and is based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The warship's captain is Commander Andy Wacaser.

Wattayeh flyover

A fourth flyover is to be built at Wattayeh roundabout, complementing the three at Ruwi, Hamriya and Wadi Adai roundabouts opened last week.

Any agreement to this effect was signed by the Minister of Communications, Sayyid Salem bin Nasser al Busaidi with the Lebanese contractors, Consolidated Construction International Company.

The new flyover is to cost R.O. 2,536,571 and is expected to be completed by June next year.

Health projects opening

Many projects of the Ministry of Health are to be inaugurated shortly to mark the National Day celebrations.

These include: health centres in Saham and Quryat each having 24 beds, OPD, a medical laboratory, a pharmacy and X-ray section.

The two health centres also include buildings to provide vaccination against infectious diseases, to provide mother and child care and to combat malaria. Facilities are also available for fighting insects, for food control, school health and health education.

The health centres also include residential accommodation for staff.

Another health centre is to be set up in Wadi al Jizi. It includes an OPD which has a room for surgical operations. It also includes a laboratory and a pharmacy. All these form the first

stage of the project. The second stage will be carried out later.

The new projects also include Ibn Sina Psychiatric hospital. The 60-bed hospital will have a ward for men and one for women.

The hospital, in Wadi Hattat in the Capital, will provide treatment to patients suffering from all kinds

of psychological diseases. The hospital is equipped with the latest instruments.

A dispensary will also be opened in Wadi Hattat. It will offer treatment to people with the help of health assistants. The medical officer at the parent hospital will pay weekly visits to the dispensary.

Grand Mufti

The Grand Mufti of Oman Sheikh Ahmad bin Hamad al-Khalili is convalescing in Salalah.

Sources at the Ministry of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said that the Sheikh is due to return to Muscat in a fortnight's time to resume his functions at the Ministry.

The Sheikh returned to Oman about two weeks ago after receiving treatment in Scotland.

Kuwaiti Minister at Palace

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos gave an audience to Sheikh Nawaf al Jabir al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Minister of the Interior, at Seeb Palace yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Seif Badr bin Saud bin Hareb, Minister of the Interior, and the Kuwaiti Ambassador

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ROUND-UP

Bank Nizwa signs major financing agreement with Emmar Industries

The financing from Bank Nizwa will provide the needed financial support to acquire machinery for the project while covering a portion of the company’s capital expenditures

MUSCAT: Recognising SMEs as an integral part of the economy, Bank Nizwa has always played a pioneering role in contributing to the development of SMEs in Oman. Aligning itself to the country’s economic diversification plan as outlined in its Vision 2040 and in an endeavour to bridge the funding gap for SMEs operating in key sectors, the bank recently signed a financing agreement with Emmar Industries. A 100% Omani-owned SME, Emmar Industries will receive financing from Bank Nizwa which will fulfil the working capital requirements of the company. A highly revered manufacturing company located in the heart of the Samail Industrial Estate with investment above OMR 5 million, Emmar Industries has shown steady growth since its incorporation in 2018. Establishing itself as a market leader in producing fire-rated isolation products such



as sandwich panels, the company has bagged several small and large-scale construction projects in a short span of time. The financing from Bank Nizwa will provide the needed financial support to acquire machinery for the project while covering a portion of the company’s capital expenditures. “The development of the SME sector is a driving force for industrialisation and plays a vital role in building the nation’s economy. By empowering entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skill and financial

capabilities to undertake key projects, Bank Nizwa has remained steadfast in its commitment to supporting SMEs through innovative Sharia-compliant financial solutions,” said Khaled Al Kayed, CEO of Bank Nizwa. “As a bank that recognises key players in the sector and goes the extra mile to support SMEs that have the potential to contribute effectively to the industry, Bank Nizwa takes great pride in assisting Emmar Industries in its expansion plans as it scales new heights.”

