LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

HM SEND GREETINGS TO ALBANIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Bajram Begaj on being sworn in as the President of Albania. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to President Begaj in leading the people of Albania towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries further development and growth. **-ONA**

HM CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT OF INDIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Droupadi Murmu of India on the occasion of being sworn in as her country's new President. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to President Droupadi in leading the Indian people towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty also wished the relations between the two countries further development and growth.**-ONA**

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ON BEHALF OF HM

Sayyid Asa'ad bids farewell to ambassador of Kuwait

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan received at his office on Monday Dr. Sulaiman Abdullah Al Harbi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to the Sultanate of Oman to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The ambassador expressed his thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the support extended to him during his tour of duty in Oman from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people, which had enabled him to carry out his tasks.

He also wished His Majesty the Sultan good health, happiness and a long life, wishing the Sultanate of Oman further development and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

In his turn, HH Sayyid Asa'ad expressed his utmost appreciation to the ambassador for the efforts he exerted in serving the relations between the two countries, wishing him permanent success, and the people of Kuwait further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary General and the two advisers at the Office of HH Sayyid Asa'ad. **-ONA**

JOB ROTATION POLICY REVIEWED FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY OF WORKFORCE

Initiative expected to help groom leadership, discover qualified staff and raise institutional proficiency

MUSCAT: To enhance the quality of human resources, boost efficiency and inculcate leadership qualities among Omani youth, the Ministry of Labour held its first meeting on job rotation policy on Monday.

In the meeting, the Ministry of Labour reviewed and assessed the application of job rotation system in government departments.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Salim Musallam Al Busaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour for Human Resources Development.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Al Waleed Al Hinai, Head of the central team tasked with the initiative, presented a visual display during which he spoke about reframing the State's administrative apparatus, analysing the effect of status quo in the government sector and post-analysis requirements, as well as justification for applying job rotation policy and its advantages.

Benefits to society

Al Hinai pointed out that job rotation brings about many benefits to society like upgrading the quality of government services through administrative reform and improvement in human capital efficiency. He added that the initiative helps groom leadership, discover qualified staff and raise an institution's proficiency.

Job rotation occurs through two types of secondment. The first one is Internal Secondment and it lasts less than 6 months. The second one is External Secondment which lasts for more than 6 months. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Low pressure impact

1 The Civil Aviation Authority on Monday sounded an alarm ahead of the low pressure expected to make landfall in Oman today. >A2

OMAN
Medical sector ready

2 Medical response sector officials have affirmed their preparedness to handle possible public health issues due to low pressure. >A2

MARKET
OCCI officials briefed

3 Sezad hosted a delegation of 13 members from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, North Al Sharqiyah branch. >B1

OMAN

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:18pm
Asr	3:41pm
Maghrib	6:58pm
Isha	8:17pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:11am

12TH EDITION

Salalah Book Fair inaugurated

SALALAH: The 12th edition of the Salalah Book Fair opened on Monday at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment.

The event, which will be ongoing till 2 August 2022, is organised by the Directorate General for Culture, Sports and Youth in the Governorate of Dhofar.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The book fair comes within the framework of Dhofar Cultural and Sports Festival 2022. The event sees the participation of 54 publishers and bookstores from Oman and other countries.

The book fair also includes several lectures, intellectual seminars and book reads, as well as poetry, art and culture sessions. -ONA

Low pressure impact to be felt in Oman from today

Besides heavy rains, the depression is expected to cause low visibility, active winds which could overthrow unstable objects with the overflowing of wadis, as well as rough seas

MUSCAT: The Civil Aviation Authority on Monday sounded the alarm ahead of the low pressure expected to make landfall in the Sultanate of Oman today.

Rain clouds already began overcasting Omani skies this morning, offering chances for sporadic rains ranging between 20mm and 100mm starting in the governorates of Muscat, North Al Sharqiyah and South Al Sharqiyah and extending to the governorates of North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Musandam, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi.

Abdullah Saif Al Bousafi, Meteorology Specialist at the Civil Aviation Authority, told Oman News Agency that, besides heavy rains, the depression is expected to cause low visibility, active winds (40-80 km/h in speed), overthrowing of unstable objects and the overflowing of wadis, as well as rough seas—with chances of waves reaching heights of 3 to 4 metres.

Al Bousafi urged all to take precautions, avoid crossing flooded wadis, keep an eye on children when close to wadis or inundated areas and shun the sea during the next two days. -ONA

APOLLO CYBER

RAO participates in Oman-UK joint drill

LONDON: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO), represented by a squadron from the "Al Sahra'a" or "The Desert" Regiment of the 23rd Infantry Brigade, with the support of the Sultan of Oman's Artillery and the Sultan Armed Forces (SAF) Engineering Corps, took part in the joint Oman-Britain drill "Apollo Cyber".

The drill was run in the United Kingdom (UK) during the period from 20 June till 24 July 2022.

The joint drill came within the framework of the joint military training plan regularly conducted by RAO with Arab and foreign countries.

"Apollo Cyber" included several obstacles, tests and training on field weaponry and equipment. -ONA

WEATHER

Medical response sector geared up to handle low pressure eventualities

MUSCAT: Officials at the medical response sector have affirmed the sector's preparedness to handle public health incidents that might occur as a result of the low pressure which is due to make landfall in the Sultanate of Oman today and the day after.

An action plan is in place to ensure the continuous operation of health establishments to address the situation in the impacted areas.

Dr. Rashid Hamad Al Badi, Director of the Emergency Cases Centre, told Oman News Agency that the medical response sector instructed the health establishments in governorates concerned to keep their staff and equipment ready for the prompt handling of emergency cases.

The medical response sector also cautioned the respective health establishments against the probable occurrence of power cuts, disconnection of water supplies or chances that rainwater might gush or leak indoors. The establishments were directed to activate the vaccination plan and be prepared to transfer patients whenever deemed necessary. -ONA

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

32,891 REACH

Story on OIA's seven joint ventures with Arab and non-Arab countries

A story on Oman Investment Authority's (OIA) seven joint ventures with Arab and non-Arab countries reached 32,891 people and had 360 link clicks on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

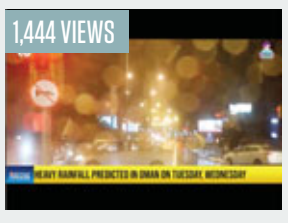
2,100 VIEWS

Midday Update video on citizens urged to apply for elections registration

Midday Update video on citizens urged to apply for elections registration in Oman had 2,100 views and reached 4,200 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,444 VIEWS



Midday Top Story video on rainfall in Oman

The Midday Top Story video on rainfall in Oman had 1,444 views and 106 likes on Instagram.

مجموعة مسقط للإعلام
Muscat Media Group
Muscat Media Group congratulates
His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said
for passing out in the 222nd batch of officers at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, UK.
Congratulations

RAINFALL

Moderate to heavy rains in many wilayats

AL AWABI: Heavy to moderate rain fell in a number of wilayats of South Al Batinah Governorate in the villages of Wadi bani Auf, Wadi Al Sahtan, Wadi bani Huni, Wadi bani Ghafir, Wadi Bani Omar and Niyabat of Al Hoqain in the Wilayat of Al Rustaq , yesterday.

Rains were also reported from the villages of Al Mahdouth, Tiwi Al Seih, Al Rajma, Al Sabikha, Falaj bani Khaziz, Al Nahda, Al Rami, Al Walija and the central areas of the Wilayat of Al Awabi.

Rains were also reported from the villages of Wadi Mastal and Wadi Al Mahalil in the Wilayat of Nakhaland a number of villages of the Wilayat of Wadi Al Ma'awil. Rains led to the overflow of wadis including Wadi Al Hajir, Wadi Al Sahtan, Wadi Al Hoqain, Wadi Safoun, Wadi Al Rajma, Wadi Al Sahel, Wadi Mastal and Wadi Bani Auf.-ONA

PRANSHU OF INDIAN SCHOOL GHUBRA AND AMAN OF INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR ARE CLASS XII AND X TOPPERS IN OMAN

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Class X and XII CBSE Board Results of 2022 have set commendable records for Indian schools in Oman with an unprecedented number of high achievers and an impressive pass percentage, setting another benchmark of excellence in academics. This year the CBSE, India had conducted the Board examination for class X and XII in two terms and the academic performance of Indian school students have been consistently outstanding.

The Oman toppers in Class XII science stream are as follows: Pranshu Dasgupta of Indian School Al Ghubra is the Oman topper with 99.4%;the second position is claimed by Rathod Smit Amitkumar from Indian School Sohar with 98.4%; and the third position is shared by two students from Indian School Al Ghubra – Ishan Jabir and Keshav Balwant Deoskar – both scoring 98.2%.

The Class XII commerce stream toppers are Angel Maria Tarson (Indian School Darsait) and Sujanya Sriram (Indian School Al Ghubra) both scoring 97.8%. The second position is also being shared by two students scoring 97.6%, Lakshmi Priyaanjani Krishnan (Indian School Al Seeb) and Ojas Golyan (Indian School Sohar). Ananya Panwar (Indian School Al Ghubra) has claimed the third position with 97.2%.

The first and the second position in the Humanities stream have been claimed by Shraavani Sastry and Caroline Judi Benhur from Indian School Al Ghubra with 98% and 97.6% respectively. Sharlotte Carvalho of Indian School Muscat claims the third position with 97.4%.

Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman, Board of Directors, congratulated the students who have made their alma mater and parents proud with outstanding results

Aman Saji of Indian School Sohar is the Oman topper of Class X CBSE Board examination 2022 with a phenomenal score at 99.8%. The second position is claimed by Keziah Mariam Koshy Varghese of Indian School Al Maabela at 99.6%. Abhinav Sunil Prasad of Indian School Salalah claims the third position with 99.4%.

Dr. Sivakumar Manickam, Chairman – Board of Directors congratulated the students who have made their alma mater and parents proud with outstanding results. He lauded the unflinching support of schools that have conducted remedial classes to aid the academically needy students and made all efforts to set a higher benchmark of success in the Board Exams.

