

OMR15 MILLION HOSPITAL COMING UP IN DHOFAR

Construction of Al Mazyona hospital in the Governorate of Dhofar is on in full swing. The facility, being set up on an area of 90,000 sqm (building area 15,276 sqm), costs OMR15,359,970. **>A2**



HM THE SULTAN RECEIVES THANKS CABLE FROM KING OF SAUDI ARABIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in reply to His Majesty's condolences cable on the death of Prince Abdulrahman bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. In the cable, King Salman expressed his sincere sentiments to His Majesty, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the deceased's soul in peace in paradise and to protect His Majesty against all harm. **-ONA**



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NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION LAUNCHED

The new initiative harmonises all strategies and national goals of the 10th Five Year Plan and Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: Acting in cooperation with Oman 2040 Follow-up Unit, the Ministry of Economy has launched a national diversification programme called 'Tanweea' (diversification), a flagship component of the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025).

Dr. Said Mohammed Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Economy, said, "Tanweea comprises a set of poli-

cies aimed to speed up the rate of economic diversification in the Sultanate of Oman."

The programme seeks to enhance frontline and rear-line connections among economic sectors, with a view to expanding the base of production and export and empower economic sectors that contribute to non-oil revenues.

Dr. Said told Oman News Agen-



Dr. Said Mohammed Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Economy

cy (ONA) that the programme operates along two tracks—a planning track and an executive track.

"The planning track focuses on shaping initiatives, studies and research, conducts financial and economic analyses and develops a risk management system.



Eng. Mohammed Hamad Al Hashmi, Executive Manager of Tanweea

"The executive track operates in connection with establishments dealing with specific diversification sectors: mining, transport, logistics, foodstuff and tourism," he elaborated.

The minister said he expects the programme to come up with

The programme seeks to enhance frontline and rear-line connections among economic sectors, with a view to expanding the base of production and export and empower economic sectors that contribute to non-oil revenues

plenary economic diversification policies, incentive packages and the development of detailed national indicators that will bring about a transformation in the overall vision.

Eng. Mohammed Hamad Al Hashmi, Executive Manager of

Tanweea, said the programme seeks to achieve target percentages in the sectors of mining, tourism, converting industries, transport, logistics and food security. It also harmonises all strategies and national goals of the 10th Five Year Plan and Oman Vision 2040. **-ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Sustainable e-platform for disabled launched

1 A ceremony was held to mark the launch of Qadiroon, the first electronic platform for people with disabilities. It hosts 100 sustainable projects and it aims at dedicating specialised outlets for shopping and direct electronic sale of all types of products to disabled. **>A3**

WORLD France loses 35% of vegetable crops

2 France's fruit and vegetable crops have fallen by nearly 35 per cent due to the extreme drought this summer, Jacques Rouchasse, president of Legumes de France, said. "We have losses on the yields. For the moment, we estimate that these losses are between 25 to 35 per cent." **>A7**

MARKET Bank Nizwa sessions on Islamic finance

3 Bank Nizwa, the leading and the most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate organised induction sessions on Islamic finance, which falls under the umbrella of the bank's renowned Islamic Finance Knowledge Series (IFKS) in several governorates of the Sultanate. **>B1**

TOURISM

As Khareef season peaks, Salalah airport footfall crosses 315,000

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As the Khareef (monsoon) tourism season gathers momentum, Salalah Airport is witnessing a great rush with the number of passengers travelling via the airport crossing the 315,000 mark since June 2022 (as of 13 August).

Salim Awadh Al Yaf'ee, Deputy CEO of Salalah Airport, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the number of weekly flights stood at 195 (arrivals and departures).

Prime tourism destination

Dhofar has become the prime tourism destination in the Arab Gulf region during the monsoon season, thanks to its diverse natural features, its exotic climate and unique topographical and ecological characteristics, Al Yaf'ee added.

Among the airline companies scheduling flights to the region, Al Yaf'ee said low-cost Wizz Air, which operates two weekly flights from Abu Dhabi to Salalah, and Gulf Air, which operates two weekly flights from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In addition, Al Jazeera Airways and Kuwait Airways operate 6 weekly flights from the State of Kuwait, while Flynas Airline operates 4 weekly flights from Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al Yaf'ee said.

Qatar Airways, Air Arabia and Fly Dubai operate flights to Oman throughout the year, but they



operate more flights during the monsoon tourism season, said Al Yaf'ee. He explained that during the Khareef season, Qatar Airways operates 7 weekly flights, Air Arabia 14 weekly flights and Fly Dubai 6 weekly flights.

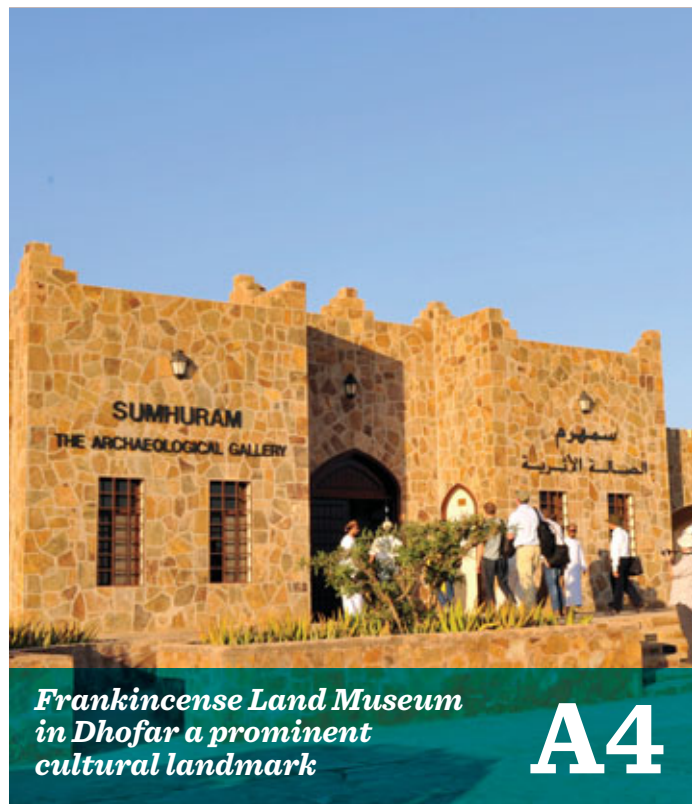
Al Yaf'ee pointed out that Salalah Airport also sees active traffic during the monsoon tourism season by national carrier Oman Air,

which operates 12 daily domestic flights. SalamAir adds another 9 domestic daily flights, he added.

According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSD), Salalah Airport registered a 68.9 percent surge in number of flights (international and domestic), to 2,743 at the end of May this year (2022), compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

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37°
MUSCAT



**Frankincense Land Museum
in Dhofar a prominent
cultural landmark**

A4



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PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:16pm
Asr.....3:42pm
Maghrib.....6:43pm
Isha.....7:57pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:25am

MEETING

GCC Health Council reviews its plans and programmes



MUSCAT: The GCC Health Council, in its preliminary meeting held here on Wednesday, reviewed its plans and programmes with media agencies and institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting aimed to highlight the efforts of the Council at the regional and international levels, introduce its initiatives and projects and to set up a mechanism for co-ordination and media publishing in various channels.

The meeting touched upon GCC efforts and initiatives in the health media field, as well as strengthening media coordination between the Council, the Ministry of Health and media agencies in Oman.

Said Juma Al Busaidi, Director of Corporate Communications Department at the GCC Health Council, said that the council's vision is to advance and upgrade the health sector in member states.

This can be achieved, he added, by launching constructive initiatives, responding to regional and global health issues, supporting decision-making and health policies and coordinating the joint GCC action in a bid to enhance cooperation and integration in the health field.

The GCC Health Council aims to mediate cooperation and coordination among member states, spread health awareness among citizens, define concepts of health and scientific issues and arranging their priorities.

It also seeks to benefit from global experiences, strengthen co-operation with Arab, regional and international organisations, raise the capabilities of national medical cadres in member states and conduct joint health research. -ONA

Construction of OMR15 million hospital continues



The hospital comprises general clinics, internal medical clinics, as well as dental, paediatric, surgery, ENT, ophthalmology and obstetric clinics

AL MAZYONA: Construction is in full swing in the Wilayat of Al Mazyona's hospital in the Governorate of Dhofar. The facility, being set up on an area of 90,000 sqm (building area 15,276 sqm), costs OMR15,359,970.

Eng. Jamal Salim Al Shanfari, Director General of Projects and Engineering Affairs at the Ministry of Health, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the hospital comprises general clinics, internal medical clinics, as well as dental, paediatric, surgery, ENT, ophthalmology and obstetric clinics. In addition, the hospital conducts an 'expanded immunization programme'.

Al Mazyona Hospital has 50 beds and wards for men, women, children and maternity, besides emergency, dialysis, X-ray and laboratory sections. Auxiliary units at the hospital include a bio-medical engineering workshop, a sterilization unit, a medical warehouse and a general store. -ONA



جامعة التقنية والعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES

LOCAL E-TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology) announces the tenders shown in the following table:

Tender No.	Tender subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid submission
24/2022/1 (25269)	Maintenance of the fire extinguishers and fire alarm systems at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology)	Companies and establishments specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	30/08/2022 at 10:00 am
25/2022/2 (25274)	Maintenance of the elevators at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology)	Companies and establishments specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	30/08/2022 at 10:00 am
26/2022/3 (25275)	Operation and maintenance of the sewage treatment plant	Companies and establishments specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	30/08/2022 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Sunday 21/08/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. The bid must be sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded to the online tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences by the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee
University of Technology and Applied Sciences
Ibri College of Technology

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PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Qadiroon, first sustainable e-platform for the disabled launched



MUSCAT: A ceremony was held on Wednesday to mark the launch of Qadiroon (capable), the first electronic platform for people with disabilities. The platform hosts 100 sustainable projects and it aims at dedicating specialised outlets for shopping and direct electronic sale of all types of products of interest to people with disabilities. The launch took place during “Qadiroon” forum, held yesterday under the auspices of HH Sayyid Fahr bin Fatik Al Said and attended by officials and representatives of the departments concerned. The forum, organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with Asas Muscat firm, discussed ways to establish sustainable projects that empower people with disabilities, notably in the field of entrepreneurship catering to their experience and abilities. During the forum, a cooperation agreement was signed between Asas and Ishraqa Institute (a Khinji Ramdas wing for social development). The agreement provides for training and rehabilitation programmes to empower the disabled. The forum touched on indices and statistics about people with disabilities in the Sultanate of Oman, as well as efforts made by government and private establishments to help this segment of society address issues that might face them in the labour market. -**ONA**

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 **MOST READ ON FACEBOOK**

17,854 REACH

Opaz has announced opening an electronic service for registering SMEs in the One-stop shop (OSS).



