

“ VISION FOR NATION “

The success of Oman Vision 2040 is the responsibility of us all, dear citizens, without exception, with everyone acting from his position and within the scope of his abilities and responsibilities





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FIERCE COMPETITION AT NACRA 17 WORLDS



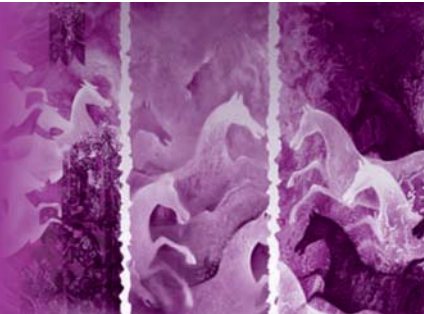
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OPAZ OUTLINES OMANI INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT EXPO 2020 FORUM



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BEYOND BOUNDARIES: WORKING WITH LAYERS TO CREATE ARTISTIC DEPTH AND VISUAL INTEREST



MUSCAT

HM GETS MORE ND GREETINGS

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received more cables of greetings on the occasion of the 51st Glorious National Day. His Majesty received cables from leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Estonia, the United States of America, Seychelles, Laos, Lithuania, Vietnam, Kenya, Nepal and India. In their cables, they wished His Majesty good health, happiness and long life. They also wished the Omani people further development and growth under His Majesty's wise leadership.

DETAILS ON P3

HM GREETINGS TO LEBANON PRESIDENT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Michel Aoun of the Lebanese Republic on his country's Independence Anniversary. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Aoun. His Majesty also wished the people of Lebanon further progress and prosperity. — ONA

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INSIDE



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CHILEANS HEAD TO POLLS TO ELECT NEW PRESIDENT

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HIS MAJESTY BEGINS STATE VISIT TO QATAR TODAY

VISIT TO OPEN FURTHER HORIZONS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik will begin state visit of Qatar today.

This came in a statement issued on Saturday by the Diwan of Royal Court, reading as follows: “In affirmation of the distinguished relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar, based on the keenness of the two countries’ leaderships to enhance joint ties at all levels, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik will go on a state visit to Qatar on Monday in response to an invitation from Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar.”

During His Majesty’s visit, discussions will cover all aspects of cooperation between the two countries with a view to upgrading bilateral relations and realising the aspirations of the two sides and achieving the objectives set in all fields.

STRONG RELATIONS
Shaikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Sultanate of Oman, has affirmed that the state visit of His Majesty on Monday,

“ This visit will pave the way for a new stage to meet aspirations of the two peoples and will open vistas for many visions and projects

SHAIKH JASSIM BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL THANI

Ambassador, State of Qatar

and His Majesty’s meeting with Shaikh Tamim, reflect the strong relations binding the two countries at all levels.

The ambassador told Oman News Agency (ONA) that this visit will pave the way for a new stage to meet aspirations of the two peoples. The visit, he said, will open vistas for many visions and projects that contribute to promoting the political, economic and cultural relations.

SEE ALSO P4

SULTANATE AND UAE REVIEW BILATERAL TIES



His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, on Sunday met Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), at the Leadership Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai. The two sides reviewed the relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, as well as aspects of the existing cooperation in several fields to serve the joint interests of the two brotherly countries and peoples.

DETAILS ON P2



Majlis discusses 2022 draft budget

MUSCAT: Majlis Ash’shura hosted Sultan bin Salim al Habsi, Minister of Finance, who delivered a statement on the draft state’s general budget for the fiscal year 2022, on Sunday.

The members of Majlis Ash’shura held discussions with the minister of finance on several items including the estimates of the public spending and revenues, public debt management, subsidy policies, the position of government investments, the

economic diversification programmes and the direct foreign investment.

ORDINARY MEETING
This came at the third ordinary meeting of the third annual sitting (2021-2022) of the ninth-term (2019-2023) of Majlis Ash’shura held on Sunday under the chairmanship of Khalid bin Hilal al Maawali in the presence of Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed al Nadabi, Secretary-Gener-

al of Majlis Ash’shura.
At the beginning of the meeting, the chairman of Majlis Ash’shura delivered a speech welcoming the minister of finance saying that the session is dedicated to discussing the draft state’s general budget for the fiscal year 2022, to identify the state’s fiscal policies and the financial position for the next year a year after the approval of the Fiscal Balance Plan 2020-2024 and the indicators it has shown. — ONA



SUDAN PM HAMDOK REINSTATED

KHARTOUM: Nearly a month after Sudan’s top general ousted the prime minister, they signed a breakthrough deal on Sunday to reverse the military takeover that had sparked international condemnation and mass protests. Top General Abdel Fattah al Burhan appeared at the

presidential palace in Khartoum for a televised ceremony with a haggard looking premier Abdalla Hamdok, who had just been freed from weeks of house arrest. The 14-point deal they signed officially restores the transition to civilian rule.

DETAILS ON P6

Asaad attends Oman pavilion's National Day fete

DUBAI: Delegated by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, led on Sunday the delegation taking part in celebrations of the Sultanate of Oman Pavilion on the 51st Glorious National Day in Expo 2020 Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The delegation comprised Sayyid Hamood bin Faisal al Busaidy, Minister of Interior, Qais bin Mohammed al Yousuf, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and a number of senior officials. HH Sayyid Asaad and his accompanying delegation were received at the Leadership Pavilion by Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, Commissioner General of Expo 2020 Dubai, and Reem Ebrahim al Hashimi, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai. Held at Al Wasl Plaza, Expo 2020 Dubai, the ceremony began by hoisting the Sultanate of Oman's flag and playing the Royal Anthem.

HH Sayyid Asaad said in a speech on the occasion, read by Qais al Yousuf, that "The Sultanate of Oman's participation in this international event stems from the deep-rooted relations of the two countries".

Through its participation in this major global event, the Sultanate of Oman presents to the visitors of the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion the aspirations of government institutions and private establishments, their innovations and the contributions of Omani Youth, deemed the mainstay of the nation's future. Al Yousuf pointed out that the Sultanate of Omani pavilion embodied the talents of youth, who constitute 100 per cent workforce in the management and development of the pavilion's



content. The Sultanate of Oman's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai takes its visitors into an inspirational journey that reflects interaction of minds across the ages. It narrates modern the Sultanate of Oman's decades-old experience — laying

emphasis on true opportunities — and its bright future within the context of Oman Vision 2040.

On his turn, Shaikh Nahyan Mubarak al Nahyan, United Arab Emirates' Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, said, "Today we,

at Expo 2020 Dubai, celebrate the Sultanate of Oman's National Day". He expressed his best wishes for His Majesty the Sultan, congratulated the government and wished Omani people further progress and prosperity.

A military band (comprising the Royal Guards of Oman and the Royal Cavalry) put up an impressive musical performance that appealed to a large segment of visitors. Then, HH Sayyid Asaad and his accompanying delegation went on

a tour of the Omani Pavilion and viewed its contents, which highlight four main themes: Sustainability, Youth Care, Communication and Knowledge. It showcases various aspects of domestic development in the Sultanate of Oman and the country's Renewed Renaissance and future visions. HH Sayyid Asaad listened to a briefing about the three main sections of the pavilion, which are "The Frankincense Tree" (ground floor), "Sustainability" and "The Harvest" (first floor) and "The Future" (second floor).

HH Sayyid Asaad later visited the UAE pavilion and was received, along with his delegation, by Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Heir Apparent of Dubai (Chairman of the UAE Executive Council) and Shaikh Ahmed bin Said al Maktoum, Chairman of Dubai Aviation Authority (Chairman of Dubai Expo 2020 Supreme Committee). The pavilion offers an overview about the UAE's growth and exhibits reflecting the country's culture and achievements. On the sidelines of the ceremony, various popular shows were held, along with a military music show in the corridors of the pavilion.

Meanwhile, Sayyid Dr Ahmed bin Hilal al Busaidy, Ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to the UAE, said in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), "Undoubtedly, delegating HH Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan and the high-level accompanying delegation by His Majesty the Sultan, reflects the sincere appreciation and attention accorded by the Sultanate of Oman and its wise leadership to the sisterly United Arab Emirates, its leadership and people, and to Expo 2020 which is being held for the first time in the Middle East in Dubai".

— ONA

Welcome to Shabab Oman II

His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said presided over an official welcome ceremony held for *Shabab Oman II* vessel at Marina Dubai on Sunday evening to take part in Expo 2020 Dubai.

Upon the arrival of the chief guest to the ceremony site, activities began when the joint music band of the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO) and the Royal Cavalry played the Royal Anthem of the Sultanate of Oman and the National Anthem of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). When the vessel anchored in the site designated for her, the captain of *Shabab Oman II* vessel invited HH Sayyid Asaad and senior invitees to embark on the vessel.

HH Sayyid Asaad greeted the vessel's crew and congratulated them for their voyage to the GCC states, as well as for their role in highlighting the noble message of Oman towards peace and comradeship through this vessel.

HH Sayyid Asaad said, "We encourage and support Omani youth. *Shabab Oman II* vessel will continue to convey message of peace and harmony among nations".





ANNOUNCEMENT

Muscat Finance is planning to relocate its head office and invites bid from interested parties for land or building that fulfills the company requirements.

Requirements

- Prominent location, within 40 km radius of Qurum.
- Reasonable parking space not less than 70 designated slots.
- Office space of minimum 1,500 sqm and Retail space of minimum 400 sqm. For Purchase, buildings with larger space than specified will be considered. For Land, the minimum plot size to be 1,500 sqm.
- High visibility with preferably exclusive signage.
- Easy access from high traffic roads, with a preference for drive-through service access.

Conditions

- We will accept only direct bids on both options, for sale and rental.
- All bids to be submitted by hand, in sealed envelopes addressed to Administration Department, Muscat Finance at the Muscat Head Office.
- The last date of submitting the bids is **06th December 2021**.
- Please share copy of the Mulkia and the Kuroki showing the location of the building or the land.

PO. Box 108 Ruwi, PC 112, Sultanate of Oman, Tell: 24625300, Fax: 24625310
Website: www.mfcoman.com



Sayyid Asaad meets Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

DUBAI: His Highness Sayyid Asaad bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, on Sunday met with Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at the Leadership Pavilion in Expo 2020 Dubai.

The two sides reviewed the relations between the Sultanate of Oman and UAE, as well as aspects of the existing cooperation in several fields to serve the joint

interests of the two brotherly countries and peoples.

The meeting was attended by Shaikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs in UAE, Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, Commissioner General of Expo 2020 Dubai, Reem Ebrahim al Hashimi, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai and the official delegation accompanying HH Sayyid Asaad.

— ONA

Sultan Qaboos cancer care centre launches health data system



MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre has launched a "Health Information System" for the management of medical and administrative data in health establishments. The system is



the first service of its kind to be introduced in the Sultanate of Oman.

Dr Zahid bin Abdullah al Manthri, Senior Consultant of Radiological Tumor Treatment and Chairman of Clinical data



at the Centre, told Oman News Agency that the new system is a comprehensive service utilising artificial intelligence to offer quick and highly accurate information about patients. It covers e-medical reports, a documentation of



analyses and a schedule of appointments in coordination with the sections concerned.

A workshop was held about the new system and its role in facilitating the mission of medical staff. — ONA

HM receives more National Day greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received more cables of greetings on the occasion of the 51st Glorious National Day.

His Majesty received cables from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam, President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov of the Republic of Turkmenistan, President Emomali Rahmon of the Republic of Tajikistan, President Kersti Kaljulaid of the Republic of Estonia, President Joe Biden of the United States of America, President Wavel Ramkalawan of the Republic of Seychelles, President Thongloun Sisoulith of the Laos People's Democratic Republic, President Gitanas Nauseda of the Republic of Lithuania, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, President Bidhya Devi Bhandari of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, President Ram Nath Kovind of the Republic of India and Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Vietnam.

In their cables, they wished His Majesty good health, happiness and a long life. They also wished the Omani people further development and growth under His Majesty's wise leadership.

— ONA

SAF chief and RNO official receive CTF 150 Commander



MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), received in his office at Al Murtafaa Garrison on Sunday Captain Brendon Clark, Commander of the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150).

The two sides exchanged views and reviewed military matters of common interest. Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), also received in his office Captain Brendon Clark— ONA



Defence Sec General heads to Saudi

MUSCAT: Dr Mohammed bin Nasser al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence, left here on Sunday heading to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to take part in the 18th meeting of the GCC Joint Defence Council.

The Secretary General is accompanied by Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and senior SAF officers.

The Defence Secretary General was seen off at Al Seeb Air Base by Rear Admiral Saif bin Nasser al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and senior RNO officers. — ONA

Oman's Embassy in Iran marks National Day

TEHRAN: The Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday hosted a reception to mark the 51st National Day.

During the ceremony, visual presentations were screened highlighting the most prominent elements, capabilities and the scenic nature characterising the Sultanate of Oman. Moreover, a documentary was screened on the history of the Sultanate of Oman and its tourism and investment. The documentary also shed light on the archaeological sites in the country.

The ceremony was attended by Ali Reza Enayati, Assistant Foreign Minister of Iran, and members of the diplomatic corps of the GCC countries accredited to Iran. — ONA

MOHAMMED RIAZ & PARTNERS GROUP ORGANIZED 51ST OMAN NATIONAL DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT AT GHALA GOLF CLUB

On the auspicious day of 18th November, the 51st National Day of the Sultanate of Oman, a day when the country revels in its nationalism with dazzling displays of Red, Green & White, representing the National Flag showcased all over Oman in its entirety from North to South. This day is extremely sacred and revered for it symbolizes all that is great in Oman.

Mohammed Riaz & Partner Group was able to take part in the nationwide celebrations by sponsoring a golf tournament. Mohammed Riaz is one of the leading Building Materials Organizations here in the Sultanate of Oman specializing in Wood, Glass, Hardware, Steel, Aluminum and has since diversified into retail with the widely popular Home Mart International chain of malls, Supermarkets (Salam Fresh), FMCG Distribution, 3PL Logistics, ACP Factory, Bottled Drinking Water Plant (Saroor Water). Mohammed Riaz & Partners' 1st tournament was attended by a record number of ambassadors and dignitaries in 2016.

The golf tournament sponsored by Mohammed Riaz is the brainchild of its managing director Faiz Mohammed Riaz who himself a passionate golfer and Oman's National team player is looking at ways in which to grow the game of golf. The Chairman of Mohammed Riaz & Partners also believes that contributing to sports events, especially golf events is the building of individual decision making and likewise leaders. He is a strong believer that golf teaches us individual leadership, how to make decisions under pressure and its contribution is a very healthy aspect. On top of that the aim of these events is to contribute to society through the medium of golf.

The event started in the early morning with golfers starting at 6:30 am in the morning. The afternoon tee time started at 12:00 pm, where



Cake Cutting with Mr. Faiz Mohammed Riaz - Managing Director of Mohammed Riaz & Partner Group, Board Director of Ghala Golf along with Mr. Ziyad Al Zubair - Vice Chairman Ghala Golf Club & Mr. Khalil Al Wahaibi - General Manager Ghala Golf Club

there was a turnout of 83 golfers that took advantage of the excellent change in weather and signifying the onset of the cooler months. As usual, the evening ended with a wonderful prize giving and presentation.

Finally, the 18th November tournament sponsored by Mohammed Riaz is a celebration of the success of His Majesty in making Oman a nation that in spite of its modernization is sustainable, and is a home away from home for its millions of expatriates living in the Sultanate of Oman. It is with this in mind that the

18th November Golf Tournament is a celebration in praying to the Almighty Allah to safeguard His Majesty and grant him good health and long life as well as wishing everyone in Oman everlasting happiness.

SCORES

Winner:	William Acebedo
1st Runner Up:	Gurpreet Singh
2nd Runner Up:	Kaiser James Acebedo
Ladies:	Jacky Franssen
Junior:	Yousuf Al Rumhy
Nearest to the Pin:	Paul Adamson
2nd Best Shot:	Hamood Al Harthy

HIS MAJESTY’S VISIT TO STRENGTHEN QATAR TIES



Najeeb bin Yahya al Balushi



Shaikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman al Thani

GROWING BILATERAL COOPERATION

MUSCAT: Najeeb bin Yahya al Balushi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Qatar, has said that relations between Omani and Qatari people stem from solid grounds of deep-rooted history and that these relations continue to grow stronger, thanks to the wise directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar.

In a statement to ONA, Al Balushi said that Omani-Qatari relations constitute a model of cooperation among brethren due to the keenness of the two countries’ leaderships to develop cooperation and partnership for the mutual benefit of both sides.