Dedicated to SME development, empowerment and growth, Bank Nizwa has extended its unfaltering support to SMEs in the Samail region in the past. In line with Oman’s Vision 2040, Bank Nizwa has been directing its efforts to enhance the overall SME ecosystem throughout the Sultanate and boost its contribution to the country’s GDP. “We appreciate Bank Nizwa’s unwavering commitment to supporting local SMEs like ours. The financing extended will not only

help us to meet our working capital requirements but will also enhance our competitiveness in the sector. Obtaining the right source of financing is viewed as a critical element for the long-term growth of SMEs. We are delighted to have a Sharia-compliant financial partner that truly understands the needs of SMEs and is always prepared to extend a helping hand,” said Mohammed Al Jenaibi, Chairman of Emmar Industries. Thoughtful initiatives like these are a testament to Bank Nizwa’s

efforts towards accelerating SME growth in the Sultanate. Having SMEs as a part of key developmental projects in the Sultanate will aid in entrepreneurial development, create more job opportunities for the local workforce and optimise the use of local resources. With a keen focus on initiatives that have a sustainable, long-term impact on the economy, Bank Nizwa will continue to enhance the SME environment while upholding its position as the leading Islamic bank in the country.

SPECTACULAR MODELS

McLaren Muscat showcases its flagship models: Artura, GT and 720S



MUSCAT: At a two-day event attended by the crème de la crème of Oman, McLaren Muscat showcased its flagship models – Artura, GT and 720S at the Zunairah mansions in Al Mouj Muscat. McLaren not only displayed its models but also gave McLaren GT and McLaren 720S for a test drive to sport cars enthusiasts. The response was overwhelming and the attendees enjoyed the high-class engineering and performance of these spectacular models. Zunairah provided the perfect backdrop for these unique supercars. The Zunairah mansions, in the heart of Al Mouj Muscat’s renowned Shatti District, are designed to offer the perfect balance of exquisite form and outstanding function. The mansions have been created to redraw and redefine the standards by which modern living is judged. They offer an unequalled luxury experience delivered in the most sustainable and environmentally responsible way - their ethos is similar to that of the McLaren brand. Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, the CEO of MHD ACERE – the sole distributor of McLaren cars in Muscat, is elated: “We are very

pleased with the response we received for this event. We showcased and organized test drives of some of our supercars and from the feedback, we received from our guests, each model offered a uniquely intense driving experience. We want to thank our guests who wholeheartedly participated in our event. We are grateful to Al Mouj Muscat for their amazing arrangements at this spectacular Zunairah venue. The ambience was perfect for a brand like McLaren that stands for creating breathtaking experiences.” McLaren embraces a hybridised future of high performance with the sculptural 2022 Artura supercar. The newly introduced mid-engine two-seater rides on a Carbon Fibre Lightweight Architecture platform. It also pairs a twin-turbo V6 – the company’s first – with a battery-electric powertrain to create a plug-in-hybrid model – another first. The duo generates a combined 671 horsepower and 531 pound-feet of torque. Performance estimates are highlighted by a zero-to-60-mph time of 3.0 seconds and a top speed of 205 mph. Its bodywork is pure McLaren, com-

plete with prominent air vents and scissor-style doors. Along with a more premium and spacious interior, the 2022 Artura offers several convenience and driver-assistance features. McLaren GT is a supercar that is thrilling, yet refined, dynamic and engaging. Like all McLarens, the new GT has a carbon fibre structure that possesses exceptional strength and rigidity while enabling unparalleled driving dynamics and the lightest-in-class kerb weight. At 1,530kg, the McLaren GT is more than 130kg lighter than its closest core competitor. And with a new 4.0-litre twin-turbocharged V8 engine, the all-new GT delivers 620PS and 630Nm of torque and undoubtedly the fastest acceleration. The car also offers ample room under the full length, glazed, powered tailgate and in the front storage area. It has a perfectly designed ergonomic interior that is luxurious. The contours of the 720S are distinctly McLaren, yet the details are boldly different. The beating heart of the 720S is a new and fearsomely powerful M840T engine with 720PS. Press the start button and the twin-tur-

bo V8 comes alive with a potent growl that ignites your senses and focuses your mind. Bathed in vibrant red light, every part of this 4.0-litre unit is refined to maximise power, sharpen responses, and increase fuel efficiency. McLaren Automotive is a creator of luxury, high-performance supercars. Every vehicle is hand-assembled at the McLaren Production Centre (MPC) in Woking, Surrey, England. Launched in 2010, the company is now the largest part of the McLaren Group. The company’s product portfolio of GT, supercar, Motorsport and Ultimate models are retailed through over 85 retailers in 40 markets around the world. MHD ACERE is one of the main operating clusters of MHD, representing some of the finest global brands in automobiles, coupled with the reputed service delivery of MHD. Over the last 5 decades, MHD has been an anchor for niche commercial and mass-market automotive brands. MHD ACERE offers the entire range of new McLaren cars as well as meticulous pre-owned vehicles in our forecourt and full-service facility with highly trained technicians.