Story on Opaz offering e-services for registration of SMEs

A story on Opaz offering e-services for SMEs registration reached 17,854 people and had 139 link clicks on Facebook.

 **MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK**

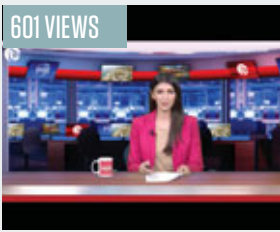
666 VIEWS



The Midday Update video had 666 views and reached 2,000 people on Facebook.

 **MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM**

601 VIEWS



Midday Top Story on dust storms predicted in Oman had 601 views and 24 likes on Instagram.



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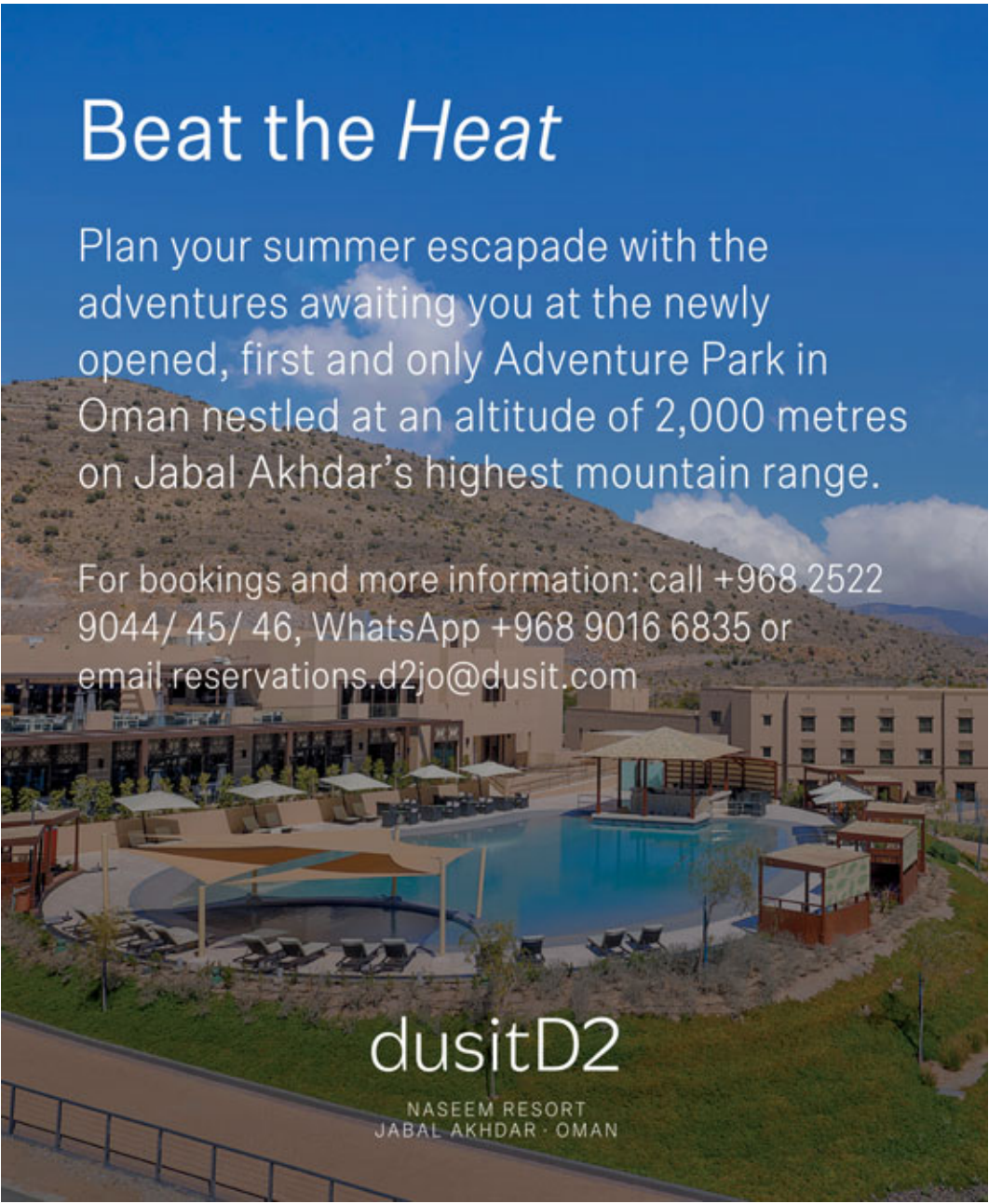
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FRANKINCENSE LAND MUSEUM at Al Baleed Archaeological Park is one of the prominent cultural landmarks and distinctive examples of the museums available at the archaeological parks listed on the World Heritage List. It is situated on the coastal strip of Salalah, about 5 km from the city centre.

The museum is a comprehensive view of the Sultanate and an opportunity to learn about its historic and maritime heritage.

The Frankincense Land Museum provides visitors and researchers with a summary on the country's march and an opportunity to familiarise with its long historic and maritime heritage, as well as examples of archeological evidence through the ages to the present time through two halls; the History Hall, which is a window on many cultural and archaeological sites that contains six sections, namely the Geography of Oman, Oman in Ancient Times, the Land



of Frankincense, Islamisation of the People of Oman, Chapters of Omani History, and the Renaissance of Oman.

The Maritime Hall also highlights the major maritime events in Omani history, Oman's relationship with the sea, the contribution of the sea to the development of trade relations with other countries and the Omani skills in the shipbuilding industry. It includes 7 sections: Maritime Heritage, Sea, Shipbuilding, Seafaring, Trade, Virtual Sea and Renaissance.





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Daily output of electricity from renewable energy touches 650MW

The Sultanate’s ambitious plan envisages using renewable energy to operate several projects that give priority to the environment and natural resources within Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: It seems incredible to imagine that a 13 million square metre desert expanse in the Wilayat of Ibri that was an uninhabited area three years ago is currently home to about 2,000 robots attending to 1.5 million dual-sided solar panels—a power facility



CLEAN ENERGY: The vision implements a strategic approach based on the creation of efficient, balanced and flexible ecosystems that enhance the national economy. — OMA

called Ibri Solar Energy Plant. But, the determination to build and develop in Oman has indeed changed fiction into reality. Ibri Solar Energy Station, opened earlier this year, has a capacity to serve 50,000 households and contributes to reduction of Co2 emissions by 340,000 tonnes per annum. The project spearheads Oman’s drive to utilise renewable energy transformation to enhance the security of power for a sustainable future and achieve balance between requirements of development and natural resources needed for economic growth, while at the same time diminishing the impacts of climate change. As a result, daily output of electricity from renewable energy sources stood at 650 megawatts—a step forward to reach an output of 3,350 megawatt by 2027. The country’s ambitious plan envisages using renewable energy to operate a wide range of projects that give priority to the environ-

ment and natural resources within Oman Vision 2040. The vision implements a strategic approach based on the creation of efficient, balanced and flexible ecosystems that enhance the national economy. This transformation is projected to raise the consumption of renewable energy and the reduction of reliance on natural gas in producing electricity. It also aims to augment the proportion of renewable energy consumption by 20 percent by 2030, besides ame-

liorating Oman’s environmental performance index so that the country would enter the sphere of 40 best states in the world. Oman’s first renewable energy project was Dhofar Wind Power Station, set up in 2019, with a capacity of 50 megawatts, enough to cover 16,000 households and contribute to the reduction of Co2 emissions by 116,000 tonnes a year. In 2020, Ameen Solar Power Station was opened, with a capacity of 100 megawatts,

enough to cover 15,000 households and cut Co2 emissions by 225,000 per annum. Manah 1 and Manah 2 solar power plants figure among the topmost projects in the renewable energy sector. With their 1,000 megawatts capacity, they cut down Co2 emissions by 680,000 tonnes a year. They are scheduled to begin commercial operation by the end of 2024. This is in addition to a concentrated solar thermal storage (STS) facility coming up in the vicinity of the Special Economic Zone in Duqm. Oman is also planning to set up a wind farm, with a capacity of 100 megawatts in the Wilayat of Ja’alan Bani Bu Ali in the Governorate of South A’Sharqiyah, along with two wind power projects (capacity 160-200) in the Wilayat of Duqm in the Governorate of Al Wusta. There are also plans to implement a project for the development of Dhofar 2 Wind Power Farm to help produce 100 megawatts. Last January, Oman launched the Middle East’s first spot energy market. The step was aimed to liberalise the electricity market and attract more renewable energy investments. - OMA

ENHANCING COOPERATION

Oman, Russia explore ways to enhance trade opportunities

MUSCAT: Several officials at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources met here today with a delegation from the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision of the Russian Federation. The meeting explored means of enhancing cooperation in trade exchange for fish, agricultural and livestock products. It also reviewed the procedures and conditions related to exporting between Oman and Russia. The meeting comes within the framework of the visit programme of the Russian delegation to Oman to explore health practices, the quality of manufacturing in fish, agricultural and livestock facilities and the food safety system. The visit of the Russian delegation also aims to complete the evaluation procedures of the Oman Fisheries Company in preparation for allowing its products to be exported to Russia.



