

OMAN'S INFLATION RATE RISES BY 2.4% IN MAY: NCSI DATA
The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 2.4 per cent in May 2022 compared to May 2021. The inflation rate stabilised compared to April 2022, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). **>B1**



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GOVERNOR OF NORTH AL BATINAH TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Mohammed Sulaiman Al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah and Chairman of the Municipal Council in the Governorate, took the oath of office before Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior. **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 79 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
OWWSC projects

1 OWWSC completed two water-related projects in the Wilayat of Al Seeb. **>A3**

WORLD
UK rail strike begins

2 The largest rail strike that the UK has seen in years began on Tuesday. **>A7**

MARKET
Aviation fuel output

3 With government support, SAF output can reach 30bn litres by 2030. **>B1**

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39° MUSCAT

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, SHURA COUNCIL MEET



Meeting focuses on economy, awareness in the community

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers and ministers who are members of the Council of Ministers, on Tuesday received Khalid bin Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of Shura Council and members of the Shura Council Of-

fice. The meeting was held within the context of the joint coordination between both the Council of Minister and the Shura Council. The joint meeting was held between the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council Office in the presence of the ministers; members of the Council of Ministers.

The meeting was convened as stipulated in the Basic Law of the State and the Council of Oman Law.

Constant cooperation
These meetings provide support to the constant cooperation among all state institutions to reach joint visions that ensure

highest performance rates in the implementation of socioeconomic plans and programmes. At the outset of the meeting, His Highness Sayyid Fahd commended the role of the Shura Council in performing its responsibilities to enhance the march of comprehensive development. **>A4**

ORDEAL 'Four litres of water helped us survive 10 days at sea'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The two Omani men who were rescued by Pakistani naval sailors after getting lost at sea for 10 days say they were able to survive their ordeal, thanks to just four litres of water they had with them. Salim and Ali Al Jaafari became marooned at sea after setting off on their motorboat from their hometown of Al



Askharah, sipping just a few drops of water at a time so that they could survive until help arrived. The two were picked up on 19 June by patrol vessel Zhob of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, which was acting on orders issued by the government, following a request for assistance issued by Oman on the 18th June. They reached Karachi on 20 June, and arrived in Muscat lat-

er that night, ending a harrowing ordeal for both themselves and their family members, who had undergone plenty of anxiety and worry while the two were lost at sea. That they were found is not due to one, but two big strokes of luck: On 18 June, a Pakistani fishing vessel was able to locate the two Omanis in the middle of the sea, in Pakistani territorial waters. **>A3**

Khareef season begins in Oman

A3

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PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:14pm
Asr.....	3:31pm
Maghrib.....	7:01pm
Isha.....	8:24pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:54am

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Oman, Japan hold talks

MUSCAT: An official session of talks was held on Tuesday between the foreign ministries of the Sultanate of Oman and Japan.

During the session, the Omani side was headed by Mohammed Nasser Al Wahaibi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs, while the Japanese side was headed by Taro Honda, Parliamentary Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Views exchanged

The two sides reviewed the bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. They also exchanged views on several regional and international matters of com-



mon interest. The firmness of the political and economic relations between Oman and Japan was reiterated by the two sides.

The two sides also expressed their joint keenness in promoting cooperation and partnership towards broader horizons in various economic and investment spheres.

The session was attended by Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman.

— ONA

GOVERNOR OF NORTH AL BATINAH TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Mohammed Sulaiman Al Kindi Governor of North Al Batinah and Chairman of the Municipal Council in the Governorate, took the oath of office before Sayyid Hamoud Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, on Tuesday. This comes as per article (14) of the Municipal Councils Law. — ONA



FIELD VISIT

Japanese Parliamentary Deputy Foreign Minister visits Maritime Security Centre

MUSCAT: Taro Honda, Parliamentary Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan on Tuesday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC).

Upon his arrival, the guest was greeted by Commodore Tarik Issa Al Ra'eesi, Senior Staff Officer of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) and the Acting Head of the MSC.

The guest was briefed on the centre's tactical roles and tasks in managing and leading search, rescue and environment preservation operations. He also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties. The visit was also attended by Jota Yamamoto, Ambassador of Japan to the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA



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Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Labor

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
09/2022	Providing the primary data storage system (Storage & Blade)	Friday 01/07/2022 at 2:00 pm	Wednesday 06/07/2022 at 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Wednesday 22/06/2022 at 08:00 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee for 1% of the total bid value issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee. The original bank guarantee shall be submitted when requested by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Wednesday 06/07/2022

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN





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Dhofar dons coat of green to welcome tourists as Khareef season kicks off

The Khareef season began yesterday and will continue until 21 September, 2022

Times News Service

SALALAH: Cool breezes, refreshing rains and greenery as far as the eye can see are what tourists who visit Salalah and the Dhofar region are in for when they visit the southern part of Oman this summer.

The Khareef season began yesterday and is set to run until 21 September, 2022, bringing with it the promise of tourists from Oman, the rest of the Gulf region, and from around the world, as people flock to Salalah to experience the unique climate during this time of the year, while the rest of the Middle East swelters under temperatures of 45 degrees and above.

Waterfalls

The near-continuous rainfall gives rise to many waterfalls formed by flowing waters that cascade down the green slopes of the mountain ranges that form Salalah's northern natural border. These natural wonders are among the main tourist attractions for people who come to the Dhofari capital.

Among the most popular waterfalls are Ayn Razat, Ayn Jarziz, and the waterfalls of Wadi Darbat, in whose pristine, clear blue waters people often enjoy boat rides and are not afraid to swim to their heart's content.



Preparation

As part of the region's preparations for the tourist season, the Office of the Governor of Dhofar held a meeting to find out whether the relevant organisations are ready to receive tourists from inside and outside Oman, and to discuss the promotion and upgrade of public services and roads, as well as the preparations undertaken by hotels to accommodate the visitors.

The activities of this year's Khareef season will be held across several locations, includ-

ing several parks and tourist areas in the region.

The Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar continues its efforts in cooperation with tourism partners from various government and private sectors to make the season a success and promote and upgrade tourism services.

The Directorate General of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in Dhofar province has also completed its readiness for this year's Khareef season in cooperation with government

and private agencies involved in the provision of goods and food services, strengthen the services offered by commercial banks, enhance the quantities of fuel at stations, and increase the efficiency of their services.

Assistance

The Royal Oman Police will also play a prominent role in keeping up with the Khareef tourist season by providing assistance, guidance and awareness services on the roads for those coming to Dhofar.



During the tourist season, the Dhofar Provincial Police Command deploys traffic and security patrols at all event sites and roads leading to them, with the aim of regulating traffic and preventing traffic jams.

The civil defence, ambulance and Coast Guard services are also deploying patrols both by the seashore and further inland in the governorate, with the aim of raising awareness and following up on reports of drowning and accidents in these places.

Dhofar governorate has many natural tourist attractions due to its diverse marine, agricultural, mountain and desert terrain, as well as archaeological and historical sites listed on the UNESCO list of World Heritages. Among the most important locations are Al Baleed Archaeological Park, the Museum of the Land of Frankincense, Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Recreation in Salalah, and the historic forts in the wilayats of Rakhyut and Mirbat, among others.

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Story of the ordeal of two Omani men rescued at Sea after 10 days

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TTV at Ikea video

 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,808 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute video news wrap

OMAN WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES CO.



Two water projects completed in Seeb

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company has completed the implementation of two projects relating to water in the Wilayat of Al Seeb. The first project involves a water transmission line between Barka and Seeb. The second project involves the expansion of water distribution networks in Maabillah Seven.

Regarding the water transmission line project from the desalination plant in Barka to the Wilayat of Al Seeb, Engineer Younis al Zakwani, project manager, stated that work was completed within a period of eight months. There are 3,500 beneficiaries of the project.

"The project which links Barka Desalination Plant with Al Seeb includes laying of 1000 mm diameter pipes, which works to pump water from the desalination plant to Al Seeb," al Zakwani stated.

The length of the water transportation line is 18 km, and it

supplies approximately 100,000 cubic meters of water per day, which is equivalent to more than 26 million gallons. This water is pumped into the water distribution networks in the Wilayat of Al Seeb.

On the other hand, Engineer Hilal bin Saif al Riyami, working on the Water Networks Expansion Project in the Seventh Maabillah area, said: "This project was conceived in view of the expansion in urban areas and population. In addition, it came in line with the water production capacities of the Barka Desalination Plant. The project execution period lasted for 15 months."

Al Riyami added that the current residential connections under the project are 646 units which is equivalent to around 3,500 beneficiaries. The number of units is expected to increase to 1,000 units in the coming period. The project pipes ranges from 400 mm to 110 mm in diameter, running across a length of 23 km.

ORDEAL

< FROM
A1

'Satellite phone call helped us'

They were found off Baluchistan province, close to the maritime boundary with Iran, some two days away from Karachi.

One of the fishermen called their family in Oman from a satellite phone provided by the Pakistani fishermen, and on receiving his call, his family reported to the Omani authorities that they were off the coast of Pakistan.

As part of efforts to assist the Pakistanis in search and rescue, that number was shared by the Omani authorities with their Pakistani counterparts, but because of the rough weather, the signal of the cell phone was lost. The navy subsequently found them at noon on Sunday.

"While some of the joint naval exercises that we carry out with other countries are directed towards warfare, the main objective of these drills is to help navies detect smaller craft and assist people, by preventing activities such as smuggling, and rapidly responding to distress calls," said Mohammed Imran Ali Chaudhry, ambassador of Pakistan to Oman.

"It is likely that the two men were housed at the naval base in Karachi," he explained. "This is not just because of protocol, but also because they are close to good medical facilities, just in case something happens to them after their long ordeal at sea."

Dr Mohammed Omar Al Marhoun, the ambassador of Oman to Pakistan, added: "We didn't expect

to find them after they were lost at sea for 10 days, because the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean have very unpredictable weather patterns, such as strong air currents, storms, rough seas, and so on."

He said: "However, we kept searching in cooperation with the Pakistani authorities in the form of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, but owing to dangerous weather conditions, we were unable to find them."

Although requests like the one sent to Pakistan by Oman are rare, these are often received by countries that share maritime boundaries with each other.

"Today's navies are equipped with long-range, sophisticated detection instruments that help them greatly during search and rescue missions, and the coordinates of missing persons are repeatedly circulated to ships, so that vessels that sail near the area where they were last seen can keep an eye on them," said Chaudhry.

The two men were found on a skiff, a small motor-powered boat primarily used for fishing, among other activities, which had a shade fitted to it to keep them shielded from the harsh rays of the sun. That they were found in good health after so many days at sea left the ambassador pleasantly surprised.

"To survive an extended time out at sea is no easy matter, and thank god these men were well, even after facing the rigours of the open water for so long," he said.