"As a system, Indian Schools in Oman have been implementing various measures to provide academic assistance, over and above the classroom lessons while placing equal emphasis on their overall health and wellbeing. We shall continue to strengthen the core academics and competence of our children, and are proud to achieve higher milestones in each passing year. Congratulations to all the children, parents and their schools for their hard work and efforts," said Dr. Manickam.

Indian Schools do not put any restriction on admissions and every child who seeks admission finds a place irrespective of academic performance. Teachers made persistent efforts to enhance the academic levels of children by providing remedial and additional coaching on off days and evening hours in order to compensate for the learning loss due to Covid.

Indian Schools in Oman offer three streams of study to students – Science, Commerce and Humanities – and a total number of 1859 students appeared for the Class 12 and 2,459 students appeared for Class X CBSE examinations held this year.

ARABIAN HORSES

Royal Cavalry excels at Pompadour Racecourse

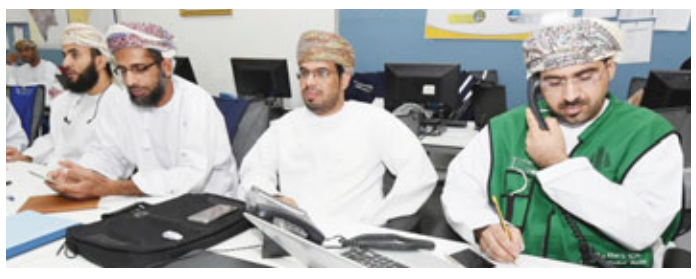
PARIS: The Royal Cavalry secured the first place and the second place in the competitions of the second round organised at Pompadour Racecourse and allocated for thorough-bred Arabian horses for 1,700 metres.

Horse Jalil (horse rider Michael Forest and trainer Sinshaz) secured the first place, while horse Khalsa (horse rider Maxim Folon and trainer Charles Gordan) secured the second place. -ONA

LOW PRESSURE

Emergency sub-committees activated

MUSCAT: The National Committee for Emergency Management announced yesterday the activation of sub-committees in the Governorates of Muscat, North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, Al Dhahirah, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Al Buraimi and Musandam.



The move aims to increase preparedness for all eventualities that can be caused by the expected tropical condition.

Tomorrow (Tuesday) will see the start of the effects of the tropical condition on the Sultanate of Oman with columns of rainclouds predicted to overcast the skies and rainfall ranging between 20mm to 100mm. The effects will begin in the Governorates of Muscat, North A'Sharqiyah and South A'Sharqiyah, then extending gradually to cover the Governorates of Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Musandam, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi.

The governorates are expected to witness varied rainfall, low visibility, active winds measuring 40-80 km/h which can cause unfixed objects to fly and wadis to overflow during the next two days. Sea Waves are expected to reach 3-4 metres high. -ONA

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ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

EA seeks to designate two sites as UNESCO biosphere reserves

MUSCAT: Dr Abdullah Ali Al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority, held a meeting on Monday with German experts from the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, currently visiting the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting discussed the possibility of drafting files for nominating the Omani nature reserves of "Al Jabal Al Akhdar Sanctuary" and "Jabal Samhan Sanctuary" to the MAB programme.

It reviewed various aspects of cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the UNESCO, laying emphasis on Oman's efforts in the field of environment protection.

The two sanctuaries boast vast variety in environmental and ecological systems, in addition to unique natural scenery and human, material and cultural heritage.

MAB programme is the best means of developing national strategies for sustainable development of nature reserves. Germany has institutions with established experience in enhancing MAB nature reserves. – ONA

CABLE OF GREETINGS

HM the Sultan greets President of Maldives

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of the Republic of Maldives on his country's National Day.

In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Solih. His Majesty also wished the people of the Maldives further progress and prosperity. – ONA

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Workshop held on drafting Budget 2023

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy on Monday organised a workshop for different government departments on drafting Budget 2023 inducted the Budget Drafting Electronic System.

Opened by Dr. Nassir Rashid Al Ma'awali, the Ministry of Economy's Undersecretary, the workshop was aimed at outlining the basics and prerequisites needed to be observed when government departments, authorities and establishments present their respective units' budgets for next year in line with the Circular on Drafting Budget 2023. – ONA

U.S. Embassy Muscat

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT 17/2022

The U.S. Embassy in Muscat is seeking qualified candidates for the below position:

Economic Assistant: Monitor and report on economic activities and development; aid the Economic Officer in analyzing and reporting economic activities and developments; facilitate environmental cooperation between the United States and Oman, maintaining contacts in the Omani public and private sectors, routinely briefing supervisor, Political/Economic Section Chief, and Front Office on economic activities and development. Maintain files on economic statistics, economic developments, business sectors, and Omani businesses.

TO APPLY:
All applications must be submitted through Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) to be considered. For more information on the position and the required qualifications, please visit the U.S. Embassy website in google Chrome and click on **"jobs at the Embassy"** then click on **"Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA)"** to see the vacancy announcement. Please make sure of listing all your experience with details of the duties performed, education, languages, levels, and attach all the required documents.

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) "Electricity Service" invites reputable service provider for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference No	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/102	Outsource Support Service for Finance & Accounts

Tender Fee	**RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%) each** **Note:** Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	The Service Provider should have experience of Similar Service in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The Tenderer must show previous experience in similar services in the past
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 28th July 2022
Site Visit	---
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	---
Last date for response pre bid clarification	---
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 2nd August 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	**Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om**

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company
إحدى شركات مجموعة نماء
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P.O. Box: 2609, P.C.: 211, 23rd July Street, behind West Salalah Health Center Salalah, Sultanate of Oman - Toll Free: 80077700
info@disc.nama.om www.disc.nama.om

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

TENDERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital announces the following tenders;

Tender No.	Subject	Non-Refundable Fees	Last Date of Submission
520/2022	Supply of Computers and Printers for Sultan Qaboos University Hospital	RO.25	05/09/2022
521/2022	Supply of Switches for Hospital Information Systems at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital	RO.25	05/09/2022

Tender Conditions:

1. The companies who are interested in participating in the above tender shall collect the tender documents during office hours from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm from the Procurement Department/ Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.
2. The tenderers shall submit with the form of tender a certified cheque or tender bond in the sum of (1%) of the tender value valid for (90) days, issued in the name of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital by locally registered bank in the Sultanate of Oman.
3. The tender quotations shall be sealed and addressed to Procurement Director; Sultan Qaboos University Hospital. The tender number and the name of the tender shall be mentioned on the tender document. It is not accepted to indicate or mention the name of the company or its logo on the envelope.
4. The quotations are subject to the Tender General Terms and Conditions for the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.
5. Sultan Qaboos University Hospital is not bound to accept the lowest bid or any other bid.
6. The payment of the tender should be done at the Hospital Finance Department at the Revenue Section ground floor.

Procurement directorate / SQUH
P.O.Box 38, P.C.123
AL Khodh / Oman
Tel: 24144634/ 24144688

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Notice to Customers

To all customers who provided their audio and video equipment, TVs, ACs. Refrigerators, washing machines and other home appliances, watches, digital diaries, cash registers, laptops and office automation equipment for repair before 31st December 2021.

We kindly request you to collect your items within one month from the date of this notice, from the Service Centers of Bahwan Electronics LLC after producing the required documents.

With regards to the unclaimed items, Bahwan Electronics LLC will initiate legal action after lapse of one month from the date of publication of this notice and shall reserve the right to recover all the costs related to such items.

Service Center Locations

Ruwi - 24832142 /94001045	Sohar - 26840020/ 91259364
Misfah - 24232006/ 97970832	Sur - 25540628/ 71575722
Nizwa - 25411419/ 71441669	Salalah - 23289385/ 92439634

P.O. Box 169. PC 100. Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: 24650200 Fax: 968 24659795

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TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Muscat Electricity Distribution Company S.A.O.C invites interested qualified companies to participate in the "Unit Rate Contract" to carry out Network Extensions, Reinforcement, and other similar network activities on unit rate basis. Details are as follow:

Description Unit Rate Announcement	Last Date to obtain documents	Date of Participation Letter Submission	Grade	Document Price (R.O)
Unit Rate Contract for Electrical Works in Muscat Governorate	25/08/2022**	One weeks from obtaining UR document	C – and above	525.000*

The table below shows the instructions for participation: -	
Participation	• Companies that have a valid registration in Chamber of Commerce and DCRP certificate may obtain Unit Rate documents. • The amount specified above is including 5 % VAT. • Companies holding valid **Riyada** certificate, the Document fees will be **25%** only from the original document price.* • The amount specified above is Non-Refundable payment (Terms and Condition apply) • For payment procedure and to obtain the tender document, please contact us via e-mail **contract@medcoman.com**
Purchase timing	• Unit Rate documents can be purchased at the official working time between 08:00 – 13:00 hours, please contact us via e-mail **Contract@medcoman.com**
Request of Participation Letter	The contractors, after reading and accepting the prices, terms and conditions, shall submit a **"Request of Participation Letter"** and the unit rate document fully stamped to be shared as soft copy addressed to the Minor Tender Committee, Muscat Electricity Distribution Co. via e-mail **contract@medcoman.com**
Terms and Conditions	• MEDC has the right to extend or close the last date for obtaining documents.** • A limited number of contractors will be allowed to participate in the standard price contract, the sale will be closed when the target number is reached. • Valid ESR certificate issued from Muscat Electricity Distribution Company, should be provided along with Unit Rate Document submission.Any request without ESR certificate will not be considered. • Companies that does not have ESR certificate and interested to participate can coordinate with MEDC HSE Department to obtain it. • Upon approval to participate, contractor will have to submit a performance bond.
E-mail/Telephone No.	• **contract@medcoman.com** **24588600 – Ext: 8577 – 8726 – 8844**

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VACCINE

EU approves vaccine to combat monkeypox outbreak

COPENHAGEN: The European Commission approved Bavarian Nordic's Imvanex vaccine — which protects against smallpox — for use against monkeypox in the bloc, the Danish biotech company said on Monday.

Bavarian Nordic said the approval came after "a positive opinion" from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) last week, and is valid in all EU member states.

"The availability of an approved vaccine can significantly improve nations' readiness to fight emerging diseases, but only through investments and structured planning of the biological preparedness," Bavarian Nordic's Chief Executive Paul Chaplin said.

The announcement comes a day after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the monkeypox outbreak a global health emergency.