BRIEFING THE DELEGATION: The visit of the Russian delegation also aims to complete the evaluation procedures of the Oman Fisheries Company in preparation for allowing its products to be exported to Russia. — OMA

SUMMIT

Arab Sports Media Forum starts in Dhofar

SALALAH: The Arab Sports Media Forum kicked off on Wednesday at the Sultan Qaboos Youth Complex for Culture and Entertainment in Salalah, with the participation of 100 media and sports persons. The event is organised by the Omani Journalists Association (OJA), represented by its sports media committee. **Opening ceremony** The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. The forum includes a seminar on Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup. In Addition, a session on Arab sports media will be held. Moreover, an exhibition on Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup is held on the sideline of the forum.



U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

ONLINE AUCTION SALE OF USED ITEMS

The U.S. Embassy Muscat is auctioning used household and office furniture, furnishings, appliances, gym equipment, computers and IT equipment by online auction.

Interested bidders may view the auction items online starting on August 16, 2022 by going to <https://online-auction.state.gov/en-US>. Online bidding for all items will open on Thursday, August 18 at 10:00. Bidders must first register on the site before placing a bid.

All items offered for sale will be sold "as is, where is," which means that there are no warranties, either expressed or implied. Bidding closes on Sunday, August 21, 2022 at 22:00.

Successful bidders will be notified on August 22, 2022. At that point, they must make full payment of all lots won. Payment instructions are listed in the "How to pay for your items" section in the "How it works" link on the auction page. All payments must be received in full before August 26 in the U.S. Embassy bank account.

Successful bidders with fully paid lots may collect their goods on Saturday, September 3 at the Ghala Warehouse.

IN SALALAH

‘Grooming leaders’ seminar opens

SALALAH: A seminar themed ‘Grooming second line leaders in line with Oman Vision 2040’ kicked off on Wednesday and saw the participation of 130 persons. **Two-day seminar** The two-day seminar is organised by the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with Fikr Media. The seminar aims to promote the professional performance of managers in various sectors. It also targets sharpening their skills and to equip them with necessary abilities to handle the necessities of future leadership.

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Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Documnet Price per copy (RO)
PROVISION OF IRRIGATION AND GARDENING SERVICES FOR MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND SULTANS ARMED FORCES	16/2022	12/09/2022	19/09/2022	651 RO
SUPPLY OF HYGIENE AND INSECTICIDES ITEMS FOR THE PERIOD OF THREE YEARS	17/2022	19/09/2022	26/09/2022	1315 RO
TENDER FOR FOUR AVIATION FUEL REFUELLER	18/2022	29/09/2022	10/10/2022	378 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

2. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman



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GLOBAL TENSION

US Air Force tests nuclear-capable long-range missile

WASHINGTON: Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, rising tensions between China and Taiwan and other global issues, the US Air Force on Tuesday tested an unarmed nuclear-capable long-range missile, according to the Air Force Global Strike Command.

The unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile, equipped with a test re-entry vehicle, was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and travelled 4,200 miles to a test range near the Marshall Islands, reported CNN.

The missile, launched at 12:49 a.m. PT, was “to demonstrate the readiness of US nuclear forces and provide confidence in the lethality and effectiveness of the nation’s nuclear deterrent,” a statement from the Air Force said.

“This test launch is part of routine and periodic activities intended to demonstrate that the United States’ nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective to deter twenty-first century threats and reassure our allies. Such tests have occurred more than 300 times before, and this test is not the result of current world events,” the statement said.

The launch was originally scheduled for August 4, according to Steven Wilson, a spokesman for AF Global Strike Command, but it was delayed over concerns about China’s response to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visiting Taiwan, CNN confirmed. A US official told CNN at the time that it was a “prudent step.”

The US regularly tests its intercontinental weapon system to verify its accuracy and reliability. **ANI**



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Trump critic Liz Cheney loses Republican primary

In her concession speech, Cheney alluded to a political future beyond Capitol Hill that could include a 2024 presidential run



WASHINGTON: Wyoming Representative Liz Cheney, a fierce critic of Donald Trump, lost her seat in Congress to Trump-backed candidate Harriet Hageman on Tuesday.

Election conspiracy theorist Hageman’s rout of Cheney was also a testament to Trump’s grip over the party’s fortunes and an achievement in his campaign to oust Republicans who backed impeaching him after the January 6, 2021, riot at the US Capitol.

Cheney, a three-term congresswoman and one-time upcoming star in the party, was one of just two Republicans on the House panel investigating the attack on the Capitol by a mob of Trump supporters.

Cheney vs. Trump

In her concession speech, Cheney alluded to a political future beyond Capitol Hill that could include a 2024 presidential run, pitting her against Trump.

“Our work is far from over,” she said. “I have said since January 6 that I will do whatever it takes to ensure Donald Trump is never again anywhere near the Oval Office — and I mean it.”

She first won the election to the House in 2016. And followed that up with wins in 2018 and 2020. Her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, held the House seat she now occupies from 1979 to 1989. Cheney’s criticism of Trump and her role in the congressional panel investigating the January 6 attack made her a pariah in her party.

Her third and final Congress term ends in January. She will continue in her leadership role on the January 6 attack panel until it dissolves at the end of 2022.

Who is Harriet Hageman?

Hageman is a ranching industry attorney who previously ran unsuccessfully for governor of Wyoming.

Endorsing Trump’s conspiracy theories, she falsely claimed the 2020 election was “rigged,” a statement that appealed to Trump loyalists.

Her campaign was built around how Cheney had done “nothing to fight for the people who are suffering” and instead focused on “the illegitimate January 6 committee.”

“Obviously, we’re all very grateful to President Trump, who recognizes that Wyoming has only one congressional representative and we have to make it count,” said Hageman.

Trump has his say

Meanwhile, Trump basked in Cheney’s loss saying on his Truth Social platform, “Liz Cheney should be ashamed of herself, the way she acted, and her spiteful, sanctimonious words and actions towards others.”

In all, ten Republican House members backed Donald Trump’s impeachment following the January 6 insurrection. Only two of those 10 House members have won their primaries this year. **nw**

MANCHESTER UNITED

Musk ‘not buying any sports teams’ after claiming to take over ManU

CALIFORNIA: Elon Musk, head of Tesla and SpaceX and the world’s wealthiest person, announced on Twitter on Tuesday that he is buying Manchester United Plc, but did not offer any more details. “I’m buying Manchester United ur (sic) welcome,” the billionaire tweeted.



Hours later, he clarified that he was “not buying any sports teams” and that his earlier tweet was part of a “long-running joke on Twitter.”

The football club, which has been a global brand, is controlled by the American Glazer family.

The Glazer family did not immediately respond to a request for comment, according to a Reuters news agency report.

Musk vs. Twitter

Musk has a history of saying things on Twitter that stir controversy or are plain irreverent. In April, the entrepreneur said he was buying Coca-Cola “to put the cocaine back in.”

That was after he offered to buy Twitter in a \$44 billion (€43.24 billion) deal, for \$54.20 per share. He later decided to exit the deal, with the social media giant taking him to court over it. Recently, Musk sold nearly \$7 billion worth of shares in Tesla ahead of his court battle with Twitter.

“In the (hopefully unlikely) event that Twitter forces this deal to close and some equity partners don’t come through, it is important to avoid an emergency sale of Tesla stock,” he later tweeted.

Musk’s tweets about potential acquisitions have landed him in hot water with US regulators in the past. In 2018, he tweeted that there was “funding secured” for a \$72 billion deal to take Tesla private, but he did not move ahead with an offer. Musk and Tesla each paid \$20 million civil fines — and Musk stepped down as Tesla’s chairman — to resolve US Securities and Exchange Commission claims that he defrauded investors. **nw**



Royal Oman Police
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Directorate General of Customs at the Royal Oman Police announces to the commercial community the readiness of the customs clearance offices at Aswad land port of North Al Batinah Customs Department. Those who wish to hire a customs clearance office have to liaise with the Directorate General of Customs (Department of Customs Affairs) to complete the required procedures.

For more information, please contact the customs call center number (24349000).

OUTBREAK

Measles outbreak leaves more than 150 children dead in Zimbabwe

HARARE: An outbreak of measles in Zimbabwe has killed at least 157 children with the death toll nearly doubling in just under a week, the government said on Tuesday. The total number of suspected cases across the country has risen from 1,036 to 2,056 in the space of just four days, the information minister Monica Mutsvangwa said. The health ministry earlier blamed gatherings of religious sects for the outbreak. The first infection was logged earlier this month. Most reported cases involve children between the ages of six months and 15 years from religious sects who do not believe in vaccination.

“It has been noted that most cases have not received vaccination to protect against measles. Government has invoked the Civil Protection Unit Act to deal with this emergency,” Mutsvangwa said.

Zimbabwe to step up vaccinations

According to Mutsvangwa, the Zimbabwean government was looking to work with traditional and religious leaders to gain their support for the vaccination campaign.

She also said the government would step up vaccinations and cited special legislation allowing it to draw money from the national disaster fund “to deal with the emergency.”

The measles virus mainly affects children with some of the more serious complications including blindness, brain swelling, diarrhea and severe respiratory infections.

Once very common, the virus can now be prevented with a vaccine. In April, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Africa was facing an explosion of preventable diseases due to delays in vaccinating children, with measles cases rising by 400 percent. **nw**



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WORLD



EXTREME DROUGHT

France loses up to 35% of vegetable crops due to drought

PARIS: France's fruit and vegetable crops have fallen by nearly 35 per cent due to the extreme drought this summer, Jacques Rouchausse, president of the French national association of vegetable producers, Legumes de France, said on Tuesday.