PROUD MOMENT



Indian School Ghubra alumnus recognised for research in orthodontics

MUSCAT: Nandakishore Rajgopal, an alumnus of Class X batch of 2010 at Indian School Al Ghubra, currently studying at A.J. Institute of Dental Sciences at Mangalore in India has authored a chapter in a British textbook on orthodontics under the title ‘Current Trends in Orthodontics’. The open-access peer-reviewed chapter - Finite Element Analysis (FEA) in Orthodontics was published by Intech Open on the 11th of October 2021. The chapter highlights the bridge between orthodontics and the engineering branch of mechanics. Nandakishore has presented his findings in a simple manner intending to educate the orthodontists to use this method for research and case studies to arrive at a well-predicted result rather than the trial and error method that was used previously. This will help in reducing the time taken for orthodontic treatment. He has collaborated with Dr Farid Bourzgui, a renowned Professor and PhD scholar from Hassan II College, Morocco. Dr Bourzgui has applauded the content of the chapter. The book which features the chapter authored by

Nandakishore is scheduled to be published on January 16, 2022. It is a great achievement for him, a second-year post graduate student to coauthor with professors and people with doctorate degrees. Currently, he is working on two other international publications and aiming for patency. **Passion** Reminiscing about his days at ISG he said, “I am grateful to my teachers for helping me develop a firm foundation especially in Physics which later on immensely helped me in the profession of my choice and has turned it into a passion. It is with much excitement that I share the success as a tribute to all the members of the faculty who have been instrumental in moulding me during my formative years.” Parents of Nandakishore, Dr Rajgopal (Koula Hospital) and Dr Ashalatha explained this to be a proud and happy moment and looked forward to his future publications. The members of the school management and the principal congratulate Nandakishore on his remarkable achievement and wish him the very best in all his future endeavours.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat, Visa renew partnership to drive digital commerce in Oman

An agreement was signed recently in the presence of Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, by Dr Saeeda Jaffar, Senior Vice President and Group Country Manager, GCC region, Visa and Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, and Visa, the world's leader in digital payments, has announced the renewal of their partnership.

An agreement was signed recently in the presence of Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, by Dr Saeeda Jaffar, Senior Vice President and Group Country Manager, GCC region, Visa and Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat. The visiting Visa delegation also presented an award to the

bank for its Leadership in developing Contactless PoS infrastructure in Oman.

Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager - Cards and eBanking, Bank Muscat: "As a pioneer in launching innovative products and services to enhance customer experience, we are very pleased to continue partnering with Visa to rapidly roll out contactless payment infrastructure across the Sultanate.

"This is greatly benefiting our customers and merchant partners alike. Contactless payments are highly secure and convenient, and



will promote further innovation in other sectors, apart from enhancing the convenience of making PoS payments quickly and securely." Dr Saeeda Jaffar, Senior Vice

President and Group Country Manager, GCC region, Visa said, "As the global leader in digital payments, our mission is to connect the world through the most

innovative, reliable and secure payment network - enabling individuals, businesses and economies to thrive. Our focus on innovation has been a catalyst for the growth

of digital payments, and we are delighted to strengthen our long-standing partnership with Bank Muscat to provide access to the digital economy to more consumers and businesses in Oman."

Bank Muscat is particularly keen to encourage all its customers to use digital banking channels to meet their financial requirements and needs. As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat has the largest network in Oman.

Today, the bank's merchant partners across the Sultanate use over 24,000 Point of Sale (PoS) devices daily.

The tremendous growth in PoS transactions is reflected by the fact that more than 61 million PoS transactions have already been carried out in 2021 compared to about 45 million in 2020. The technology-driven products and services are in tune with Oman's move towards a cashless, e-payments-based society.

Over the years, Bank Muscat has been closely partnering with Visa to build a state-of-the-art digital payment infrastructure in the Sultanate that are in line with the Sultanate's ambitious eGovernment project and conform to international standards.

4WD SUV

Toyota Fortuner: Drive the thrill with exclusive benefits



MUSCAT: Toyota Fortuner - the rugged, powerful and impressively capable 4WD SUV is one of the most dependable and popular SUVs in the Toyota range.

Customers interested in owning the Fortuner can look forward to exclusive benefits including 1-year insurance or cash gift in lieu of Insurance from OMR250 up to OMR300. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply.). The campaign is valid up to December 30. Visit the showroom for exact details.