Chaplin told Reuters news agency that the company was also in talks to potentially grow production capacity and could meet demand for the monkeypox vaccine in the tens of millions.

Imvanex is the only vaccine to have been granted approval for the prevention of monkeypox in the United States and Canada and had previously only been approved for use in the treatment of smallpox. **DW**

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MARKSMANSHIP CLUBS

Royal attention to youth and sports

MUSCAT: Basil Ahmed Al Rawas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, said that His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's blessing of a decision to set up international Olympic shooting clubs for the Sultanate of Oman affirms the Royal attention accorded to the sector of youth and sports.

He added, "The decision seeks to safeguard this sport, which is deep-rooted in Omani society's civilisation and cultural heritage, while at the same time upgrades the sport to international spheres—so that it could be played in tandem with the laws devised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). He noted that this sport is listed within the programme of Olympic Games and that Omani youth, males and females alike, now have an opportunity to excel in the sport at a global level.

Air Commodore Nassir Said Al Sa'adi, Assistant Chief of Staff of the SAF for Training and Joint Drills, said that Olympic shooting figures among the loftiest sports in the world and that different countries took keen interest in attracting all age groups to espouse them. Hence, sports complexes and shooting ranges were constructed for Olympic sports in Oman where the Royal patronage of His Majesty, the Supreme Commander, gives impetus to the sports and has been the moving force behind the accomplishments of the country," said Al Sa'adi.

"Oman is thereby set to see major transformation that serve as a springboard that will influence the performance of youth of all different age groups and contribute to the Sultanate of Oman's representation at all events," Al Sa'adi added.

Captain Khalid Ali Al Maqbali, Military Sports Manager at the SAF headquarters (Secretary General of Oman Shooting Association), said that 14 clubs will be floated initial investment bids—at a rate of one club per governorate, except for Muscat, which will host two shooting clubs. **-ONA**

NEW PRESIDENT

Droupadi Murmu assumes office of President of India

NEW DELHI: Newly sworn-in Droupadi Murmu on Monday assumed the office of the President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

She assumed office in a handing-over ceremony from outgoing President Ram Nath Kovind. Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed President Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

After assuming office, President Murmu inspected a tri-services guard of honour at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Former President Kovind, whose five-year term ended on Sunday left from Rashtrapati Bhawan and arrived at his new residence on Janpath Road.

Kovind was allotted 12 Janpath as his retirement home in June this year. The bungalow was occupied previously by the family of late union minister Ram Vilas Paswan.

Before moving to his new residence, the Tri-Services Guard of Honour was presented to former President Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Murmu was today administered the oath of office by Chief Justice of India NV Ramanna.

In her address to the nation after being sworn in, Murmu stated that she was the first President to be born in independent India and was honoured to take charge at a time when the country is completing 75 years of Independence.

The first tribal and second woman to hold the country's highest constitutional office said her elevation to the post is not only her own achievement but that of every poor of the country and is a reflection of the confidence of crores of Indians.

"Johar! Namaskar! I humbly greet all my fellow citizens from this sacred Parliament, a symbol of the hopes, aspirations and rights of all the citizens of India. Your affection, trust and support will be my greatest strength in discharging my functions and responsibilities," she said.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the MPs and all the members of the Legislative Assembly for being elected to the highest constitutional post of India. Your vote is an expression of the faith of crores of citizens of the country," Murmu said. **ANI**

KUWAIT EMIR APPOINTS NEW PRIME MINISTER

KUWAIT CITY: The Kuwait Emir on Sunday issued a decree appointing Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as the prime minister and tasking him with forming the new cabinet.

As required by the constitution, the prime minister-designate will then inform the National Assembly of his nomination before assuming office, according to the Center for Government Communication of Kuwait.

In May, the Kuwait Emir approved the resignation of then Prime Minister Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and his cabinet, in which Ahmad served as first deputy prime minister and minister of interior.

Ahmad was born in 1956 as the eldest son of Kuwait Emir Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. He served as the Kuwait National Guard Deputy Commander between November 2020 and March 9, 2022. -ANI

JOINT TIES

Saudi Crown Prince, Russian President review bilateral ties

JEDDAH: Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received a phone call from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations binding the two countries and ways of further promoting joint ties, highlighting efforts to deal with regional and international developments towards achieving security and stability. -SPA

CHILDREN PROTECTION

Abu Dhabi organises workshop to protect children against abuse

DUBAI: As part of its awareness initiatives about "Wadeema" Child Rights Federal Law and the programme "I Do Not Accept", the Ministry of Community Development implements a number of awareness workshops in collaboration with the libraries of Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism, with the aim of educating children about their rights and duties and protecting them from abuse in all its forms.

The "No Accept" programme, which targets children aged 3 to 10 years, focuses on teaching children how not to accept abuse and the appropriate means that children can resort to if they are exposed to any kind of abuse using innovative methods of communication depending on using the appropriate methods that attract children at this age.

The programme uses an electronic system in which a variety of questions are asked to benefit from the children's feedbacks and information and at the same time correct misconceptions among children.

This year's workshops also focus on several topics, most notably: child family rights, health rights, educational rights, cultural rights, protection, child duties on others, and contact numbers with relevant authorities in any case of abuse.

The Ministry of Community Development is very keen to disseminate the culture of children's rights in the community by linking awareness workshops to the child rights law "Wadeema" and its executive regulations to promote awareness and create positive societal attitudes and behaviors towards child rights at various levels such as: entities, family and community members.

These workshops adopt key pillars aimed at clarifying the measures to protect the child rights and the appropriate ways of implementing them, introducing the responsibilities of all authorities that are applying child rights law, and clarifying the early intervention methods to reduce risk factors and their impact on the child and his/her family. -WAM

HONOUR

Queen Elizabeth II honours Kuwait envoy with highest rank

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II has honoured Kuwait's Ambassador to the UK Khaled Al Duwaisan with the Order of ST Michael and ST George that were launched by King George IV in 1818.

Diplomatic Corps Marshal Allistair Harrison said the order is a rare and exceptional honoring presented by the Queen to the outgoing ambassador, KUNA reported.

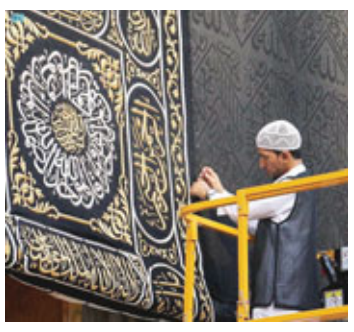
The Queen sent a special car from the Buckingham Palace vehicles to receive the ambassador and his wife for the honoring.

Al Duwaisan said he had a video meeting with the Queen in the palace, adding that his success was presented by the support of Kuwait's government. -BNA

KIAWAH

Kaaba Kiswah (cloth) to be replaced in Saudi Arabia

MAKKAH: The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's (PBUH) Mosque has stated that a team of 166 technicians and craftsmen will handle the replacement process of the Kaaba Kiswah (cloth) next Saturday, as per the annual custom.



The old Kiawah will be replaced by a new one, under the supervision of the President General of the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque, Sheikh Dr. Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Sudais.

Dr. Al-Sudais stressed the wise leadership's interest in the holy Kaaba, the qiblah of Muslims, and its keenness to harness all capabilities in the service of Islam and Muslims.

For his part, the Under-Secretary-General for the Affairs of the Grand Mosque Dr. Saad bin Mohammed Al-Muhaimid, said that around 200 craftsmen and admins work in King Abdulaziz Complex for Holy Kaabah Kiswah, adding that the departments of the complex include the laundry and automatic weaving department, the manual weaving department, the printing department, the belt department and the gold thread department, the Kiswah sewing and assembling section, which includes the largest computerised sewing machine in the world in terms of length. He added that the manufacturing of the Kiawah consumes about 670 kilograms of raw silk, dyed in black inside the complex, 120 kgs of gold threads, and 100 kgs of silver threads.-SPA

Read online

timesofoman.com

ABU DHABI ART FAIR ANNOUNCES LARGEST FAIR TO DATE FEATURING PROMINENT GUEST CURATORS

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Art has announced its largest edition to date, with this year's diverse gallery lineup featuring a record-breaking 78 galleries from 27 countries.

Abu Dhabi Art will also welcome esteemed art historian Rachida Triki, gallerist Jade Yeşim Turanlı, and arts journalist Riccarda Mandrini as this year's sector guest curators and collaborators for galleries at the fair. Taking place from 16th to 20th November at Manarat Al Saadiyat, the 14th edition of the fair will highlight artists from North Africa, Türkiye and the wider region.

The Abu Dhabi Art fair has established itself as an influential annual platform for the burgeoning MENASA art scene, connecting galleries and artists from various geographical territories with collectors, art enthusiasts, and visitors from the region and beyond. The annual November art fair is the culmination of Abu Dhabi Art's year-round visual arts programme.

Last year's highly successful fair has resulted in a record 45 galleries returning for the 2022 event, whilst also attracting the participation of 33 new galleries, demonstrating the international art world's confidence in the region post-COVID. Hailing from countries spanning the globe – including Italy, Colombia, South Korea, Denmark and India – the array of local, regional, and international galleries will allow visitors to explore a wide selection of artworks from both established and emerging artists. – WAM

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

UAE participates in COVID-19 global action plan meeting

ABU DHABI: Minister of State for International Cooperation Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashimy affirmed that "the United Arab Emirates, upon the directives of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is determined to continue to support international humanitarian action to provide a coordinated and comprehensive health solution to curb the spread of COVID-19.

This could be achieved by strengthening the global health system, and ensuring equitable and sustainable access to safe and effective vaccines and treatments for all without discrimination".

Al Hashimy participated in the Virtual COVID-19 Global Action Plan Foreign Ministerial Meeting, organized by Japan and the United States, with more than 30 countries and a number of specialist international organizations to discuss mechanisms for the global distribution of vaccines, and the enhancement of supply chains. The support and protection of health care workers, and strengthening the global health security architecture were also on the agenda, Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported.

She underscored that "the UAE was one of the first countries to extend a helping hand to confront the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, placing numerous initiatives in motion, and sending thousands of tones of medical aid, including vaccines, personal protection equipment, ventilators and tests to nearly 140 countries. Moreover, the UAE built and equipped field hospitals in nine countries including Palestine - Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Sudan, Mauritania and Sierra Leone".