"We have losses on the yields. For the moment, we estimate that these losses are between 25 per



cent and 35 per cent. We have to stress that if we want food sovereignty, if we want food security, we really have to find ways to continue producing on our territory," Rouchausse said on air of Radio Franceinfo. According to Rouchausse, the main prerequisite for food security in France is to review the current restrictions on the use of water.

"When we talk about food security, the water restrictions that are taken should be better adapted today. We must be realistic and pragmatic. Obviously, we must not fill up our swimming pools. However, it is imperative to use water to continue producing for our food sovereignty," the President said.

Rouchausse also noted that today every second vegetable in

France is imported, while domestic farmers need government support to survive difficult times, such as the unprecedented drought.

On July 27, French Minister of Agriculture and Food Marc Fesneau said that restrictions on the use of water have been introduced in almost all regions of France amid a record drought in July.

France, like many other European countries, has been experiencing abnormally hot weather this summer. In late July in Paris, the maximum temperature reached 41 degrees Celsius (105 degrees Fahrenheit). In the southwestern Gironde department, two large wildfires broke out due to the heat, destroying more than 20,000 hectares (49,400 acres) of forests. **ANI**

PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Brazil's Bolsonaro and Lula officially kick off presidential campaign



BRASILIA: Brazil's presidential election campaign officially began on Tuesday with ex-president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva leading incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in opinion polls. Observers call the campaign the most polarised in decades.

Bolsonaro, a nationalist populist backed by Christian conservatives, launched his campaign with a rally in Juiz de Fora, the small southeastern city where an attacker stabbed and nearly killed him during his 2018 campaign.

"This is where I was reborn... This is where the creator saved my life so I could give my best for our nation as president," an emotional Bolsonaro told cheering supporters.

Trading barbs

Bolsonaro spoke about Christianity and family values, acknowledging Brazil's "serious problems". He also warned that his opponent's return would be a "step backwards" and usher in "communism" and "gender ideology."

"Our country doesn't want corruption anymore, it wants order and prosperity," Bolsonaro said. His supporters interrupted his speech chanting "Lula thief."

Lula— a two-time president of the country — who was jailed for corruption until his convictions were annulled, kicked off his campaign with a visit to a Volkswagen car factory outside Sao Paulo where he launched his political career as a union leader in the 1970s.

"I'm returning so we can take our country back," he said in a fiery speech.

Lula called Bolsonaro a "bogus, genocidal president," and condemned the "lies" he said the incumbent's camp was spreading about him.

In a video posted on social media early on Tuesday, he also said hunger had returned to Brazil under Bolsonaro and inflation was hitting families who cannot survive on minimum wages.

Lula leads polls

In most opinion polls for the October 2 vote, Lula has a double-digit lead over Bolsonaro, and both frontrunners are well ahead of the other 10 candidates.

A Monday poll by IPEC showed that 44% of voters support Lula in the first round while 32% support Bolsonaro. In a runoff, Lula would be elected with 51% of the vote versus Bolsonaro's 35%. However, Bolsonaro has managed to narrow Lula's lead in recent weeks by increasing social spending for poor Brazilians as well as urging state-controlled oil company Petrobras to cut fuel prices, a key driver of inflation. Many Brazilians fear that should Bolsonaro lose, he could follow in the footsteps of former US President Donald Trump, and try to fight the outcome. Bolsonaro has previously cast unfounded doubts about the nation's electronic voting system.

And last year, he declared before tens of thousands of supporters that only God can remove him from power. **BW**



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67/2022/MM-PA-22	Supply of Painting Materials	25/- OMR	06/09/2022	22/09/2022	26/09/2022
68/2022/MM-PA-23	Supply of Electrical Materials	25/- OMR	06/09/2022	22/09/2022	26/09/2022
69/2022/MM-PA-24	Supply Equipment for Food Inspection Sector	25/- OMR	06/09/2022	22/09/2022	26/09/2022

1. Specialized Companies with a valid registration certificate from Tender Board can obtain tender documents from the website through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. Starting from the date of this announcement until the end of deadline mentioned above.

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FREE FREIGHT CHARGES

SriLankan Airlines takes Kuwaiti medical donations to Sri Lanka for free

Times News Service

COLOMBO: SriLankan Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of SriLankan Airlines, takes on the cause of airlifting essential medicines gifted by Kuwaiti donors to hospitals in Sri Lanka, free of freight charges. SriLankan Cares has teamed with SriLankan Cargo to implement the long-term humanitarian project which aims to channel medical product donations from the Middle East and other regions to hospitals in Sri Lanka that are struggling to cope with the ongoing drug shortage in the country. The project is also representative of the Sri Lankan national carrier's enduring commitment to espouse national causes in the country's hour of need.

Consequently, SriLankan Cares has already airlifted a consignment of life-saving medicines that has been generously donated by the Kuwait Humanitarian Friendship Society. The medical supplies were flown free of freight charges on SriLankan Airlines and distributed to medical establishments across Sri Lanka. SriLankan Cares organized the logistics of the consign-

ment from its point of origin by obtaining necessary documents, approvals and bookings that help fast-track the process with the support of SriLankan Cargo. With more donations expected, SriLankan Cares will continue to deliver consignments of donated medicine and medical equipment from the Middle East and the rest of the world in the months ahead.

"SriLankan Airlines strongly believes in giving back to the community, and we owe it to our customers and shareholders to be a socially responsible company. We have flown an astounding 45,000 kilograms of medical supplies from multiple donor countries including Kuwait, to Sri Lanka at no cost to date. We are sincerely grateful to the Sri Lankan Embassy in Kuwait for facilitating the donations and their usual cooperation with the national carrier," stated Richard Nuttall, Chief Executive Officer of SriLankan Airlines.

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Robert Lewandowski praised, coach Xavi seeks more support

In the first week of La Liga, the Catalans didn't meet expectations as they drew 0-0 with Rayo Vallecano



WARSAW: FC Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez praised Robert Lewandowski after his league debut but he demands the Pole to be more clinical.

In the first week of La Liga, the Catalans didn't meet expectations as they drew 0-0 with Rayo Vallecano at Spotify Camp Nou. Lewandowski, who made his first

league appearance, had some chances but couldn't find a way to score.

"He worked for the team to create a high pressure, he found solutions in building action. He controled it very well. On the other hand, we obviously needed a bit more efficiency. This was

the main problem," Xavi was quoted as saying by Polish media on Tuesday.

"I'm happy to have Lewandowski in my squad. He helps the team. Of course, Robert and we are all dissatisfied with the result. However, we must move forward, continue the process

that we have started. I have no doubt that Lewandowski's goals are only a matter of time," the 42-year-old added.

According to Xavi, his side played below its capabilities on Saturday evening.

"I understand the disappointment because we have awakened expectations. Rayo did a great job. Ter Stegen saved our draw. We wanted to show people that we are going in the right direction. We didn't play the best match, but I am asking the fans for patience," the coach claimed.

"I don't want to make excuses, just explain what happened. A draw doesn't change anything, our goal is to win titles. We won't say 'OK, not this time' just because we tied one game. If we don't win any trophies at the end of the year, we will be dissatisfied," Xavi concluded.

On Sunday Barcelona will play on the road against Real Sociedad in the second round. **Xinhua**

Pakistan Super League dates to clash with Indian Premier League



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Super League (PSL) is on course to becoming the first T20 League to clash with the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2025, due to Pakistan's packed season at home in 2024-25.

As per ESPNCricinfo, the schedule crunch is because Pakistan is hosting its first major cricket tour in almost 30 years, the ICC Champions Trophy in February 2025. This forced the Pakistan Cricket Board to ink in a window for the tenth PSL season between March and May. IPL's window is more or less fixed and much longer. It starts in the first week of March every year and goes all the way till early June. After not being able to host multi-nation cricket at home during three previous Future Tour Programmes (FTP) cycles since 2009 due to security issues, Pakistan has started to host top teams in the last three years and will host all full members except India in the 2023-27 FTP.

There are 27 Tests, 13 at home as a part of ICC World Test Championship cycles, 26 home ODIs out of 47 in total and 27 T20Is at home out of 56.

This heavy schedule means that there will be a clash of dates be-

tween PSL and IPL in 2025 and the 2026 PSL will end up taking place fewer than seven months later in December 2025-January 2026. The 12th season of PSL will mark the return of the league to its normal window of January-February.

"While finalising our Future Tours Programme 2023-2027 in a tight and densely-packed cricket calendar, we have given priority to context, quality, and player workload," ESPNCricinfo quoted PCB chief executive Faisal Hsnain as saying in a statement.

"We have also tried to find an appropriate balance across all the three formats so that these continue to co-exist meaningfully. I am sure that our cricket fans will be delighted to know that top-ranked and attractive sides such as Bangladesh, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies will visit Pakistan to compete in matches for the ICC World Test Championship."

"Additionally, Afghanistan, Australia, Ireland and Zimbabwe will also tour Pakistan for the white-ball matches, which means 10 of the 12 ICC Full Members will play cricket in Pakistan during the four-year period. This is exciting," he concluded. **ANI**

TENNIS

Naomi Osaka crashes out, Marie Bouzkova rolls into Cincinnati Masters 2nd round

CINCINNATI: Zhang Shuai of China ended 2020 finalist Naomi Osaka's Western & Southern Open campaign with a win in the first round on Tuesday.

Zhang Shuai produced a stunning performance to advance to the second round of the tournament, defeating Osaka 6-4, 7-5 in a match that lasted for 75 minutes. Zhang's four aces were some

way off Osaka's tally, but the Chinese player used her serve much more effectively. Osaka displayed moments of her best form as she levelled the second set at 5-5, having trailed 5-3. Serving for the match a second time, Zhang made no mistake, sealing a match with her fourth ace of the day.

On the other hand, Marie Bouzkova advanced into the second

round of the Western & Southern Open, as No.11 seed Coco Gauff had to retire after suffering a left ankle injury. Gauff was leading 5-3, 30-15 when she twisted her ankle. After dropping serve in the first game of the second set, Gauff called a stop to the match. Bouzkova will face another American, Alison Riske-Amritraj, in the second round. Also on Tuesday, Shel-

by Rogers cruised into the second round, defeating fellow American and 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin 6-2, 6-1.