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REVIEW MEETING

FROM
A1

COLLABORATION NEEDED TO FACE CURRENT GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISES AND CHALLENGES

His Highness Sayyid Fahd also affirmed that the government attaches an importance to visions and proposals of the Shura Council that aim at achieving further development in the sectors and utilities in a manner that takes into consideration the balance required as per priorities of each state.

The meeting also affirmed that the government attaches an importance to the current stage that requires collaboration of efforts to face the challenges resulting from global economic crises and their repercussions on the economies worldwide. The government's support to the Shura Council's role is placed on top of its priorities. The Shura Council is a partner with the government to carry out the national action through the attendance of the ministers responsible for service sectors in the sessions to discuss progress of projects implementation, deliver ministerial statements about work progress in government sectors and respond to requests made by the Shura Council to host government officials for discussion of topics being studied by the committees at the Shura Council. The Council of Ministers instructed the governors to hold periodic meetings where the governor hosts members of the Shura Council to reply

to their inquiries, receive their proposals and briefing them on matters related to service and municipal aspects in the governorate.

The meeting reviewed its agenda that covered many topics which were discussed during meetings of the Joint Coordination Ministerial Committee between the two councils. The topics included the importance of enhancing the partnership between the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council, reviewing the government plans on diversification of income sources and augmenting production to support the national economy. The meeting also touched on the important role of the Shura Council to enhance community awareness. Views and proposals were presented during the meeting by some members of the Shura Council Office. Those views and proposals were given blessing and they will be raised during visual presentations by the Council of Ministers in the presence of the Chairman of the Shura Council and the members who are concerned with such proposals.

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to activate the role of the Joint Coordination Ministerial Committee and continue exerting maximum efforts to serve this dear country that enjoys peace and stability, thanks to solidarity of all with the enlightened leadership. -ONA





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MEETING

AT ROYAL HOSPITAL

Sayyid Badr receives US Special Envoy for Yemen

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received Tim Lenderking, US Special Envoy for Yemen.

Truce in Yemen
The meeting discussed the latest developments and the efforts exerted to enhance and sustain the truce in the Republic of Yemen.

It also touched on backing the endeavors and enhancing trust and constructive dialogue among all Yemeni parties.

Ending the war
Within this context, the two sides affirmed their backing to the efforts of Hans Grundberg, United

Nations Special Envoy for Yemen that aim at ending the war and engage in a comprehensive political process that meets aspirations of the Yemeni people in achieving security, stability and peace, as well as restoring development and prosperity for Yemen.

Government's support
The US Special Envoy for Yemen expressed his appreciation for Oman's government's support and efforts in this regard.

The meeting on Monday was attended by Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department.



— ONA

Rare surgery performed

MUSCAT: A team from the Royal Hospital successfully performed a thyroidectomy, extracting a thyroid gland weighing about 973.7 grams from a patient who had been suffering from an enlarged neck for five years. Dr Amru Ahmed Ridha, consultant endocrine surgeon at the Royal Hospital, said that this operation was complex and rare due to the size and nature of the tumor. It also requires a lot of precision and skill because the tumor is located in an area rich in sensitive organs, arteries, veins, and nerves that control other body functions.



Forum focuses on opportunities available for SMEs in Oman

The meeting was organised at Sur branch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and targets entrepreneurs in the Governorate

SUR: The Department of SMEs Development in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate organised an orientation forum on the common system for registration of supplies for owners of SMEs, on Tuesday.

The forum was organised at Sur branch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). The forum targets entrepreneurs in the Governorate.

Opportunities for SMEs
The forum provides business opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and familiarises the participants with the benefits of registration in the common system for registration of suppliers and the opportunities on competition on the contracts



and works the system offers for companies.

Abdullah Ali Al Mukhaini, Director of the Department of SMEs Development in South al Sharqiyah Governorate delivered a presentation of the support services offered by SMEs Development Authority.

The forum reviewed a number of issues on in-country value and the opportunities available for SMEs and the common registration system.

— ONA





Royal Guard of Oman

Auction Announcement

The Royal Guard of Oman is pleased to invite parties on the following auctions:

No	Auction Name	Auction Number	Site visit – Date & Time	Period of Contract (years)	Company Degree	Location
1.	Lease and Operate (4) shops	RGO/Auction/02/2022	4 / 7 / 2022 8 a.m	3 years	All	RGO Camps (Seeb)
2.	Lease and Operate a Coffee Shop	RGO/Auction/03/2022				
3.	Lease and Operate (3) greenhouses	RGO/Auction/04/2022	5 / 7 / 2022 8 a.m			

Companies and establishments Interested to participate in this auction must purchase the conditions and specifications document from Procurements and Contracts Directorate at the Directorate General of Finance at RGOHQ, Seeb, during official working hours. Each Document costs non-refundable (25 R.O) Twenty Five Omani Riyals. The closed date of purchasing this Document will be on Wednesday, 29th June 2022.

The following documents shall be submitted with the offer:

A. A certified bank guarantee in the sum of not less than (1%) of the total rental value for the period of (3) years, obtained from a bank located and registered in the Sultanate of Oman, and shall remain valid for a period of One Hundred & Twenty (120) days from the date of submission of the offer in the name and benefit of RGO. Offers submitted without a bank guarantee or after the closing date will not be accepted.

B. Valid commercial register and enrolment certificate of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

C. Offers in sealed envelopes shall be addressed to the Head of Auctions Committee, and submitted and placed in the Auctions Box at the Directorate General of Finance, Seeb, from 10.00 a.m to 13.00 p.m on Monday, 25th July 2022. The name and the number of the auction shall be written on the envelope without any reference to the name and logo of the bidder.

D. Site visit is compulsory in the date and time mentioned above. Assembly point will be at the car parking in front of the Directorate General of Finance, RGOHQ, Seeb.

E. RGO has the right to reject any offer that does not meet the conditions or any other offer without stating the reasons.

For more inquiries, please call: 24637141 / 24637065

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference	DISC/Tender/2022/091
Subject	UNE - LOT 06F - 2022
Tender Fee	RO. 52.500 Inclusive VAT (5%) 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 tenderers shall be registered electrical contractor with Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) Oman (Minimum C-Grade for 11 kV jobs and D-Grade for LV jobs) and should have performed similar UNE jobs in Sultanate of Oman.
Pre-qualification	Bids to be attached along with valid "DCRP Registration Certificate" and valid "CEP Authorized card copy issued by DISC" Shall only consider for evaluation, Further, Tenderers will be evaluated as per the pre-qualification criterion specified in the Tender documents.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 6 th July 2022
Site Visit	N/A
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	N/A
Last date for Response for pre bid clarification	N/A
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 12 th July 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.



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WORLD



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Macron to hold talks with opposition parties over hung parliament

Macron's Ensemble lost its absolute majority in parliament following elections, leading to a hung parliament

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron will hold talks this week with the heads of France's major opposition parties after parliamentary elections resulted in a political deadlock, French media and several news agencies reported on Monday.

Macron's Ensemble lost its absolute majority in parliament following elections on Sunday, leading to a hung parliament.

What is the latest?

The talks will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Elysee Palace, presidential office sources told AFP and Reuters.

Negotiations will seek to "build solutions to serve the French" with Macron's centrist Ensemble (ENS) alliance taking the ruling role.

The reports did not specify exactly which parties had been invited for talks.

However, the more natural potential ally for Macron which also has enough seats to provide the president's bloc with a majority, the centre-right alliance led by Les Republicains, told France's AFP on condition of anonymity that



TRICKY ROAD AHEAD: The election dealt a blow to the president, who now faces a tricky road to passing his reformist policies. -dw

they had accepted the invitation.

Neither the left-wing NUPES alliance nor the far-right National Rally (RN) parties seem plausible allies for the centrist Macron. Macron is set to meet with RN leader Marine Le Pen at 17:30 Paris time (1530 GMT).

Olivier Faure of the Socialist Party and Fabien Roussel of the Communist Party, both members of the NUPES alliance, will also meet with Macron. Melenchon of France Unbowed (FI), the largest member of NUPES, is not scheduled to do so.

Figures from NUPES and RN have called for Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne to resign amid the deadlock in parliament.

What options are possible?

While Macron's Ensemble (Together) coalition will remain the largest party with 245 of the 577 seats in the National Assembly, it fell dozens of seats short of securing the absolute majority it has enjoyed for the past five years.

The election dealt a blow to the president, who now faces a tricky road to passing his reformist policies.

One option is that Macron's Ensemble could form a coalition in parliament in order to easily pass legislation. However, Les Republicains leader Christian Jacob said his party was "near unanimous" that they would remain in the opposition.

Another option would be for En-

semble to head a minority government, where the party would need to seek alliances on a case-by-case basis for passing legislation.

This option would be most likely with Les Republicains, as the party has a similar stance to Ensemble on issues such as raising the retirement age and the country's use of nuclear energy.

The leftwing NUPES alliance, led by Jean-Luc Melenchon, won the second-highest number of seats in parliament — but has ruled out aligning with Macron and his administration in parliament.

The election results amounted to the first time in over 30 years that a sitting president does not have a legislative majority. -dw



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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CAPSIZED

Hong Kong's famed jumbo floating restaurant sinks

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's iconic jumbo floating restaurant has capsized in the South China Sea, its parent company said on Monday. The incident occurred less than a week after the three-story vessel was towed away from the city.



Restaurant sank near Parcel Islands

The restaurant began taking on water on Sunday near the Parcel Islands, en route to an undisclosed location, after it "encountered adverse conditions," holding company Aberdeen Restaurant Enterprises said in a statement.

"The water depth at the scene is over 1,000 metres (3,280 feet), making it extremely difficult to carry out salvage works," it added. The company said it was "very saddened by the incident" but that no crew members were injured.

The restaurant was nearly 80 metres in length and was a popular attraction for well over forty years, having been opened in 1976 by the late casino tycoon Stanley Ho, and reportedly cost more than \$3.8 million to build.

It was built in the design of a Chinese imperial palace and was once considered a must-see

landmark, drawing visitors from around the world.

Financial woes and pandemic sealed Jumbo's fate

Operator Melco International Development said last month the business had not been profitable since 2013 and losses had exceeded HK\$100 million (\$12.7 million). It announced last month that Jumbo would leave Hong Kong and await a new operator.

Millions were being spent on maintenance and inspections even though the restaurant was not in operation. In 2020 the restaurant was forced to close its doors due to the global pandemic and let go of its staff.

Jumbo departed Hong Kong last week Tuesday and was on its way to a low-cost site for maintenance when it sank. -dw

OIL COMPANY

Brazil's Petrobras CEO resigns amid anger over fuel prices

BRASILIA: The head of Brazil's state-owned Petrobras oil company, Jose Mauro Coelho, resigned from his post as CEO on Monday, the company announced.

He's the latest top executive of the energy giant to be ousted amid disagreements with President Jair Bolsonaro over fuel pricing policy, with Bolsonaro facing a spike in inflation and a reelection bid in October.