Al Hashimy emphasised that the challenges facing the supply chains for vaccine production were highlighted, stating that "the UAE was able, through its strong infrastructure, to meet these challenges". -WAM

SPORTS

Rafeeq SHOP NOW rafeeq.om

ICC

Madhursinh Jesrani honoured for growth of cricket in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket's stalwart and one of the most dedicated individuals, current Oman Cricket Secretary – Madhursinh Jesrani has been awarded Outstanding Service for growth of cricket by the ICC.

The apex body of Cricket – ICC, had announced the award for individuals who have contributed voluntarily in development of cricket in their country for more than 20 years.

Honoured to hear the announcement , Madhu Jesrani said, "I am thankful to ICC for recognising my hard yards to develop Cricket in Oman over the years. I would like to thank the all the Board of Directors, office bearers and everyone I have worked with , with a vision to get cricket in Oman the spotlight at the global level. I look forward to contribute to the best of my capacity to flourish and develop cricket in Oman from within it's grassroots and keep up the level of modern day cricket to be recognised as one of the top cricketing nations across the globe.".

Oman Cricket Secretary – Madhursinh Jesrani.

Madhu Jesrani has been one of the key persons to the development of cricket infrastructure, implementing and improvising the structure of domestic cricket in Oman and the emergence of its national team to the global stage.

Oman Cricket's Chairman – Pankaj Khimji on the announcement said , "I am delighted to hear the award for outstanding contribution to the growth of cricket in Oman

awarded to Madhubhai by the ICC. He has put tireless efforts over the last 3 decades to

take Oman Cricket onto the Global Level today. His contribution as a working member as well as a member of the Board of Directors over the years is unparalleled. I thank Madhubhai for his selfless service to Oman Cricket on behalf of the Board of Directors, office bearers and the entire cricketing fraternity in Oman."

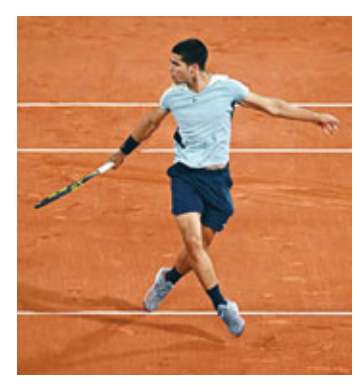
Madhu Jesrani has been serving Oman Cricket for the past three decades with utmost selflessness contributing at every capacity being a member of the working committee , Board of Directors as well as the Manager for the Men's National team.

ATP RANKINGS

Carlos Alcaraz becomes youngest player since Nadal to enter top-5

LONDON: The nineteen-year-old Carlos Alcaraz on Monday created history when he climbed to the No. 5 spot in the ATP Rankings, becoming the second-youngest player in the 21st century to reach the top five.

Spaniard is the youngest man to achieve this feat since his outstanding compatriot Rafael Nadal first rose into the top five in 2005 while still 18. Alcaraz had a chance to break into World No. 4 but had to settle for No. 5 after losing in the Hamburg European Open final against Lorenzo Musetti.



While Daniil Medvedev remained the world number one, 2022 Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic settled on the seventh position after the grass-court Grand Slam tournament was stripped of ranking points for banning Russian and Belarusian players.

"It means a lot. The hard work that I put in every day for reaching my dreams, [No.] 1, and little by little I'm reaching my dream. Top five for me is pretty amazing and I will keep going to be [No.] 1," ATP.com quoted Alcaraz as saying.

The Spanish sensation will attempt to win a title as the top seed at the Plava Laguna Croatia Open Umag.

"Of course, Umag is a special tournament for me. I got my first title there, so I'm defending the title this year. But I'm going to try to play my best and of course, take lessons from here," Alcaraz said.

— ANI

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by September 2022 reaching $101.54, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by $1.32 from the price of Friday, which was at $102.86. - ONA

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,298.91 points, down by 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.26 per cent at 456.97 points. Galfar Engineering, up 3.39 per cent, was the top gainer while Salalah Mills, down 9.27 per cent, was the top loser.

OCCI officials briefed about Sezad's projects

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on Sezad as well as the incentives, advantages and facilities that are offered to businesspersons and investors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) hosted a delegation of 13 members from the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, North Al Sharqiyah branch. The visit, organised by the chamber's branch in Al Wusta Governorate, is aimed to familiarise the delegation with projects developed in Sezad and meet officials from several companies operating in the zone.

During the visit, the delegation was briefed on Sezad as well as the incentives, advantages and facilities that are offered to businesspersons and investors. In addition, they were introduced to the different strategic projects that are already developed and others under construction. Likewise, the delegation was briefed on the package of services provided by the one-stop shop.

Ali bin Salim AlHajri, Deputy Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Chamber's branch in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, said, "Our visit to Sezad aims to get acquainted closely with the projects and companies operating in the zone and the developments witnessed in various fields. It is also intended to explore the potential investment opportunities for the private sector in Al Sharqiyah Governorate and the different facilities and procedures provided in the zone, as well as to form successful business partnerships."

Upon the visit, the delegation commended the development march observed in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and the comprehensive package of facilities, incentives and benefits provided to investors. It is worth mentioning that the visit included a tour of many projects, most notably Asyad Dry Dock Company, Port of Duqm and Karwa Motors.

EXPLORES INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Kenyan delegation visits Al Mazunah Free Zone

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A delegation representing Kenya Ports Authority visited Al Mazunah Free Zone to explore the investment climate and get acquainted with the ongoing and future projects that are planned by the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) in the free zone.

The Kenyan delegation was briefed on the incentives that are offered to the investors in the free zone, which comprise customs exemptions, 100 per cent foreign ownership, no minimum capital requirements, and the Omanisation rate stands at 10 per cent.

Other incentives include easy access of individuals and investors to the free zone without entry visas being required for Yemenis, and facilitation of employing the Yemeni workforce without work visas being required, among other advantages.

Strategically located on the border of Oman and Yemen, Al Mazunah Free Zone represents the Gulf gateway for transit trade to Yemen and Eastern Africa. Several projects are currently being implemented in Al Mazunah Free Zone including a new road network, water tanks and network, fibre optic network, and electricity and drainage networks, in addition to the facility building project.

The Kenyan delegation then toured Al Mazunah Free Zone and explored the customs area in the free zone including the handling operations that are managed by Al Madina Logistics Services Company.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS

BankDhofar introduces Escrow Account for real estate sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Intending to support the government's efforts to regulate the real estate sector, BankDhofar has recently introduced the Escrow Account service.

This service, which comes in line with the Royal Decree 30/2018 and Ministerial Decision 72/2019 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, will contribute to increasing the confidence among the real estate sector, as BankDhofar will manage the funds as per the terms of the Escrow Account agreement.

Mallikarjuna Korisepati, Chief Wholesale Banking Officer at BankDhofar, said, "Introducing the Escrow Account translated our endeavour to cope with the governmental new regulations. The real estate sector is one of the sectors that vitally contribute to the growth of the national economy and attracts investors. As per the Royal degree, all real estate projects should be routed through the Escrow account. This will ensure improve the business between the buyer and seller of real estate. The main focus of the Escrow Law is the obligation for developers to set up an Escrow Account with a local bank for each real estate development project it is launching. Our Escrow Account services will ensure increased confidence levels among investors which will improve the growth of this vital sector in the country."

The government has promulgated the Escrow law in a move to regulate the real estate sector and to protect funds paid to developers by purchasers of off-plan properties. The Escrow account will ensure that developers are paid on time based on the agreement which will reflect in increasing the confidence of the investors. BankDhofar customers may open the account in a few easy steps and obtain the Escrow agreement. BankDhofar, as an Escrow service provider, will accept funds, and hold and release the funds following the progress of the project and as per the terms of the escrow account agreement.

BankDhofar is one of the best banks in the region, with a strong presence in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Treasury, and Project Finance. The bank caters to customers' needs and requirements and sets the standard for the best customer experience within the banking industry in the Sultanate through innovative products and creative solutions. Following best international banking practices, providing an outstanding customer experience, in addition to its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, has placed BankDhofar at the top of the list of best banks in the region. The bank has maintained a high level of Omanisation ratio and it strives to offer Omani nationals sound career and development opportunities.

STATISTICS

KSA's overall merchandise exports rise by 83.4% in May

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) overall merchandise exports increased by 83.4 per cent in May 2022 compared to May 2021. The value of exports amounted to SAR144.1 billion in May 2022, up from SAR78.6 billion in May 2021, the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) revealed.

This increase originated mainly from oil exports, which rose by SAR59.7 billion or 105.5 per cent in the same period. The share of oil exports in total exports increased from 72.0 per cent in May 2021 to 80.6 per cent in May 2022. Compared to April 2022, total merchandise exports increased by SAR6.4 billion or 4.7 per cent.

Non-oil exports (including re-exports) increased by 26.7 per cent year-on-year in May 2022, rising to SAR27.9 billion from SAR22.0 billion in May 2021. -SPA

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Galfar Engineering, up 3.39 per cent, was the top gainer while Salalah Mills, down 9.27 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,298.91 points, down by 0.43 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.26 per cent at 456.97 points.