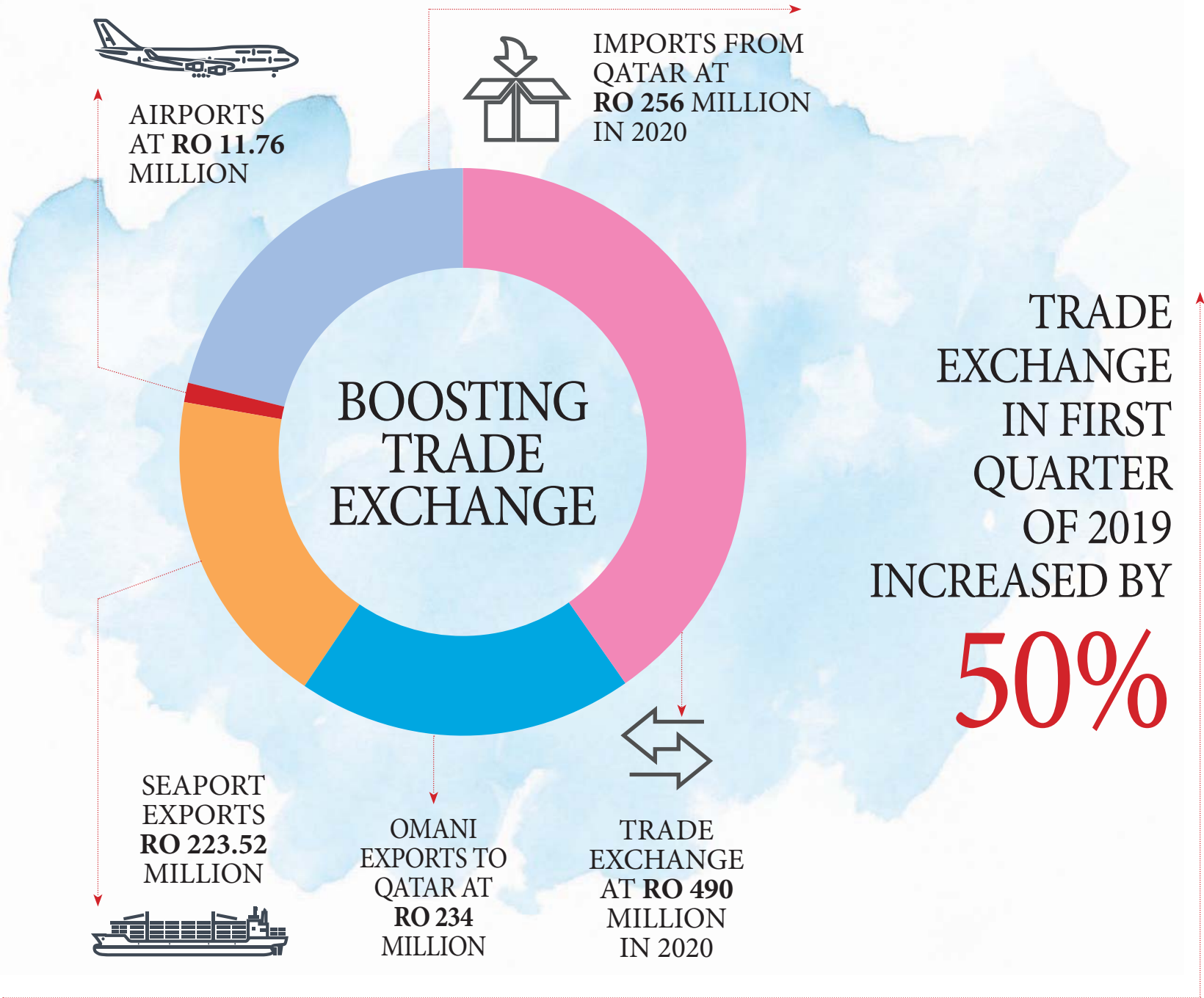
Al Balushi added that, “This benign state visit comes in response to a generous invitation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik from Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar.”

NEW STAGE TO MEET ASPIRATIONS

MUSCAT: Shaikh Jassim bin Abdulrahman al Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Sultanate of Oman, has affirmed that the state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to Qatar on Monday, and His Majesty’s meeting with Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, Emir of Qatar, reflect the strong relations binding the two countries at all levels.

The Ambassador told Oman News Agency (ONA) that this visit will pave the way for a new stage to meet aspirations of the two peoples. The visit, he said, will open vistas for many visions and projects that contribute to promoting the political, economic and cultural relations.

The Ambassador said that this visit is a historic one as it is the second external visit for His Majesty the Sultan since assuming power in January 2020. The visit is set to bring the two countries closer as it will open further horizons for future cooperation, he said. — ONA



Oman-Qatar trade rises over years

NOAH AL MAAMARI,
MAJID AL HATTALI
MUSCAT, NOV 21

The volume of trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and the sisterly State of Qatar has increased over the past years registering a significant growth in both size and value of investments between the two countries. In addition, the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar are entering into investment relationships in a number of big projects at economic zones and industrial cities, besides forging partnerships to develop residential, touristic projects and boost food security in addition to establishing chains of commercial complexes.

The trade exchange between the two countries stood at RO 490 million in 2020, according to the

Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). The total Omani exports to Qatar stands at RO 234 million distributed into construction materials, minerals and wheat.

The seaports accounted for the majority of exports last year at RO 223.52 million followed by the airports at RO 11.76 million.

The Sultanate of Oman’s imports from Qatar stood at RO 256 million in 2020 mainly in aluminium, minerals and medicines. The airports accounted for the largest part of imports from Qatar at RO 203.9 million followed by the seaports at RO 52.8 million.

Among the development projects being implemented in the Sultanate of Oman is the Diar Ras Al Hadd project, which is concerned with developing the Ras Al Hadd area to be a

distinctive tourist destination in the region. The project came in partnership between the Oman Tourism Development Company (Oman) and Qatari Diar. The Diar Ras Al Hadd project is one of the integrated tourism complexes projects in the Sultanate of Oman. The project includes a group of hotels, residential units and natural parks that serve the future tourism vision of the Sultanate of Oman by making it an attractive destination in the global tourism industry.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The Ras Al Hadd area was chosen because of the tourism potential of South Al Sharqiyah Governorate, which attracts a great number of visitors. The project will generate job opportunities for job-seekers and enhance the tourist industry thus opening broader prospects for tourism investment within the

governorate. A number of Qatari companies have also entered into food security investments with Omani companies, including investment in the fish sector. Hassad, a leading food investment company, announced a 20 per cent contribution to an investment project in the fisheries sector in the Sultanate of Oman which targets the local market.

The trade exchange between the two countries saw a significant leap in the first quarter of 2019 increasing by 50 per cent to reach 2.1 billion Qatari riyals, compared to 1.3 billion Qatari riyals in 2018.

According to official data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) the State of Qatar ranked second among the most re-exporting countries with the value of re-exports amounted to RO 95.4 million at the end of last June.

Karwa rolls out first bus from its factory in Duqm

MUSCAT: Karwa Motors, the Sultanate of Oman’s first bus brand with a manufacturing facility in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), rolled out its first Karwa-branded bus proudly bearing the ‘Made in the Sultanate of Oman’ tag, named ‘Salam’.

Karwa Motors is a joint investment project between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar, which in its first phase aims to produce 500 buses annually.

Karwa Motors is a joint venture between Mowasalat Qatar, the state-owned transport company of Qatar, owning a 70% share and Oman Investment Authority (OIA), owning the remaining 30%. This partnership depicts the strong political and economic relations binding the two brotherly countries, which have been positively reflected in the wide range of successful cooperation projects over the years.

The first phase of operations at the Karwa Motors facility will focus on manufacturing buses for the Fifa

Karwa Motors is a joint investment project between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar, which in its first phase aims to produce 500 buses annually

World Cup 2022 in Doha next year. Due to its strategic location close to the regional market, the project is well-positioned to contribute to the success of this global event by reducing workloads, shipping times and storage costs. Moreover, this step also reflects Mowasalat Qatar’s vision in enhancing the contribution of neighbouring countries to the success of this global event.

Commenting on the roll-out of the first-ever Karwa-branded bus, Hisham bin Ahmed al Sheedi, Acting Director of Economic Diversification Investments at OIA said, “The Karwa facility represents



one of the most important strategic projects between the Sultanate of Oman and Qatar. The two countries continue to seek potential investment opportunities across several vital and promising sectors underlining the strong ties between them and the shared interests that have been addressed regularly by both governments and people. The OIA invests in such projects to not only support the Sultanate of Oman’s economic diversification efforts, but also move us closer towards realising our vision of developing the Sultanate of Oman’s logistics sector and establishing Oman as an industrial hub for the region. Moreover, the project will also help us as a nation enhance our technical expertise in the automotive sector and develop supplementary industries that will support its growth, including several new small and medium-sized businesses”.

Commenting on the new facility in a statement to Oman News

Agency (ONA), Dr Ibrahim al Balushi, CEO of Karwa Motors said, “Located on a 600,000 square metres site, the manufacturing facility is outfitted with the latest technology. It also houses several key sections, including a large warehouse to store raw materials, core workshops for cutting and welding, dyeing, equipment and motor assembly, a full-fledged inspection yard and testing facility, and a vast number of other auxiliary facilities. Our factory will also create job opportunities for Omanis, whether they are regular job-seekers or have experience in the automotive field”. He further added, “The first phase of ramp-up will be focused on producing the first of three Karwa-branded buses “Salam”, which will be used at the Fifa World Cup 2022. These buses are extremely advanced and can handle a variety of road conditions, as well as withstand the harshest weather conditions. — ONA

SEE ALSO P13



■ MUSCAT GOVERNOR HOSTS RECEPTION



MUSCAT: Sayyid Saud bin Hilal al Busaidy, Minister of State, Governor of Muscat, hosted a reception at the InterContinental Hotel, Muscat on Sunday evening as part of the Sultanate of Oman's celebrations of the 51st Glorious National Day. The Governor congratulated the attendees, praying to Allah the Almighty to protect this dear homeland and to grant His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik good health and well-being and the Omanis further progress and welfare under the prosperous reign of His Majesty the Sultan. The reception was attended by ministers, GCC ambassadors accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, members of the State Council and Majlis Ash'shura, under-secretaries, senior military commanders, shaikhs and dignitaries in Muscat. — **ONA**

Dietary awareness to prevent cancers stressed at conference



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Health, represented by Al Nahdha Hospital, organised a conference on Nutrition and Cancer Diseases.

The event, held at the Kempinski Hotel, Muscat on Sunday, was organised under the auspices of Dr Hilal al Sabti, Executive President of Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB).

Dr Eiman al Hinai, Head of Clinical Dietary Department at Al Nahdha Hospital, said that in 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded 18.1 million

new cases of cancer worldwide. She added that WHO expects the number to reach between 29 and 37 million cases by 2040, and that cancer cases will increase by 81 per cent by 2040 in low- and middle-income countries due to insufficient resources for prevention.

The conference aimed at exchanging knowledge and expertise with oncologists specialising in oncology-adapted nutrition. It also reviewed recommendations on nutrition and cancer diseases.

The conference sought to raise dietary

awareness in the Sultanate of Oman to reduce the incidence of these diseases.

The event highlighted the role of nutrition in colorectal cancer in the country, methods of prevention and treatment of children and adults with cancer.

The conference shed light on the ideal therapeutic nutrition for the treatment of such cancers according to age, gender and other health-related factors.

Some cases that have recovered from cancer in the country were also highlighted.

— **ONA**

Sultanate of Oman PUBLIC PROSECUTION TENDER NOTICE

The Public Prosecution invites interested companies to the following tender:

Tender Number	Description	Deadline for obtaining tender	Deadline for tender submission	GRADE (Group)	Tender Document Cost (Non-refundable)
51 /2021	Design, Implementation, Maintenance and Support of Remote Interrogation System (RIS)	06/12/2021	16/12/2021	First	25

- Companies that are specialized in such works and who have a valid registration certificate from the Tender Board can participate and obtain technical specifications and tender documents from the website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- The bidder shall submit their offers electronically via the mentioned website.
- Each tender shall be accompanied by an electronic temporary insurance in the form of bank guarantee or check certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate at a rate of (1%) of the value of the bid valid for 90 days from the date of submission.
- To help the contestants contact the technical support center at 24402200 and email: etenderhd@ita.gov.om.
- Public Prosecution is not bound to consent the lowest bid or any other tenders.

Campaign to clean up Darsait Al Sahel beach



MUSCAT: Oman International Marine Equipment LLC (Yamaha — OHI Marine) has organised a campaign to clean up the beach of Darsait Al Sahel in cooperation with the Sahel Oman Sports Team and the people of the area. Volunteers from the management of the company, who gathered at Darsait Beach on Saturday, did a comprehensive cleaning, removing plastic waste and garbage.

Observing the Covid protocol, no public event was organised. General Manager Shamasher N Sharma said that the company, engaged in marine equipment sales, representing exclusive distribution for Yamaha brand (Marine & Motor), continues to search for the best ways to enhance the well-being of the community. "Through this campaign, we look forward to making a positive impact on the lives of our customers, especially as this stems from our firm belief that the best path to a better and more sustainable future lies in our ability to integrate sustainable practices into all aspects of our daily lives", he said.

He said the company will always be at the forefront in taking initiatives to improve the quality of life and create a cleaner and healthier environment.

ELECTRONIC TENDER

The Internal Tenders Committee of the Ministry of Higher Education Research & Innovation announced the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Name	Company that are entitled to participate	Tender Price	Last Date for purchasing Tender	The deadline for submission of Tenders
11/2021 Recall (1)	Data Center Maintenances Contract MOHER & Head Quarter	Specialized in providing Same service and registered with the Tender Board with Grade: Excellent, First - Second - Third - Fourth	(25/= R.O) Twenty Five Omani Rial Only	1/12/2021	11/12/2021

The purchasing of the tender documents by E-Tendering system will starting on Monday 22/11/2021; at 07:30 am. To purchasing, please visit the following link:

<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om/>

All companies that are bidding must provide a bank guarantee or a certified cheque from a bank operating in the Sultanate for at least (1%) of the tender value on behalf of His Excellency Dr. / Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee.

Preference will be given to companies' or small and medium enterprises registered with the General Authority for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) that includes the largest proportion of its tender Omanization.

Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

Chairman of tender committee
Ministry of Higher Education Research & Innovation



Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Heritage & Tourism ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Tender No. (International)	42/2021	Tender Name	Appointing A Global Marketing Communication Agency
Brief Description	Appoint a company, capable of offering Integrated Marketing Communication services such as branding, advertising, digital marketing and media buying.		
Fees of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)	37,500 O.R		
Tender Document Sales End Date	12/12/2021		
Last Date for Bid Submission	5/1/2022		
Grade	International and local companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board (Excellent & First grade) and their registration is valid.		
E-Tendering Portal	https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om		

- International companies and institutions that are not registered in the Sultanate can participate in international tenders through the E- tendering portal of the Tender Board at the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) Provided that it registers under the regulations in force in the Sultanate within thirty working days from the date of being notified of the acceptance of its bid.
- Bids are submitted that fulfill the technical conditions and specifications, accompanied by a tender bond from a local bank or international registered bank that has a branch in Oman of not less than (1%) of the bid value, valid for (90) days from the date of its submission.
 - Any bid that does not meet the required tender bond will not be considered
 - The Ministry shall not be obligated to accept the lowest or any other bids
- The bid submission period starts after the end of the inquiry period shown in the e-tendering system, until the last date for submitting bids before (10:00 am, Oman time).

Support and inquiries	For more information, related to the tender, kindly communicate through the website of the e-tendering system: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om For inquiries related to the technical support for the e-tendering system, kindly communicate through etenderhd@ita.gov.om or 24402200
For further information	Email : sttic@omantourism.gov.om Phones : 22088348 - 22088085

MINISTRY OF HEALTH ROYAL HOSPITAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF ROYAL HOSPITAL INVITE SPECIALIZED COMPANIES TO SUBMIT TENDER:

TENDER NO	DESCRIPTION	LAST DATE FOR COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENT	CLOSING TIME/ DAY/DATE	ELIGIBILITY	TENDER FEE (NON- REFUNDABLE)
689/2021/ MOH/ DGRHP-30	MAINTENANCE OF GE ULTRASOUND SCANNERS	02/12/2021	BEFORE 10 AM ON TUESDAY 28/12/2021	SPECIALIZED COMPANIES REGISTERED WITH TENDER BOARD	25 RIALS

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Finance-Royal Hospital one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

Any Clarification, you may contact via
Telephone: 24166670
Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Sudan military reinstates PM Hamdok after deal

KHARTOUM: Sudan's military reinstated Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok on Sunday and announced the release of all political detainees after weeks of deadly unrest triggered by a coup. Under an agreement signed with military leader General Abdel Fattah al Burhan, Hamdok will lead a civilian government of technocrats for a transitional period.

Hamdok said he had agreed to the deal to stop the bloodshed. "Sudanese blood is precious, let us stop the bloodshed and direct the youth's energy into building and development," he said.

But the civilian coalition that shared power with the military previously said it opposed any talks with the "putschists" and called for protests to continue on Sunday.

Even as news of the deal spread, thousands of protesters marched towards the presidential palace in Khartoum in the early afternoon and called for the downfall of Burhan.