The Fortuner is available with Petrol Engines that include a 2.7 Litre Four-Cylinder Engine producing 164 HP & 25.0 Kg-m of Torque. The 4.0 Litre V6 Engine churns out 235 HP along with 38.3 Kg-m of Torque.

The 6-speed Automatic Transmission, available as a standard option, provides thrilling acceleration.

The Fortuner is equipped with Comprehensive Safety Systems to protect its occupants. These include Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) that prevents the tyres from locking during braking. The Fortuner is equipped with SRS Driver Airbag, SRS Front Passenger Airbag, Side Airbag, Curtain Airbag and SRS Knee Airbag (driver only). In terms of seatbelts, three-point Emergency Locking Retractor (ELR) seatbelts are equipped. When an impact is experienced during a collision, the Seatbelt Locks to restrain the passenger. Other reassuring safety features include the Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) and the Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS).

Rugged and adroit, the Fortuner

also is known for its high standards on the inside. Premium Leather Seats, Leather and Wood finished Steering Wheel with Paddle Shifts, Cool Glove Box, Cruise Control and a whole bunch of other goodies augment its interior ambience.

Toyota Fortuner has a powerful Air Conditioner. Other innovative touches include a Navigation System. The Rear View Camera ensures peace of mind when Reverse Parking. The 6-speaker Audio System enhances its harmonious ambience. And to add to the convenience, there is a Power Back Door System which adds to the sheer convenience.

In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality. No wonder that today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

EXCLUSIVE NEW MOBILE SERVICE



Ahli Islamic launches mobile app-based instant savings account opening service

MUSCAT: In line with its strategic approach and digital transformation goals, Ahli Islamic has announced the launch of an exclusive new mobile service that is designed to ensure the smooth and easy onboarding of new customers.

With digitalisation gaining ground in the country, the newly introduced service reflects the bank's vision to be a vibrant and innovative banking institution in Oman and affirms its belief in innovation to attain excellence. It also demonstrates its primary objective of meeting customers' banking requirements round-the-clock.

Yousuf Al Rawahi, DGM and Head of Ahli Islamic, stated, "At Ahli Islamic, our core focus is on augmenting our successes with innovative solutions to meet the requirements of our customers and the society-at-large. Our strategy is focused on achieving growth by offering distinctive and timely banking services and products, as well as keeping pace with the latest market trends and constantly evolving customer requirements. We are certain that our new feature will enhance the level of service we provide to our customers, as it allows them to open a saving account on the go, from anywhere in the world, thereby contributing to our continuous endeavour to speed up banking procedures."

"The new service comes in the wake of a series of premium

products that were introduced in the recent past to supplement the Bank's efforts to add new members into the growing community of customers who seek services that are in tandem with the changing times and conform to the Islamic Sharia principles," he added.

Once Ahli Islamic mobile app is downloaded, individual citizens and residents will be able to open their savings account instantly with the Bank and access a range of benefits and banking services in simple and easy steps. "The newly launched service is one milestone to many the bank has achieved in its journey toward digital transformation. Our mission is to constantly study the market and convert opportunities into success stories that strengthen the bank's position in the banking sector and expand its customer base," said Hassan Al Zaabi, Head of E-Channels Retail at the Bank.

To open new savings account through the app, new customers will only have to register their personal details, through scanning their ID card from the front and backside, as well as taking a selfie using the mobile phone to document the identity of the account holder for Omanis. As for resident and foreign customers, the app requires verification of the resident ID card from both sides and the passport. They are also required

to take a selfie by mobile phone. Following the completion of the registration process, the account will be created and activated.

Ahli Islamic has announced earlier this year the new upgrade of its Internet and mobile banking application. The app allows Ahli Islamic customers to access a diverse portfolio of banking products and services.

To name a few, customers are able to manage their accounts and cards more easily, along with the possible option of replacing and stopping the card either credit or debit, when required. The app also allows customers to obtain an instant electronic and printable account statement, make local and international transfers, as well as request a cheque book. Additionally, users can conduct their banking transactions and pay utility bills in the new app. Ahli Islamic mobile app is supported by high standards of security and convenience, and it helps customers to save time and effort.

Ahli Islamic offers a number of Sharia-compliant banking solutions to individuals, SMEs and corporate clients where the bank continues its efforts to achieve the set goals and objectives by paving newer paths and developing better technologies to facilitate its banking operations and enlist ease, convenience and comfort for its customers at all times and places.

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