Galfar Engineering, up 3.39 per cent, was the top gainer while Salalah Mills, down 9.27 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Galfar Engineering were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Ooredoo were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 415 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.65 million, with more than 9.23 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 6 advanced, 18 declined, and 14 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR540,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR520,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,824.38 points, down 0.33 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful, Taageer Finance and Bank Nizwa were up by 1.35 per cent, 1.12 per cent, 1.06 per cent and 1.05 per cent respectively. Prices of Vision Insurance, National Bank Oman, Oman United Insurance, Oman & Emirates Investment and Al Sharqia Investment were down by 9.09 per cent, 3.33 per cent, 3.07 per cent, 2.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,610.35 points, down 1.05 per cent. Galfar Engineering was the only gainer today up by 3.39 per cent. Prices of Salalah Mills, National Aluminium, Jazeera Steel Products, Gulf Mushroom Products and Oman Cement were down by 9.27 per cent, 3.75 per cent, 3.13 per cent, 1.82 per cent and 1.15 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.35 per cent before closing at 1,622.16 points. Al Maha Marketing was the only gainer today up by 0.56 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Al Jazeera Services, Ooredoo, Oman National Engineering and Barka Desalination were down by 2.08 per cent, 1.79 per cent, 1.63 per cent, 0.94 per cent and 0.71 per cent respectively. – United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,318.11	4,295.25	4,298.91	4,317.60	-18.69	-0.43
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,859.79	6,814.78	6,824.38	6,846.88	-22.50	-0.33
Industry Index	5,673.70	5,608.03	5,610.35	5,669.87	-59.53	-1.05
Services Index	1,629.54	1,621.15	1,622.16	1,627.92	-5.76	-0.35
MSX Shariah Index	458.15	456.49	456.97	458.15	-1.18	-0.26
MSX TR INDEX	5,443.20	5,414.38	5,418.99	5,442.55	-23.56	-0.43
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,178.00	7,130.90	7,140.95	7,164.49	-23.55	-0.33
SERVICES TR IDX	1,684.92	1,676.24	1,677.28	1,683.24	-5.95	-0.35
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,888.35	5,820.19	5,822.60	5,884.38	-61.78	-1.05

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
9,231,579	1,647,319	415	22,602,706,155	6	18	14	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JULY 25

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	613,954	58,446	29	0.095	0.096	0.094	0.095	0.094	0.001	1.064	0.095	0.094	0.097	0.100	24,572,871
OM0000003000	Al MAHA MARKTING	1,500	1,074	2	0.716	0.716	0.716	0.716	0.712	0.004	0.562	0.716	0.712	0.720	0.100	49,404,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	224,044	29,224	19	0.131	0.132	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	720,000	93,620	5	0.132	0.132	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.132	0.100	253,455,471
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	96,200	89,538	9	0.932	0.932	0.928	0.932	0.932	0.000	0.000	0.932	0.920	0.932	0.100	699,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	3,560	1,602	1	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.450	0.448	0.460	0.100	106,384,500
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	543,379	293,903	36	0.542	0.542	0.538	0.538	0.542	-0.004	-0.738	0.538	0.536	0.540	0.100	2,019,220,810
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	346,000	36,582	23	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.105	0.106	-0.001	-0.943	0.105	0.100	0.105	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	16,643	4,277	2	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.260	-0.003	-1.154	0.257	0.257	0.280	0.100	85,034,286
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	615,000	38,201	25	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.063	-0.001	-1.587	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	1,026,970	371,763	21	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.368	-0.006	-1.630	0.362	0.362	0.380	0.100	235,641,811
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	9,050	2,492	5	0.278	0.278	0.275	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.273	0.278	0.100	16,831,175
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	97,215	7,628	16	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.079	0.080	0.100	7,020,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	42,366	13,403	3	0.322	0.324	0.316	0.316	0.326	-0.010	-3.067	0.316	0.316	0.324	0.100	31,600,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	8,000	2,484	5	0.310	0.312	0.310	0.310	0.320	-0.010	-3.125	0.310	0.288	0.316	0.100	38,718,368
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	77,220	17,981	10	0.230	0.236	0.230	0.232	0.240	-0.008	-3.333	0.232	0.232	0.236	0.100	377,219,555
Total	16	4,441,101	1,062,217	211												

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	2,874,693	348,246	75	0.119	0.123	0.119	0.122	0.118	0.004	3.390	0.122	0.122	0.124	0.100	24,764,346
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	437,302	32,722	18	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.074	0.001	1.351	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	100	9	1	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.089	0.090	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	427,571	40,669	18	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.001	1.053	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	24,000	3,216	6	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.000	0.000	0.134	0.134	0.138	0.100	11,390,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	36,200	5,500	8	0.152	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.152	0.000	0.000	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.100	30,400,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	180,250	11,897	12	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.068	0.100	20,271,657
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK.	20,300	17,783	3	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.000	0.000	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.100	83,220,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	51,000	2,297	2	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	8,983,602
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	20,000	920	4	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	31,044,822
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	500	59	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.100	195,320,970
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	121,000	5,828	4	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	133,500	18,557	11	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.139	0.140	-0.001	-0.714	0.139	0.137	0.139	0.100	10,497,558
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	46,000	4,871	5	0.107	0.107	0.105	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.106	0.104	0.112	0.100	19,300,310
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	50,000	13,510	6	0.271	0.271	0.270	0.270	0.275	-0.005	-1.818	0.270	0.268	0.275	0.100	11,233,423
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	137,000	6,439	11	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.048	-0.001	-2.083	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.100	33,577,098
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	25,000	1,979	4	0.080	0.080	0.078	0.078	0.080	-0.002	-2.500	0.078	0.078	0.079	0.100	9,506,250
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	70,400	5,467	5	0.079	0.079	0.077	0.077	0.080	-0.003	-3.750	0.077	0.077	0.079	0.100	2,585,002
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	75,732	7,573	5	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.110	-0.010	-9.091	0.100	0.105	0.105	0.100	10,000,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	13,930	12,537	3	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.992	-0.092	-9.274	0.900	0.900	1.000	0.100	44,966,758
Total	20	4,744,478	540,078	202												

TREND MICRO

Report highlights growing rate of cyberattacks by malicious actors on digital infrastructure

MUSCAT: Trend Micro Incorporated, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, released its 2021 annual cybersecurity report: Navigating New Frontiers. The report highlights the growing rate of cyberattacks by malicious actors on digital infrastructures and individuals in the modern-day hybrid work environment.

In Oman, Trend Micro solutions detected and blocked over 4.1 million email threats, 700,607 malware attacks, and over 4.6 million (4,629,874) URL victims' attacks. Furthermore, shielding remote learning and working, Smart Home Network (SHN) solutions protected devices and networks from 12,821 SHN inbound and outbound attacks and prevented 581,119 SHN events.

> In Oman, Trend Micro solutions detected and blocked over 4.1 million (4,153,443) email threats, 700,607 malware attacks, and over 4.6 million (4,629,874) URL victims' attacks

"Oman's enterprises continue to display digital resilience through the challenges of unforeseen global events and have bravely faced an evolving threat landscape with increasingly sophisticated attacks," said Assad Arabi, Managing Director, Gulf Cluster for Trend Micro. "The modern-day, hybrid world has made it difficult for organisations to protect their digital environment, requiring security teams to bolster their security strategies to protect employees in and out of the office, as well as remote locations with unsecured public networks. The annual cybersecurity report provides the country's enterprises with the insights they need to readjust their security stance and prompt them to adopt industry-leading innovations securing their digital journeys."

The report states that globally Trend Micro solutions stopped over 94.2 billion threats in 2021, a 42 per cent increase in the number of detections recorded in 2020. Attacks had surged over 53 billion in the second half of 2021, blocking 41 billion threats in H1 2021. Ransomware attackers are shifting their focus to critical businesses and industries more likely to pay, and double extortion tactics ensure that they can profit. Ransomware-as-a-service offerings have opened the market to cybercriminals with limited technical knowledge, as well as given rise to more specialisation, such as initial access brokers who are now an essential part of the cybercrime supply chain. Threat actors are getting better at exploiting human error to compromise cloud infrastructure and remote workers. Homeworkers are often prone to take more risks than those in the office, which makes phishing a greater risk.

According to Trend Micro's Security Predictions report for 2022, better readiness for security teams against emerging threats is necessary across sectors. With these related insights, Oman seeks improvement within the movement against the threat landscape going forward.

COLLABORATION

Vision Insurance, Braxtone partner to offer roadside assistance services

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Vision Insurance has partnered with Braxtone to offer roadside assistance services to its clients. Vision Insurance took this step to differentiate its offering with value-added services. Moreover, Vision Insurance provides its clients with additional benefits through Braxtone Club Memberships.

Braxtone Club Membership offers more than just roadside assistance services, it offers auto-related services and discounts such as car care, maintenance, paint repairs and more.

More benefits

The Braxtone Club team will continue to add more benefits to the members which are not limited to auto-related services and discounts but include other sectors such as travel, home, F&B and more in the coming months.

Braxtone provides multiple support services to different insurance companies in the GCC, which serve as a testimony of Braxtone's unique place in the market as an attractive option for local, international, and regional insurance companies when considering a provider of quality and innovative services to their customers.

Issam Mousslimani, CEO of Vision Insurance said, "We partner in business for what makes our customers feel better and enjoy more, and what makes our business partner a true friend. Thanks, Braxtone for adding value to our motor business through roadside assistance and beyond."

Investment

Ayman Al Ajmi, Chairman and CEO of Braxtone Group, has celebrated this milestone, "We are pleased to enter into this partnership with an insurance company of the calibre of Vision Insurance. This is an indication of the successful investment we have made in our people, infrastructure and customer-centric quality service."

The service package provided by Braxtone includes VIP services and other benefits for vehicle service maintenance and transportation services.

INDIAN EQUITIES

Sensex snaps 6-day winning run; closes 306 points lower

MUMBAI: Snapping six straight days of the rally, the Indian stock market's benchmark Sensex closed 306 points lower on Monday dragged by heavy selling pressure in Reliance Industries after the company announced lower-than-expected quarterly earnings.

The 30 stock S&P BSE Sensex ended the day at 55,766.22 points, which is 306.01 points or 0.55 per cent lower than its previous session's close at 56,072.23 points. Earlier, the Sensex started the day in the red at 55,877.50 points and slumped to a low of 55,537.08 points in the morning trade.

The Sensex closed in the red for the first time in the past seven trading sessions. The index had closed 390.28 points or 0.70 per cent higher on Friday, the previous trading session.

The broader Nifty 50 of the National Stock Exchange slumped to 16,631.00 points, which is 88.45 points or 0.53 per cent lower when compared with its previous session's close at 16,719.45 points.

The Nifty closed in the red after six consecutive sessions of gains. The Nifty 50 had gained 114.20 points or 0.69 per cent on Friday. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) closed 3.31 per cent lower at Rs 2420.15. – ANI

STUDY REVEALS THAT CHILDREN PREFER NATURAL FOOD MORE THAN PROCESSED

According to a study, kids rate foods they perceive to be natural as having greater levels of taste and safety than foods they perceive to be manufactured.