Hamdok was placed under house arrest when the military seized power on October 25, derailing a transition towards democracy agreed after the overthrow of Omar al Bashir in 2019 that ended his three decades of autocratic rule.



Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al Burhan and Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok during a deal-signing ceremony to restore the transition to civilian rule in Khartoum. — AFP

The military dissolved Hamdok's cabinet and detained a number of civilians who held top positions under the power-sharing deal agreed with the military after

Bashir was ousted. The coup triggered mass demonstrations against the military and medics aligned with the protest movement say security

forces have killed 40 civilians in increasingly violent crackdowns. The constitutional declaration struck between the military and civilians in 2019 after Bashir

was ousted would remain the foundation in further talks, the source close to Hamdok said. Activist groups leading the protests since the coup have

Hamdok will lead a civilian government of technocrats as FCC civilian coalition calls for protest to continue

demanding the military gets out of politics altogether.

The Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) civilian coalition, which had been sharing power with the military, said it did not recognise any agreement with the armed forces.

"We affirm our clear and previously announced position: no negotiation and no partnership and no legitimacy for the putschists," the FFC said in a statement.

Those who carried out and backed the coup should face justice, it said, calling on people to turn out for the latest round of anti-military protests on Sunday.

Following the coup, Hamdok had demanded the release of all political detainees and a return to power-sharing as a precondition for negotiating, according to sources close to him.

Western powers that had backed Sudan's political transition condemned the takeover and suspended some economic assistance to Sudan. — Reuters

One dead in Jerusalem shooting, attacker killed

JERUSALEM: An activist of the Palestinian Hamas movement opened fire on Sunday in Jerusalem's Old City, killing one person and wounding three before he was shot dead, Israeli officials, police and medics said. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett ordered security to be boosted and called for people to be on "heightened alert" over the risk of further attacks.

The wounded, who included two civilians and two police officers, were rushed to Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital. One of them, a man in his 30s, died of his injuries, medical sources said without giving further details.

"This morning there was a serious shooting attack in the Old City of Jerusalem," Bennett said in a statement. — AFP

Egypt makes Gaza comeback with reconstruction

GAZA CITY: Posters of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al Sisi beam out over a site in the war-battered Gaza Strip where labourers and bulldozers are hard at work rebuilding.

After years of retreat, Egypt is making its presence felt again in the neighbouring Palestinian enclave, emerging as a key benefactor in the aftermath of the last bout of fighting between Hamas and Israel in May.

In the weeks following the deadly violence, a number of Egyptian workers crossed the border on a mission to lay down a coastal road in the Gaza's northern city of Beit Lahya.

"The president's instructions are to reconstruct the Gaza Strip. We are about 70 engineers, civil servants, lorry drivers, mechanics and workers," said a worker who preferred not to give his name. He added that he was "happy to help Palestine".

During the 11-day conflict that erupted between Israel and armed factions in Gaza last May — the worst since 2014 — Egypt worked behind the scenes to mediate a ceasefire. Cairo also



An excavator clears land at a road section undergoing expansion north of Gaza City. — AFP

pledged a \$500 million package to reconstruct the enclave which borders Israel and Egypt.

Relations between Cairo and Hamas have been sour, particularly after the 2013 military ouster of late president Mohamed

Cairo also pledged a \$500 million package to reconstruct the enclave which borders Israel and Egypt

Morsi, also of the Brotherhood. The sight of Egyptian workers rebuilding Gaza as Egypt invests millions in the enclave was "unexpected, unimaginable", Palestinian economist Omar Shaban said. "Egypt and Hamas

are not friends, but they have common interests," he explained in his office in Al Rimal, a Gaza district that was heavily bombed by Israel in May.

"Egypt wants to maintain the ceasefire by engaging in the after-war reconstruction efforts."

Hamas is in desperate need of international aid for reconstruction, while positive relations with Egypt are an added benefit as it controls the Rafah border, often the only access point for much-needed construction material to the enclave.

Egypt, meanwhile, "understands that it doesn't have a lot of options" in Gaza, where Hamas — nearly 15 years after seizing power from the Fatah movement and despite four wars with Israel — still holds firm, Shaban said.

Over recent years, Qatar has become the prime donor of aid for the impoverished territory, but in the aftermath of the May fighting, the flow of cash came to a halt.

The Gulf country has dispensed tens of millions of dollars in aid to poor families in Gaza. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

ISTANBUL

Turkey repatriates 7 citizens held in eastern Libya

Seven Turkish citizens who were being held in eastern Libya have been brought back safely to Turkey, the country's foreign ministry said on Sunday. The seven people were mostly restaurant employees and had been held in Libya's east for two years, according to state-owned Anadolu news agency. Qatari intelligence cooperated with Turkey's National Intelligence Agency (MIT) in their efforts to secure the safe release of the seven Turks, Anadolu said.



"We thank the Libyan and Qatari governments, especially the related institutions that contributed to the process of the release of our citizens," Turkey's foreign ministry said in a statement.

CAIRO

Ansar Allah attacks Aramco facilities in Jeddah

Yemen's Ansar Allah movement said on Saturday it had fired 14 drones at several Saudi Arabian cities, including at Saudi Aramco facilities in Jeddah. The coalition battling the Ansar Allah in Yemen had on Friday said it destroyed three drones launched towards southern Saudi Arabia and a fourth over Yemen. It said the group "failed to launch two ballistic missiles" and they fell inside Yemen. Saudi Aramco, the state oil firm, said when contacted by Reuters that it would respond



at the earliest opportunity.

The Ansar Allah military spokesman Yahya Sarea said in a televised press conference that the group had attacked Aramco's refineries in Jeddah.

DUBAI

Iran's Mahan Air says it has foiled a cyber attack

A cyber attack against Iranian private airline Mahan Air has been foiled, Iranian state media reported on Sunday, adding that the airliner's flight schedule was not affected by the attack.

The carrier, blacklisted by Washington in 2011 over support it provided to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said in a statement that it had faced similar attacks in the past, adding that its "internal system" had been targeted.



"Our international and domestic flights are operating on schedule without any disruptions," Amirhossein Zolanvari, head of the airliner's public relation office told state TV.

In brief

■ TOKYO



OSCAR-WINNING COSTUME DESIGNER DIES AGED 84

Japanese costume designer Emi Wada, who won an Oscar for her work on Akira Kurosawa's 1985 movie "Ran", has died aged 84, local media reported on Sunday, citing her family. Wada died on November 13 and a service was held with family and close friends, according to the reports, without citing a cause of death. Born in Kyoto, Wada began work while still a student at Kyoto City University of Arts. She also created costumes for theatre and dance productions.

As well as working with Kurosawa, Wada designed costumes for many international films including Peter Greenaway's "Prospero's Books" (1991) and Zhang Yimou's "Hero" (2002) and "House of Flying Daggers" (2004).

■ MANILA



PHILIPPINES TO RESUME RESUPPLY MISSION TO SOUTH CHINA SEA

The Philippines' defence chief said a military resupply mission for the country's troops stationed on an atoll in the South China Sea will resume this week, after it was aborted last week when it was blocked by Chinese coast guard. Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (pictured), said he had instructed the military to send its resupply vessels back to the Philippines-occupied Second Thomas Shoal, and that China "will not interfere" this time.

On Thursday, the Philippines condemned "in strongest terms actions of three Chinese coast guard vessels that it said blocked and used water cannon on resupply boats headed toward Second Thomas Shoal, which is locally known as Ayungin Shoal.

■ NEW DELHI



INDIAN MAN FOUND ALIVE AFTER NIGHT IN MORGUE FREEZER

An Indian man declared dead after a road accident shocked his relatives when they found him still breathing despite a night in the freezer of a hospital morgue.

Sriresh Kumar was rushed to a clinic in a critical condition after he was hit by a motorbike in Moradabad, east of the capital New Delhi.

He was transported to a private medical facility where he was declared dead on arrival by the doctor, and then transported to a government hospital for post-mortem last Friday.

15 dead in Myanmar pagoda drowning

YANGON: At least 15 people drowned on Sunday while crossing a flooded causeway in Myanmar to reach a Buddhist temple for a festival, rescue workers said. The tragedy unfolded as thousands of worshippers tried to reach the Kyeik Hne pagoda, which lies on a rocky outcrop around three kilometres (two miles) off the coast near the town of Thanbyuzayat in southern Mon state.

Local officials said some died when they tried to cross the poorly marked causeway, which is only around four metres wide, while the tide was too high.

"We normally allow the people to come at 6:30 am but they would not listen to us and started trying to walk across too early," local official Nai Sahai Eain said.

More drowned later when they were jostled from the crowded walkway into the sea. Ko Kyaw Thu, an emergency responder from Thanbyuzayat, said that 15 bodies had been taken to hospital and three people were still missing. Local resident Nai Wona said the causeway was not marked out clearly enough, making it hard to navigate.

Meanwhile, in predawn darkness in western Myanmar thousands of devotees scramble to the top of a mountain said to be home to a spirit guarding



People taking part in the Tazaungdaing festival, also known as the Festival of Lights, at the pagoda in Mrauk U in Myanmar's Rakhine state. — AFP

500 mythical ducks to mark the Tazaungdaing festival of light last week.

The full-moon that marks the end of the rainy season is celebrated across Buddhist-majority Myanmar in explosions of colour, with fireworks, lanterns and hot air balloons. Celebrations have been muted this year, with much of the country in uprising against the February coup and escalating violence between junta troops and dissidents.

But western Rakhine state

More people drowned when they were jostled from the crowded walkway into the sea. 15 bodies had been taken to hospital and 3 were still missing

has remained largely calm as a ceasefire between local insurgents and the military holds, allowing thousands of intrepid souls to climb "500-duck mountain" for

the first time in years.

Devotees start under the stars, lighting their way with their phones, gripping the trunks or roots of trees as they scramble up the hillside, friends pulling each other up at difficult stretches.

"Although it is tiring, I am happy because there are a lot of people here," Tun Shwe Tha, who started his ascent at midnight, said. "And it helps me eat well," he says, laughing.

The 66-year-old says it took him more than three hours to

reach the top of the mountain — guarded, locals claim, by a female "nat" or local spirit which watches over the area's ducks.

The spirits have rules for those who visit their realm — climbers should not eat duck the day before or after they visit the mountain, and are forbidden from swearing while making the arduous ascent.

"I was told at home that this mountain is very sensitive in terms of spirituality because the guardian Nat is very sensitive," says Wai Yan Aung. — AFP

■ NEW MISSILE SHIP COMMISSIONED



Indian Navy personnel stand guard on the deck of INS Visakhapatnam, the stealth guided-missile destroyer ship of Project 15B, during its commissioning ceremony in Mumbai. — Reuters

Sri Lanka ends farm chemical ban as organic drive fails

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka abandoned its quest to become the world's first completely organic farming nation on Sunday, announcing it would immediately lift an import ban on pesticides and other agricultural inputs. The island country has been in the grips of a severe economic crisis, with a lack of foreign exchange triggering shortages of food, crude oil and other essential goods.

Authorities had already walked back restrictions on fertiliser imports last month for tea, the country's main export earner.

But ahead of planned farmer protests in the capital, Sri Lanka's agricultural ministry said it would end a broader ban on all

agrochemicals including herbicides and pesticides.

"We will now allow chemical inputs that are urgently needed," ministry secretary Udith Jayasinghe told the private News First TV network.

"Considering the need to ensure food security, we have taken this decision."

Vast tracts of farmland were abandoned after the import ban, first introduced in May.

Shortages have worsened in the past week, with prices for rice, vegetables and other market staples having doubled across Sri Lanka.

Supermarkets have also rationed rice sales, allowing only five kilograms per customer. — AFP

Australian fruit farmers face harvest headache

NASHDALE: In near-perfect conditions, thanks to abundant rain and healthy trees, Australian fruit grower Michael Cunial's cherry orchard looks set to yield a bumper crop. He has just one problem: the harvest.

Like many farmers in Australia, during harvests he relies on seasonal workers, many of whom have been shut out of the country since its international borders closed in March 2020 to halt the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Even if he can find workers for the cherry harvest, he may have to pay them more than he has in previous years.

In common with most Australian fruit growers, Cunial has paid seasonal workers for what they can pick. But the system has left many workers earning less than the minimum wage, so the rules may be about to change.



A worker displaying young cherries at a cherry farm located in the rural New South Wales state town of Nashdale, 212 kms from Sydney. — AFP

"The system of a piece rate tends to make sense," the fruit grower said at his 50-hectare farm, Curinya Orchards, in Nashdale — about four hours' drive from Sydney.

"If you want to have a go, you can actually make really good

money. And if you're hopeless, you don't."

Cunial said he expects "really big" cherries this year, which will probably be ready for harvest in early- to mid-December.

He hires about 50 seasonal workers for the annual harvest

I expect 'really big' cherries this year, which will probably be ready for harvest in early- to mid-December

MICHAEL CUNIAL
Australian fruit grower

and pays them piece rate. But the system has been condemned by the Fair Work Commission, Australia's industrial relations tribunal.

Ruling on a complaint by the Australian Workers Union, it said seasonal farm workers should get the minimum hourly wage of Aus\$25.41.

"The totality of the evidence presents a picture of significant underpayment of pieceworkers in the horticulture industry when compared to the minimum award hourly rate," the commission found.

Farming federations, which oppose the finding, have until November 26 to appeal.

According to a 2018 study of more than 8,000 horticultural farms by the Fair Work Ombudsman, 56 per cent of them underpaid a proportion of their workers.

Working hard is not always enough.

Victor, a young Frenchman who preferred not to be identified by his full name to protect his employment prospects, had to work 88 days in farming to be allowed to stay a second year — a condition of the working holiday visa. — AFP



A migrant child stands next to a barrier as migrants wait to receive food outside the transport and logistics centre near the Belarusian-Polish border in Belarus. — Reuters

Poland ramps up border rhetoric

WARSAW/VILNIUS: Poland accused Belarus on Sunday of continuing to ferry migrants to its border, despite clearing camps close to the frontier earlier this week, as Polish premier Mateusz Morawiecki toured Baltic states to seek support in the crisis.

Europe accuses Belarus of flying in thousands of people from the Middle East and pushing them to cross into the European Union, which has been at odds with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko since a disputed election last year.

Minsk, which denies fomenting the crisis, cleared a migrant camp near the border on Thursday and started to repatriate some people to Iraq in an apparent change in tack in the conflict that

Polish premier says Belarus keeps bringing migrants to its border as he tours Baltic states to seek support

has mushroomed into a major East-West confrontation.

Yet Poland says Minsk continues to truck hundreds of migrants to the frontier, where about 10 migrants are believed to have died with a frigid winter setting in.

“On Saturday... a group of about 100 very aggressive foreigners, brought to the border by Belarusian servicemen, tried to enter Poland by force. (Polish) services prevented the crossing”, the border guard said on Twitter

on Sunday.

There had been 208 attempts by migrants to force their way into Poland from Belarus on Saturday, the border guard said, a few more than on Friday but well below the 501 attempts recorded on Wednesday.

Neighbouring Lithuania said 44 migrants were prevented from entering on Saturday, the lowest number in a week.

A dozen migrants from Iraq, speaking with Lithuanian news portal DELFI over the border with Belarus on Saturday, said they were forcibly brought there in military trucks by Belarus officials, who ignored their wish to go back to Iraq.

Poland’s Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki visited Estonia

and Lithuania on Sunday to discuss the crisis with his counterparts from the Baltic states. He will travel to Latvia later in the day.

“Today, on Poland’s Eastern border, we are dealing with a new type of war, a war in which migrants are weapons, in which disinformation is a weapon, a hybrid war”, Morawiecki said in Estonian capital Tallinn, adding further economic sanctions against Minsk were being discussed.

Morawiecki said in Lithuania that he was receiving information that the difficult situation in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over the country in August “may be used as the next stage of the migration crisis”.

— Reuters

Chileans vote for new president

SANTIAGO: Chileans began voting on Sunday in their fourth election in 18 months, this time to choose a new president among seven candidates, with the winner overseeing the drafting of the country’s first post-dictatorship constitution. The election marks the most wide open contest since the 1990s, and may well buck Chile’s traditional political cycle, with the two favourites not among the established coalitions that have governed for the past three decades.

Following a campaign scarred by two years of intense social protests, outgoing President Sebastian Pinera was the first public figure to cast his ballot, at a school in the affluent Santiago neighbourhood of Las Condes.



Chilean presidential candidate for the centre-right government coalition, Sebastian Sichel casts his vote at a polling station in Santiago. — AFP

“All opinions matter. Come and vote”, he said before television cameras. “We are capable of resolving our differences in a peaceful way, by voting.”

The poll comes with many Chileans in revolt against deep-rooted inequality, and it follows recent elections for a body that will write the new constitution — a key demand of the protesters.

That ballot, in May, saw voters massively reject traditional political parties in charge since democracy replaced the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet 31 years ago. On Sunday, seven hopefuls vie to replace the unpopular Pinera, covering the entire political spectrum.