Standoff over fuel prices

Coelho stepped down from his role as chief executive on Monday morning and resigned as a board member, Petrobras said in a securities filing. The company added that an interim CEO would soon be appointed.

The move came just days after Petrobras announced that it would increase gasoline and diesel prices at its refineries, with the price hikes taking effect on Saturday.

The last price hike for gasoline



and diesel came three months ago. Official figures show that Brazil's fuel prices have already risen by over 33% in the past year, following a global trend.

Third CEO since 2019

Bolsonaro slammed the move as a betrayal of the Brazilian people and one that "could sink Brazil into chaos."

Other Brazilian politicians also criticized the move, with Lower

House Speaker Arthur Lira calling for Coelho's resignation.

Coelho, who was appointed to the post in April this year, is the third Petrobras CEO to have come and gone since Bolsonaro took office in early 2019.

The president has frequently disagreed with the heads of the state-run oil company, leading to the ouster of former CEOs Roberto Castello Branco and Joaquim Silva e Luna. -dw

2,000-YEAR-OLD UNEARTHED

Dutch researchers uncover Roman temple complex

COPENHAGEN: Researchers unearthed a nearly 2,000-year-old Roman temple complex in the Netherlands, Dutch officials announced on Monday.

The find has surprised and excited archaeologists, as it is the first time temples have been unearthed on what was once the northern boundary of the Roman Empire.

Two temples uncovered

The temple complex was found at a clay extraction site in the village of Herwen-Hemeling — located in the eastern province of Gelderland near the border with Germany. The area is located near the Roman Limes UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Hobby archaeologists came across some artifacts in 2021 and alerted authorities, sparking a larger excavation, the Dutch national cultural heritage agency said in a statement.

Research teams found the remains of at least two Roman-era temples that were used between the first and fourth centuries.

One was a Gallo-Roman temple that had a tiled roof and "colorfully painted walls" while a smaller one was located a few meters away.

Among the artifacts discovered in the ruins were the remains of statues of deities, as well as pits where Roman soldiers lit large, sacrificial fires. Painted plasterwork, cloak pins, roof tiles marked with inscriptions were also among the finds.

Some of the findings will be displayed at a local museum in Nijmegen, reported news agency dpa.

What makes the find unique?

Usually, Roman buildings were torn down or repurposed to construct other buildings — but this does not appear to be the case at the Herwen-Hemeling site.

"Never before has such a complete complex been found in the Netherlands," the Dutch national cultural heritage agency said.

Another "particularly remarkable" aspect was the discovery of several dozen small stone altars where Roman soldiers made offerings to their gods, goddesses and other deities.

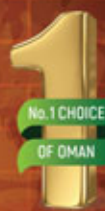
"These stones are dedicated to Hercules Magusanus, Jupiter-Serapis and Mercury," the agency said, adding that the temples were likely in use for centuries.

Researchers also found an "unprecedented" number of limestone sculpture fragments.

Revealing more about ancient Roman life

Based on the types of inscriptions on the roof tiles, archaeologists believe the temple complex was mainly used by soldiers — as the military was responsible at the time for manufacturing the roof tiles. -dw

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Rail workers in UK stage biggest strike in 30 years

Unions have warned there could be coordinated actions across other industries as Britain experiences a cost-of-living crisis

LONDON: The largest rail strike that the UK has seen in years began on Tuesday, with further walkouts planned for later in the week. Unions have warned there could be coordinated actions across other industries as Britain experiences a cost-of-living crisis.

Why are workers going on strike?
The strikes are the biggest on the country's railway network since 1989, according to the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) rail union. The union says the strikes — agreed in a ballot by workers — are needed because wages are not keeping pace with inflation. It also says that action is needed to protect working conditions, jobs, and pensions. Price increases are at a 40-year high and are predicted to keep on rising with food and fuel prices already pushing inflation close to 10%. Mick Lynch, Secretary-General of the RMT, said last-minute talks had failed. He claimed a program of planned cuts by train operators amounted to an "aggressive agenda."



STRIKE: Price increases are at a 40-year high and are predicted to keep on rising with food and fuel prices already pushing inflation close to 10%. — DW

"Our campaign will run for as long as it needs to run," Lynch told reporters. It is thought that the action could be only the beginning of a "summer of discontent" among public sector staff. Teachers, medical staff and waste disposal workers and publicly-employed legal staff are also moving towards industrial action.

How bad are the strikes likely to be?
The UK government itself predicted that only about 20% of planned services would operate, with further action planned on Thursday and Saturday.

Only about half of the overall network is expected to run, and the impact of the action is also likely to impact days when there is no strike. Some 50,000 workers were expected to take part in the strike. The London Underground is also set to mostly close, with strikers there also walking out.

Government rejects intervention
UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said industrial action will harm businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps decried the strikes as "a huge mistake" and accused the un-

ions of "gunning for this strike." The UK's Conservative government has so far refused to get involved in the talks to settle the dispute. Ministers have said it is a matter for the unions to work out directly with rail employers. However, unions say it is a matter for the government because it has not given state-owned infrastructure operator Network Rail enough flexibility to offer a substantial pay increase. They say the government could do something but instead wants to blame unions and the center-left opposition Labour Party — last in power in 2010 — for the disruption. — DW

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

Yoga becoming way of life, inspiration for good health, says PM Modi on Yoga Day

MYSURU: On the occasion of International Day of Yoga, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that yoga is becoming a way of life and has become a source of inspiration for health, balance and cooperation. The Prime Minister remarked that India is celebrating Yoga Day at a time when the country is celebrating its 75th year of independence, "the Amrit Mahotsav." This widespread acceptance of Yoga Day, is the acceptance of that "Amrit spirit of India which gave energy to India's freedom struggle." Mass Yoga demonstrations are being organised at 75 iconic locations across the country which have been witness to the glorious history of India and have been the center of cultural energy. "The experience of collective yoga at the historical sites of India is like tying together India's past, India's diversity, and India's expansion", he elaborated. He also informed about the novel programme 'Guardian Yoga Ring' which is a collaborative exercise between 79 countries and United Nations organisations along with Indian Missions abroad to illustrate Yoga's unifying power that surpasses national boundaries. As the sun apparently moves from the east to the west across the world, the Mass Yoga Demonstrations in the participating countries, if seen from any one point on Earth, will seem to be happening one after the other, almost in tandem, thus underlining the concept of 'One Sun, One earth'. "These practices of yoga are giving wonderful inspiration for health, balance and cooperation", he added. Prime Minister on Tuesday performed yoga at the main event of the eighth edition of the International Day of Yoga in the heritage city of Mysuru in Karnataka. More than 15,000 people participated in the Yoga celebrations along with the Prime Minister at the Mysore Palace grounds. Prime Minister said the yogic energy, which has been nurtured for centuries by the spiritual centers of India like Mysuru, is



today giving direction to global health. Today yoga is becoming a basis for global cooperation and is providing a belief of a healthy life to mankind, he added. "Yoga has now become a global festival. Yoga is not only for any individual, but for the entire humanity. Therefore, this time the theme of International Day of Yoga is - Yoga for humanity", PM Modi said. He thanked the United Nation and all the countries for taking this theme globally. Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister for Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal, and officials of the Ministry of Ayush and the Government of Karnataka and other dignitaries performed yoga at the event. Addressing the gathering here, PM Modi said, "This whole universe starts from our own body and soul. The universe starts from us. And, yoga makes us conscious of everything within us and builds a sense of awareness. Yoga brings peace for us. The peace from yoga is not merely for individuals. Yoga brings peace to our society, Yoga brings peace to our nations and the world. And, yoga brings peace to our universe." He said that yoga is not only for any individual but for the entire humanity. "No matter how stressful we are, a few minutes of meditation offer relaxation and increase our productivity. Therefore, we do not have to consider yoga as extra work. We have to know yoga.

We have to live yoga. Yoga is not only a part of life for us today, but is now becoming the way of life," he said. PM Modi emphasised that the eternal journey of yoga will continue in the direction of an "eternal future". "We will also accelerate a healthy and peaceful world through yoga with the spirit of 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramaya'," he said. Prime Minister further said, "The yogic energy, which has been nurtured for centuries at the spiritual centres of India like Mysuru, is today giving direction to world health. Today yoga is becoming a mutual basis for global cooperation. Today yoga offers the confidence in a healthy life to mankind." This year the theme for the celebration is "yoga for humanity". Prime Minister's yoga programme at Mysuru is also part of the novel programme 'Guardian Yoga Ring' which is a collaborative exercise between 79 countries and United Nations organisations along with Indian Missions abroad to illustrate yoga's unifying power that surpasses National boundaries. As the sun apparently moves from the east to the west across the world, the Mass Yoga Demonstrations in the participating countries, if seen from any one point on Earth, will seem to be happening one after the other, almost in tandem, thus underlining the concept of 'One Sun, One earth'. — ANI

RELEASED

UK welcomes release of 5 British men detained in Afghanistan

LONDON: The United Kingdom has welcomed the release of five British nationals who were detained in Afghanistan for breach of Afghan culture and customs in the Taliban-ruled country. On Monday, the Taliban confirmed they had freed several British men after holding them for about six months. The confirmation came after British officials announced that five of their citizens had been released from detention. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said they were handed over to the United Kingdom on Sunday after a series of meetings between the two sides. In a Twitter post, the Taliban official said that the men were detained for breaching Afghan laws and traditions. — ANI

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES



NDA nominates Draupadi Murmu, while opposition goes with Yashwant Sinha

NEW DELHI: BJP-led NDA on Tuesday announced former Governor of Jharkhand Draupadi Murmu's name as a Presidential candidate for the upcoming elections. On the other hand, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday announced that former Minister of Finance and External Affairs Yashwant Sinha will be the common candidate of the Oppo-

sition parties for the Presidential election, which will take place on July 18, 2022, said a statement. Murmu is the first major tribal female Presidential candidate in India's history. Once elected, she will be the first tribal President of India and the second-ever female President. She is the first major Presidential candidate from Odisha and once elected will become first President of the country from the state of Odisha. — ANI

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

Pope Francis calls off Africa trip, fuels speculation about retirement

ROME: The cancellation of Pope Francis's trip to Africa has stirred speculation about his retirement. The immobilised pope recently named a slew of new cardinals, raising questions about succession, reported *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ). Pope Francis' decided to call off a long-planned trip to Africa on account of a problem with his knee. Papal health has always been a concern at the Vatican, where the leader has traditionally ruled for life. But since Pope Benedict XVI became the first pope in modern times to step down—a decision that Pope Francis has praised as an example to future pontiffs—it has become even harder to predict the end of a pontificate, reported WSJ. More than nine years after his resignation, retired Pope Benedict, 95, is still living in the Vatican, increasingly frail yet by the accounts of visitors mentally acute. While still active, Pope Francis, 85, has been seen frequently in a wheelchair for more than a month, telling the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* in late May that he was suffering from a torn ligament in his knee, for which he was receiving injections. He had to sit last Sunday through the Mass for Pentecost, a major church feast, delivering the hom-



ily from his wheelchair. It wasn't until Friday that the Vatican issued a statement on the matter, announcing that his trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, scheduled to begin in a little more than three weeks, had been indefinitely postponed. The Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said the postponement came at the request of the pope's doctors, in order not to interfere with therapy on his knee, reported WSJ. "It is highly unusual for any international trip to which the pope is committed to be cancelled, and certainly this close to the date," said John Allen, president of Crux Catholic Media, who said such a thing had not happened since the last years of St John Paul II, who died in 2005 after years of declining health. St John Paul II increasingly delegated responsibilities to Vatican officials as he became incapacitated. — ANI



Sultanate of Oman
MINISTRY CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects

TENDR. No.	PROJECT CATEGORY	LOCATION	GRADE IN TENDER BOARD REGISTRATION
13/2022	SERVICES	Renovation of existing practice football pitch for Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Seeb Stadium & Saadah Sports Complex (Grassed)	EXCELLENT GRADE

Companies, which are registered with the Tender Board and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Tender Board E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) until 29/06/2022.