Later on the same day, No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit became the first player to reach the Round of 16 this week, achieving a 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 rain-interrupted victory over qualifier Tereza Martincova after two-and-a-half hours of play. **ANI**

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MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,648.3 points, down by 0.08 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.84 per cent at 485.41 points. Gulf International Chemicals, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 50 per cent, was the top loser.

Sessions on Islamic finance organised

Bank Nizwa has been able to educate communities about the values, options and advantages provided by the financial industry through IFKS, equipping them with the knowledge they need to make wise decisions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Nizwa, the leading and the most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate organised induction sessions on Islamic finance, which falls under the umbrella of the bank's renowned Islamic Finance Knowledge Series (IFKS), in several governorates of the Sultanate.

The sessions witnessed a fruitful engagement amongst attendees. The bank organised the first session on Islamic Finance for the Ministry of Religious Affairs staff in Salalah, under the patronage of Firas Al-Naqbi, Director General of Endowments and Affairs in the Governorate of Dhofar, in the presence of a number of officials and



employees of the ministry. Sheikh Dr Majid Al Kindi, Chairman of the Sharia Board at the bank presented the programme to a large audience, highlighting the benefits of Sharia-compliant financial tools and services to the attendees.

The bank held as well two parallel sessions in the governorate of South Al Sharqiyah; at Jalan Bani Bu Ali and Jalan Bani Bu Hasan, which were delivered by Mustafa Al Naabi, Sharia Training Assistant Manager at Bank Nizwa.

"The bank has been able to educate communities about the values, options and advantages provided by the financial industry through IFKS, equipping them with the knowledge they need to make wise decisions. Financial inclusion lays the groundwork for a sound financial infrastructure in addition to promoting a nation's economic growth and develop-

ment," said Khaled Al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer of Bank Nizwa. "As a consequence, these sessions exemplify our persistent commitment to equipping local communities with unrivalled Islamic banking and finance options that comply with today's changing financial demands," he added.

The first Islamic bank in Oman, Bank Nizwa, has long been committed to spreading awareness of Islamic finance's concepts and tenets as well as its many benefits amongst the people of the Sultanate. Making wise financial decisions is essential as more people join the workforce on a daily. Although many people were unaware of Oman's solid Islamic Finance foundation, the development potential of Islamic finance is still quite significant.

Bank Nizwa sought to remedy the underrepresentation of prod-

ucts that adhere to Shari'ah. As a result, Bank Nizwa, the industry pioneer in Islamic banking, devised IFKS.

In addition to these recent sessions, Bank Nizwa is continuing its plan to work with institutions and organisations in the public and private sectors to educate various communities in the Sultanate about Islamic banking and its benefits. Since its inception in 2013, Bank Nizwa has become the go-to-reference for Islamic finance in the country, participating in and organising several initiatives to raise awareness of the industry across Oman.

In addition to the 'Islamic Finance Knowledge Series', the bank has been offering novel products and services tailored to the needs of personal and corporate banking and helping people lead financially secure lifestyles.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACADEMY



'Tasees' CSR initiative spurs entrepreneurial ecosystem in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Building on its role as a facilitator for start-ups and SMEs, 'Tasees', (formerly Eshraqa Entrepreneurship Academy) is on a mission to shape and mould the fortunes of aspiring Omani entrepreneurs with a proven methodology of skill-building exercises, combined with consultancy and infrastructural support.

Today, 'Tasees' has earned a credible reputation as a reliable mentor and guide; it continues to enlist entrepreneurs to its fold, empowering and inspiring them to build, develop and enhance their business opportunities by adopting a grassroots strategy. As a coach and patron with the potential to fulfil dreams of start-ups, it has supported 24 business ventures from various sectors, including construction, e-commerce, food and beverage, training and management consultancy, cosmetics, and IT solutions, among others.

Urging small businesses to dream big, 'Tasees' continues to foster an entrepreneurial mindset through educational and training resources that are specifically designed to provide a boost to initiate the business project. Starting from the pre-incubation stage, 'Tasees' shares the large task of 'incubation', followed by 'acceleration' and 'Funding and Guidance' to bring the project to fruition with a strong base to expand and grow. It is this direct engagement with new start-ups that makes 'Tasees' approach and method unique; it has supported business ideas from every sector, both traditional and modern. Thanks to its training and involvement in the various stages of development, a couple of businesses in the country have already found success and have reached newer levels.

What has also been a major spur in bolstering 'Tasees' ambitious entrepreneur support system is its resolve to partner with the government in realising the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. Highlighting the same, Nailesh Khimji, Director, Khimji Ramdas Group, said, "We aim to enable aspiring and established entrepreneurs to dream big and achieve their true potential. In line with Oman Vision 2040, under the visionary guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, we have been able to nurture and mentor a diverse range of Omani businesses to excel in their respective fields."

"It is our desire to target the potentials of young entrepreneurs in achieving the main theme of 'economy and development, as inscribed in the Vision manifesto. The ambit of our training module is based on the sound belief that effective leadership or entrepreneurship should begin early. That belief puts the onus on major corporations like us, who have a responsibility to their community and have the resources and capabilities to champion the cause of aspiring entrepreneurs. Through Eshraqa, we have implemented several social impact projects, and through 'Tasees' we have kept our focus on empowering young Omanis who dare to dream and are willing to take the leap of faith with us. We have honed our training operations to suit the market requirements and have the requisite expertise to assess and analyse businesses that need that extra push to savour newfound success," he added.

With Oman Vision 2040 emphasising the importance of strengthening sustainable human development, Tasees is well on its way to bridging the gap with its threefold approach to training - capacity building, consultancy interventions, and infrastructural support. Whether it is one-to-one training, low-cost shared space and utilities, workshops and training programs, or its annual mentorship programme in partnership with Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development - AS-MED (Riyada), Tasees is determined to play an active role in the larger picture.

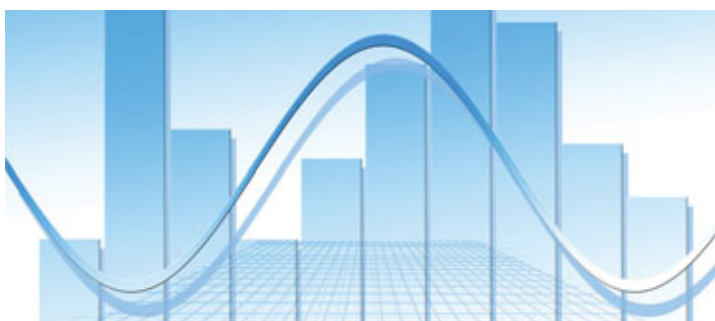
REPORT

'Inflation risks in India persist but peak is behind us'

NEW DELHI: The recent decline of global commodity prices, easing of some of the global supply-chain problems and absence of demand-side pressures seem to indicate retail inflation is past the peak, financial advisory firm Anand Rathi said in a report.

For the record, India's retail inflation fell to 6.71 per cent in July from 7.01 per cent in June, the lowest level in five months, helped by an easing in food and oil prices, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO) data. With this, retail inflation despite having moderated has been over the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance band of 6 per cent for the seventh consecutive month in a row.

Wholesale inflation too declined substantially during the month



RETAIL INFLATION: For the record, India's retail inflation fell to 6.71 per cent in July from 7.01 per cent in June, the lowest level in five months, helped by an easing of food and oil prices. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

of July to 13.93 per cent, but continues to remain in double digits, official data released on Tuesday showed. The Wholesale Price

Index (WPI) based inflation has been, however, in the double-digit for 16 months in a row now.

"With the unfavourable base

for food products, especially vegetables and cereals, we do not expect sharp softening until March 2023," the firm said in its report.

It believes the Reserve Bank of India's interest hike stance will continue.

"While we expect another 60 basis points rate hike by the RBI in this cycle, it is likely to be spaced out, and hikes would now be in smaller instalments," it added.

Global trend

In line with the global trend of monetary policy tightening to cool off inflation, the RBI has so far hiked the key repo rates - the rate at which the central bank of a country lends money to commercial banks - by 140 basis points to 5.40 per cent. -ANI

STATISTICS

Saudi ports register 16% growth in cargo volumes

RIYADH: Cargo throughput rose by 16 per cent over the past month at Saudi ports, racking up 28 million tonnes compared to 24 million tonnes in July 2021, thanks to optimised organisational performance and world-class levels of efficiency, operational capability, and logistical competence.

Statistics by the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) further reveal a 45.4 per cent growth in general cargo at 718,082 tonnes, a 30.3 per cent increase in dry bulk cargo at 4.2 million tonnes, and a 19.1 per cent surge in liquid bulk cargo at 16.3 million tonnes.

Similarly, container throughput jumped 6.4 per cent to 641,862 TEUs compared to 602,181 TEUs during the same period last year. Transshipments, too, spiked 9.5 per cent year-on-year to hit 268,000 TEUs versus previous year's volumes of 245,000 TEUs. -SPA

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MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Gulf International Chemicals, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 50 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,648.3 points, down by 0.08 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.84 per cent at 485.41 points. Gulf International Chemicals, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Barka Water & Power Company, down 50 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of SMN Power Holding were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Al Maha Marketing were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 687 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.3 million, with more than 12.17 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 15 advanced, 15 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR396,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR396,000.