The favourites are Gabriel

Boric, 35, of the leftist Apruebo Dignity alliance which includes the Communist Party, and far right candidate Jose Antonio Kast, 55, of the Republican Party — each with about a quarter of stated voter intention. Both are from minority parties not in government.

Centrists, including the candidate from Pinera’s party, proved the least popular in opinion polls that also revealed half of the 15 million eligible voters to be undecided.

“I’m going to vote but I am pretty disappointed”, said Danilo Panes. The 26-year-old took part in 2019 protests and feels none of the candidates have put forward “alternatives in line with what the people demanded” when they took to the streets.

The demonstrators denounced low salaries and pensions, poor public health care and education, and in the words of a recent OECD report, “persistently high inequality” between rich and poor. — AFP

Dutch police arrest 19 over new Covid riots

THE HAGUE: Dutch police said they have arrested 19 people over riots in The Hague after the country was rocked by a second night of violence over the government’s coronavirus measures. Officers in riot gear charged hundreds of demonstrators who set fire to bicycles and an electric moped piled in the middle of a busy intersection on Saturday night. A water cannon put out the blaze.

“The police were also pelted



with heavy fireworks and stones thrown from roofs”, The Hague police said in a statement. “Officers made a total of 19 arrests for, among other things, insult.” Riot

police in one incident dragged a woman from a passing car after the occupants shouted at police, and put her into a police van, AFP correspondents witnessed. — AFP

UK calls for global action on racial bias in medical devices

LONDON: Britain called on Sunday for international action on the issue of medical devices such as oximeters that work better on people with lighter skin, saying the disparities may have cost lives of ethnic minority patients during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Health Secretary Sajid Javid said he had commissioned a review of the issue after learning that oximeters, which measure

blood oxygen levels and are key to assessing Covid patients, give less accurate readings for patients with darker skin.

“This is systemic across the world. This is about a racial bias in some medical instruments. It’s unintentional but it exists, and oximeters are a really good example of that”, Javid said during an interview with the BBC.

Asked whether people may

have died of Covid-19 as a result of the flaw, Javid said: “I think possibly yes. I don’t have the full facts.”

The review will aim to identify where systematic bias and risk exist with current devices and to recommend how the issues should be tackled in the creation of medical devices from design to use, the health ministry said in a statement. — Reuters

BERLIN

German weapons exports reach nearly €4 bn

The German government approved the export of nearly €4 billion (\$4.5 billion) worth of armaments in the first 10 months of 2021, according to information provided by the Economic Affairs Ministry.

The value of weapons and other defence items exported by Germany between January 1 and November 3 equalled €3.78 billion, according to the data. Of that, 27 per cent went to countries outside the European Union. Such exports are controversial



due to the poor human right records in some destination countries.

The information was released following a request made by Sevin Dagdelen, a lawmaker with the hard-left party Die Linke.

PARIS

France rescues 250 migrants in English Channel

A total of 243 migrants were rescued in the English Channel on Friday and Saturday while trying to cross to Britain from France in makeshift boats, local French authorities on Sunday. After many boats were reported in distress on Friday night, rescue operations continued into Saturday, the prefecture for the Channel and North Sea said in a statement.

The migrants were brought back to the French ports of Boulogne, Dunkirk, Calais and handed over to border police and res-



cue crews, it said. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin earlier this week blamed Britain for the migrant crisis, saying Britain’s labour laws encouraged migrants to attempt the perilous crossing of the Channel by dinghy.

MONTREAL

Four killed from flooding in western Canada

The death toll from record flooding in western Canada has risen to four, with a fifth person still missing, local authorities there said.

Torrential rains hit southwestern British Columbia last Sunday and Monday causing widespread flooding and landslides that damaged or destroyed roads and bridges.

The body of a woman was found on Monday, near a large section of highway that had been swept away by a mudslide.



That highway, which links Vancouver to remote northern parts of the province, was reopened Saturday for “essential travel only”, the authorities said. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police confirmed. — AFP

Why US road rage shootings on the rise?

CYRIL JULIEN

After a speeding driver cut her off abruptly on a Californian highway in May, Joanna Cloonan gestured rudely towards the car. A passenger grabbed a pistol and fired at her vehicle, killing her six-year-old son in the back seat.

A woman in Texas was shot in the back last week while shielding her seven-year-old daughter from gunfire towards their vehicle, and another driver in Kentucky is recovering from gunshot wounds sustained after an argument involving a parking space.

Road rage incidents involving a gun have been responsible for record levels of injury and death in the United States since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a recent report from Everytown for Gun Safety, a nonprofit that advocates against gun violence.

Data shows that traffic skirmishes involving firearms have been on the rise since 2018, and the report said that “if current trends continue, 2021 is on track to be the deadliest year on record.”

The pandemic, which introduced many new sources of stress to people’s lives, has also seen record increases in gun sales and shootings, Everytown said.

Ryan Martin, an anger researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, said that “just the existence of a life-threatening illness puts people on edge, when the frustrations that they encounter would have been kind of mild two years ago.”

In a country where the right to bear arms is fiercely guarded, the omnipresence of guns magnifies the problem, according to Martin, a psychology professor.

Firearms are “a driving factor in multiple ways because it gives you a lethal mechanism to act out that anger,” he said.

“Data also shows that having a gun in the car with you makes you more likely to become angry. It’s called the weapons effect.” — AFP

Firearms are a driving factor in multiple ways because it gives you a lethal mechanism to act out that anger. Data also shows that having a gun in the car with you makes you more likely to become angry. It’s called the weapons effect

RYAN MARTIN
An anger researcher



FEEDING SEAGULLS

People take a ride on a boat to feed seagulls near the banks of the Yamuna River amid fog and smog conditions in New Delhi, India, on Sunday. — AFP

November, a month of glory!



Abdulaziz Al Jahdhami
aljahdhami22@gmail.com

NOVEMBER, FOR INSTANCE, IS UNDOUBTEDLY A VERY DELIGHTFUL AND DISTINCT MONTH TO THE SULTANATE OF OMAN AND ITS PEOPLE

Every day, month and year brings a new experience, blessing and surprise to our lives. In fact, each one of these dates in the calendar of life is another source of hope that we all seek. That is why days and months of the year are never the same, as some of which are very distinguished and special to people. Perhaps some of those days and months are being celebrated to commemorate special memories, anniversaries or occasions. There comes the different surprises or experiences every day in our lives. However, whatever comes is a blessing indeed!

November, for instance, is undoubtedly a very delightful and distinct month to the Sultanate of Oman and its people. It is being distinguished from other months for many reasons of course; more than one very special national occasions fall in November, as some people call it the glorious November. It is the month which is much-awaited not only by Omanis, but residents of this beloved land, especially those who were raised here as they share the sense of belonging to the country and its people. November is, in fact, the month of pride and honour to all.

Kicking off the month, November 9 was marked as the day of happiness when His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued Royal directives, during the Council of

Ministers meeting, to grant promotions to all those government employees who are entitled to get promoted since 2011. Such a great gesture indeed came at the right time, spreading delight and pleasure among citizens. It revived the sense of hope in people’s lives for it has been much-awaited for almost a decade. Hence, it was another special day to remember by Omanis.

Despite all the circumstances which took place over the past years, the international crisis in oil prices, budget deficit and coronavirus pandemic all negatively affected the living standard and lifestyles of people. These issues had a great impact not only on Oman but also on many countries around the world. Luckily, the Sultanate of Oman has been wisely coping with the economic situation.

The Fiscal Balance Plan 2020-2024 developed by the government played a key role to accommodate economic and social impacts resulting from the plan once a Comprehensive Social Security Scheme is introduced in favour of low-income segments, with a view to protect them against the effects of some financial policies. The plan seeks to achieve sustainable levels of fiscal balance by the end of 2024, and establish suitable conditions to support Oman Vision 2040.

Coming towards the end of the second

half of the month, the entire country celebrated the National Day, which usually lasts until November end. Every corner of the country, citizens and residents delightfully celebrate the day, November 18, marking the 51st anniversary of blessed Renaissance. This occasion brings the time for national accord, standing as a day of pride to every Omani, men and women, young and old alike. Not only people celebrate the occasion, but residences, streets and buildings become part of the celebration with specially-themed decoration.

The story-telling of the country’s glorious years is remarkably continuing. This year, the country and people are narrating the 51st chapter of the nation-building story, featuring the achievements and commendable yearly progress witnessed all over the Sultanate of Oman. The National Day commemorates the march by which every corner of the country started flourishing and Omanis saw the light at the end of the tunnel with a promising future. With the Renewed Renaissance, led by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Sultanate of Oman continues its admirable nation-building march.

Be always blessed home of pride, the Sultanate of Oman, and may the coming years bring further prosperity and stability to the country and its citizens.

Think small to fight climate change...



Kristina Skierka

THE AUTHOR IS CEO OF POWER FOR ALL, A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO ACCELERATE THE END OF ENERGY POVERTY

When applied to droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, or other extreme weather events, the term “unprecedented” is getting old. In August, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its latest report about the dire realities we face, a drought exacerbated by global warming already had been raging for years across much of southern Africa.

It seems as though world leaders are finally ready to take meaningful action, but there’s a critical group regularly missing from key climate meetings like the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow: local, climate-focused small businesses that already are making a difference in their communities. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

working on climate adaptation and mitigation are a crucial but underestimated partner in the fight to reduce emissions.

Even though climate financing options are increasing, SMEs’ role in sustainable development continues to be overlooked. Their predicament is one shared by more than 200 million SMEs of all types in developing countries that cannot get the funds they need to grow, facing an estimated \$5.2 trillion annual financing gap. International investors focus on getting dollars out the door through larger deals, while local capital is kept on the sidelines by high collateral requirements and unmanageable interest rates for early-stage businesses.

SMEs represent 90 per cent of businesses and provide more than 50 per cent of jobs worldwide

according to the World Bank, so they have a key role to play in creating opportunities in economies struggling to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. Examples like SELCO India, a pioneering off-grid solar company, and Husk Power, an innovative pay-as-you-go renewable energy provider operating in Asia and Africa, show that with the right amount and type of financing and technical support, small businesses can improve lives through energy access — a key international goal.

Small businesses also have an important role to play in greening agriculture. Land use for crop and livestock production accounts for 24 per cent of global greenhouse-gas emissions, and farms are vulnerable to droughts, floods, and rising

temperatures. Financing climate-smart agricultural entrepreneurs is essential for making our food systems more resilient. Here, too, off-grid renewable energy has become indispensable, providing power for irrigation, processing grains, and operating the cold rooms and coolers needed to store dairy products, fresh seafood, and fruits and vegetables. In India, Technoserve is helping small farms withstand and adapt to the climate crisis and raise their productivity without increasing emissions.

As these examples show, when small businesses have the financing and support they need, they can drive economic growth while mitigating emissions and supporting adaptation to climate change. That is because small businesses are more agile

and adaptable — and respond to local needs much faster and more effectively — than large organisations. They also offer governments and policymakers an opportunity to try out new ideas, revealing both pitfalls and best practices before initiatives are scaled regionally or nationally.

Achieving the global goal of net-zero emissions requires policymakers, investors, banks, and others to attend to SMEs’ needs much more effectively than they have in the past.

For starters, the world needs far more finance vehicles and instruments that are tailored to small businesses working in the green economy. That means a mix of lower-cost, long-term capital and blended finance, as well as easier access.

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Fierce competition at Nacra 17 Worlds

MUSCAT: The 49er, 49erFX and Nacra 17 World Championships, held from 16th – 21 November in Barcelo Mussanah Resort, Oman sees fierce contention in its penultimate day. John Gimson and Anna Burnet foiling into the lead of the Nacra 17 World Championships with an impressively composed display of high-speed tactics and strategy. Scores of 5,1,2 could so easily have been a string of bullets, but the British results were still the best of the fleet in light to medium, ever-shifting conditions.

The Olympic silver medallists and 2021 European Champions are now in pole position to defend their 2020 world title, having moved six points ahead of the previous championship leaders

from Italy.

“That wasn’t easy,” said a still-wet Gimson, shaking his head as the dark covered Al Musannah Beach. “It’s a chip-away regatta,” he added alluding to the multiple losses and gains he and Burnett had to manage.

Chip away is what the top sailors in all the fleets had to do in a breeze that barely settled in at eight to 10 knots and refused to settle down with subtle shifts all day.

Gianluigi Ugolini and Maria Giubilei have clearly benefited from being the tune-up boat to the reigning Italian gold medalists Ruggero Tita and Caterina Banti. However the fast-improving Italians couldn’t match British consistency and sailed to respectable but unremarkable

scores of 7,4,6 to lie two places back in second.

Following the Germans’ photo-finish victory over the British in the final race of the afternoon, Paul Kohlhoff and Alica Stuhlemmer have moved to just three points behind the Italians.

France’s Tim Mourniac and Lou Berthomeu also staked their intentions for a podium spot at tomorrow’s prize-giving ceremony. The French finished 2,5,5 to put themselves just four points behind the Olympic bronze medallists from Germany.

The 2019 World Champions Vittorio Bissaro and Maelle Frascari worked their way through to the front of race one for a win. It was a great comeback after a torrid previous day on the water. Leading

The Olympic silver medallists and 2021 European Champions are now in pole position to defend their 2020 world title, having moved six points ahead of the previous championship leaders from Italy

the final race, the Italians let Germany and Great Britain make their move to the right-hand side of the final run and dropped to third at the finish, an opportunity missed for the ambitious Italians.

With just one fleet race in the morning before the 10-boat Medal Race, time is running out for the chasing pack to make up lost ground. At the end of the penultimate day, it’s the same three nations who won Olympic medals at Tokyo 2020 in podium position in the Sultanate of Oman — Great Britain, Italy and Germany.

Van Aanholt and De Ruyter Unflappable in World’s Quest

In a day described as ‘random’ by most of the fleet, van Aanholt and de Ruyter (NED) continually moved up through the fleet to take

a stranglehold on the lead at the World Championship. Light winds and a delayed start meant only two races were held, and in each race, the Dutch made mammoth downwind comebacks to beat out their rivals and score low points on the day.

Right at the start of race 13, the Dutch were flagged for pumping their mainsail outside of the rules and had to start the race with an exonerating penalty turn. They managed to keep the damage within reason and rounded the top mark in mid fleet.

Grael and Kunze (BRA) had a better windward leg. They used a masterful “high mode” to convert a super tight lane on the beat to pass a half-dozen teams and slide around the top mark in first.

Oman Open badminton championship concludes



MUSCAT: The finals of the Modern Exchange — ISC Oman Open badminton championship concluded in style at the ISC courts on 13th November 2021.

The chief official Mathew Thomas, Jt Facility Enhancement Secretary, along with Faigee and Sanjit, Jt Sport Secretary, took all initiatives to conduct the event in a systematic and professional touch. The tournament saw participants from Suhar, Sur and Barka in addition to Muscat Governorate. Almost 300 entries were received including that of women and children and took almost three full days to complete the tournament.

The awarding and closing ceremony were held right after the final, making a perfect end of the ISC badminton championship. The function observed one minute silent prayer in memory of hockey legend Syed Naqvi. The closing ceremony witnessed a couple of cultural performances from Kerala and Malayalam Wings.

Sports Secretary Saji Abraham thanked all the officials, tournament committee, staff, coach and parents for their support and dedication in conducting the tournament successfully. ISC chairman Dr Sathish Nambiar while addressing the gathering emphasised the

importance of such events which will help talented shuttlers to showcase their skills in such a large platform.

He appreciated the efforts of sports committee and asked them to organise such sports events on regular basis to channelise youth energy in the right perspective.

Philip Koshy, General Manager of Modern Exchange was the guest of honour and the trophies were distributed to the winners. Karanjeet Singh Matharoo, vice-chairman, Babu Rajendran, general secretary, Suhail Khan, Entertainment Secretary, were also present during the ceremony.



ZVEREV BEATS DJOKOVIC TO SET UP MEDVEDEV FINAL

TURIN, ITALY: Alexander Zverev downed Novak Djokovic in a thrilling last-four clash to end the world number one's bid for a record-equalling sixth ATP Finals title on Saturday and set up a final against Daniil Medvedev.

The German edged to a 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-3 success in Turin and will face reigning champion Medvedev for the trophy on Sunday.

"It was a fantastic match, I think we've played five times this year and every single time it was a great battle and we played for a very long time," said Zverev.

It was a disappointing end to a remarkable season for Djokovic, who fell one match short of becoming the first man to win a calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969 when he lost the US Open final to Medvedev.

The 20-time major champion was

hoping to draw level with Roger Federer on six season-ending championship titles.

But Zverev, who also beat the 34-year-old in the Olympics semifinals in Tokyo, proved to be a bridge too far for Djokovic again.

"For me there is no one in the world who should be more respected than Novak in my opinion," Zverev added.

"Where he came from, what he's achieved, he's the greatest player of all time and I think people forget that sometimes. Everyone should appreciate that for once."