The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site at 09:00am 18/07/2022

A Tender Bond equivalent to 1% of the tender sum issued from a registered bank, in the prescribed form, in Sultanate of Oman and valid for 90 days should enclosed with the tender.

Any tender without the bond will be reject and the tender committee is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender received.

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24402200 or through email etenderhd@ita.gov.om

Oman Sail youth team to participate in Al Bareh International Regatta

Led by coach Ahmed Al Waheibi, the team will be looking to impress and show how much progress they have made in this season

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail's youth sailing team is participating in the 29th annual Al Bareh International Regatta from 22-25 June 2022 at the Bahrain Maritime Sports Association off the coast of Al Jazaeer Beach, Zallaq, Bahrain. The seven sailors are competing in ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 classes as part of a 54-strong fleet from seven nations, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and the UAE, in what will be an ideal opportunity to measure their progress against sailors of the same age from around the region. Led by coach Ahmed Al Waheibi



REGATTA: The seven sailors are competing in ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 classes as part of a 54-strong fleet from seven nations, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and the UAE. — Supplied picture

and team leader Mohammed Al Balushi, the team will be looking to impress and show how much progress they have made this season.

The squad has been selected based on ranking races and will feature: Elyas Al Fadhli, Osama Al Zadjali, Ablaj Al Dughaisi, Al Salim Al

Hamdani and Nibras Al Owaisi in the ILCA 4 class, and Al Motasem Hamood Al Farsi and AbdulMalik Al Hinai in the ILCA 6 class.

Hashim Al Rashdi, Oman Sail's Head of Performance, said, "We are looking forward to what will be a very interesting test of the pro-

gress our sailors have made. The Al Bareh International Regatta is one of the longest-running regattas in the region and we will be looking to continue Oman's strong track record of good performances. This will also serve as vital practice as we prepare for regattas throughout the year and develop the skills and experience of our young team." Mohammed Al Balushi, Team Leader and Centre Manager of the Oman Sail Mussanah Sailing School, "Our team has improved a lot already this year and the chance to sail against the peers from across the region will be a tough test. We are looking forward to travelling to Bahrain and putting our training into practice which will give our young sailors a chance to impress and identify areas of additional development as we build towards a busy second half of the year." Alongside racing in ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 classes, fleets in Optimist and ILCA 7 Standard will be also be competing. Each class will consist of 10 races across three days where the top three places will be decided. After the conclusion of the Al Bareh Sailing International Regatta, the young squad will return to Oman and prepare for the upcoming Optimist World Championship taking place in 27th June to 7th July.

CRICKET

Singapore Women edge past Oman Women in WT20 Championship



Times News Service

MUSCAT : Singapore Women edged past Oman Women in a last over thriller in the ongoing ACC WT20 Championship 2022. Both sides put in all they had to register their 1st win respectively. Asserting the Oman Women to bat 1st, Singapore started convincingly claiming 3 wickets in the first 6 overs of the Oman innings. Priyanka Mendonca was the lone standstill who kept piling up runs to equalize the pressure onto the opposition. Bhakti Shetty guarded the ship with her steady and cautious 26 helping Oman reach a respectable 109 at the end of 20 overs.

Priyanka finished the innings not out with 48 of 39 balls to ascertain Oman's interest into choking the Singapore Women. Oman going in with a play-to-win mindset were successful to uphold Singapore by taking 4 wickets in the 1st 6 overs. The game was evenly poised before the resistance and positive gameplay of Vinu and Divya build a 68 run to ball partnership taking the game away from Oman. Saya Channa and Priyanka Mendonca ended with 2 wickets each well accompanied by Bhakti Shetty's economical spell and a wicket at the end of the game. Oman currently stands with no wins and a no-result point on the points table playing its next game vs Malaysia on 22

TENNIS

Novak Djokovic top men's seed in absence of Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev

LONDON: World number three Novak Djokovic will head into next week's Grand Slam Wimbledon 2022 as the men's top seed. The defending champion is the top seed after the Russian world number one Daniil Medvedev got banned from taking part while German world number two Alexander Zverev is out due to injury. Wimbledon organisers in April announced the ban on Russian and Belarusian players at this year's Grand Slam following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A ban on Russian players means Medvedev and world number 8 Andrey Rublev will not compete in the men's draw. While Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova who is in the top 20 in the women's rankings is also suffering after this decision. While Alexander Zverev suffered torn several lateral ligaments in his right foot following his horrible injury at French Open 2022. The 25-year-old German was more than three hours into an epic semi-final with Rafael Nadal when he badly rolled his ankle while moving to his right. Djokovic who didn't participate in the Australian Open 2022 was recently removed as world number one by Medvedev. The absence of Medvedev and Zverev also means that Rafael Nadal who has won this year's Australian Open and French Open is seeded second. This means that Djokovic and Nadal are in different halves and cannot clash until men's final.



Wimbledon 2022 will be held from June 27 to July 10. The grass-court Grand Slam tournament, established in 1877, will take place at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in London, UK. The tournament director is Jamie Baker. The Wimbledon singles and doubles draw will be made on Friday. Since 1927 only two unseeded players have won the Gentlemen's Singles - Boris Becker in 1985 and

Goran Ivanisevic in 2001. Eleven unseeded players have reached the final of the Gentlemen's Singles and four unseeded players have reached the final of the Ladies' Singles. Today there are 32 seeds in Gentlemen's and Ladies' singles. Between 2002 and 2019, seeding for the Gentlemen's Singles was determined by a surface-based formula, which reflected more

accurately an individual player's grass court achievements in the two-year period immediately before the date used for seeding for The Championships. After The Championships 2019, it was decided that the seeding formula had served its time. From The Championships 2021 onwards, seeding for the Gentlemen's and Ladies' Singles are based on world ranking. **ANI**

INDIAN ALL-ROUNDER

Ashwin misses flight to England after testing positive for COVID-19

MUMBAI: Indian all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin could not board the flight to England after being tested positive for Covid-19. The off-spinner came to Mumbai to travel with the Test team on June 16 but now he is in quarantine. The 35-year-old will only join the Test squad after meeting all protocol requirements. The rest of the members of the Indian Test squad are already in Leicester and training has begun in Leicestershire County Ground where they will play a 4-day practice match from June 24. Ravichandran Ashwin is likely going to miss the four-day practice match against Leicestershire starting Friday but could be available for the rescheduled fifth Test match at the Edgbaston. India's head coach Rahul Drav-



id, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer have left for England from Bengaluru after participating in the five-match T20I series against South Africa, which ended in a 2-2 draw. India are currently leading 2-1. After the fifth and final Test at Edgbaston, India and England will play each other in

three T20Is and three ODIs. The Ireland-bound squad under VVS Laxman will leave for Dublin either on June 23 or June 24 as the team members have been given a three-day rest. India are scheduled to play two T20Is against Ireland on June 26 and June 28. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Leicester City celebrate iconic club moments with 2022/23 home shirt

LONDON: Premier League club Leicester City on Tuesday revealed its 2022/23 home shirt by Adidas. The 2022/23 launch is accompanied by the club's Create Iconic campaign - a season-long celebration of great Leicester City moments that fixed shirts of past eras into the club's history and embedded them into the memory of every Foxes fan. Every shirt invokes a memory of a player, a goal, a moment. In 2022/23, Leicester men's and women's teams will be looking to add to those memories, creating moments that will define this shirt's place in Foxes folklore for years to come. Combining features such as the prominent white collar and neck trim - synonymous with the Jimmy Bloomfield sides of the 1970s - and the popular 'dynamic fox' made famous by the likes of

Gary Lineker and Alan Smith in the 1980s, the 2022/23 home shirt carries iconic elements of shirts of past eras. Shot on location at King Power Stadium featuring players from our Men's, Women's and senior Academy teams, the shirt features Adidas 'aeroready' technology, containing a minimum of 60% recycled content. Leicester City's opening Premier League fixture of the new season at home to Brentford will take place on Sunday. The fixture was initially scheduled to take place on Saturday 6 August, but will now move to the Sunday, with a slightly earlier kick-off time due to the annual Caribbean Carnival taking place in the city on Saturday. City's fixture list for the new 2022/23 Premier League season was revealed last Thursday morn-

ing, with Arsenal, Southampton, Chelsea and Manchester United also among the first few opponents for Brendan Rodgers' team. In July, meanwhile, the preparations will start to pick up for Leicester, who have already confirmed four pre-season friendlies. From the non-league set-up in England, to six-time winners of the UEFA Europa League Sevilla, it's a varied collection of teams which will provide the opposition this summer. The visit of Sevilla on July 31 will inevitably bring back memories for the Foxes faithful, many of whom were there as the Foxes defeated the Spanish outfit in the last-16 of the UEFA Champions League in 2017. Now managed by Julen Lopetegui, Real Betis were placed fourth in La Liga in 2021/22, also reaching the round of 16 in the UEFA Europa League. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2022 reaching \$111.79, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$3.28 from the price of Monday, which was \$108.51. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,145.81 points, up by 0.22 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.09 per cent at 454.06 points. United Finance, up 5.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Vision Insurance, down 8.7 per cent, was the top loser.

Government support vital to achieve sustainable aviation fuel target: IATA

With effective government incentives, production could reach 30 billion litres by 2030, which would be a tipping point for SAF production and utilisation, IATA's Director General said

PANKAJ SHARMA
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DOHA: Governments have been urged to urgently put in place large-scale incentives to rapidly expand the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) as the industry pursues its commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

"With effective government incentives, production could reach 30 billion litres by 2030, which would be a tipping point for SAF production and utilisation," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday.