Researchers say the tendency in adults to prefer natural food is well documented. However, the latest findings found this food bias exists in early and middle childhood as well.

Researchers at the Universities of Edinburgh and Yale studied the preferences of more than 374 adults and children in the United States when presented with apples and orange juice and told of their origins.

In one study, 137 children aged six to 10 years old were shown three apples. They were told one was grown on a farm, one was made in a lab, and another grown on a tree inside a lab.

The team used questionnaires and statistical models to assess the children's apple preferences in terms of perceived tastiness, perceived safety and desire to eat. Adults took part in the same study to compare age groups.

Both children and adults preferred apples they believed were grown on farms to those grown in labs, researchers found.

Children were more likely to refer to freshness, being outside, or sunlight when considering why they chose the farm apple. Adults were more likely to mention naturalness.

In a second study, 85 children aged five to seven years old and group of 64 adults were shown four different kinds of orange juice — one described as squeezed on a farm, one with no information about it, one with chemicals allegedly removed and one described as having chemicals added.

Researchers found that the information on the juice's naturalness had a significant effect on its rating. The participants gravitated to the more natural option based on perceived taste, safety and desire to consume.

Both studies showed that age had little effect on the outcome, with children as young as five and as old as ten responding similarly.

Researchers say the findings suggest the belief that natural foodstuffs are good could be established at five-years-old — and possibly even younger.

Dr Matti Wilks, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences, said: "Overall we provide evidence that, at least in the United States, our tendency to prefer natural food is present in childhood. This research offers a first step towards understanding how these preferences are formed, including whether they are socially learned and what drives our tendency to prefer natural things." -ANI

> Overall we provide evidence that, at least in the United States, our tendency to prefer natural food is present in childhood. This research offers a first step towards understanding how these preferences are formed, including whether they are socially learned and what drives our tendency to prefer natural things

SPORTS

EURO 2022

Sweden look to make experience count against England in Euro 2022

LONDON: That the last meeting between England and Sweden in a major tournament was in the 2019 World Cup third-place play-off seems fitting; both sides have developed an unfortunate habit of coming up just short.

Sweden's triumph on home soil over England in the inaugural Euros in 1984 is the only major honor either side has claimed. But Sweden, who also lost in the Olympic finals of 2016 and 2020, feel they are on the verge of something more concrete.

"I think we're a much better team than a couple of years ago," striker Stina Blackstenius told DW.

"We've been doing great the last couple of tournaments we've played and I feel like we've got a lot of confidence from that. But we also believe that we play really good football at the moment. I believe in our team and our strengths."

Though they possess some top-class players, two of Sweden's biggest strengths have been their experience and their teamwork. A dominant display including 32 shots on goal against Belgium in the quarterfinal didn't yield a goal for 90 minutes. But Peter Gerhardsson's stuck together and remained strong. Their winner eventually came from 35-year-old Linda Sembrant.

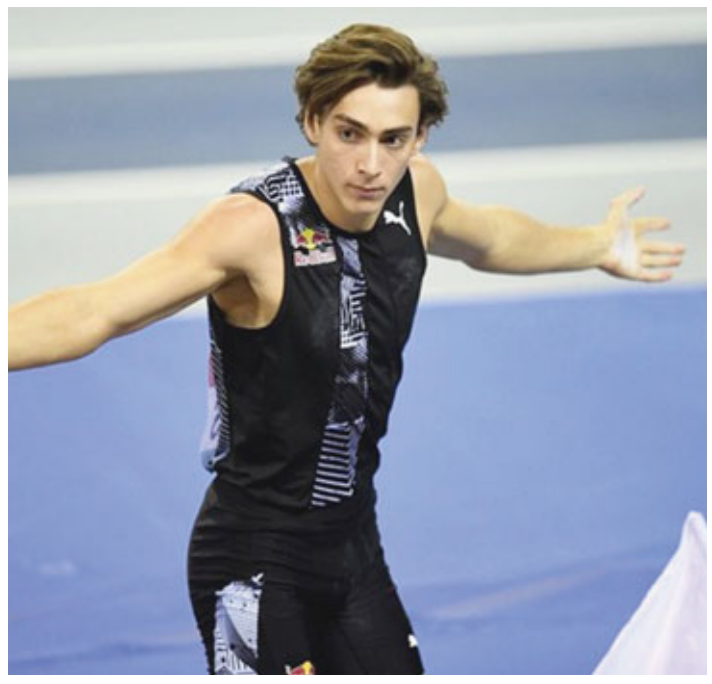
Wealth of experience

The Juventus defender is just one of several vastly experienced players in the Swedish squad; one of five women with more than 100 caps, with captain Caroline Seger sitting on 232, the most national team appearances of any European woman. Not far off her are goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl (192 caps) and the elusive and so-far excellent vice-captain Kosovare Aslanni (165). Lindahl told DW that a group who have played and experienced so much together make for a coherent side.

"It's a big deal," she said. "We have a lot of discussions about the relationships we have with each other, and how we can best help each other and utilize every different angle of vision that we have out there. I think it's definitely one of our strengths." -DW

Duplantis, Amusan break world records at athletics worlds

The 22-year-old Duplantis sealed his first World Championships title after clearing the bar at 6.00 metres



EUGENE: Swedish star pole vaulter Armand Duplantis added one centimeter to his own world record, and Nigeria's Tobi Amusan smashed the women's 100m hurdles world record as the 2022 World Athletics Championships concluded here on Sunday.

The 22-year-old Duplantis sealed his first World Championships title after clearing the bar at 6.00 metres. He went on to leap over 6.06m and cleared 6.21m in his second attempt, beating the previous world record of 6.20m he set four months ago at the World Indoor Championships.

It has been the fifth time for Duplantis to renew the world record but the first time for him to manage the feat outdoors. The last time when the event's world record was set in an outdoor competition dated back to 1994 when Ukraine's Sergey Bubka improved the mark to 6.14m.

American pole vaulter Christopher Nilsen and Ernest John Obiena of the Philippines both cleared 5.94m. Nilsen took the silver after count-back, and Obiena settled for the bronze, the first-ever World Championships medal for his country, and improved his own Asian record by one centimeter. The 25-year-old Amusan stormed to a world record of 12.12 seconds to finish on top of the women's 100m hurdles semis, cutting 0.08s off the previous mark set by Kendra Harrison of the United States in 2016.

The in-form Nigerian could have further improved the world record in the final as she crossed the line with a stunning mark of 12.06s. However, as a tailwind of 2.5m/s assisted Amusan, her winning time would not count as a world record.

Jamaica's Britany Anderson finished second in 12.23s, followed by Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico. In the men's 35km race walk early in the morning, Italy's reigning 20km Olympic champion Massimo Stano won with a championship record of two hours, 23 minutes and 14 seconds.

Japan's Masatora Kawano lagged one second behind to finish second with a new Asian record. Sweden's Perseus Karlstrom collected his second bronze medal in Oregon in 2:23:44.

American Olympic gold medalist Athing Mu extended her all-win record of the season in the women's 800m, snatching the world title in one minute 56.30 seconds. Britain's Keely Hodgkinson and Kenyan Mary Moraa took the silver and bronze, respectively.

Jakob Ingebrigtsen of Norway, the runner-up in the men's 1,500m event, clocked 13:09.24 to win the 5,000m gold medal. Kenya's Jacob Krop finished second, followed by Oscar Chelimo of Uganda.

2017 world champion Kevin Mayer of France won his second decathlon world title with a total of 8,816 points, while Malaika Mihambo from Germany retained the women's long jump title with a winning mark of 7.12m.

The hosts dominated the 4x400m relay events, winning both the men's and women's races with world-leading times. Jamaica finished second in both events while Belgium took the men's bronze and Britain finished third in the women's race. Xinhua

FORMULA ONE

Enjoying F1 more than ever, says Lewis Hamilton after his 300th race

LE CASTELLET: Completing the 300th race of his career, Lewis Hamilton said he has enough fuel left in the tank and is open to extending his contract with Mercedes in future.

Hamilton finished 2nd in the French GP which was also his best result this season. The British racer still couldn't match the performance of his rival Verstappen as he clenched French GP but it was his best finish while also continuing the podium streak. "What a day and weekend," Hamilton told Sky Sports F1.

"I am so proud of the team, this is an incredible result. Winning races and getting results like this, it's about the whole package" he continued.Hamilton signed his contract at the start of 2021 year and it will be expiring in 2023. The 37-year-old said he still has the love for F1 and is looking to continue racing and try to win more titles in future.

"I firstly just want to be grateful to get to this point. I am still fresh and still feel I've got plenty of fuel left in the tank. Of course I want to get back to winning ways and that's going to take time. I'm sure we'll sit down at some stage and talk about the future," said Hamilton.

"I am enjoying what I am doing, and feel really proud working with this incredible group of people. I am also enjoying working with the sport more than ever. We have got some great people leading the sport, we're having great conversations about the direction we are going in," he added.

Completing his 300th race he was also asked about if he plans to achieve the 400 race benchmark to which he replied to as that "that's a lot of races". The seven-time world champion still feels confident as he is enjoying the sport "more than ever."

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff also previously talked about how long can the partnership between Mercedes and Hamilton can go, "We talked a few weeks ago about how long our partnership can go, and the number that was discussed was five to 10 years, so I think we can get to 400" said the President.

Earlier in the French GP we saw, Verstappen being in the lead till the very end of the race and cruised to a comfortable victory and extended his championship advantage over Leclerc to 63 points.

Verstappen won over Hamilton. Despite that, Mercedes had a great outing, with seven-time champion Hamilton finishing second and Russell finishing at third. ANI

INDIA VS WEST INDIES

Half-centuries from Iyer, Samson and Axar help Team India secure thrilling two-wicket win over West Indies

PORT OF SPAIN : Half-centuries from Shreyas Iyer, Sanju Samson and Axar Patel helped Team India win the second ODI of the three-match series against West Indies by two wickets here at Queens Park Oval stadium in Port of Spain on Sunday.

India has now taken a winning 2-0 lead in the series. Struggling at 79/3, a 99-run stand between Iyer (63) and Samson (54) provided stability to their innings. In the end contributions from Deepak Hooda (33) and Axar Patel (64*) proved to be extremely vital in taking the visitors to a win.