Earlier on Saturday, world number two Medvedev cruised past Casper Ruud in the first semifinal, winning 6-4, 6-2.

The Russian will be a slight favourite for the final and has won six of his 11 previous meetings with Zverev, including

the last five.

Zverev will head into that match full of confidence, though, after an excellent end to the campaign which has seen him win three titles, including Olympic gold, since August.

"He's a Grand Slam champion and I'm Olympic gold medallist and maybe we both put that on the line tomorrow," he said.

Both players were dominant on serve in the early stages, but Zverev needed a big first delivery to save a set point in the 10th game as Djokovic returned long.

The world number three saw two break points of his own come and go in the next game as the opener went to a tie-break.

Zverev was brilliant in the breaker, though, and needed just one set point to go one-up.

The pair again comfortably held serve in the second set until Djokovic seized his moment to break for a 5-4 lead, and quickly brought up a 40-15 advantage in the next game.

Zverev dug deep to save four set points, only for Djokovic to get over the line at the fifth time of asking with an ace down the middle.

The German was the better player for the majority of the deciding third set and broke for a 3-1 lead.

He had to stave off a break point in a dramatic seventh game and finally clinched his place in the final with a love hold, capped off by an ace.

MEDVEDEV EASES THROUGH

Winner of the Finals last year, the 25-year-old Medvedev has now won nine straight matches at the season-ending tournament and looked unruffled as

he dealt with eighth seed Ruud, whose positive debut Finals comes to and end.

"It was a great match because I felt that watching Casper this year he's one of the smartest players on the tour," said Medvedev.

"It's a tough match no matter the score and I'm pleased that I managed to break him from time to time and this made the difference today."

Medvedev will now take on Zverev for the second time this week. On Tuesday he beat the German in a three-set thriller in the Red Group.

"Sasha (Zverev), we just played a few days ago you know so tough to say anything special. Big serve, big shots, same forehand and backhand... all round player, runs well, hits well if he has an easy ball to play. Complete player," he told reporters. — AFP

Dominant India sweep series at Eden Gardens

HARIDEV PUSHPARAJ
MUSCAT, NOV 21

A top bowling effort and an inspired batting performance saw India completing a 3-0 series sweep of New Zealand after a 73-run victory in the third and final T20I, at the Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Riding on Rohit Sharma's sparkling half-century and vital middle and lower order contributions from Venkatesh Iyer, Shreyas Iyer and Deepak Chahar took India to a strong 184/7 in 20 overs.

The Indian bowlers led by Axar Patel (3/9) strangled the New Zealand batsmen on a two-paced pitch that offered turn and bounce.

The visitors were bowled out for 111 in 17.2 overs in clinical style by the Indians at a rapturous Eden Gardens.



AXAR SHOW AT EDEN

New Zealand struggled against the spin of Axar Patel in the powerplay overs as Daryl Mitchell, Mark Chapman and Glenn Phillips were out cheaply.

At 30/3 under five overs, New Zealand had an uphill task in pursuit of 185 as Martin Guptill and Tim Seifert got things going.

Guptill showed great, positive intent and aggressive strokeplay as

he smashed four boundaries and as many sixes for his 51 off 36 balls.

Yuzvendra Chahal's third over saw Guptill go for a big shot and get caught at long on by Suryakumar Yadav.

Seifert had to go back to the pavilion after a needless run out and James Neesham was brilliantly caught by wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant off a Harshal Patel delivery.

New Zealand were staring down the barrel at 76/6 and an Indian victory looked imminent. After the run out of Mitchell Santner, it was only a matter of time and formalities.

ROHIT, ISHAN SHINE

India had brought in the flamboyant Ishan Kishan in place of the imperious KL Rahul and Ishan was on the money rightaway.

The Jharkhand southpaw smashed six boundaries on his way to 29 off 21 balls while skipper Rohit Sharma was in a murderous mood as he blasted three sixes and four boundaries in their opening wicket partnership of 69.

The introduction of Mitchell Santner saw India lose three wickets in quick succession to the

spinner as Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Rishabh Pant were all sent packing.

Despite losing wickets on a pile, India were going at a 9 plus run-rate with Rohit having reached his half-century and Shreyas Iyer cracking a boundary to keep the momentum.

Just when Rohit was about to launch himself for a biggie, Ish Sodhi had him caught and bowled in the 12th over as India slipped to 103/4.

Rohit's departure brought the promising Venkatesh Iyer to the middle to join another Iyer.

A 36-run partnership ensued between Venkatesh and Shreyas before the former was out to Boult and soon after the latter's wicket was claimed by Adam Milne.

Deepak Chahal's quickfire 21 runs off eight balls comprising two boundaries and a six took India to 184/7 in 20 overs.

Podium finish a tribute to mother: Shonal



SHONAL CLAIMED THE THIRD PLACE IN MICRO MAX CATEGORY AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WHICH FEATURED A TOTAL OF 19 COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE SULTANATE OF OMAN AND WAS ORGANISED SUCCESSFULLY BY THE OMAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION (OAA).



MUSCAT: Two years since his Palestinian mother passed away in a tragic accident in Al Hamra, ten-year-old Shonal Kunimal had a burning desire to excel at the MENA Karting Nations Cup while representing his mother's nation. And on Saturday, Shonal fulfilled his dream as he stood on the podium, representing Palestine, in the 2021 MENA Karting Nations Cup at the Muscat Speedway of the Oman Automobile Association.

Shonal claimed the third place in Micro Max category at the championship, which featured a total of 19 countries including

the Sultanate of Oman and was organised successfully by the Oman Automobile Association (OAA).

The Indian School Ghubra fifth grade student with an Indian father had been making a name on the regional go-karting circuit, winning consistently at the Rotax Max Challenge Series over the past few years. Covid-19 and the demise of his mother had forced him to miss the full nearly two seasons but since returning to the tracks in October, Shonal has been making podium finishes a habit. On Saturday, amid a strong field of ten drivers, Shonal took third

place in the final race in Micro Max category behind Philippe El Hajj of Lebanon while UAE's Russian driver Maxim Bobreshov took the top honours.

Speaking after his third-place finish, Shonal said, "This is for my mother [Nabrees Qandeel], who for years saw me grow here on this tracks. She was my biggest support before she left us. She would be the happiest person and I know she is always with me."

"My dad [Shojai Kunimal], coach Sanad al Rawahi, along with my technical assistants – Leonardo Abalos and Raven Abalos — have been instrumental

in my success. I hope to continue my winning run and my goal will be to claim race wins that has eluded me in recent times. With more participation, I am confident that I can clinch victories in the New Year and the season ahead."

Shonal's mentor and dad Shojai thanked the Sultanate of Oman's rallying star Hamed al Wahaibi and OAA managing director Suleiman al Rawahi for their strong support.

It was heartening news for Palestine team who had arrived with three other drivers. Shonal's podium was a first for Palestine team in the MENA Karting

Nations Cup and the young driver was personally congratulated by Palestine Ambassador's to the Sultanate of Oman, Tayseer Ali Farhat at the awards ceremony.

The presentation ceremony was held under the patronage of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal al Busaidy, Minister of State and Governor of Muscat. Also present was Mohammed bin Sulayem, world motorsports governing body (FIA) vice-president and Brig (retd) Salim al Maskari, OAA chairman. The five-day MENA Karting Nations Cup witnessed 127 drivers and the OAA hosted the event for the second time in

succession.

Besides the Sultanate of Oman, the other countries that competed were Libya, Lebanon, Cyprus, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, Palestine, Morocco and Turkey. Events were held in eight categories including six classes in MENA Rotax Max Challenge (RMC), MENA Elite Endurance (Round One), MENA Elite Sprint 2 (Round One) classes.

UAE dethroned the Sultanate of Oman for overall title while the hosts came second and Lebanon took the overall third place.

OOC participates in OCA GA



MUSCAT: Oman Olympic Committee (OOC) participated in the 40th General Assembly (GA) of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), which was held in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, yesterday, on Sunday, in the presence of representatives of 30 Asian NOCs, while representatives of the other 14 committees presents the meeting online due to travel restrictions and health protocols.

The delegation was headed by Sayyid Khalid bin Hamad al Busaidy, OOC President, and Taha bin Sulaiman al Kishry, OOC Secretary-General member of OCA Executive Office, who participated in the meeting of the Executive Office held last Saturday in Dubai.

The meeting witnessed visual presentations by the organising committees of the next four Asian Games: Hangzhou 2022,

Aichi — Nagoya 2026, Doha 2030, and Riyadh 2034. The latest developments of other courses organised by OCA which is the Asian Youth Games, Thailand, were also reviewed, which will be held from November 17-26, 2023, and the Asian Games for Futsal and Martial Arts in China, in addition to the Organising Committee of the 4th Asian Youth Games to be held in Tashkent in Uzbekistan

in 2025.

The attendees reviewed the work reports of OCA permanent committees and called on Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz al Khalifa, President of OCA Sports and Women Committee to change the name of the committee to Gender Equality Committee, and asked NOCs to focus on developing the base of women's participation in sports and not only on Elite women.

Renaissance edge out Yalla Shabab in Premier Division thriller

MUSCAT: In a thrilled Premier Division match of the Oman Cricket League played over the weekend at Al Amerat Turf 1 ground, Renaissance edged out Yalla Shabab by 16 runs.

Put into bat after Yalla Shabab won the toss, Renaissance scored 239 for the loss of six wickets in their allotted 50 overs. Asif Khan top scored with 57 off 42 balls, with two boundaries and five sixes. Abdul Rauf Atta Ullah scored a cautious 55 off 83 balls while Mahmood Sufyan contributed a run-a-ball 53. Jitenkumar Ramandi and Wasim Ali each picked two wickets for Yalla Shabab.

In reply, Yalla Shabab top order failed to fire, with only Wasim Ali scoring a sedate 78 off 104 with six boundaries and one six. He was ably supported by Fawad Malook [30] and Jitenkumar Ramandi [37]. Bilal Muhammad took three wickets for 61 for Renaissance. Fawad Ali, Mahmood Sufyan and Asif Khan took two wickets each.

Brief Scores – Renaissance 239/6 in 50 Overs (Asif Khan 57 (42) 2x4, 5x6, Abdul Rauf Atta Ullah 55 (83) – 4x4, 3x6; Mahmood Sufyan 53 (53) 3x4. 3x6; Jitenkumar Ramandi 58/2, Wasim Ali 30/2) won against Yalla Shabab 233/10 in 48.1 Overs (Wasim Ali 78 (104) – 6x4, 1x6; Bilal Muhammad 61/3) by 16 Runs.



Oman Cricket Rahul LC Tech

In another Division A match of the Oman Cricket League played on Saturday, LC Tech beat Ernst & Young LLC by 5 wickets. LC Tech won the toss and put Ernst & Young to bat.

Only opener Issa al Balushi fired for Ernst & Young, scoring 58 off 68 balls, with seven boundaries and three sixes. The other notable contribution came from Rana Zeeshan, who scored 47 runs. Rahul Ramachandran was the wrecker in chief, picking up six wickets for 25 runs.

In reply, LC Tech knocked off the target in 39.4 overs, for the loss of five wickets. Jaleel Mahmood top scored for LC Tech with 57 runs, studded with five boundaries, while Masud Parvez was the pick of the bowlers for Ernst & Young, picking up two for 36.

BRIEF SCORES: Ernst & Young LLC 163/10 in 48.4 overs (Issa al Balushi 58 (68) 7x4, 3x6; Rahul Ramachandran - 25/6) lost to LC TECH 166/5 in 39.4 Overs (Jaleel Mahmood 57 (80) 5x4; Masud Parvez - 36/2) by 5 wickets.



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Omantel
webinar series
to focus on 5G

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 21

The first of a series of seminars, focusing on the role of 5G technology in driving growth, will be held on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. The series has been organised by Omantel and will see the participation of telecom sector consultants, Omantel experts, members of the academia and international and local Omani experts.

Dr Ali bin Amer al Shidhani, Under-Secretary of Communications and Information Technology at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, will participate as a keynote speaker of the first webinar, where he will highlight how 5G will help achieve Oman Vision 2040 objectives related to digital transformation.

Heads of ICT/ IT departments of Omantel's enterprise customers in the government and private sector, stakeholders from the public and private sector and academia, journalists and social media influencers will attend the webinars, the first of which will focus on the topic, '5G Beyond Speed'.

5G offers increased download and video call speed, enables Internet of Things (IoT), uninterrupted connections on the move, multiple-device connections, telemedicine, remote learning solutions, enhanced virtual reality and augmented reality among a slew of other benefits.

Oman’s hydrogen production
capacity projected at 30 GW by 2040

NEW ROADMAP: National
Hydrogen Strategy to be
unveiled before year-end

CONRAD PRABHU
@conradprabhu

A National Hydrogen Strategy for the Sultanate of Oman, due to be unveiled before the end of this year, envisions the country's hydrogen production potential to reach a world-scale 30 Gigawatts (GW) of electrolyser capacity by 2040.

Hydrogen — particularly the zero-carbon green hydrogen variant — is at the heart of the Omani government's ambitions to transition the economy away from its longstanding dependence on fossil fuels, which is associated with climate change, to one powered predominantly by clean energy.

Already, a mix of small and large-scale hydrogen-based ventures are being prepped for development in the Sultanate of Oman with the goal to drive the country's decarbonisation journey, as well as support the energy transition objectives of a number of partner countries.

A brief insight into the Sultanate of Oman's vision for the growth of a hydrogen-based clean energy economy was shared by a high-level official associated with the National Hydrogen Strategy.



“The potential for clean hydrogen — including the blue and green versions — is around 1 gigawatt by 2025, 10 GW by 2030 and around 30 GW by 2040; this is how we see the growth of hydrogen in Oman,” said Dr Abdullah al Abri, Head of Energy Renewal (part of Petroleum Development Oman — PDO). “This growth will be explained and reflected in the Hydrogen Strategy that will be published towards the end of this year.” Speaking at a webinar hosted recently by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in the Sultanate of Oman,

Dr Al Abri said the National Hydrogen Strategy stems from an initiative launched two years ago to “scope out the feasibility for hydrogen to be a new vector in driving economic development”.

The goal, he said, is to achieve a hydrogen-centric economy for the Sultanate of Oman by 2040.

Hydrogen, said the official, is the ideal choice among all the renewable energy options to drive the country's energy transition. As a zero-carbon fuel, it can help the Sultanate of Oman achieve its aspirations to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Furthermore, there is

a big potential market for hydrogen globally as countries around the world switch to cleaner fuels to address their climate mitigation pledges. Boding well for the Sultanate of Oman's hydrogen ambitions are a number of factors, said Dr Al Abri.

“International interest is increasing in partnerships and business opportunities in this space. Also, there is a combination of local and international competitive technologies and infrastructure that we have in the Sultanate of Oman, which enables competitive power generation based on hydrogen.



There is a big
potential market for
hydrogen globally
as countries around
the world switch
to cleaner fuels to
address their climate
mitigation pledges

DR ABDULLAH
AL ABRI
Head, Energy Renewal

Further, as a country, we are anticipating shortfalls in our gas supply (which necessitates an early transition to alternatives).” All of these factors are driving a strong push for hydrogen, said the official.

We see hydrogen playing a big part as feedstock for industries in the Sultanate of Oman; we see it as a fuel for heat, power and transport applications. We see it as a business commodity in the production of new or enhanced chemicals, like synthetic fuels. And, of course, there is the potential for Oman to export hydrogen as well,” he added.

Karwa Motors mulls production of electric buses, vehicles

NEW ERA: ‘Salam’ branded
‘Made in the Sultanate of
Oman’ buses roll out from
Duqm plant

MUSCAT: Karwa Motors, the Sultanate of Oman's first bus brand with a manufacturing facility in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), rolled out its first Karwa-branded bus proudly bearing the ‘Made in the Sultanate of Oman’ tag, named ‘Salam’.

Karwa Motors is a joint investment project between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar, which in its first phase aims to produce 500 buses annually.

Karwa Motors is a joint venture between Mowasalat Qatar, the state-owned transport company of Qatar, owning a 70 per cent share and Oman Investment Authority (OIA),



owning the remaining 30 per cent.

This partnership depicts the strong political and economic relations binding the two brotherly countries, which have been positively reflected in the wide range of successful cooperation projects over the years.

The first phase of operations at the Karwa Motors facility will focus on manufacturing buses for the Fifa World Cup 2022 in Doha next year.

Due to its strategic location close to the regional market, the project is well-positioned to contribute to the success of this global event



by reducing workloads, shipping times, and storage costs.

Moreover, this step also reflects Mowasalat Qatar's vision in enhancing the contribution of neighbouring countries to the success of this global event.

Commenting on the rollout of

the first-ever Karwa-branded bus, Hisham bin Ahmed al Sheedi, Acting Director of Economic Diversification Investments at OIA said, “The Karwa facility represents one of the most important strategic projects between the Sultanate of Oman and Qatar.

The two countries continue to seek potential investment opportunities across several vital and promising sectors underlining the strong ties between them and the shared interests that have been addressed regularly by both governments and people.