"This would require an annual production capacity of 449 billion litres and current investments are in place to expand SAF annual production from the current 125 million



Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General

litres to 5 billion by 2025," he added.

Speaking at the International Air Transport Association annual general meeting in Doha, Qatar, Walsh said, "Governments don't need to invent a playbook. Incentives to transition electricity production to renewable sources like solar or wind work. As a result, clean energy solutions are now cheap and widely available. With similar incentives for SAF, we could see 30 billion litres available by 2030," he said.

"Though still far from where we need to be, it would be a clear tipping point towards our net-zero ambition of ample SAF quantities at affordable prices," Walsh further added.

In 2021, irrespective of price (SAF is between two and four times the price of conventional jet fuel), airlines have purchased every drop of the 125 million litres of SAF that was available. And already more than 38 countries have SAF-specific policies that clear the way for the market to develop.

Taking their cue from these policy measures, airlines have entered into \$17 billion of forward-purchasing agreements for SAF.

Incentives to ramp up production

Further investment in production needs support from the right policies and this would boost supply and drive down costs, Walsh said.

Electricity production through solar or wind power faced similar hurdles as these technologies replaced fossil fuels. With effective policy incentives, both are now affordable and widely available.

"By applying similar incentive-based policies to SAF, governments can support global SAF production to reach 30 billion litres by the end of the decade. This would be a tipping point as it would send a clear signal to the market that SAF is playing its intended long-term role in aviation's decarbonisation and encourage investments to drive up production and drive down the price," he added.

The market for SAF needs stimulation on the production side. The United States is setting an example for others to follow. Its SAF production is expected to reach 11 billion litres in 2030 on the back of heavy government incentives.

Europe, on the other hand, is the example not to follow. Under its Fit for 55 initiative, the EU is planning to mandate that airlines uplift 5 per cent SAF at every European airport by 2030. Decentralising production will delay the development of economies of scale. And forcing the land transport of SAF will reduce the environmental benefit of using SAF, Walsh said.

Net zero goal

In October 2021, IATA member airlines came together and took the monumental decision to commit to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. This commitment brings the industry in line with the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C goal. Climate change is the greatest threat facing our societies and achieving net zero emissions will be a huge challenge as the expected scale of the industry in 2050 will require the mitigation of 1.8 gigatonnes of carbon.

To provide the right set of consistent policies and long-term stability needed for investments, the aviation industry is calling on all governments to support the adoption of a long term climate goal for air transport at the 41st Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) this September, aligned with industry commitments. This climate goal is critical to back up the industry's decarbonisation ambitions and would provide a global multilateral framework for action without distorting competition.

IATA urges governments to ensure aviation and safety systems can safely co-exist with new 5G services

PANKAJ SHARMA
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DOHA: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) urged governments to work closely with the aviation industry to ensure that aviation and incumbent safety systems can safely co-exist with new 5G services.

Priority

While IATA recognises the economic importance of making spectrum available to support next-generation commercial wireless telecommunications, maintaining current levels of safety of passengers, flight crews, and aircraft must continue to be one of the governments' highest priorities. The call came as the industry was meeting in Doha, Qatar at the 78th IATA Annual General Meeting.

"We must not repeat the recent experience in the United States, where the rollout of C-band spectrum 5G services created enormous disruption to aviation, owing to the potential risk

of interference with radio altimeters that are critical to aircraft landing and safety systems," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director-General.

"In fact, many countries have successfully managed to facilitate the requirements of 5G service providers, while including necessary mitigations to preserve aviation safety and uninterrupted services. These include, for example, Brazil, Canada, France and Thailand," he added.

Before deciding on any spectrum allocations or conducting spectrum auctions, IATA called for governments to ensure close coordination and mutual understandings between national spectrum and aviation safety regulators so that each frequency allocation/assignment is comprehensively studied and is proven not to adversely impact aviation safety and efficiency.

Robust testing in coordination with aviation subject matter experts is critically important in providing necessary information.

STOCKS



Asian shares rise as investors pause after sell-off

HONG KONG: Asian stocks and US share futures turned higher on Tuesday as the market took stock after a recent steep sell-off, but concerns remain that aggressive central bank rate hikes to curtail inflation could spark a global recession.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.85 per cent in early trading, edging up from a more than five-week low hit the previous day, Reuters reports.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei average opened up 1.16 per cent, and Nasdaq and S&P500 e-mini share futures, each rose nearly 1.5 per cent.

"I think the green that we're seeing this morning is not necessarily a function that people are moving back in towards risk assets," said Kerry Craig, global market strategist at JPMorgan Asset Management.

"It's just the normal behaviour on the very large selloff to get some reprieve and breathing space come through because fundamentally, nothing has changed on the macro front last week."

Chinese blue chips rose 0.5 per cent. Central banks around the world are looking to raise interest rates aggressively to curb rising inflation, a sentiment underscored on Tuesday by Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Governor Philip Lowe, who pointed in a speech to further rate hikes.

"As we chart our way back to 2

to 3 per cent inflation, Australians should be prepared for more interest rate increases," Lowe warned. "The level of interest rates is still very low for an economy with low unemployment and that is experiencing high inflation."

Still, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index climbed 1.12 per cent in early trading. The Australian dollar rose 0.3 per cent on the news before paring gains.

The euro also gained 0.25 per cent on the improved risk sentiment, after European stock markets chalked up modest gains on Monday to recover a little from last week's hefty losses. US markets were closed for a holiday.

The dollar index which tracks the greenback against six major peers eased slightly to 104.29. The Japanese yen remained under pressure at 135.07 yen per dollar, not far off a 24-year low of 135.58 yen hit early last week.

In bond markets, the yield on US benchmark 10-year treasury notes was 3.2976 per cent, up a little from last Friday's close.

Last week's peak of 3.495 per cent was the 10-year yield's highest since 2011 and came the same day the Fed raised interest rates by a massive 75 basis points.

Oil prices swung higher with traders focusing on tight supplies over slowing global economic growth. US crude rose 2.12 per cent to \$111.88 per barrel and Brent was at \$115.56, up 1.25 per cent on the day. - **BNA**

NCSI DATA

Oman's inflation rate rises by 2.4% in May

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 2.4 per cent in May 2022 compared to May 2021. The inflation rate stabilised compared to April 2022, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The data indicate that the rise in the food prices index in May 2022 is attributed to increases in the prices of main groups, such as education by 5.1 per cent, food and non-alcoholic beverages by 5 per cent, transport by 3.5 per cent, health by 2.8 per cent, miscellaneous goods and services by 1.5 per cent, recreation and culture by 1.5 per cent, restaurants and hotels by 1.3 per cent, furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance by 0.7 per cent, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels by 0.7 per cent and clothing and footwear by 0.4 per cent. Meanwhile, the tobacco group declined by 0.1 per cent.

Prices also went up for oils and fats by 17.2 per cent, fish and seafood by 7.3 per cent, vegetables by 6.9 per cent, meats by 6.7 per cent,



fruits by 6.6 per cent, bread and cereals by 2.7 per cent, sugar, jam, honey and sweets by 1.9 per cent, milk, cheese and eggs by 1.5 per cent, other foodstuffs by 1.2 per cent and non-alcoholic beverages by 0.3 per cent.

As far as governorates are concerned, the increased rate of inflation during May 2022 was recorded in the governorates of North Al Batinah, North Al Sharqiyah and South Al Sharqiyah by 2.9 per cent, followed by the Governorate

of Al Dakhiliyah by 2.8 per cent, the Governorate of Al Buraimi by 2.6 per cent, the Governorate of Dhofar by 2.4 per cent, the Governorate of Al Dhahirah by 2 per cent and the Governorate of Muscat by 1.9 per cent. - **ONA**

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR13mn issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR13 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from June 22 until July 20.

The average accepted price reached 99.889 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.875 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 1.44897 per cent and 1.45067 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).



It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 2.25 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is

2.75 per cent.

Furthermore, Treasury Bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest

rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. - **ONA**



MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

United Finance, up 5.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Vision Insurance, down 8.7 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,145.81 points, up by 0.22 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.09 per cent at 454.06 points. United Finance, up 5.68 per cent, was the top gainer while, Vision Insurance, down 8.7 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of HSBC Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 493 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.53 million, with more than 8.12 million shares changing hands. Out of 53 traded securities, 18 advanced, 16 declined, and 19 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR23,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR21,000, followed by

foreign investors for OMR3,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,687.66 points, up 0.29 per cent. Prices of United Finance, Al Omaniya Financial Services, Taageer Finance, HSBC Bank Oman and Global Financial Investments were up by 5.68 per cent, 3.75 per cent, 2.35 per cent, 2.27 per cent and 1.52 per cent respectively. Prices of Vision Insurance, Takaful Oman, Oman United Insurance, Al Sharqia Investment and Al Madina Takaful were down by 8.7 per cent, 8 per cent, 2.94 per cent, 2.22 per cent and 1.08 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,821.93 points, up 0.4 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Galfar Engineering, Voltamp Energy, Oman Cables Industry, Oman Oil Marketing, Phoenix Power, Oman Reef Fund, National Gas, Nasser Al Rizeiqi, Director of Hydrogen Policies and Strategies - Ministry of Energy and Minerals; Almunther Abdullatif, Balance Sheet Optimization and Corporate Strategy at OQ; Mohammed Al Mukhaini, Chairman - Birba Energy.