West Indies lost control of the match despite sending back the top order in the early stages of the match and despite posting a huge total on the board themselves. Chasing 312, India was off to a solid start. Shubman Gill showed a lot of intent from start and smashed some good boundaries. His partner, skipper Shikhar Dhawan was the less aggressive of the two.

At the end of 10 overs, India stood at 42/0, with Gill (30*) and Dhawan (12*).

The duo had stitched a stand of 48 runs before pacer Romario Shepherd intervened to dismiss a struggling Dhawan for 13 off 31 balls.

Shreyas Iyer was next up on crease. Gill was well settled on the crease and looked on track to complete his second straight fifty, but got caught and bowled by Kyle Mayers for 43 off 49 balls. At this point, India stood at 65/2 and Suryakumar Yadav was next on the crease.

Suryakumar showed some intent with a huge six, but the ball hit the inside edge of his bat and left his stumps rattled when he was at 9. Mayers struck once again for the hosts and with these three wickets within a short span of time, Windies looked really strong. India stood at 79/3 at this point, in desperate need of a partnership.

Wicketkeeper Sanju Samson was next on the crease and resumed the chase with Iyer. The duo maintained some good running between the wickets and occasionally went for big hits. The duo brought up their 50-run stand in 52 balls.

Shreyas was looking really good, bringing up his 11th half-century in the format with a four through deep midwicket, which also took India beyond the 150-run mark. The 30th over bowled by Mayers proved to be extremely expensive, giving away 16 runs.

The duo started accelerating after bringing up their 50-run stand. The duo fell short one run of forming a 100-run stand after Iyer was trapped leg before wicket by pacer Alzarri Joseph for 63 off 71 balls.

Next up on the crease was Deepak Hooda. Hooda-Samson kept the scoreboard ticking for India. Samson brought up his maiden fifty off 47 balls with a four through the fine leg region. The duo had added only 27 runs before Samson was dismissed for 54 off 51 balls. India was 205/5 at this point, with 107 more runs to go.

Axar Patel was next up on the crease. At the end of 40 overs, India stood at 212/5, with Axar (4*) and Hooda (18*). Men in Blue needed 100 runs in the final ten overs. The scoreboard kept moving for India with the duo attempting some big hits. They took India to the 250-run mark.

Axar-Hooda brought up their 50-run stand in 31 balls. The equation came down to 56 runs required in the final six overs. Hooda was dismissed for 33 off 36 by spinner Akeal Hosein after being caught by Hayden Walsh at backward point.

Shardul Thakur was next up on the crease. Patel continued to look good with the bat. The 46th over of the game by Alzarri Joseph was expensive and took a lot of pressure off India's batters. Just when it looked India will continue turning the game in their favour, Thakur was dismissed for 3 runs by Joseph after being caught by Brooks at deep cover.

Avesh Khan was next on the crease. The equation was down to 32 off 24 balls. Patel brought up his maiden fifty in just 27 balls, single-handedly carrying on the chase as the last recognised batter.

19 were needed in the final three overs. Patel and Khan had the responsibility to not lose their wickets and take India across the finishing line. Patel was dismissed for 10 by Jayden Seales.

Mohammed Siraj was next on the crease. India needed eight in the final over. Patel sealed the match for India with a massive six on the fourth ball of the over, finishing at 64* off 35 balls with three fours and five sixes.

Alzarri Joseph finished as the pick of the bowlers with 2/46. Mayers also got two wickets. Shepherd and Hosein got one each.

Earlier, top knocks from Shai Hope and captain Nicholas Pooran powered West Indies to a massive 311/6 at the end of 50 overs in the second ODI of three-match series here at Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Sunday.

Opting to bat first, West Indies was off to a great start. Openers Shai Hope and Kyle Mayers were dealing in boundaries. The duo powered their side to the 50-run-mark in just 7.1 overs.

However, their 65-run stand was ended after Mayers was caught and bowled by spin-bowling all-rounder Deepak Hooda for 39 runs off 23 balls consisting of six fours and one six in the ninth over. Shamarh Brooks was next up on crease. At the end of 10 overs, West Indies stood at 71/1, with Shai Hope (26*) and Shamarh Brooks (5*) standing unbeaten.

The duo carried on with the momentum offered by the opening duo. Indian bowlers struggled to put pressure on the new batter on the crease. Brooks hit some great boundaries and served as a great partner to Hope. The duo eventually brought up their 50-run stand.

Hope also brought his 21st fifty, playing in his 100th ODI match. The 62-run stand between Hope-Brooks was brought to an end after the ball hit the outside edge of his bat and went straight to skipper Shikhar Dhawan at slips.

Brooks was back in the pavilion for 35 off 36 balls. It was a spinner once again who had done the job for India, with Axar Patel getting his first wicket.

Brandon King was the next batter up, but was dismissed by spinner Yuzvendra Chahal for a duck after he attempted to slog sweep a delivery that went straight into the hands of Shikhar at slip.

With the score reading 130/3, India had made a small comeback in the match. Captain Nicholas Pooran and Hope started to rebuild the innings from that point. They maintained a solid strike rotation and hit big occasionally. They brought up their 50-run stand and continued further with Hope being the main aggressor and Pooran being the anchor.

Pooran was dealing in only sixes, bringing his tenth half-century in ODIs in 59 balls after hitting Chahal for two sixes in the 39th over of the match. A hundred-run stand between Hope-Pooran was up in 115 balls.

The duo kept carrying on before pacer Shardul Thakur struck in the 44th over, dismissing Pooran for 74 off 77 balls consisting of one four and six sixes, West Indies was now 247/4, after breaking of this 117-run stand.

Rovman Powell was next on the crease. Hope brought up his 13th ODI century, making his 100th ODI special. He hit Chahal for a six in the 45th over to bring up his century. ANI

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ROUND-UP

PROMOTING OMANI STARTUPS

Al Rud'ha, bp Oman conclude 'Khaleeha_Local' sessions

MUSCAT: In partnership with bp Oman, Al Rud'ha concluded the "Khaleeha_Local" sessions which come as part of the "EBDA" programme in its third cycle.

The sessions aimed to promote Omani startups and SMEs, using Al Rud'ha space to showcase their products, services and expertise to the public through workshops, sessions and tutorials.

Shamsa Al-Rawahi, bp Oman social investment manager, commented: "Innovation and entrepreneurship are considered as the two main pillars for business growth, and these pillars are enforced through the 'EBDA' programme. 'Khaleeha Local' sessions created great opportunities for the Omani entrepreneurs and SMEs to reach a wider set of audiences, contributing to their business growth and sustainability. Through these networking sessions, we were able to introduce those businesses to more than 250 people."

The sessions hosted seven different businesses and SMEs, with eight mentors that presented various topics related to their products, services and expertise which included several business fields such as health and well-being, marketing, interior design, business modelling, coffee and food industry, content creation and others.

Fatma Bahwan, Chief Operating Officer at Al Rud'ha, commented: "The 'EBDA' programme has grown to become a flagship entrepreneurship programme We are proud that with the conclusion of this programme we were able to achieve our main goal to provide a platform for other startups and SMEs to showcase their value and encourage our community to further invest in their youth. We thank bp Oman for partnering with us on this opportunity."

The "Khaleeha_Local" sessions ultimately came as part of the third "EBDA" social investment programme, which was an entrepreneurial capacity-building programme delivered for 67 entrepreneurs, making up 25 teams, training and supporting them to turn their business ideas into business models and projects.

This was done through numerous talks, workshops and networking events that covered several topics such as business operations, administration, labour market preparation and registration, business analysis and essential skills required like teamwork and networking over eight months.

Enticing promotion on Nissan cars unveiled

In line with SBA's commitment to providing the best value, Nissan customers can enjoy special EMI, free periodic vehicle service package (3 years/60/000km), free insurance and free registration

MUSCAT: If you are you looking for special benefits to buy a car from the amazing Nissan range, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) has rolled out an exclusive scheme for prospective customers.

In line with SBA's commitment to providing the best value, Nissan customers can enjoy special EMI, free periodic vehicle service package (3 years/60,000km), free insurance and free registration. Customers can avail additional benefits on purchase of second Nissan in the family.

The offer, which is available on all models purchased for personal use, will go on till August 19. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme.

A senior official of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) said, "We have announced this special scheme to go the extra mile and engage with our customers. As a brand we are happy to reinforce our commitment and put our customers first. All customers can take advantage of the attractive scheme available on the amazing range of passenger vehicles. Our goal is to offer value and assurance, while extending convenience and the best experience while buying Nissan cars."

Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan Sunny 1.5L is OMR 60, Nissan Sunny 1.6L(SV) is OMR 76, Nissan Kicks is OMR 81, Nissan X-Trail is OMR 123, Nissan Altima(SV) is OMR 123, Nissan Maxima is OMR 172, Nissan X-Terra is OMR 138, Nissan Pathfinder is OMR 185, Nissan Patrol Y 61 Super Safari is OMR 190, Nissan Patrol Y62 is OMR 257, Nissan Navara is OMR 105 and Nissan Urvan is OMR 105. These EMIs are calculated on the price of the base model with 20% down payment, 3 per cent rate of interest for 10 years loan tenure, through Bank Muscat. Subject to credit approvals.

All customers purchasing Nissan vehicles will be eligible for free periodic maintenance service package for three years / 60,000 kms (whichever is earlier), limited to six services only. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km.

All customers purchasing Nissan vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle insurance (Oman and UAE only) except GTR, 37OZ, Urvan and Civilian.

All customers purchasing Nissan vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration except GTR, 37OZ, Urvan and Civilian.

As per a loyalty programme, all Nissan existing owners and their immediate family members (father, mother, son(s) and unmarried daughter(s) will be eligible for additional benefits on purchase of a second Nissan vehicle. Additional benefits include PMS service for new car, exclusive discount on labour charges and trade in benefits.

ISLAMIC BANKING

Muzn upgrades its mobile application with new features

MUSCAT: Muzn, National Bank of Oman's (NBO) Islamic banking window, has upgraded its mobile app to enable customers to enjoy an enhanced, seamless experience.