The OIA invests in such projects to not only support the Sultanate of Oman's economic diversification efforts, but also move us closer towards realising our vision of developing Oman's logistics sector and establishing Oman as an industrial hub for the region.

Moreover, the project will also help us as a nation enhance our technical expertise in the automotive sector and develop supplementary industries that will support its growth, including several new small and medium-sized businesses.”

Ooredoo’s Springboard programme continues to empower women’s incubators

MUSCAT: Continuing its journey to empower Omani women and help them fulfil their ambitions and aspirations, Ooredoo recently cooperated with the Omani Women’s Association, which comes under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Development, to provide a ‘Springboard’ programme for graduates of its women’s incubator training across the country.

The initiative includes a series of training workshops offering a variety of skills such as problem solving, enhancing confidence, setting goals, relationship building and managing stress.

The Springboard workshops began in August at Omani Women’s Associations in Samayil,



Al Musannah, Manah, as well as Al Rustaq, Al Kamel, W’al Wafi and Ibri. Led by Ayesha al Shoily, certified trainer and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility at Ooredoo, a judging panel will

evaluate and select the winning projects from each association to qualify as finalists. The winning projects, which will be announced in November. Raed Mohammed Dawood, Director of Branding, Communications and Corporate Affairs at Ooredoo, said, “Based on the vision that all people are equal members of society, we continue to empower Omani women and help them achieve their personal and professional goals through our training incubators across the country. We are pleased to be able to provide them with access to these world-renowned courses, to expand their network and provide them with the necessary tools to enter the labour market with confidence.”

Aya al Khasibi, a member of the Omani Women’s Association in the Wilayat of Manah, added, “Ooredoo’s Springboard programme plays a major role in empowering Omani women

to achieve success, offering us a unique opportunity for self-development through open dialogue between the participants and the trainer. It has also helped us to build confidence in ourselves and set out a clear path towards achieving our goals.”

Fatima al Abri, a member of the Omani Women’s Association in the Wilayat of Al Rustaq, also commented, “The Springboard programme has allowed us to define our goals in ways that are in line with our principles and values, and to identify the ways that we can grow. The workshops also provided us with a great foundation to share our knowledge and help to inspire those around us.”

Bank Nizwa announces a range of exciting offers for customers



MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa is marking the occasion with the launch of a number of National Day offers for its customers. As the leading Islamic bank in the Sultanate, Bank Nizwa has been recognised for its premium customer service, seamless banking procedures and exciting offers.

Under the National Day offers, customers can enjoy a financing rate starting from 4.95 per cent on all home, auto and personal finances, complemented by a waive off on the processing fees of any such finance. The offer also includes the first finance instalment to begin after two months of availing the finance facility. With a diverse portfolio of products and services, Bank Nizwa ensures that it has specialised solutions to cater to the differential needs and demands of its various customers.

Own a Kia Sportage AWD and get a chance to win it back too

MUSCAT: Customers looking forward to owning the exciting and fun to drive Kia Sportage can now get a chance to win it back instantly through Scratch & Win offer. All one has to do is to buy a Kia Sportage and just before taking the delivery and submitting all necessary documents, go for a Scratch & Win offer.

Other than the chance to win a car one can also win 50 per cent price payable or doubling of cash gift amount or win periodic services up to 100,000 kms. Three customers have already won their cars back. (Conditions apply. Please



visit Kia showroom for details.) The campaign is valid until December 28, 2021.

The stylish and powerful Kia Sportage makes a mark with its advanced features, fuel-efficient performance and inspiring technology.

The Sportage features front and rear fog lamps and projection headlamps with bulb type LED daytime running lights, 17” alloy wheels and Continental tyres that enhance the SUV’s overall looks for a more modern appearance. The Sportage’s cabin exhibits a sense of modernity.

Omani Biodiesel fuels the construction of first gas wellpad for PDO

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) completed the construction of the first ever wellpad where all construction equipment utilized were fueled by Biodiesel. This accomplishment was attained in collaboration with Sarooj Construction Company (Sarooj) and Synergy Biodiesel. The constructed PDO gas wellpad is in the Saih Rawl region and was constructed by Sarooj. The biodiesel used by the construction equipment was produced by Synergy Biofuels in the first commissioned biodiesel plant in Oman. Using biodiesel in the construction of the wellpad lead to a reduction of ~11 tons of CO2 emissions.

“We are very proud of this achievement which was the result of innovative and collaborative work with Sarooj and Synergy BioFuels. We hope that it will pave the way for similar initiatives and projects as we continue to explore and develop new solutions to decarbonise our business,” said

Abdullah Al Jabri, Chief Commercial Projects Officer in PDO.

“We are very proud to be part of this collaboration with PDO and Synergy Biofuels to deliver this project while reducing CO2 emissions. Sarooj has been committed to invest in transformative solutions to reduce emissions and green house gases, and this project is one step in that direction.” indicated Simon Karam, Chairman of Sarooj Construction Company. Sarooj is the first construction company in the MENA region to utilize the first Omani-produced Biodiesel to construct an Oil & Gas wellpad.

“We thank PDO and Sarooj for collaborating with Synergy to utilize its first batch of Omani-produced biodiesel in the Oil & Gas and construction sectors,” indicated Anthony Helou, CEO of Synergy. Synergy had commissioned the first biodiesel plant in Oman earlier in July/2021 in Samail industrial estate.



OCCI honours Bank Muscat for pioneering role in CSR

MUSCAT: In recognition of its pioneering role in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Bank Muscat was recently honoured by the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry at a grand event held under the patronage of Sayyid Kamil bin Fahd bin Mahmood al Said, Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs.

The ceremony was attended by a number of their Excellencies as well as senior officials from institutions and corporates in the Sultanate of Oman.

On this occasion, Khalifa bin Abdullah al Hatmi, Assistant General Manager – International Branches, Bank Muscat, said: “It is a great honour to receive this accolade, which confirms the bank’s pioneering role in social responsibility and its partnership with the community in the Sultanate of Oman.

The bank’s activities are aligned to the Sultanate of Oman’s development goals, especially the pillar of CSR and partnership in Oman Vision 2040. We are working tirelessly to serve everyone better, every day, not just in banking, but also in serving the larger community through humanitarian and sustainable initiatives.” Khalifa al Hatmi pointed out that receiving this honour is a great inspiration to Bank Muscat to continue to launch new programmes and initiatives which will further strengthen cooperation and Public-Private Partnership in the service of the nation and Omani society. It must be noted that every year, the bank sets aside a portion of its profits for its different CSR and sustainability activities to serve various segments of society including the youth and children, people with special needs, social welfare families, entrepreneurs,

students and communities across the country. For the past four years, the bank has extended its support to the Fak Kurba initiative launched by the Oman Lawyers Association to help secure the release of those who have been jailed for failing to clear financial obligations. The total number of cases the bank has secured releases in the last four consecutive years has reached 826 cases, including 250 cases in 2021. Bank Muscat’s landmark Green Sports programme has supported 143 teams across various governorates in the Sultanate till date. Over 36,900 members from different communities have benefitted from the programme. Till date, 95 teams have received support for installation of artificial turf or natural grass on their fields, while 40 teams have received support for floodlighting and 8 teams for water desalination plants.



Oman's first online insurance platform completes one year

BUSINESS REPORTER

MUSCAT, NOV 21

Bima Insurance Platform (bima.om) celebrated its first anniversary as the Sultanate of Oman's first online insurance portal that provides services of 13 insurance companies in various insurance including motor insurance service, travel insurance, domestic insurance, and credit life insurance, among others.

On the occasion, Bima is offering a free life insurance policy to every customer who insures their vehicle on the platform. The offer runs until the end of the year.

Customers of bima.om, the largest online insurance portal in Oman, also can utilise the advantages of Bima's golden package, which includes roadside assistance and coverage for family members of the car's passengers in the event of accidents, whether the insurance is comprehensive or a third party

insurance, in addition to the super-fast reliable service of the insurance renewal electronically through bima.om in few minutes, in order to provide its customer with complete comfort.

Said bin Salem al Rashidi, CEO and founder of Bima, said the platform has attracted a wide base of customers. Arwa al Mandhari of bima.om said the platform has handled 400,000 electronic service requests since its launch and insured about 5 per cent of the Sultanate of Oman's private cars in the first year of its inception. Bima is a part of the investments projects of Oman Technology Fund (OTF).

It enables the customers to view the offers of various leader insurance companies in an easy and simple way, just by entering the car's plate number and the driver's license number, with the possibility of making the payment electronically within a few minutes.



OPAZ outlines Omani investment opportunities at Expo 2020 forum

BUSINESS REPORTER

MUSCAT, NOV 21

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) gave a presentation on investment opportunities in SEZs and free zones in the Sultanate of Oman during the 'Invest in Oman Forum' held in celebration of the Sultanate of Oman's 51st National Day at Expo 2021 Dubai.

The Forum, organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, attracted potential businesspersons, interested corporates and international media.

A number of government and private bodies took part in the Forum, including the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ), Oman Global Logistics Group "ASYAD", Public Establishment for Industrial Estates "Madayn" and HSBC Bank.

During his presentation delivered in the Forum, Yousuf al Reesi, from the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, highlighted the package of advantages and incentives of the special economic zones and free zones offered for investors.

Further, he touched on the different investment opportunities available in various sectors, such



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as oil, petrochemicals, logistics, fisheries, tourism, mining and others.

Post the "Invest in Oman Forum", the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and

Investment Promotion, arranged several meetings that brought together representatives of the participating entities, businesspersons and those interested to invest in the

Sultanate of Oman.

Various business opportunities have been brought to discussion between the officials and potential investors.

Omani firm wins deal to operate PDO's staff accommodation

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has signed an agreement with Sakan Facility Management Company to run and operate PDO's 'Jebel' staff accommodation in North Oman Concession Area.

The agreement was signed by Eng Mohammed Ali al Samani, Director-General of Infrastructure, PDO and Ghanim bin Dhahir al Ba'hari, Board Chairman of Sakan Facility Management Company.

Sakan Facility Management Company figures high among top local community service companies, said Ghanim, adding that Sakan has more



than 10,000 shareholders from among residents of concession areas who strive to place the firm

in the realm of major facility management companies in the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA

Karwa Motors mulls production of electric buses, vehicles

FROM PAGE 13

Dr Ibrahim al Balushi, CEO of Karwa Motors said, "Located on a 600,000 square metres site, the manufacturing facility is outfitted with the latest technology. It also houses several key sections, including a large warehouse to store raw materials, core workshops for cutting and welding, dyeing, equipment and motor assembly, a full-fledged inspection yard and testing facility, and a vast number of other auxiliary facilities. Our factory will also create job opportunities for Omanis, whether they are regular job-seekers or have experience in the automotive field."

He further added, "The first phase of ramp-up will be focused on

producing the first of three Karwa-branded buses "Salam", which will be used at the Fifa World Cup 2022.

These buses are extremely advanced and can handle a variety of road conditions, as well as withstand the harshest weather conditions.

Next year, we will introduce the Intercity Coach and the City Bus with an annual production of 500 to 700 buses. Additionally, we have a strategic partnership in place with the Chinese company "Higer", one of the world's leading manufacturers of buses.

Through Karwa Motor's collaboration with leading global technology transfer partners, their

new facility and buses will also see several innovations and industry-leading production practices and technologies make their way into the Sultanate of Oman for the first time. As a result, the facility is poised to set a high standard for all future production facilities in the country.

Through its buses, Karwa Motors will offer customers a wide array of options, providing a practical solution for a variety of public transportation tasks, be it for cross-city or urban transport. Furthermore, Karwa Motors, in cooperation with Oman Investment Authority, is currently exploring the possibility of manufacturing electric buses and vehicles." — ONA

Omani brands feted for exceptional customer experience

BUSINESS REPORTER

MUSCAT, NOV 21

Customer Experience (CX) is a top priority for businesses in 2022 and is fast becoming a key differentiator for the top brands. CX transformations are thus a necessity for all organisations.

Some of the leading organisations in the region that have invested in CX and digitisation thereby achieving high customer experience success were recognised at the Customer Experience Live Awards held on the first day of the Customer Experience Live Show Middle East.

These included Bank

Omantel, Alfa Co, Tanfeedh, Al Mouj Muscat, Oreedoo Oman, Medcare, Modon and BankDhofar, amongst others. Omantel received VOC (Voice of Customer) and Best Change Management-Telecom awards.

Other Omani brands recognised for their exceptional CX achievements during the pandemic were BankDhofar winning 3 different awards for Best Change Management, Best Customer Journey Mapping & Best CX Transformation Project — BFSI; Oreedoo Oman, Best Customer Experience — Telecoms; and Al Mouj Muscat for Best Customer Journey Mapping — Real Estate and Hospitality



as well as Best VOC awards. While making consumer choices, customer experience will take

over price and product as a key brand differentiator.

The Customer Experience

Live Intelligence Report for 2022, launched on the sidelines of the Customer Experience Live Show Middle East, cites an increased investment in digital CX.

Providing key insights to the regional CX industry, the report states that 60 per cent of companies in the region are looking to invest in solutions that will strengthen their data framework.

Talking about the budget allocation for tech deployment in 2022, 66 per cent of organisations plan to invest upwards of \$200,000 in CX next year whereas 14 per cent will be investing between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Strengthening CX Infrastructure is of utmost

importance, to which effect, 51 per cent of companies show an increased drive towards digital transformation implementation or expanding AI, chatbots, analytics and cloud capabilities.

Moreover, 49 per cent of companies cite data analytics and data security as central to CX — leveraging data analytics to analyse feedback responses and drive insightful decisions whilst having strong data governance.

Furthermore, 57 per cent of companies will be re-evaluating customer journey mapping platforms in 2022 while 43 per cent will be investing in Intelligent Chatbots in 2022 to enhance omnichannel CX.

Bezos could be \$90 bn richer with Amazon breakup

Jeff Bezos is sitting on an even bigger gold mine than he thinks. His nearly 10% stake in \$1.9 trillion Amazon.com is worth some \$190 billion. But he could become some 50% richer if the company were to split into two parts.

Earlier this year the founder of the e-commerce giant stepped down as its day-to-day leader and handed the reins to Andy Jassy, formerly the top executive of Amazon Web Services, the company's cloud business.

That division remains by far the fastest growing and most efficient, posting an operating margin of more than 22% in the last 12 months versus low single digits at Amazon's online-retailing arm.

Given how the market is viewing data and cloud-software firms, AWS is also far more valuable.

Much smaller but comparable companies like Cloudflare trade at enterprise value-to-estimated sales multiples of as much as 80 times. Firms like Palantir Technologies and Okta, which are different but growing at a similar pace, boast valuations of around 24 times sales.

Say Amazon's cloud business rakes in \$75 billion in revenue next year, as D A Davidson is estimating. On the same multiple as those latter two firms, it would be worth about the same as Amazon as a whole right now.

Sales in 2022 at the North American and international retailing arms could reach almost \$500 billion, according to Davidson. Pick a revenue multiple of say 2 times, richer than where Target trades but well below eBay's level, and that would add another \$1 trillion.