In introductory remarks, Committee Chairman Mazin Al Lamki underlined the importance of green hydrogen to Oman's sustainable energy and economic fu-

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,145.81	4,127.78	4,145.81	4,136.52	9.30	0.22
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,687.66	6,648.19	6,687.66	6,668.55	19.11	0.29
Industry Index	5,838.81	5,813.09	5,821.93	5,799.00	22.93	0.40
Services Index	1,584.48	1,564.54	1,569.68	1,574.30	-4.62	-0.29
MSX Shariah Index	457.01	452.33	454.06	454.45	-0.39	-0.09
MSX TR INDEX	5,224.52	5,201.80	5,224.52	5,212.80	11.71	0.22
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,991.97	6,950.71	6,991.97	6,971.99	19.98	0.29
SERVICES TR IDX	1,638.32	1,617.70	1,623.01	1,627.79	-4.78	-0.29
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,059.71	6,033.01	6,042.18	6,018.39	23.80	0.40

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
3,559,537	510,813	223	18,180,346,800	3	11	16	30

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 21

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	1,069,600	114,844	77	0.107	0.112	0.106	0.107	0.103	0.004	3.883	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	14,980,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.	47,000	7586	5	0.160	0.166	0.160	0.166	0.160	0.006	3.750	0.166	0.000	0.166	0.100	50,333,464
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	200	13	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.061	0.002	3.279	0.063	0.055	0.062	0.100	14,001,120
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	14,000	13,472	4	0.940	0.964	0.940	0.964	0.940	0.024	2.533	0.964	0.000	1.005	0.100	86,470,800
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	141,247	12,280	11	0.087	0.089	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.002	2.353	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.100	22,503,577
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	80,425	26,192	11	0.334	0.334	0.324	0.332	0.326	0.006	1.840	0.332	0.324	0.332	0.100	216,113,484
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	5,200	948	2	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.001	1.535	0.097	0.095	0.097	0.100	13,400,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	520,655	107,736	14	0.205	0.207	0.205	0.207	0.207	0.000	0.000	0.207	0.206	0.207	0.100	336,570,896
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	3,500	1,064	1	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.000	0.000	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.100	203,183,090
OM0000002168	AL ANWAK CERAMIC	132,167	55,246	15	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.000	0.000	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.100	91,960,000
OM0000002229	AL-AZGERA SERVICES	381,120	102,022	45	0.267	0.268	0.267	0.267	0.267	0.000	0.000	0.267	0.267	0.267	0.100	16,341,541
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	465,663	245,459	36	0.528	0.530	0.526	0.528	0.528	0.000	0.000	0.528	0.526	0.528	0.100	198,168,824
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	287,728	250,552	13	0.864	0.872	0.860	0.872	0.872	0.000	0.000	0.872	0.860	0.872	0.100	654,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	195,797	57,690	16	0.430	0.430	0.416	0.416	0.416	0.000	0.000	0.416	0.416	0.420	0.100	98,346,560
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	742,357	77,205	16	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	310,966,478
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	245	1	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.246	-0.001	-0.407	0.245	0.245	0.255	0.100	81,063,814
OM0000001525	OMAN INVEST. FIN.	225,000	30,535	13	0.136	0.136	0.135	0.135	0.138	-0.003	-2.174	0.135	0.135	0.139	0.100	31,965,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	105,000	9,290	10	0.090	0.090	0.088	0.090	-0.002	-2.222	-0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	7,920,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA MARKTING	275	187	1	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.700	-0.020	-2.857	0.680	0.660	0.600	0.100	46,920,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	21,723	7,190	10	0.336	0.338	0.330	0.330	0.340	-0.010	-2.941	0.330	0.330	0.338	0.100	33,000,000
Total	20	4,380,657	1,118,635	302												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	638,544	57,533	40	0.090	0.093	0.090	0.093	0.088	0.005	5.682	0.093	0.090	0.095	0.100	32,470,430
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	77,750	12,051	2	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.148	0.007	4.730	0.155	0.155	0.159	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	40,000	4,305	4	0.106	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.104	0.004	3.846	0.108	0.103	0.104	0.100	21,922,536
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	20,384	2,200	4	0.108	0.108	0.105	0.108	0.105	0.003	2.857	0.108	0.106	0.108	0.100	4,791,497
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,122,300	149,076	24	0.130	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.132	0.003	2.273	0.135	0.128	0.135	0.100	270,042,227
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	884	43	2	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000004699	SHARQIAH DESALIN	5,000	555	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.002	1.832	0.111	0.112	0.111	0.100	10,564,041
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	3,150	352	2	0.111	0.113	0.111	0.113	0.111	0.002	1.802	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	10,100,000
OM0000003139	ALUMINIUM PROD.	1,500	130	2	0.085	0.089	0.085	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.086	0.089	0.100	2,197,259
OM0000007910	OMAN REAL ESTATE	10,000	940	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.098	-0.004	-1.975	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	18,400,000
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	90,000	10,260	2	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.001	0.885	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.100	6,700,872
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	1,200	91	2	0.075	0.080	0.075	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.075	0.076	0.100	5,000,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	170	15	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.085	0.087	0.100	10,725,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	44,147	37,186	27	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.085	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	715	227	2	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.000	0.000	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.100	21,596,964
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	196,810	22,927	4	0.116	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.100	350,575,118
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	2,000	1,600	1	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.880	0.100	49,020,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	528,400	49,666	14	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.095	0.100	210,273,285
OM0000005663	PHOENIX POWER	7,729	383	5	0.051	0.051	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.051	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	187,816	13,148	7	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.100	32,983,047
OM0000007043	NATIONAL LIFE INS.	25,000	7,950	3	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.320	-0.002	-0.625	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.100	84,270,000
OM0000004418	MADINA TAKAFUL	45,000	4,140	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.094	0.100	16,100,000
OM0000001416	RAYSUT CEMENT	28,120	4,351	9	0.156	0.160	0.154	0.154	0.156	-0.002	-1.282	0.154	0.154	0.155	0.100	30,800,000
OM0000001180	NATIONAL GAS	180,000	26,580	12	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	-0.002	-1.351	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.100	31,710,000
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	1,000	69	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.070	-0.001	-1.429	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	65,865,465
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	2,500	270	1	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.110	-0.002	-1.818	0.108	0.109	0.120	0.100	19,664,467
OM0000004925	ALAKHTAR POWER	1,500	71	1	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.048	-0.001	-2.083	0.047	0.047	0.050	0.100	31,710,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	2,000	88	1	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.046	-0.002	-4.348	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	8,783,966
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	10,000	460	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.050	-0.004	-8.908	0.046	0.047	0.049	0.100	11,500,000
OM0000006920	VISION INSURANCE	25,000	2,625	3	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.115	-0.010	-8.696	0.105	0.105	0.110	0.100	10,500,000
Total	30	3,699,829	409,292	181												

KASPERSKY REPORT

Cybercriminals share access to companies via Dark Web for just \$2000

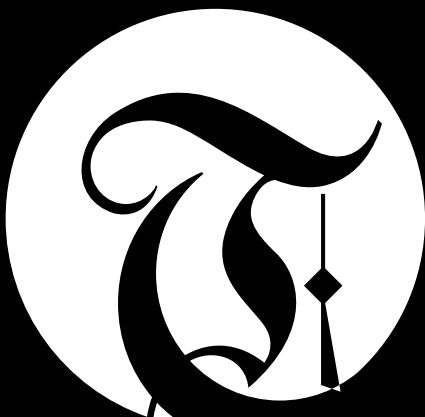
DUBAI: With the rise of cyber-crime as a service business model, the information necessary to organise an attack is in demand among cybercriminals.

Kaspersky's experts analysed nearly 200 posts on the dark web offering to buy information for initial access to companies' forums. The average cost for access to a big company's systems lies between \$2000 and \$4000, which is relatively inexpensive compared to the potential damage it could cause targeted businesses. Such services are of prime interest to ransomware operators, whose profits could reach up to a whopping \$40 million a year. These and other findings can be found in the new Kaspersky report, 'How much does access to corporate infrastructure cost?'

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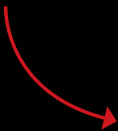
LIFESTYLE



PROLONGED SITTING PUTS

HEALTH AT RISK

“According to the research, people who sat the most and were not very physically active had the most elevated risk while the individuals who sat the most but at the same time were physically active had a considerably lower risk



Simon Fraser University has come up with new research, adding further weight to the contention that delayed sitting might be dangerous to your health. A global review studying more than 100,000 people in 21 nations had found that individuals who sat for six to eight hours daily had a 12-13 per cent expanded risk for early demise and coronary illness, while the people who sat for over eight hours every day increased that to a sobering 20 percent. Co-led by Simon Fraser University wellbeing sciences teacher Scott Lear and Wei Li of Beijing's Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the research was published in the journal 'Jama Cardiology'. After examining people over an average of 11 years it was established that high measures of sitting time were related to an increased risk of early demise and cardiovascular ailments. While sitting was problematic in all nations, it was particularly so in low-income and lower-middle-income countries. According to the research, people who sat the most and were not very physically active had the most elevated risk - - up to 50 percent - - while the individuals who sat the most but at the same time were physically active had a considerably lower risk of about 17 per cent. “For those sitting over four hours

per day, supplanting a half-hour of sitting with practice decreased the gamble by two per cent,” Lear noted. He added, “With only one of every four Canadians meeting the movement rules there's a genuine open door here for individuals to build their action and decrease their possibilities of early demise and heart disease.” The research found a specific relationship in lower-income nations, driving researchers to estimate that it could be because sitting in higher-income countries is typically associated with higher socioeconomic status and better-paying jobs. Lear noted, “Clinicians ought to zero in on not so much sitting but rather more action as a minimal expense mediation can have tremendous advantages. But while clinicians need to receive the message about countering sitting with action, people need to all the more likely evaluate their ways of life and treat their wellbeing in a serious way.” He added saying, “our study found that a combination of sitting and inactivity accounted for 8.8 percent of all deaths, which is close to the contribution of smoking (10.6 per cent in Lear and Li's study).”It's a global problem that has a remarkably simple fix. Scheduling time to get out of that chair is a great start.” -ANI




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Scenery of Xiaxi Reservoir in SW China's Guizhou
 Aerial picture shows the view of Xiaxi Reservoir in Cengong County, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province. *Xinhua*



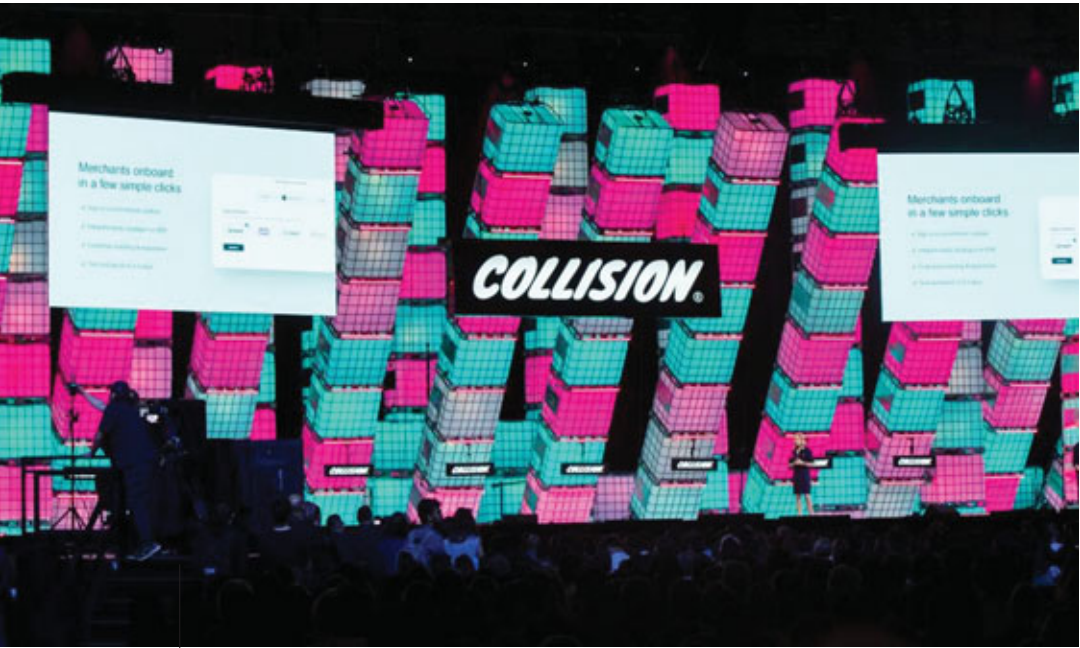
World's largest freshwater fish found, released in Cambodia's Mekong River
 Picture shows a giant freshwater stingray in Stung Treng province, Cambodia. *Xinhua*