Adding to its user-friendly features, customers can now pay their electricity, water and phone bills, school fees, and make PASI payments, any time, all in one place. With the needs of its customers highest in mind, Muzn's digital platforms are constantly enhanced to make their banking experience more convenient than ever.

Salima Al Marzouqi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer, said, "At Muzn, our customers are at the centre of everything we do and we are committed to providing them with a modern and seamless banking experience that is aligned with their values. We continue to upgrade our mobile app to give our customers more choice on how and when they do their banking, while make everyday financial tasks accessible from the comfort of home."

With Muzn's digital services, customers have a host of convenient functions at their fingertips, enabling them to manage their finances around the clock, wherever they are. Available in English and Arabic, the easy and secure mobile app helps users stay connected with the bank, whether they need information on products, to find the closest Muzn ATMs and branches, check their account information, or perform financial transactions like bill payments and local and international transfers. Muzn also offers Wallet Transfer feature, which enables users to send and receive money locally and instantly using a mobile number, and Scan & Pay using QR codes.

AL TAJHEEZ AL ILMI PRIVATE SCHOOL

Al Tajheez school committed to quality education, opens admission

MUSCAT: Al Tajheez Al Ilmi Private School, one of the most established private schools in Oman that provides a comprehensive learning experience, has begun admission for students from Kindergarten to grade 12 for the 2022-23 academic year.

The North Al Ghubra-based school has come a long way from merely an elementary school to becoming a full-fledged secondary school, teaching students from KG classes to grade 12, trusted by thousands of parents for nearly three decades.

As a monolingual institution, Al Tajheez school offers world-class education by excellent teachers from various nationalities and follows the same curriculum as government schools. However, plans are afoot to switch to bilingual classes after securing accreditation from either Cambridge or Oxford. In the meantime, Al Tajheez School offers students the opportunity to learn science and maths in English as well as Arabic.

The school, which focuses on developing each student in line with their strength, talent, and inclination, offers scholarships to outstanding students in grades 11 and 12 in the form of a partial or full discount on the tuition fees, depending on their scores. To become eligible to get a scholarship, scores on the entrance test will be considered for new students, while the overall academic achievement of the previous year is taken into account for existing students.

As a purpose-built school, the Al Tajheez school campus provides air-conditioned classrooms, capping the number of students per classroom at 20, wifi and ethernet facilities, playgrounds, computer room, music room, library, laboratories, and a multi-purpose fall for extracurricular activities. As part of an initiative to foster creativity as well as mental and physical skills of young minds, Al Tajheez school offers extracurricular activities in various disciplines.

Al Tajheez school, a family business owned by educators and industry leaders, has strong backing from a highly qualified professional team. The two founders — Tawfiq Aziz and his wife Haifa Al Batti — are renowned in Oman's education field, thanks to their teaching career spanning over six decades in varying capacities, such as teachers, principals, and mentors. They touched the lives of generations of children, many of whom have now become leaders and highly skilled professionals in the country's economic landscape.

Starting their career as teachers in Al Saadiyah School and Al ZahraaSchool in Muscat, the couple set up Al Najah School in Ruwi as their first educational institution, then opened the main branch of the school in Qurum in the eighties, which was later taken over by a new group and renamed as Muscat Private School. After gaining rich experience over the years, the duo set up Al Tajheez school in 1994 to provide a transformative education for preparing children for a complex, challenging, and competitive future.

Tawfiq passed away in December 2020 and is survived by his wife and five children, who are all professionals. The family is determined to preserve his legacy by continuing his relentless pursuit of quality education in the Sultanate.

ROUND-UP

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Discover so much more with Ford Bronco SUV

Encouraging you to push the limits and explore more than your desire is the all-4x4 Bronco brand that is Built Wild and ready to deliver thrilling experiences

MUSCAT: The Ford Bronco is your perfect outdoor, any-terrain companion that excels at making you experience and enjoy exceptional journeys.

The Bronco is available as a Bronco two-door, first-ever Bronco four-door model and all-new rugged, small SUV, Bronco Sport – the only domestic brand of SUVs with standard 4x4.

Encouraging you to push the limits and explore more than your desire is the all-4x4 Bronco brand that is Built Wild and ready to deliver thrilling experiences. Just like the first-generation Bronco, the all-new Bronco delivers maximum 4x4 go-anywhere, anytime capability and confidence.

Equipping novice adventure seekers with the ability to make the most of off-road journeys is the off-road mapping and drive technologies. While its Built Wild durability makes for lasting performance in the harshest of conditions.

Bronco's advanced four-wheel-drive technology is at the core of its off-road capabilities, and at the heart of it all is Bronco's exclusive Terrain Management System with G.O.A.T. Modes that is designed to help drivers better navigate any type of terrain.

Up to seven driver-selectable modes are offered including Normal, Eco, Sport, Slippery and Sand, with Baja, Mud/Ruts and Rock Crawl for off-road driving.

Available segment-first Trail Toolbox gives Bronco owners a suite of exclusive technologies to elevate their off-road experience. This includes Trail Control™ – cruise control for low-speed trail driving, while Trail Turn Assist tightens off-road turning radiuses through torque vectoring, and the innovative Trail One-Pedal Drive acceleration/braking control makes for more precise and confident slow-mode rock crawling. Segment-leading levels of off-road capability are possible thanks to Bronco's available best-in-class 11.6-inch ground clearance, maximum 29-degree break over angle and 37.2-degree departure angle, plus best-in-class water fording capability of up to 33.5 inches.

Thanks to Bronco's legendary Baja racing DNA, each model brings forth a thrilling off-road experience and delivers it with modern, heritage-inspired style. To deliver thrilling high-speed off-roading and overall driving performance, every Bronco comes with an independent front suspension for improved control, confidence and comfort.

Race-bred EcoBoost® engines and a 10-speed automatic transmissions give the all-new Bronco the optimal combination of power, torque and gear ranges to perform in a wide variety of terrains and uses. Best-in-class projected gasoline-powered horsepower and torque is available with the 2.7-liter EcoBoost V6 engine, which is projected to produce 310 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque, while the 2.3-liter EcoBoost is targeted to deliver best-in-class four-cylinder torque of 310 lb.-ft. with an expected 270 horsepower.

Inside, all Bronco models are purpose-built and ready for action. The instrument panel is inspired by the first-generation model, with gauges and controls clearly visible and intuitive. A multifunction colour LCD instrument panel is front and centre. Further setting Bronco ahead of the off-road competition is an available segment-exclusive 12-inch SYNC® 4 system.

A modern high-strength steel roll cage with integrated side curtain airbags in the upper structure and seats helps protect passengers from side impacts and complements driver and front passenger airbags. Available Ford Co-Pilot360™ driver-assist technologies plus standard AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability Control™ and Trailer Sway Control help instill driver confidence.

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

RECOGNITION

Alizz Islamic Bank wins award for 'FinTech Solution Provider Award of the Year'

MUSCAT: In a celebration held at the Sheraton Hotel Muscat & under the patronage of H.H. Sayyid Kamil bin Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Secretary-General of Oman's General Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, Alizz Islamic Bank was granted the 'FinTech Solution Provider Award of the Year for its IFIN Instant Goods and Auto Financing' during the OER Live Digital Transformation Conference & Awards.

The award was received by Khondkar Mohammad RakibulIslam, Executive Manager of Products Performance at Alizz Islamic Bank.

The IFIN instant finance solution has been made available for auto finance at Nissan, Toyota, Infiniti and Mazda showrooms as well as for goods such as furniture, accessories and electronics at branches of Danube Home, Enza Home, Mustafa Sultan Electronics, Sofa Land and Fahmy Furniture. Alizz Islamic Bank customers are able to avail instant finance at any of the aforementioned merchant stores up to 120 months without the need to visit any bank branch. The process of availing finance has been simplified into a simple 10-minute process at the store's checkout counter, where the customer will go through an online verification process, receive an OTP on his/her mobile phone, and sign the finance contract followed by an immediate approval. The bank will purchase the goods desired by the customer from the authorized dealer and sells the same to the customer at an agreed price that is paid in installments. The advantage here is complete transparency because the customer knows the bank's profit margin and instalment plan at the time of signing the contract. This arrangement allows for immediate ownership of the goods by the customer.

This instant finance service is part of the Bank's plans to provide a wide range of customized banking solutions that meet the needs of all customers looking for fast banking solutions. It should be noted that Alizz Islamic Bank is one of the leading banks that offer flexible digital transactions to its customers. The bank realised that people's reliance on digital technology is increasing; therefore it adopted digital strategies that meet customer needs without compromising transparency.

Hitachi Construction Machinery awards Al Fairuz Trading and Contracting Co. LLC in recognition of 45 years of successful association

Hitachi Construction Machinery Middle East (HMEC) recently presented an award to Al Fairuz Trading and Contracting Co. LLC for completing 45 successful years of association.

Al Fairuz Trading & Contracting Co. LLC is a leading supplier of construction equipment and Trucks in Oman and is one of the oldest Dealer of Hitachi Construction Machinery.

Hitachi Construction Machinery Middle East Corporation FZE (HMEC) is wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi Construction Machinery Co. Ltd., Japan. HMEC provides product and support for mining, earthmoving, construction, quarry, and forestry industries throughout the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).

All Hitachi products are known for reliability, performance and cost efficiency in their specific applications and carry quality assurance to international standards. Hitachi Excavator is a leading brand in Oman today.

"We are proud of being associated with Al Fairuz for so many years and we deeply value our long-standing relationship" said Mr. Manabu Arami, President-Hitachi Construction Machinery Middle East Corp FZE, while handing over the 45 Years Anniversary award to Mr. Adil Salim Al Fairuz, Chairman-Al Fairuz Group of Companies.

"Our relationship with Hitachi Construction Machinery was established by my father Sheikh Salim Suleiman Al Fairuz way back in 1977 and we are sure that our very strong relationship will continue for generations to come", said Mr. Adil Al Fairuz.

The award ceremony was attended by Mr. Sadiq Salim Al Fairuz, Managing Director-Al Fairuz Group of Companies, Mr. Salim Hamood Al Touqi, Group CEO and other senior managers of the company.

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- Available for 2022, 2021, and 2020 academic year graduates only.
- Priority will be given to business studies majors.

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- Please submit your application before 3-8-2022 via **ahlibank.om**

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