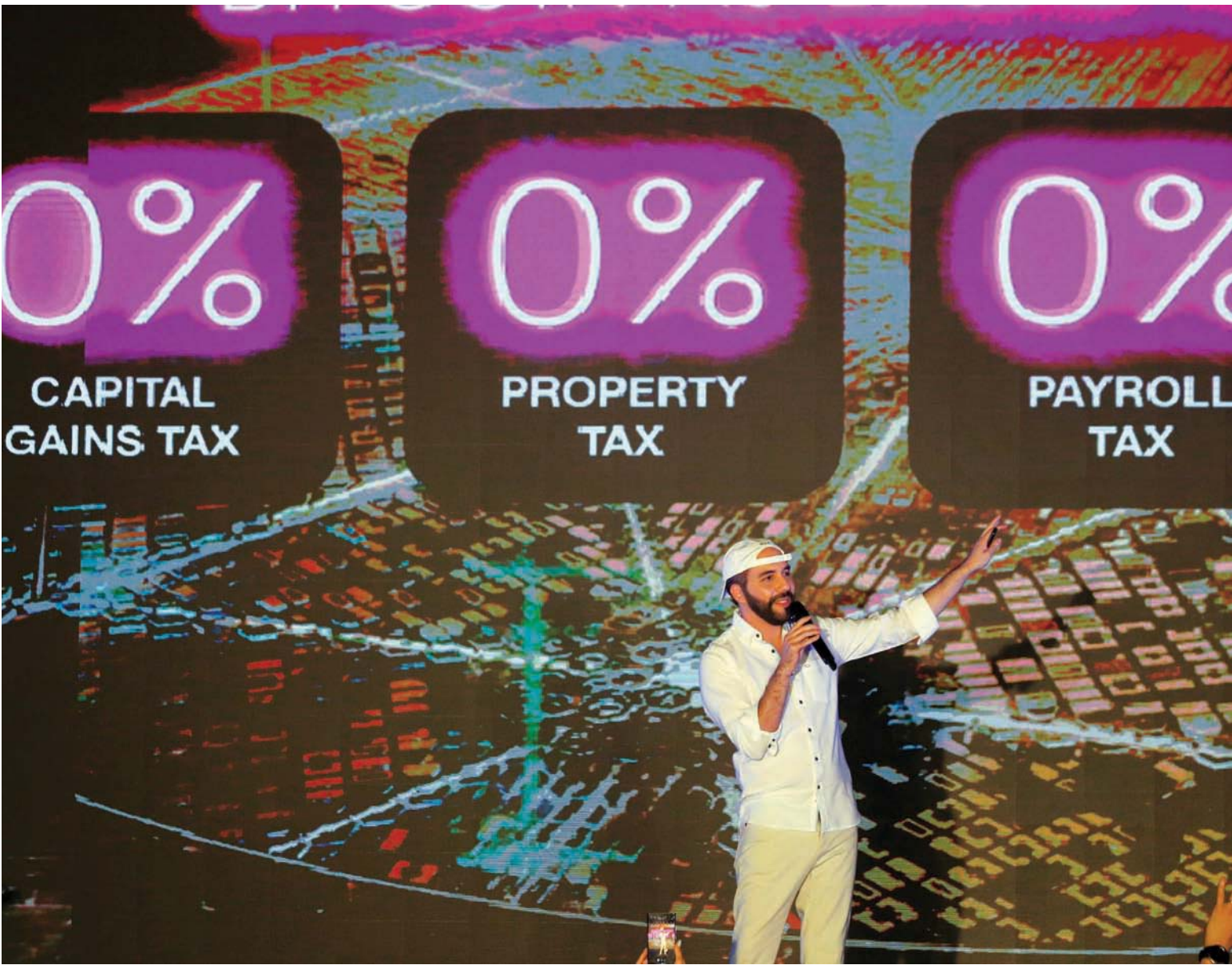
On paper, Amazon, with no net debt, could be worth some \$2.8 trillion. Bezos's stake would clock in at almost \$280 billion.

Such so-called sum-of-the-parts exercises often produce theoretical valuations that are punctured by realities. But several large companies have recently confronted breaking up. Johnson & Johnson, General Electric and Toshiba have set about doing it; Royal Dutch Shell is facing pressure to do so from activist investor Dan Loeb.

Shareholders sometimes value focused businesses more highly. And on occasion, as when online retailer eBay spun off its PayPal payments unit in 2015, an offspring outgrows its parent.

That's increasingly the case with Amazon. AWS is booming while the retailing arm is facing transportation, supply-chain and labour snags, not to mention scrutiny over competition and privacy issues. Bezos's move into the back seat could come with an even more comfortable cushion. — **Reuters**

Such so-called sum-of-the-parts exercises often produce theoretical valuations that are punctured by realities



CRYPTO MANIA

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele speaks at the closing party of the 'Bitcoin Week' where he announced the plan to build the first 'Bitcoin City' in the world, in Teotepeque, El Salvador. — **Reuters**

Entrepreneur or corporate career?



STEFANO VIRGILLI

The columnist is a member of the International Press Association

After three weeks invested in writing about international matters, I want to come back to the Sultanate of Oman. This is going to be a classic SME column based on the experience of one of the readers of the *Oman Daily Observer*: Nabil. He contacted me by email in early November to share with me his story.

Nabil is 35 years old and he has been working for a government's entity for 11 years. He has climbed the career ladder quite significantly, and he is earning a good salary.

However, Nabil feels that is time for a change, and he is facing a dilemma. In his email he described how he is thorn between two choices: Becoming an entrepreneur, or joining a corporation.

First and foremost, I want to tell Nabil that there is no right or wrong. He is still young, and he should not be too afraid of making a bold decision. I just want to caution him on pros and cons of both ways.

Let us start with entrepreneurship. Are

you planning to work in the business, or to invest only? Working for your own business is a thrilling experience, with never a dull moment. But would you be willing to work from 8 am to 8 pm, six or even seven days a week? The success of a small business comes with a lot of hard work, and many problems to solve every single day.

But, if you are only planning to invest in the business, and let someone else work for you, be mindful that things might not go as you expect. Finding and attracting reliable employees, as well as retaining and motivating them, is challenging.

Often it is not only about salary. Being a boss requires a fair share of emotional intelligence to understand what goes through the mind and the heart of the team.

So, if the plan is to invest only, make sure that you can opt for one of these two options when things are not working as expected. The first option is to roll up your sleeves and jump into action when the business needs it.

The second one is to stop injecting

investment in a business that is not returning profits. In other words, an entrepreneurs should always be ready to double down, or fail.

Now, let us talk about a corporate career. Nabil shared with me that his opportunity comes from Dubai, and he would need to relocate. This is absolutely a personal choice and no amount of advice could change a personal preference. Often family matters more than career and this is a decision that Nabil has to make in his heart. From pure business perspective, my advice is mostly about what to expect.

The corporate world is very structured. Those joining for the first time might not be aware of how much work has been done in a corporation before they joined. There are a lot of rules and restrictions.

This option might be less creative for sure, but could offer Nabil an opportunity to build up experience and learn about business standards.

And perhaps one day he could come back to the Sultanate of Oman to share his experience with other fellow Omanis facing a similar decision.

Investors unprepared for carbon crunch

EDWARD CHANCELLOR

Over the past 250 years, the abundant use of coal, and later oil and natural gas, has spurred industrialisation, lifted living standards, and increased the size of the global population.

Last week's COP26 conference in Glasgow focused on the contribution of fossil fuels to global warming. Even if climate change wasn't a pressing concern, the world would still need to adjust to running out of cheap oil and gas. The transition to alternative energy may be inevitable, but it's bound to be disruptive.

One thing is certain: Transition risk is not being properly priced in the markets. The use of fossil fuels to generate power is constrained by certain laws of physics.

As the late Kenneth Boulding pointed out in his 1973 essay "The Economics of Energy", the second law of thermodynamics states that energy becomes increasingly less available as it is used.

The law of conservation of energy states that it can neither be created nor destroyed. Thus, in a closed system such as Earth, the supply of energy from fossil fuels must be gradually exhausted.

There's only a limited amount of what Boulding called "bottled sunshine" to draw upon.

A recent study by French government scientists warns that global oil production could collapse in just 13 years. Louis Delannoy and colleagues point out that as oil becomes less readily available, more energy must be used to extract it.

Prior to the 1970s oil crisis, it took the energy equivalent of two barrels of oil to extract 100 barrels. That figure has now risen to more

than 15 barrels and will climb to 25 by 2024, according to Delannoy. In other words, a quarter of the world's oil supply will be spent on production.

This process of "energy cannibalism" means less energy is left over for other purposes. Given the world's continued dependence on oil, the global economy faces a potential "carbon crunch".

Delannoy argues that mankind needs to speed up its transition to alternative energy. The costs of generating electricity from solar and wind have collapsed over the past decade, dipping below those of natural gas and coal in 2018.

But, as Britain's recent mini energy crisis shows, these sources of renewable energy are intermittent, and the electricity supply becomes unstable as their share rises beyond a certain level.

The trouble is that there is currently no economical way to store renewable energy.

Furthermore, while the sun and wind are potentially limitless sources of energy, geography and climate are limiting factors.

Solar power is most reliable and abundant in places like Africa and the Middle East, far from the large European end markets. Even if it were possible to generate enough alternative energy, a stupendous supply of raw materials would be required to transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Manhattan Institute calculates that a single electric vehicle battery requires around half a million pounds of raw materials — including lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite and copper ores.

There are currently more than 1 billion cars on the road, of which only a tiny fraction run on electricity. To power the world's car fleet with electric batteries would consume nearly half the world's proven nickel and lithium

reserves, according to recent calculations from the Geological Survey of Finland.

What's more, those batteries would have to be replaced every few years. The Finnish geologists conclude that expectations for replacing existing hydrocarbon-fuelled industrial and transport systems are unrealistic.

"The current system was built with the support of the highest calorifically dense source of energy the world has ever known (oil), in cheap abundant quantities, with easily available credit, and seemingly unlimited mineral resources. The replacement needs to be done at a time when there is comparatively very expensive energy, a fragile finance system saturated in debt, not enough minerals, and an unprecedented world population, embedded in a deteriorating natural environment. — **Reuters**

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Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230
m.alrahd186@yahoo.com

Ali al Maashari: 99639264
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BANGLADESH SOCIAL CLUB OMAN

Announcement of the Invitation to attend the Assembly of the Assembly of 2022

The Board of Directors of the club is pleased to invite its distinguished members to attend the annual general assembly meeting which is scheduled to be held at the time 8 pm on 06th January 2022.

To discuss the following works:

- Report of the Board of Directors on the work of the year ended and draft work plan for the New Year.
- Report of the Auditor.
- What board of Directors see on its subjects.

Note: That the last day of candidacy for the membership of the Borad of Directors and the renewal will be 20 days from the date of the meeting.

All the above reports will be available in the club and can be collected members.
For any inquiries, please call 99349477 / 99422635

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Mohd Al Rashdi
99841230
m.alrahd186@yahoo.com

Ali Al Maashari
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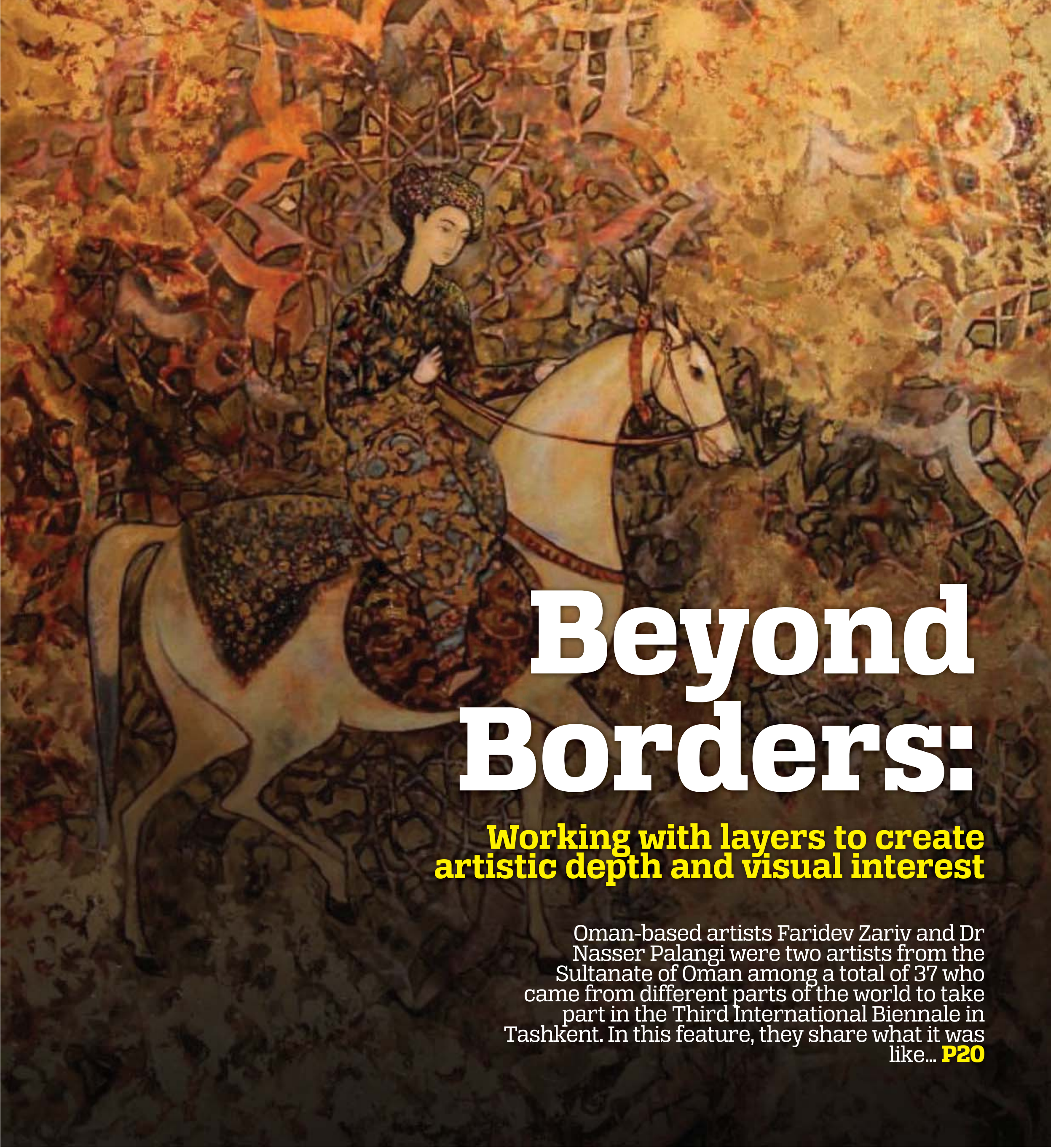
Salalah Office
Bakhit Al Shihri
92998577
bakhit.omandaily@gmail.com

Nizwa Office
Abdullah Al Abri
99429094
nizwaofc@omandaily.net.om

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99429192
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#Living_with_COVID19

features



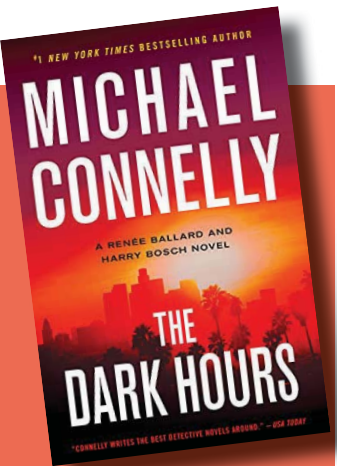
Beyond Borders:

Working with layers to create artistic depth and visual interest

Oman-based artists Faridev Zariv and Dr Nasser Palangi were two artists from the Sultanate of Oman among a total of 37 who came from different parts of the world to take part in the Third International Biennale in Tashkent. In this feature, they share what it was like... **P20**

FASHION

READ



THE DARK HOURS
BY MICHAEL CONNELLY

A death on New Year's Eve, an unsolved murder and a hunt for serial rapists bring Bosch and Ballard back together.

High-end handbags go up for auction in London

A VARIETY OF designer purses are going below the hammer at a Christie's public sale this month, with some anticipated to fetch greater than \$100,000.

"Purses On-line: The London Edit" is open for bidding till November 23, with baggage and equipment on supply.

Highlights embrace purses in a variety of colours by French luxurious leather-based items maker Hermes, recognised for its \$10,000 plus Birkin and Kelly ranges.

Main the lot is a Hermes Birkin 20 Matte Béton Alligator, White Togo & Swift Leather-based Faubourg Sellier bag, depicting the



entrance of Hermes' flagship Paris retailer in Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honore.

Launched this 12 months in restricted numbers, the bag has a value estimate of 80,000 kilos – 100,000 kilos (\$107,832- \$134,790).

"It's very uncommon to see that

many baggage on the similar time as a result of clearly everytime you go to the store, you'll not be in a position to see that many fashions and colours," Lucile Andreani, head of gross sales EMEA purses and equipment at Christie's, informed Reuters at a preview on

Thursday.

"We've got nearly 200 baggage ... (gadgets begin) from 100 kilos and it's as much as 80,000 kilos so it's a really wide selection.

"Different Hermes baggage embrace a restricted version chevron motif Fauve Barénia & Lavatory Oak Kellywood 22, which is seen fetching 60,000 – 80,000 kilos and a shiny Cocoon Porosus Crocodile Birkin 35, adorned with 18 carat yellow gold and yellow sapphire (hardware). It's seen fetching 50,000 – 70,000 kilos.

"Most of our purchasers are utilising the baggage as a result of they're made for use," Andreani mentioned, including consumers have been principally non-public collectors. Different gadgets on the market embrace a Louis Vuitton Zinc Explorer Trunk, relationship from the Eighteen Nineties and with a 30,000 – 40,000 pound price ticket, and a Chanel pink carbon fibre surfboard, estimated at 6,000 – 8,000 kilos. — Reuters



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AROUND THE WORLD

ENTERTAINMENT

DiCaprio tackles climate crisis in satire 'Don't Look Up'



LEONARDO DICAPRIO said he signed up for Netflix's star-studded film about a comet threatening to wipe out life on Earth because it is an urgent analogy for the climate crisis.

The dark satire "Don't Look Up" stars DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence as astronomers whose warnings about imminent catastrophe fall on deaf ears in a starkly partisan and divided United States led by an incompetent president — played by Meryl Streep.

Fresh from attending the UN COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow, DiCaprio said Adam McKay's script solved the "next to impossible" problem of making a suspenseful film about a crisis that "evolves over a century."

"How do we as a species, as a society, as a culture, politically, deal with imminent armageddon?" DiCaprio asked a Los Angeles preview screening audience on Thursday.

"He had cracked the code, so to speak, on how to bring all the insanity that we as the human race are responding to this crisis, in a two-hour format," he said.