Daily life in Lao rising tourist town
 Aerial picture shows the landscape of Muang Fueng, a rising tourist town some 100km north of Lao capital Vientiane. *Xinhua*



Cyprus-Greece ferry resumes operation after 21 years
 Passengers of the Cypriot-registered Daleena ferry disembarck after arriving at the port of Piraeus, in Piraeus, Greece. (*Xinhua/Marios Lolos*)



2022 Collision Conference opening night event held in Toronto
 People attend the opening night event of the 2022 Collision Conference in Toronto, Canada. Participants from over 140 countries and regions are expected to attend this technology conference here from June 20 to 23. *Xinhua*



World Music Day marked in Uganda
 A band performs during a concert to mark World Music Day at Uganda National Cultural Center in Kampala, Uganda, on June 20, 2022. (Photo by Hajarrah Nalwadda/*Xinhua*)



Aerial view of major constructions in Hong Kong
 Aerial picture shows a view of the West Kowloon high-speed railway station in south China's Hong Kong. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland. *Xinhua*



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ROUND-UP



Foton Aumark offers high quality features and great value for money

The light duty truck which is powered by a legendary Cummins 3.8L turbo diesel engine, ZF Transmission and DANA Axles is known for its excellent fuel economy, safety, and top-quality performance in the logistics and cargo industry

MUSCAT: Foton Aumark, the popular light duty truck is a preferred choice for the customers in Oman and has a strong value proposition. Aumark is designed to meet the Oman users’ pursuit of efficient and worry-free logistics. The truck which is powered by a legendary Cummins 3.8L turbo diesel engine, ZF Transmission and DANA Axles is known for its excellent fuel economy, safety, and top-quality performance in the logistics and cargo industry.



The Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck (3 Tonne) coupled with Cummins Engine and ZF (6-speed) manual transmission. Available in two-wheelbase 3360 and 3800 mm, the Light Duty Truck has many features including cruise control, low engine noise, reversing sensor, remote control central door-locking, ABS+EBD, air with exhaust brakes, and power windows among others. The Light Duty Truck, which is perfect for intra-city use and city-to-city movements of goods, offers industry-leading technology that

augments the truck’s driving experience while providing supreme safety and provides customers with the best experience for their customized transportation needs, Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is an ideal choice for its superior loading, fuel efficiency and less frequent service requirements features (Service can be done at every 20,000 km). With its outstanding features, Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is great value for money too. Owner of three Foton Aumark Ali Ghazi Mabrook Saleem is cap-

tivated by the light duty truck’s high-class engine Turbo engine with good power and excellent fuel economy, outstanding braking system, exceptional loading capabilities and excellent stability during long distances. He calls it a highly capable light truck that delivers superior performance; Aumark signifies Foton’s dedication to developing innovative driving technologies that deliver an incredibly personalised experience to customers. Thanks to the Gulf Great Sands team for proving outstanding service; I am

very much impressed with Foton Aumark Light Duty Truck he adds. The Light Duty Truck embodies a lot of the brand Foton stands for – amazing design, advanced technology and empowering performance. Foton strives to provide global automotive markets with high-quality, affordable vehicles powered by sourcing the best of current as well as emerging technologies. Formidable joint ventures with globally-reputed manufacturers and major component brands, have enabled Foton to include sustainable engineering, advanced systems and state-of-the-art technology into every Foton vehicle. A spokesperson for GGS said, “Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck has grown to be a popular choice in Oman. Its attributes and fundamental fortes have garnered great response from customers in the Sultanate. Aumark is designed to meet the Oman users’ pursuit of efficient and worry-free logistics, which leads to a world-class product. The Light Duty Truck (3 Tonn) comes in two wheelbases 3360 and 3800 mm. It can be modified into a cargo truck, refrigerator truck, light dump truck and open cargo body truck.”

Foton Aumark – Dependable logistic solution

Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck’s dependable features like Cummins ISF 3.8L turbo diesel engine, Bosch electronics and ZF transmission make it a dependable logistic solution for city needs as well as short-haul transporta-

tion needs of the industry such as fishing, poultry, furniture, grocery, recovery, water tanker and FMCG.

Solid and reliable

The Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is fully customisable with versatile body options to make it a productive work tool for everyday use. Aumark is what a truck should be – solid, reliable and good value. The Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck is built on a new platform and positioned as a mid-to-high-end professional logistics vehicle used to transport between cities in Oman. With Foton Cummins’ efficient power, the product will be greatly improved in power, fuel, noise reduction, and weight. The Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck has experienced a 1.6 million km road test, and diverse working conditions tests, including durability testing, reliability testing, stability test, high-low-temperature testing, and highland testing among others. Partnering with Foton Motor Group, one of the world’s largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles, Gulf Great Sands have a full range of commercial vehicles in Oman. Through this exclusive distribution partnership, Gulf Great Sands has commenced the supply of a range of Foton’s commercial vehicles in Oman including the Foton View – High roof wide body 13-Seater Mini-Bus and Cargo Van, Foton Aumark – Light Duty Truck (Diesel), Tunland Gasoline Pickups, View Mini- Buses, Panel vans, and Foton Auman – Medium Duty Truck.

SUHAIL BAHWAN AUTOMOBILES



‘Book a home Nissan test drive’ service garners huge response

MUSCAT: Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA)’s ‘book a home test drive’ service has garnered a great response from prospective customers. The service enables potential customers to schedule their test drive online at their convenience. The ‘book a home test drive’ service is applicable only in the Muscat governorate. While customers will be charged OMR 5 for home test drive service, upon sales conversion a sum of OMR 10 will be passed on to them as a cash gift. A senior official of SBA said, “Our book a home test drive’ service has been appreciated by prospective customers. To avail of our

home test drive service, customers have to just let us know what vehicle they are interested in, and we will take it to their homes.” Nissan is committed to extending outstanding pre-sales services to its customers. This is yet another unique move from Nissan Oman to make the experience of buying Nissan cars more convenient. Any interested customer can schedule a test drive of Nissan models from the comfort of their homes simply by logging on to the official SBA Nissan Oman website. A home test drive can be booked through a customer service toll-free number.

KEY INITIATIVE

Zubair Corporation organises 3rd Human Resources Forum



MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation recently organised the third edition of its Human Resources (HR) Forum. The forum is one of the key initiatives as part of the corporation’s strategy that aims to enhance the efforts of the group’s human resources function in the field of developing human capital and providing an attractive work environment within the Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries. The forum was attended by a number of the corporation’s senior management members as well as all the Heads of Human Resources functions in the corpora-

tion’s group of companies. Commenting on this Forum, Adil Al Rahbi, Group Chief Transformation Officer (GCTO) at The Zubair Corporation said that the third HR Forum has shed delight on how to build a performance-based culture and a robust performance management system for all employees at The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries. “The forum also discussed the results of the ‘Share Your Opinion’ campaign, which involved the participation of employees from the group’s companies and the importance of capitalising on the find-

ings of this campaign and having the employees contribute to the development of the group’s plans.” “This forum is also a great platform to enhance the pivotal role that human resources functions should play in achieving the strategic and future goals of all group companies. It is worth noting that the first and second forums made a great step toward promoting a culture of constructive dialogue and active participation in achieving the desired results across the group. Several initiatives that were discussed at the previous forums have been suc-

cessfully implemented,” he added. For over five decades, The Zubair Corporation (TZC) has been bringing innovation and expertise from around the world into the Sultanate of Oman and beyond. It has participated in the creation, promotion and growth of the country’s national infrastructure, culture, tourism and industry at large. TZC comprises a diverse range of hallmark companies, strategic business units and joint ventures that operate within Oman, the Middle East, India, the Far East, Europe and the USA.

STRATEGIC

Hyundai is building a hydrogen-fuelled future



MUSCAT: The rapid shift toward sustainable solutions has inspired more efficient and rewarding ways of solving major environmental crises. As a result, the automotive industry, including Hyundai, has turned to hybrid and electric vehicles to help usher in a more sustainable lineup of vehicles. However, to achieve a more sustainable future for humanity, Hyundai is investing in one of the simplest yet the brightest solutions: Hydrogen, the most lightweight and abundant element in the universe. On Hyundai’s hydrogen strategic direction, Hyoungh Jung Im, Head of Hyundai Motor Company Middle East and Africa HQ said: “Twenty years ago, Hyundai Motor Company established a dedicated research team to develop its Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) tech-

nology. The vision was simple – FCEVs that use fuel cells and electric vehicles (EVs) can make a huge impact in the market, by shifting from conventional engines to more eco-friendly technologies, today we are proud of the progress made by our team’s achievement which placed Hyundai Motor Company at the forefront of Hydrogen Fuel cell technologies.” In 2013, Hyundai introduced the first FCEV, the fuel cell-powered Santa Fe, which marks the first mass-produced FCEV in the world., a new era has started for the company’s production of fuel cell technologies, which were included in many models later such as NEXO, which was based on the FE Fuel Cell concept. Hyundai Motor Company aims to deliver the next-generation fuel

cell system that enhances performance and durability, in a lighter architecture with enhanced energy density by offering a highly efficient and diversified lineup of hydrogen-powered vehicles. In December 2018, Hyundai Motor Company introduced ‘Fuel Cell Vision 2030’, a long-term roadmap that reflects its ongoing commitment to accelerate the development of a hydrogen society. That aims to secure 700,000 units a year of production capacity of fuel cell systems for automobiles, as well as for non-automotive sectors, such as vessels, rail cars, drones, and power generators, by 2030. OTE Group is the exclusive dealer for Hyundai in Oman offering excellent sales and after-sales service support, underpinned by a nationwide service network.



ROUND-UP



LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

ahlibank offers personal and home loans at attractive interest rates



MUSCAT: Offering convenience and steadfast processing, ahlibank continues to stay committed to fulfilling customer needs, through its attractive packages of loans across various segments.

Under a limited period offer, ahlibank's personal loan of up to OMR200,000 can be availed at an average interest rate as low as 4.50% per annum and a home loan of up to OMR350,000, at an average interest as low as 4.50% per annum. Aligned to industry best practices, the bank ensures speedy loan processing for its new and existing customers, providing them with a benchmark service experience.

With ahlibank's comprehensive loan program, customers can fulfil their dreams and aspirations, as the bank enables them to buy a home, or give their children a better education, among many such

needs. It also creates the possibility of enjoying a special holiday with loved ones and buying advanced technical devices for children without having to tolerate the load of paying large premiums.