Financial Index closed at 7,425.89 points, down 0.25 per cent. Prices of Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful and Ahli Bank were up by 1.3 per cent, 1.12 per cent and 0.75 per cent respectively. Prices of Om-

invest, Oman United Insurance and Muscat Finance were down by 3.53 per cent, 1.72 per cent and 1.47 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,309.08 points, up 0.83 per cent. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Oman Chlorine, Oman Cables Industry, Al Anwar Ceramics and Construction Materials were up by 10 per cent, 10 per cent, 4.76 per cent, 3.81 per cent and 2.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf Mushroom Products, Jazeera Steel Products, Raysut Cement, Al Maha Ceramics and A'Saffa Foods were down by 5.2 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 0.94 per cent and 0.82 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.22 per cent before closing at 1,678.29 points. Prices of Al Maha Marketing, Sahara Hospitality, Barka Desalination and OIFC were up by 6.49 per cent, 1.89 per cent, 1.48 per cent and 0.78 per cent respectively. Prices of Barka Water & Power Company, SMN Power Holding, National Gas, Sembcorp Salalah and Al Jazeera Services were down by 50 per cent, 6.25 per cent, 2.19 per cent, 1.39 per cent and 1.38 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,656.16	4,641.20	4,648.30	4,651.87	-3.57	-0.08
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,444.50	7,412.09	7,425.89	7,444.50	-18.61	-0.25
Industry Index	6,331.73	6,257.40	6,309.07	6,257.40	51.67	0.83
Services Index	1,678.29	1,664.47	1,678.29	1,674.57	3.72	0.22
MSX Shariah Index	488.04	481.38	485.41	481.38	4.03	0.84
MSX TR INDEX	5,872.50	5,853.63	5,862.58	5,867.09	-4.50	-0.08
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,755.92	7,770.35	7,739.83	7,739.83	-0.25	-0.25
SERVICES TR IDX	1,742.75	1,728.39	1,742.75	1,738.88	3.86	0.22
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,571.27	6,494.13	6,547.76	6,494.13	53.63	0.83

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
12,174,906	2,302,004	687	23,234,539,039	15	15	20	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	P&L VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	1,000,480	785,505	10	0.780	0.788	0.744	0.788	0.740	0.048	6.486	0.788	0.788	0.788	0.100	54,372,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	18,000	23,630	8	1.300	1.320	1.300	1.320	1.290	0.060	4.762	1.320	1.350	1.300	0.100	118,404,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	12,500	5,403	3	0.430	0.436	0.430	0.436	0.420	0.016	3.810	0.436	0.390	0.440	0.100	95,920,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	404,817	123,214	23	0.300	0.306	0.300	0.304	0.297	0.007	2.357	0.304	0.304	0.304	0.100	100,585,304
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	547,765	70,757	28	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.130	0.129	0.001	0.775	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	10,000	1,350	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.134	0.001	0.746	0.135	0.135	0.140	0.100	263,203,758
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	100	27	1	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.274	0.000	0.000	0.274	0.000	0.274	0.100	445,509,302
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV	15,000	1,260	3	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.080	0.084	0.100	7,560,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	36,414	22,453	11	0.620	0.620	0.616	0.616	0.616	0.000	0.000	0.616	0.612	0.616	0.100	231,970,295
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV.H	94,000	6,115	5	0.066	0.066	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.063	0.065	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	2,000	1,035	2	0.510	0.520	0.510	0.520	0.520	0.000	0.000	0.520	0.504	0.520	0.100	122,933,200
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	40,000	3,960	3	0.099	0.100	0.099	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.097	0.105	0.100	25,866,180
OM0000003286	SOHAR INT BANK	100,000	11,000	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	328,908,832
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	207,625	83,050	5	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	260,377,692
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	24,000	1,296	6	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.054	0.000	0.000	0.054	0.051	0.054	0.100	12,000,960
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	67,941	62,228	16	0.916	0.916	0.912	0.920	0.920	-0.008	-0.870	0.912	0.912	0.916	0.100	684,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT.ENG.	55,000	5,865	7	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	15,280,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	213,353	80,754	19	0.420	0.430	0.420	0.420	0.424	-0.004	-0.943	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	23,100,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	500	143	1	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.286	0.290	-0.004	-1.379	0.286	0.272	0.312	0.100	17,504,422
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	28,500	8,254	4	0.290	0.290	0.285	0.285	0.290	-0.005	-1.724	0.285	0.261	0.288	0.100	28,500,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	228,851	64,246	22	0.288	0.288	0.280	0.280	0.288	-0.008	-2.778	0.280	0.280	0.300	0.100	34,971,420
OM0000001333	OMINVEST	129,450	42,694	8	0.336	0.336	0.328	0.328	0.340	-0.012	-3.529	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.100	219,223,860
Total		22	3,236,296	1,413,368	188											

Parallel Market

OM0000002028	GULF INT CHEMI	48,000	4,594	10	0.091	0.099	0.091	0.099	0.090	0.009	10.000	0.099	0.097	0.099	0.100	2,079,000	
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	72,884	30,096	31	0.378	0.440	0.378	0.440	0.440	0.000	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	28,965,610	
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M	114,200	9,856	14	0.086	0.088	0.085	0.086	0.084	0.002	2.381	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	5,375,000	
OM0000002812	SAHARA HOSPITALITY	110	297	1	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.700	2.650	0.050	1.887	2.700	2.640	2.650	1.000	21,392,910	
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	100,000	13,095	1	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.137	0.000	1.436	0.137	0.136	0.137	0.100	10,345,514	
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,537,949	232,201	58	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.152	0.150	0.002	1.333	0.152	0.152	0.151	0.153	100	30,853,940
OM0000001772	ALANWAH INVESTMENT	378,400	29,147	11	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.077	0.001	1.299	0.078	0.078	0.077	0.100	15,600,000	
OM0000004768	ALMAHA TAKAFUL	81,701	7,353	12	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.091	1.24	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.100	15,750,000	
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	395,000	43,976	37	0.109	0.113	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.917	0.110	0.110	0.111	0.100	20,028,624	
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	593,145	91,331	7	0.155	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.155	0.000	0.000	0.155	0.153	0.155	0.100	510,048,482	
OM0000002275	SIEBEL OMAN MINE	780	733	2	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.940	0.000	0.940	0.928	0.940	0.100	88,300,000		
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	1,221	133	2	0.103	0.110	0.103	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	8,954,303	
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	12,530	1,253	1	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.090	0.101	0.100	22,695,303	
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	103,400	4,858	8	0.047	0.047	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.046	0.100	11,250,000	
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	70,250	3,151	5	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.100	30,389,234	
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	358,238	16,479	13	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	32,862,692	
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	17,800	819	3	0.046	0.047	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.047	0.100	67,279,667	
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	106	12	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.112	0.115	0.100	17,888,296	
OM000000447	OMAN RET FUND	6,636	665	2	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.100	3,251,861	
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	31,500	7,655	8	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.245	-0.002	-0.816	0.243	0.235	0.242	0.100	29,160,000	
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	6,000	355	1	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.071	0.072	-0.001	-1.389	0.071	0.070	0.072	0.100	67,774,608	
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCIAL	377,380	25,310	13	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.067	0.067	0.067	0.100	20,578,804	
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	265,290	35,924	34	0.137	0.137	0.134	0.137	0.137	-0.003	-2.190	0.134	0.130	0.134	0.100	11,390,000	
OM0000001418	RAYSTON CEMENT	974,461	219,428	118	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.225	-0.005	-2.222	0.220	0.219	0.220	0.100	44,000,000	
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	11,447	2,842	6	0.255	0.255	0.256	0.256	0.269	-0.014	-5.204	0.255	0.251	0.255	0.100	10,600,844	
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	3,271,350	104,131	95	0.033	0.035	0.029	0.030	0.032	-0.002	-6.250	0.030	0.030	0.030	0.100	5,989,068	
OM0000003141	Barka Water and Power	5,000	1.185	1	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.239	0.478	-0.239	-50.000	0.239	0.000	0.000	0.100	38,240,000	
Total	27	8,936,978	888,000	497													

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Online payment solutions rise in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The economic transformations brought about first by the technological revolution, societal evolution and recently by the pandemic have compelled all individuals and businesses to go online. With the greater intermingling of finance and technology, online payment solutions are truly flourishing in today's world. A vista of opportunities has opened up for customers as they now seek to choose simplified, safe and quick payment options.

Online/ cashless/ contactless transactions have become the new normal with the emergence of innovative technologies; the necessity of social distancing in day-to-day life is reinforced by the Covid 19 pandemic along with the rise of aware consumerism and FinTech companies catering to the ever-evolving consumers' needs.

This has been the trend at the global level and Oman has been at the forefront of rapid digital transformations. In Oman Vision 2040,



the goal to create a digital economy has been reinforced.

FinTech companies have changed the entire narrative in the financial landscape. They have digitally altered all banking transactions to a level where bank customers no longer need to stand in long queues and do all paperwork just to get access to financial ser-

vices. Through mobile apps, professionals, homemakers, students, SMEs and other businesses can transact seamlessly and enjoy a plethora of services for varied financial needs.

Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Rawahi, CEO of Global Financial Technology who owns OM Pay, Lamma - Oman's first super app, a unified communication platform with payment integration - said, "With the ever-evolving needs of the customers and the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic, FinTech solutions have proven to be a boon. Diversification in the financial ecosystem is most



RESEARCH SHOWS DAILY ACTIVITY IS MORE BENEFICIAL THAN LONGER PERIODS OF EXERCISE

New research indicates a little bit of daily activity is more beneficial than longer periods of exercise spread out across the week and happily, it also suggests you don't have to put in a mountain of work every day.

It's a dilemma faced by many health-conscious people and new research from Edith Cowan University (ECU) is answering the question.

This latest research indicates a little bit of daily activity could well be the most beneficial approach, at least for muscle strength.

And happily, it also suggests you don't have to put in a mountain of work every day.

In collaboration with Niigata University and Nishi Kyushu University in Japan, the four-week training study had three groups of participants performing an arm resistance exercise and changes in muscle strength and muscle thickness were measured and compared.

The exercise consisted of 'maximal voluntary eccentric bicep contractions' performed on a machine which measures muscle strength in each muscle contraction you would do at the gym.

An eccentric contraction is when the muscle is lengthening; in this case, like lowering a heavy dumbbell in a bicep curl.