The film, also starring Ariana Grande, Cate Blanchett, Mark Rylance and Jonah Hill, hits theaters on December 10 before streaming on Netflix from Christmas Eve.

McKay, whose wide-ranging career spans cult comedies "Anchorman" and "Step Brothers" and satirical works "The Big Short" and "Vice", has become one of Hollywood's most in-demand directors.

Reviews for "Don't Look Up" are under embargo, but initial reaction on Thursday was effusive, with Variety's Clayton Davis predicting it will make "a seismic impact (pun intended)" on the Oscars race.

DiCaprio said he hoped the film would "start to create different conversations, and more people talking about it will push the private sector and the powers that be to make massive change."

But he admitted he had "not much" optimism about humanity's ability to resolve the climate crisis.

"Especially after coming back from Glasgow and seeing these commitments that can be changed by the next wacky administration that might come in and pull out," he warned.

Nearly 200 nations came together on a global deal to combat climate change after two weeks of painful negotiation, but fell short of what science says is needed to contain dangerous temperature rises.

The planet has "such a limited amount of time and there's such a massive scale that needs to happen so quickly," said DiCaprio.

"And if we don't do something, we know the outcome. We know the outcome." — AFP

TRAVEL TALES



Corals and cable cars: Vietnam tourist island reopens with big dreams

TOUR GUIDE LAI CHI Phuc has been counting down the days until travellers return to the white-sand beaches and thick tropical jungle of Vietnam's Phu Quoc, a once-poor fishing island pushing to be Asia's next holiday hotspot as pandemic restrictions ease.

On Saturday, around 200 South Koreans touched down on the island, which lies a few kilometres off Cambodia in the azure waters of the Gulf of Thailand, after a vaccine passport scheme kicked off this month in Vietnam.

Among the arrivals was Tae Hyeon Lee, who was returning to the island for a third time and keen to make a beeline for the beach.

"It's wonderful to be here. This is my first time travelling out of South Korea since the pandemic started," he told AFP.

But others may skip the lazy beach break in favour of action and entertainment as they shuffle between a 12,000-room hotel complex, an amusement park, 18-hole golf course, casino, safari park and miniature Venice.

The \$2.8-billion leisure resort, part of the "sleepless city" model, opened six months ago as Covid-19 ravaged tourism across the world — and as other Asian countries reliant on the industry, like Thailand, were rethinking their mass tourism frameworks.

For 33-year-old Phuc, who remembers a poverty-stricken childhood where "everyone wanted to escape Phu Quoc", the island's growing popularity gave him a way to return home after years of scratching out a living as a salesman in the nearby cities of the Mekong Delta.

"But it's a pity also," he told AFP, lamenting the loss of the island's palm-fringed beaches to resorts.

FLOOD OF PLASTIC

Ahead of Saturday's reopening, staff at Vinpearl resort — where the arrivals are staying — swept beaches, arranged cutlery on tables and laid out sunbeds. Others busied themselves painting delicate flowers on conical hats.

"When we heard visitors were

coming back, I was just so excited," said duty manager Ngo Thi Bich Thuong.

Before the pandemic in 2019, around five million people, including half a million foreigners — mostly from China, South Korea, Japan and Russia — holidayed on Phu Quoc.

Vingroup — the enormously powerful conglomerate behind the new complex — is pushing to make the island: "a new international destination on the world tourist map".

To cater for the tourist boom, 40,000 hotel rooms have been built,

their last assessment in 2018.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has warned of "an almost unimaginable flood of plastic" that chokes rivers, canals and sea life.

Around 160 tonnes of trash — almost enough to fill 16 trucks — is generated every day, according to WWF, which says the island's waste management is not fit to cope with the tourism explosion.

"More and more tourists are very conscious of the environment. They don't want to be going to places where beaches are littered or where effluent is going into the sea,"



planned or are under construction, vice chairman of the Vietnam Tourism Advisory Board Ken Atkinson told AFP — "that's more hotel keys than they have in Sydney, Australia". Globally popular vacation spots such as Thailand's Phuket have given Vietnam something to aim for.

Atkinson took a group of senior Vietnamese government officials there in 2005 — but while Phuket's vibrant international tourist scene took years to build up: "Vietnam has a tendency of wanting to do everything all at once", he noted.

"Unfortunately I don't think there was enough attention given to what would be in the long-term benefit of the island," he added.

Phu Quoc is a UNESCO biosphere reserve — surrounding waters are stuffed with coral reefs and its beaches were once nesting spots for Hawksbill and Green turtles.

But no nesting has taken place in recent years, the UN body said in

Atkinson warned.

POCKETS OF PARADISE

But alongside the trash, and the garish headline attractions — including the world's longest non-stop three-rope cable car and Vietnam's first teddy bear museum — there are still pockets of paradise.

Chu Dinh Duc, 26, from mainland Vietnam, first saw Phu Quoc from the back of a motorbike in 2017.

Speeding through dense forests and winding his way to the few remaining sleepy villages where fishermen cast their nets into the ocean as the sun came up, he fell in love. Two years later, he opened a simple homestay business catering to foreigners.

"My goal here is not to take a lot of their money," he said. "But I want as many as possible to come."

"If Phu Quoc remained undeveloped, it would just be a pearl undiscovered." — AFP

AROUND OMAN IN 3RD GEAR



Rachael MacIver
Instagram: @rachael_maciver

The adventure of a blonde and a very old car #18

"I REALLY, REALLY need a cup of tea", Mrs J was getting afternoon cranky and we had not even reached Mirbat yet.

So, we pulled off the main road for a tea break. As so often before, we just chose a random car tire track leading towards the mountains. If there were tire tracks it meant that someone had gone before us, was our logic.

Soon the track turned in to rocky ground and the Pajero huffed and puffed and tried to slalom around the biggest and sharpest of the rocks in our way.

"What if we get a puncture? How would we ever get a recovery vehicle in here?", Mrs J wondered slightly worried. Hmm, as much as I hated to admit it, she had a point. We parked the car in the middle of the now non-existing track and got the little gas stove going. While we waited for the kettle to boil, we sat next to each other and just took in the magnificent view of green lush mountains and solitude. Almost. In the distance we could see a herd of cows and trailing behind them, a human shape with a large stick.

The tea was ready and it was almost as though the cow herder had picked up the scent of sweet cardamom flavored tea from a distance. Or perhaps it was the Hobnobs. He left his animals to graze and walked towards us with long strides. As he got closer, Mrs J started to fret slightly. "There is something odd about him" she squinted slightly to get a better look at the figure approaching "something odd, I can't quite put my finger on".

We knew enough to know the golden rule of Omani hospitality and always to 'feed and water a visitor to the tent'. Granted, we hadn't put up the tent yet, but we quickly got out an extra mug anyway.

Old Salim was a formidable man.

Striking with his long grey curls held firmly in place by a braided leather head-thong (known as a mahfi) wrapped around his head several times. Mrs J stared, with her mouth slightly open. In front of her was an old man wearing a traditional Dhofari loin cloth, a checkered shirt from Gap, a tasseled shawl over his shoulder — and the head thong — making him look incredible tribal (well, apart from the Gap shirt, obviously).

"Is it just me, or is this man blue?" she whispered.

And he was. Everything about Old Salim, who had now joined us for a cup of tea, was indeed blueish. His long hair and beard had a blue tint not too dissimilar in shade to an American lady having had a tight perm and a 'blue rinse'. His fingertips and nails had a distinct blue hue, and around his eyes - blue. I realised, that the visitor we had sitting on our mat, enjoying tea and hobnobs, must be one of the old jabali tribesmen, known by early travellers to the Sultanate of Oman as: 'The Blue Men of the Mountains'.

Of course Salim wasn't really blue, but a long life of wearing clothes and his mahfi dyed with natural indigo seemed to have permanently coloured off on him. Indigo was for thousands of years cultivated and processed in the Sultanate of Oman, and Dhofar had near-perfect climate for the plant to thrive. Indigo powder had been a treasured commodity on par with frankincense and taken in caravans all the way to places like Damascus and Alexandria. The deep blue, almost black colour, was used to dye fabrics and even used in tattoos. The Sultanate of Oman had a booming indigo trade going until 1883 when Adolf von Baeyer (yup, the same guy best known for Aspirin) managed to invent a synthetic blue chemical dye. This new much cheaper powder almost completely knocked out the natural indigo production globally. During the industrial revolution the demand for indigo had soared to new heights with the introduction of, believe it or not, Levis jeans! So Baeyer had hit jackpot. In fact, he later received the Nobel Prize for his invention of synthetic indigo.

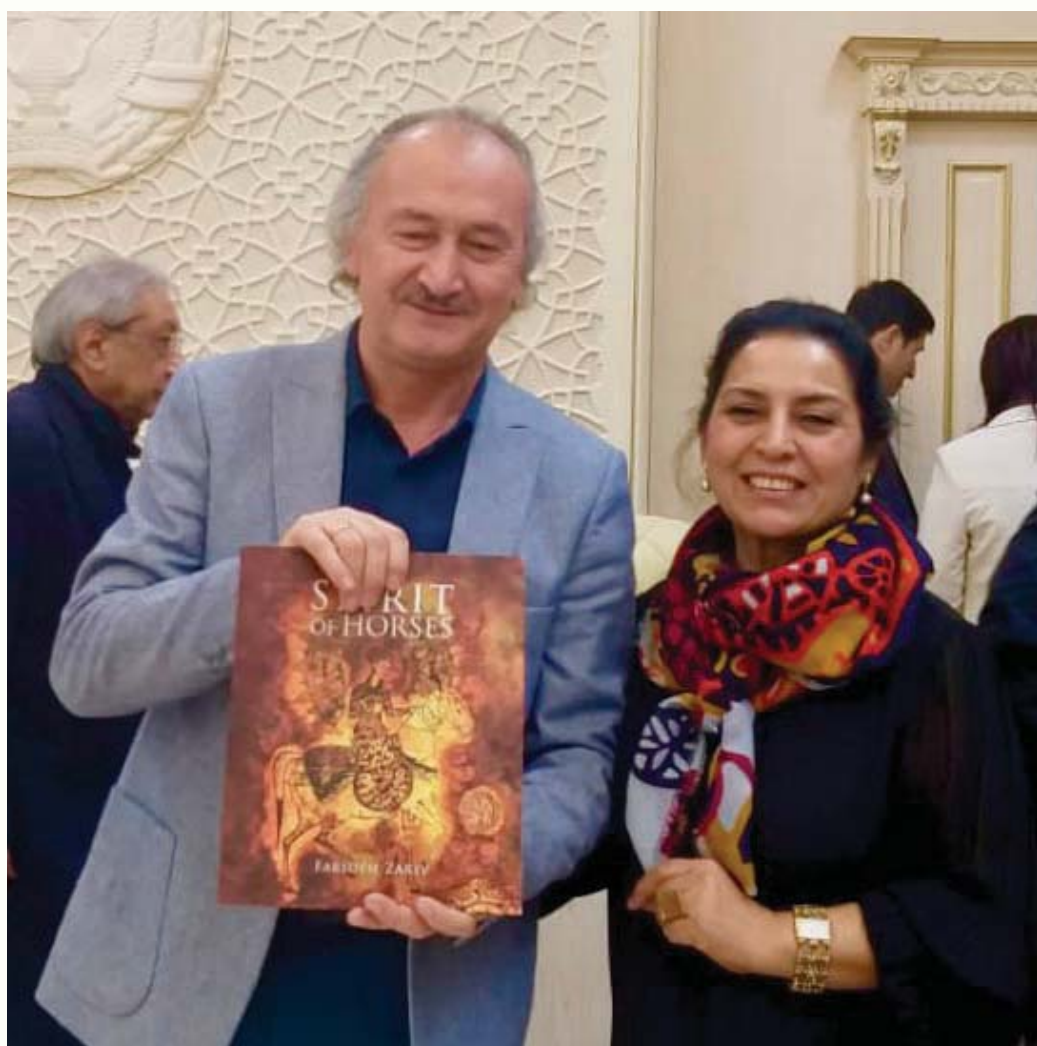
In the Sultanate of Oman, however, the natural indigo industry continued for quite a while, mainly due to the local strong belief that indigo had talismanic and medicinal properties. Traditionally the dye was rubbed directly on to the face and neck in the belief that the blue pigment would ward off illness, misfortune — and even an unpredictable jinn.

Old Salim had finished his tea, picked up his stick and thanked us with a smile. Mrs J watched him walking back to his cows. "Was he real — or did we just have hobnobs with an avatar?" I smiled back, knowing that we had just had the privilege of sipping tea with a real Blue Man from of Mountains.



Beyond Boundaries:

Working with layers to create artistic depth and visual interest



BY KAUSHALENDRA SINGH

Art has no boundaries. It flourishes with the assimilation of cultures, interactions and participations.

Farideh Zariv, an artist from the Sultanate of Oman reflected on her participation in the recently concluded Third International Biennale in Tashkent.

She was glad to be a part of the Biennale in Tashkent and called for a regular exchange of ideas among the artists.

"My own experience about the Biennale is quite fulfilling as every moment I felt like learning something.. I also think that by participating in such international exhibitions, artists' artworks get exposed to wider judgement and competition. They become familiar with the current trends."

Farideh and Dr Nasser Palangi were two artists from the Sultanate of Oman among a total of 37 who came from different parts of the world to take part in the Biennale event.

Dr Nasser Palangi is a renowned artist in Oman. He is an Associate Professor in the Scientific College of Design (SCD) in the Fine Arts department, Muscat. Reflecting on the role of the artists he said, "The artists live in the moment and try to preserve

those moments for the future. He feels that every family and country has its own history, pattern and typical culture.

Farideh Zariv came to Oman in 2017 and has participated in solo and group exhibitions around the world. She has been a practising artist for thirty

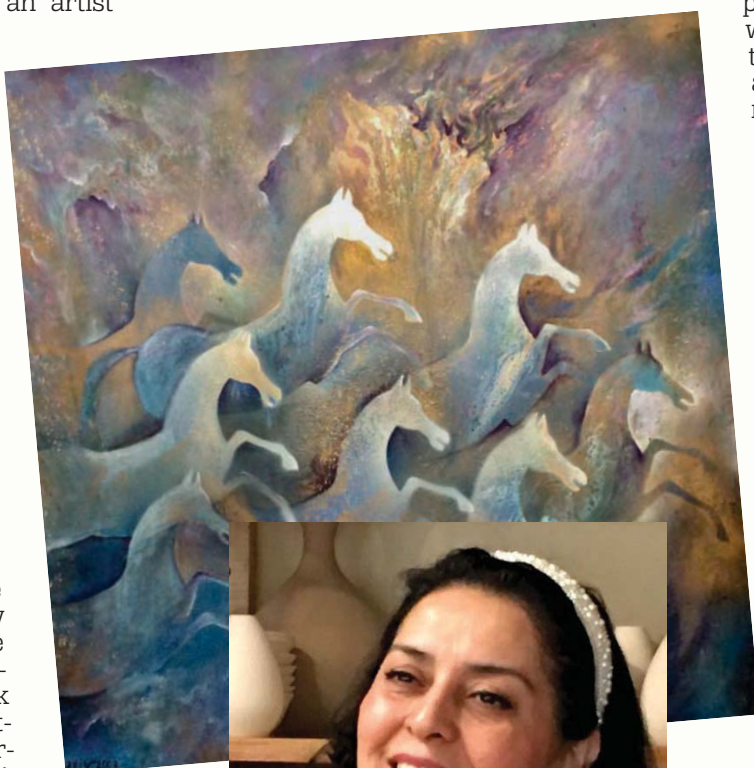
exhibited two of her collections from her work 'Spirit of Horses' at the Art Gallery of the Bank Museum of Tashkent. The museum kept her works as the artist's collected pieces.

"Horses are noble, intelligent and sensitive, which explains why they are one of the most popular animals in the world. Throughout history, they have been revered and admired for their remarkable elegance and charm. In addition, they have been inspired writers, poets and artists for centuries. I have always been inspired by them since childhood", said Farideh while explaining her artwork.

Commenting on her style, she said: "First I create the abstract background and then I choose my concept to create symbolism paintings. Creative abstract art can be incredibly fun and rewarding but it can also be very challenging and tricky. I am going to share with you all my tips, tools, and secrets. I like to revisit the fundamentals, and channel the creativity."

Farideh makes lots of layers to create depth and visual interest. "It looks like complex and difficult, but actually it is quite easy, but only after understanding the concept and some basic rules... I practise abstract style that is called Marbling."

"Marbling became popular as a handicraft in the nineteenth century after the publication of The Art of Marbling by Charles Woolnough in 1853. Today, this technique is used not only on paper but also on canvas and any other material such as iron, wood, fabric, etc," she said.



years, and she has twenty years of experience as a gallery director and art curator in Iran (Middle East Art Gallery) and Amin Art gallery, as well as in Australia (Palangi Art Gallery).

At the Biennale in Tashkent she