On this offer, Muneer Al Balushi AGM – Head of retail distribution at ahlibank said, "We are keen to provide financial solutions tailored to the diverse banking needs of individuals in Oman, and we encourage our customers to maintain good levels of savings and financial stability for the same."

"At the same time, the bank's retail solutions are innovative and are structured to cater to their needs – be it for business, leisure, a better life or an emergency. Our aim is to make them a part of and entrench them in an unmatched experience from start to finish. The bank's flexibility and seamless

processes to meet critical customer requirements is a remarkable achievement in the sector."

He added, "We understand that our customers need to plan properly for their future, especially under the current conditions and challenges. Through MyLoan and MyHome loans programme, customers will be able to balance their daily commitments and provide for their necessary needs. This will ultimately lead to establishing a secure future for themselves and their family."

ahlibank's personal loan programme (MyLoan) helps customers get everything they need and more. The bank guarantees them a hassle-free experience with convenient repayment options of up to 10 years at competitive interest rates.

Recognising the importance of helping people own their property, ahlibank aspires to make a per-

son's dream home a reality with its MyHome loan plan. The Bank offers a home loan program of up to OMR 350,000, which is the most suitable for its customers' needs and includes many attractive features including comfortable monthly premiums.

ahlibank is eager to enhance the customers' satisfaction by providing them with a comprehensive range of banking services and using innovative solutions in its branch network across the Sultanate. Through all its banking products and services, the bank aims to achieve a better level of financial stability among its customers. As part of its dynamic and ambitious vision that enhances its position as a banking centre, the bank continues to make every effort to achieve the best specialised banking solutions with a high level of efficiency and quality.

Operational Excellence Award for Bank Muscat

With an excellent STP rate of 97.8 per cent, the bank's exceptional quality of SWIFT messages for dollar payments and outstanding error-free rate for remittances in 2021 were among the main criteria for receiving the award



exceptional quality of SWIFT messages for dollar payments and outstanding error-free rate for remittances in 2021 were among the main criteria for receiving the award. Wells Fargo representatives commended Bank Muscat for both outstanding transaction-processing quality and dedication to operational excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Zuwaina Abdullah Al Sharji, Assistant General Manager – Central Operations & Change Management, Bank Muscat, said: "Bank Muscat is delighted to win this award, which affirms the bank's commitment to meeting the highest standards of quality in fund transfers. We take this opportunity to thank Wells Fargo for recognising the bank's exceptional qual-

ity in the delivery of payments and transfers. Facilitated by a state-of-the-art in-house payment architecture, the bank consistently maintains high SWIFT standards which are backed by our customer-centric services."

Cross-border payments are a critical component of banking relationships in today's global economy and the need for fast, efficient and predictable processing is a shared responsibility by all the financial institutions involved. Wells Fargo, which is among Bank Muscat's prominent correspondent banks for dollar payments, provides Bank Muscat with high-quality payment processing, seamless and efficient servicing and outstanding customer service.

Bank Muscat, which has more

than 500 correspondent banking relationships across the world, is a multiple award winner whose performance has been recognised both at the international and local levels. The bank regularly wins multiple awards across its different lines of business and operations in recognition of its outstanding achievements and commitment to offering world-class banking services to all its customers.

In 2021, Bank Muscat won over 30 international and local awards and accolades including similar awards from JP Morgan and Citibank. The bank is working steadily to further improve its excellent portfolio of products and services by expanding digital banking and improving financial inclusion in the Sultanate.



MHD ACERE opens Auto Expert outlet in Salalah

MUSCAT: MHD ACERE's Auto Expert, an advanced diagnostics auto care and maintenance centre, has opened yet another outlet in Oman. Located in Samahram street, Salalah, the facility has been designed as a one-stop-shop for all kinds of repairs and maintenance, body and paint jobs, and periodic services of all kinds of automobiles.

It is a multi-franchise service centre that will also serve as an outlet for providing 4 x 4 accessories from Ironman such as rooftop tents, canopies, portable freezers, winches, recovery equipment, protective bars, lighting and electrical upgrades; car care treatment products from AutoGlym for complete restoration and many other global brands for Nano Ceramic and Graphene coating. Auto Expert facility will also provide and install world-class tyres and batteries under its roof.

MohsinHani Al Bahrani, CEO, MHD ACERE, commented, "With the aim of improving aesthetics and boosting car power, we will be offering a hand-picked array of global products while offer-ing multi-franchise service for all makes and brands, trendy off-roading accessories, car detailing and protection, premium brand tires and batteries. Auto Expert's vehicle expertise extends to on-road performance as well as off-road."

The complete car care services offered at Auto Expert are:

Scheduled Maintenance Service including Engine oil and filter replacement, Standard Check-point service, Auto-Air condition Service, AC performance test, System pressure check, Condenser check and checking of radiator cooling fan operation; Inspection of all AC components for wear, leaks and proper operation, evacuate and recharge system; Complete Cooling System Service including checking of all hoses, belts; pressure test system, heater, defroster and cooling fan operation, correct coolant mixture to a 50/50 mixture, checking for leaks and so on.

The facility also provides Engine Diagnostic Service: Fuel pressure test, code retrieval and vacuum testing; Brake System (Front & Rear); Removal and replacement of pads or shoes, resur-face rotors or drums; inspect brake line and components and test parking brake; Engine Tune-Up: Replacement of plugs, fuel filter, minor adjustment and scope test if needed; Transmission Flush: Hook up flush machine adding flushing cleaner to transmission, completely flush all transmission components, replace all transmission fluid, add transmission conditioner, check for leaks, inspect the cable and all linkages; and Motor Value Added Services: Clean and de-car-bon fuel injector, fuel rail, upper intake and intake valves and carbon in a combustion chamber, engine oil flushing, power steering flushing etc.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO holds second session of talent development programme Tamayuz

MUSCAT: Continuing to put its people at the centre of its growth ambitions, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) held the second session of its talent development programme, Tamayuz.

58 high-potential employees from across the bank, including its branches and Muzn Islamic Banking, were taken through a series of workshops on the bank's core values, five-year strategy, and objectives. Launched earlier this year, the initiative is part of the bank's efforts to develop the capabilities of its people, supporting its strategic priorities.

Aliya Al Balushi, Head of Talent & Performance Management at NBO, said, "Our people



are the heartbeat of the bank and strengthening their capabilities and supporting their development is key to our values and our strategy. Our team is full of hand-picked and qualified professionals and by

providing them with opportunities like Tamayuz we are keeping their growth on track. This way they can continue to fulfil their personal and professional goals, while staying aligned with the

bank's ambitions as a progressive, market-leading institution, one where people enjoy working and ultimately, are equipped to serve our customers best."

The first batch of Tamayuz will run until December 2023. Held in collaboration with elite business schools and training institutes, it includes workshops and courses alongside external coaching to help participants strengthen their areas of development, preparing them for leadership roles in the future. Participants will also undertake assignments in line with NBO's strategic goals and will also be able to earn professional certification to help progress their aspirational and organisational goals.



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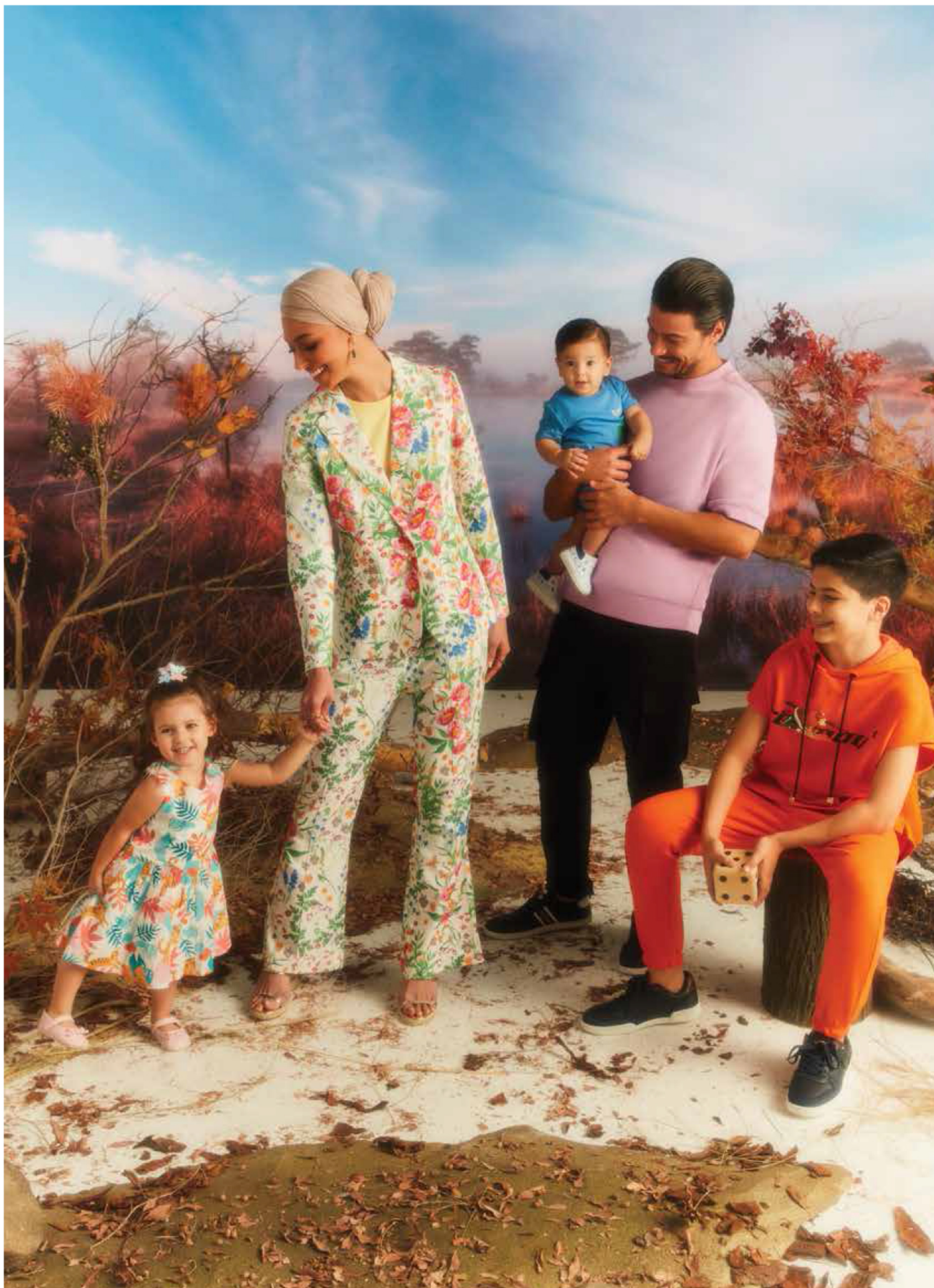

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