Two groups performed 30 contractions per week, with one group doing six contractions a day for five days a week (6x5 group), while the other crammed all 30 into a single day, once a week (30x1 group).

Another group only performed six contractions one day a week.

After four weeks, the group doing 30 contractions in a single day did not show any increase in muscle strength, although muscle thickness (an indicator of increase in muscle size) increased 5.8 per cent.

The group doing six contractions once a week did not show any changes in muscle strength and muscle thickness.

However, the 6x5 group saw significant increases in muscle strength — more than 10 per cent — with an increase in muscle thickness similar to the 30x1 group.

1 FREQUENCY, NOT VOLUME

Importantly, the increase in muscle strength of the 6x5 group was similar to the group in a previous study that performed only one three-second maximal eccentric contraction per day for five days a week for four weeks.

ECU Exercise and Sports Science Professor Ken Nosaka said these studies continue to suggest very manageable amounts of exercise done regularly can have a real effect on people's strength.

"People think they have to do a lengthy session of resistance training in the gym, but that's not the case," he said.

"Just lowering a heavy dumbbell slowly once or six times a day is enough."

Professor Nosaka said while the study required participants to exert maximum effort, early findings from current, ongoing research indicated similar results could be achieved without needing to push as hard as possible.

"We only used the bicep curl exercise in this study, but we believe this would be the case for other muscles also, at least to some extent," he said.

"Muscle strength is important to our health. This could help prevent a decrease in muscle mass and strength with ageing.

"A decrease in muscle mass is a cause of many chronic disease such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, dementia, plus musculoskeletal problems such as osteoporosis."



It's a dilemma faced by many health-conscious people and new research is answering the question. This latest research indicates a little bit of daily activity could well be the most beneficial approach.

2 REST UP

It is not yet known precisely why the body responds better to resistance exercises with eccentric contractions in smaller doses rather than bigger loads less frequently.

Professor Nosaka said it may relate to how often the brain is asked to make a muscle perform in a particular manner.

However, he stressed it was also important to include rest in an exercise regimen.

"In this study, the 6x5 group had two days off per week," he said. "Muscle adaptations occur when we are resting; if someone was able to somehow train 24 hours a day, there would actually be no improvement at all.

"Muscles need rest to improve their strength and their muscle mass, but muscles appear to like to be stimulated more frequently."

He also highlighted if someone was unable to exercise for a period, there was no value in trying to "make up" for it with a longer session later.

"If someone's sick and can't exercise for a week, that's fine, but it is better to just return to regular exercise routine when you're feeling better" he said.

3 CLARIFYING ADVICE

Current Australian Government guidelines already indicate adults should try to be active every day and perform 2.5-5 hours of moderate physical activity per week.

Professor Nosaka said there needed to be more emphasis on the importance of making exercise a daily activity, rather than hitting a weekly minute goal.

"If you're just going to the gym once a week, it's not as effective as doing a bit of exercise every day at home," he said.

"This research, together with our previous study, suggests the importance of accumulating a small amount of exercise a week, than just spending hours exercising once a week.

"We need to know that every muscle contraction counts, and it's how regularly you perform them that counts."

"Greater effects by performing a small number of eccentric contractions daily than a larger number of them once a week" was published in the Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports. **-ANI**




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Drought in Spain intensifies as reservoirs at less than 40% of storage capacities
 Picture shows a view of Cijara reservoir in Extremadura, Spain. Spain continues to suffer from one of the hottest and driest summers on record, after the highest temperatures ever recorded in July. Lack of rain has left water volumes in its reservoirs at less than 40 percent of their storage capacities -- 20 percent below the average level for this time of the year. *xinhua*



Horse race Palio held in Siena, Italy
 An Italian Carabinieri performs before the suspension of the horse race Palio in Siena, Italy. The horse race Palio has been postponed due to the rain. The historical horse race Palio is being held again this year after a two-year pause because of the COVID-19 pandemic. *xinhua*



Australia's national science agency unveils innovations in recycling to boost circular economy
 Picture provided by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) shows local students from year 6 testing a new prototype 'Smart Bin' at the University of Technology Sydney in Sydney, Australia. Australia's national science agency has unveiled the latest innovations in recycling during the yearly National Science Week to inspire the next generation to lead a circular economy-focused future. *xinhua*



Man arrested for violence threats against FBI over Mar-a-Lago search operations in US
 Picture shows the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters behind security fencing in Washington, DC, the United States. A Pennsylvania man has been arrested on charges of making threats of violence against personnel of the FBI, according to the US Department of Justice. *xinhua*



Scenery of Beijing
 People visit the Qianmen street in Beijing, capital of China. *xinhua*



Indonesia sets economic growth at 5.3%, inflation at 3.3% in 2023
 Indonesian President Joko Widodo (on stage) speaks in traditional Bangka Belitung's outfit in front of parliament members at the parliament building in Jakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia has set its economic growth target at 5.3 percent and inflation rate at 3.3 percent next year, said President Joko Widodo. *xinhua*



Vijay Deverkonda promotes his movie 'Liger'
 Actor Vijay Deverkonda with other artists performs a dance on the sets of DID Super Moms for the promotion of his upcoming film 'Liger', in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



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ROUND-UP

Zubair Corp highlights importance of performance management

The workshop, titled, ‘The Smart Performance Management Process’, was organised by the Zubair Corporation’s HR department at Bait Al Zubair

MUSCAT: Adil Al Rahbi, Group Chief Transformation Officer (GCTO) of The Zubair Corporation, recently inaugurated a workshop highlighting the relation between employee performance and



organisational success. The workshop, titled, “The Smart Performance Management Process”, was organised by the Zubair Corporation’s HR department at Bait Al Zubair, and saw a number of executives and line managers from different departments of The Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries participating in the workshop. To build a productive work environment based on a culture of high performance, the workshop aims to improve the quality of the perfor-

mance management process and emphasises the importance of linking employee performance with the objectives of the group companies. Commenting on the workshop, Adil Al Rahbi said, “The Zubair Corporation seeks to launch several initiatives in the field of human capital management to enhance the culture of institutional performance. This can be achieved by unifying the efforts made towards achieving the future goals of the group that are set by the corporation’s board of directors.

This workshop is part of a series of workshops that will be implemented according to a plan designed to change some of the perceptions associated with the performance management process. The workshop aims to change these perceptions from being routine annual procedures to being an essential tool in the success and prosperity of any organisation as well as being an effective tool for achieving continuous improvement for both the institution and the employee.” “We need to organise such work-

shops, now, more than ever, so that companies can achieve the desired goals of their strategic plans through optimal investment in human capital and by upgrading their performance in various disciplines and at all functional levels. There is a direct relationship between the prosperity of any organisation and employee performance. Also, building a robust ‘performance management’ system contributes to the development of Omani talents in line with their future aspirations at all levels, as well as drawing a clear plan for career advancement that helps these talents develop their careers in a structured and continuous manner,” he added. Nabhan Al Kharusi, Human Resources Consultant and CEO of Extra Miles Company, praised The Zubair Corporation management’s approach to transforming human capital practices as the main driver of advancing the success of companies across the group. The Human Resources Department at The Zubair Corporation

is continuously working on designing and launching specialised initiatives and programmes aimed at developing human capital in the group companies. Previous programmes have resulted in enabling a wide range of Omani talents to assume leadership positions in the various companies of the group. For more than five decades, The Zubair Corporation has worked to attract new experiences and innovations from all over the world to the Sultanate and other markets in which it operates. It is one of the largest institutions that continuously contributes to the establishment of infrastructure at the national level, in addition to playing a pivotal role in other sectors like culture, tourism and industry. The Zubair Corporation includes a diverse group of distinguished companies, strategic business units and joint ventures that spread across the Sultanate and in the markets of the Middle East, India, Far East, Europe and the United States of America.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Alizz Islamic Bank’s digital services see significant increase in number of users

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank’s digital banking services offer its customers the convenience of banking from the comfort of their homes. The bank’s digital channels have seen a significant increase in the number of users due to the seamless user interface and user experience that offers flexibility and ease in conducting and executing banking transactions without the need to visit the branches. The digital channels provided by Alizz Islamic Bank include the mobile banking application, the Internet banking platform, interactive teller machines and automated teller machines, in addition to contactless card payments that offer customers the ability to conduct a maximum of 10 transactions per day with the need to use the chip and PIN method. Alizz Islamic Bank recently launched an internal award for the ‘Digital Banking Champions’



which is given to the branch that records the highest percentage of onboarding customers to the mobile banking application. Moreover, the bank continues to invest in new digital technologies that enhance the customer experience. The bank also utilises fintech-based solutions and works on building the basic foundations that meet the needs of customers while adopting a culture of innovation within the institution. Alizz Islamic Bank was also recently awarded with the ‘Best Rated Mobile Banking App in

Oman’ as per the reviews of users who downloaded the application from the Apple Store, Android Google Playstore and Huawei Gallery store, evaluating the application on the user experience and the ease of completion of banking transactions. Commenting on the increase in the number of users on the digital channels Sayyida Nadira Al Said, Senior Manager of Digital Banking at Alizz Islamic Bank said, “Digital transformation is mandatory and not optional for any entity that provides direct services to its customers, especially the banking sector. We always say “The bank is in every home” and digital services naturally lead to enhancing the performance of the banking sector through innovative solutions that cater to all the needs of customers. At Alizz Islamic Bank we have continued to invest in our existing digital platforms because they are

the future, the bank has a strong focus and presence in utilising fintech solutions and its infrastructure has been developed to provide high-quality customer service while fostering the culture of innovation and excellence. We are always working on enhancing our core capabilities and continuing to work towards obtaining a digital business model to keep pace with changing customer requirements and technological progress. This approach has led to the doubling of the number of users on our digital channels.” It is worth noting that from time to time, the bank conducts customer satisfaction surveys to rate the customers’ satisfaction with the services and products delivered by the bank, as well as the features and facilities the customers aspire to have from their bank, whether in terms of digital banking services or the finance facilities.

PS BURAIMI TEACHERS ATTEND WORKSHOP ON CPR

Teachers of Pakistan School Buraimi attended a knowledgeable and practical workshop on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) under the patronage of Faisal Husain. Faisal Husain is a renowned Master Trainer and CEO of Grace Academy Sydney Australia. It was an online free workshop. The teachers will receive their certificate from Grace Academy Sydney, Australia. The credit to organise such an informative and beneficial workshop goes to worthy acting Principal Shahnaz Arshad.



CSR CAMPAIGN

Sohar International sponsors Data Academy programme for children at Child Care Centre

MUSCAT: With an inherent zeal to contribute meaningfully and enhance the lives of individuals from different sections of society, Sohar International has been at the forefront of spearheading several thoughtful corporate social responsibility campaigns with an underlying objective of supporting platforms to share knowledge. Reaffirming its role as a facilitator of socio-economic progress, the bank recently signed an agreement to sponsor the Data Academy training programme for children at the Child Care Centre. The sponsorship will cover the training of 40 children at the centre for 10 days. Under the programme, Sohar International’s sponsorship will enable the centre to arrange materials needed to ensure the program is conducted seamlessly and the training remains uncompromised. The training program will focus on core subjects like programming, arts, science, and math. Dedicated to providing the necessary intervention at every stage of a child’s educational journey, the program will have two distinct categories to better address their varying needs. While the first category is for children in the age group of 5 to 10 years old, the second targets those from 11 to 15 years of age. Commenting on the sponsorship, Ahmed Al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International said, “The ability to impart quality education for the masses is one of the key pillars to promote sustainable development. Having timely access to the right learning modules goes a long way - especially for children - in helping them develop their personality, explore and excel in their interest areas for sustainable growth and development. The educational sector has also been identified as one of the vital focus areas under Oman Vision 2040. At Sohar International, we exercise increased emphasis on supporting educational programs through various knowledge-sharing initiatives. As a socially responsible bank, Sohar International has invested in the long-term prosperity of the nation and will continue to lead efforts to promote an inclusive and progressive society.” Placing immense importance on creativity, innovation, and the ability to think out of the box, the training program delivered by The Data Academy is in line with the bank’s fundamental principles. The training will be instrumental in helping instil critical thinking amongst children from an early age while improving their analytical, logical, and problem-solving skills. This will also help boost performance in other areas of learning and development while better preparing them to tackle complex real-world challenges in a data-driven future.



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Dr Abdullah Al Muniri, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Data Academy, said, “We appreciate Sohar International’s efforts, its ongoing commitment to support its relationship with society, and its interest to sponsor our training program. We look forward to continuing to cooperate with the Bank to achieve the training program objectives and create a greater impact and contribution to the socio-economic progress of the country.” Through its various CSR efforts, Sohar International has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to social causes. With an innate drive to contribute to the welfare of children, the bank has been conceptualising, implementing, and promoting several social responsibility programmes that enable children and youth to develop skills that will help them succeed in a competitive world.

NEW SUPER-MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL



HSE executives of major energy and minerals firms visit Aster Royal Hospital

MUSCAT: A comprehensive group of local and international energy and minerals companies marked presence in Aster Royal Hospital - the newest super-multi-speciality hospital located in Al Ghubra. HSE executives of major energy and minerals stakeholders were guided on a site tour in the country’s largest multidisciplinary private hospital in Oman which announced the soft opening at the end of this month. During the visit, Dr Ashendu Pandey, the hospital’s group CEO, made a brief about its structure, focusing on the public’s healthcare needs, the international standards of quality, the specialised medical services and the innovative diagnostic treatment solutions. Dr Ashendu stated: “With the opening of this Hospital, we can bring more patients onboard, allying the modern facilities, with the usual trust that we generously receive from the Oman population and that we are so grateful for these last 12 years. Our compromise is to work every day to keep this trust, bringing health and

well-being to the community.” The distinguished visitors get to know the hospital’s excellence centres - gastroenterology, urology, orthopaedics and women & children. They also visited the Deluxe rooms, the VIP lounge area, the radiology department (totally equipped with the renowned brand Siemens Healthineers), the state-of-the-art operation theatres and the unique “cath lab” - that is ready for the performance of heart and neurosurgery interventions. This visit is in collaboration with Opal (Oman Society for Petroleum Services), with the support of Opal’s CEO, Eng. Abdulrahman Al Yahaei. Eng. Abdulrahman stated, “It is fundamental to support the private sector projects, by guaranteeing that the companies and the society, in general, are aware of various offers the market avails. It is part of Opal’s mission to serve our sector by promoting synergies and we found the opening of Aster Royal Hospital as an opportunity for the improvement of

the quality of life and health care services of our members.” Hussain Al Lawati, HSE in Total Energies shared his experience during the visit, “It was a good experience to visit Aster Royal Hospital and get to know its excellence centres and unique services, some of them available for the first time in the private sector in Oman.” Aster Royal Hospital will be operated initially in a phased manner, starting with the emergency department, radiology, laboratory, and outpatient clinic (and related facilities). Additional departments will gradually be available over the next few months. Aster Royal Hospital counts on two underground parking areas, and 200 inpatient beds, bringing a total of 150 new doctors and staff members, modern technologies and infrastructure, ready for any major operation or complication with 24-hour emergency services. Aster DM Healthcare is currently one of the largest and fastest-growing conglomerates in the Mena region.



ROUND-UP



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Panasonic’s new Nanoe X technology AC makes nature’s balance indoors

Panasonic’s latest AC model with nanoe X technology harnesses the power of hydroxyl radicals to inhibit pollutants and certain types of bacteria, viruses and allergens while also deodorising unwanted smells for healthier, cleaner air quality

DUBAI: Panasonic, a global leader in ventilation and healthy indoor living solutions, has announced the launch of its latest Air Conditioner model with the revolutionary nanoe X Technology.

Designed to deliver cleaner air quality, the new wall-type AC is also equipped with Panasonic’s key innovations, including jetstream and aerowings, ensuring comfortable cooling whilst achieving high energy efficiency.

nanoe X is a patented technology by Panasonic backed by over two decades of dedicated research and development. The nanoeX generator placed inside the AC’s indoor unit spreads trillions of hydroxyl

radicals into the air in a second. These hydroxyl radicals are highly reactive components that inhibit pollutants, viruses and bacteria, as well as deodorise contaminated air. When hydroxyl radicals come in contact with viruses, bacteria and other pollutants, they remove Hydrogen from the substances, thereby inactivating the toxic contaminants. This way, nanoe X works to inhibit pollutants and deodorise unwanted smells.

“True to our commitment to provide solutions that make life simpler, safer, healthier, and more enjoyable for our customers, the Panasonic Air Conditioner with nanoe X Technology is a break-



through product designed to take ‘wellbeing for life’ a step further. The nanoe X technology has been proven to inhibit pathogenic microorganisms – such as bacteria, fungi and viruses – as well as other allergens, breaking down PM 2.5 components that have adverse effects on the human body,” Dipendu Goon, General Manager - Air Conditioner and Audio Video Department, PMMAF, said.

“The great thing about the nanoe X-equipped AC is, that we are

able to bring nature’s balance indoors by harnessing the benefits of hydroxyl radicals.

These hydroxyl radicals within the nanoeX react to hydrogen contained in pollen, bacteria, viruses, and odour compounds, altering their molecules and inhibiting them. Thanks to this advanced technology, even tightly woven fabrics can be treated using this solution, meaning that curtains, blinds, carpets and furniture can all benefit from this technology

to inhibit hazardous substances – including on hard surfaces and, of course, the air that we breathe. With all these, we are able to help our customers feel confident about their homes and indoor spaces, and more importantly, have peace of mind when it comes to the air they breathe,” he added.

In addition to the nanoe X technology, the new AC model also features jetstream innovation for powerful cooling. Jetstream achieves a maximum airflow length of 25 metres. This Long Reach Airflow provides users with a comfortable space and optimal room temperature wherever they may be in the room.

Pressing the jetstream function on the AC’s remote control delivers rapid cooling as a large air intake draws in a large amount of air, whilst a large-diameter fan generates a stronger airflow. The aerowings also boost the AC’s rapid cooling power through a pair of wings that send air out further.

Whilst boasting rapid cooling power, the nanoe X AC is also energy-efficient, environmentally friendly and designed to meet the extreme weather conditions of the region. The appliance is built with the eco-friendly R32 refrigerant, which is an excellent heat transfer

medium for energy efficiency and cost savings.

R32 refrigerant also has low global warming potential, making it friendlier to the environment.

Panasonic, with its DNA of Japanese craftsmanship and quality, ensured that the new AC model went through rigorous quality control procedures to deliver unmatched performance. For instance, the operating noise of the indoor and outdoor units of the AC is low enough to allow users to talk and sleep comfortably while the appliance is running.

The AC’s waterproof test, meanwhile, revealed high safety standards as contact sections on the printed circuit boards are resin-potted to prevent adverse effects caused by an unlikely exposure to droplets of water.

The nanoe X AC is also designed with an industry-leading long piping length for greater design flexibility. The maximum length of the piping is 40 m, while the maximum height difference is 30m, making it ideal for both residential and commercial installations.

The Panasonic PN series Air Conditioner with nanoe X Technology is now available across Panasonic outlets in Kuwait, UAE and Oman, and online on Amazon UAE.

ANTICIPATED TECH PRODUCT

Adhwa Al Billa Technology launches Nothing Phone 1 smartphone in Oman



MUSCAT: Nothing introduced Phone 1, its first smartphone and the gateway to its future connected and open product ecosystem.

Featuring the innovative Glyph Interface, a 50 MP dual camera, refined Nothing OS, 120Hz OLED display and a Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 778G+ chipset, Nothing Phone (1) delivers speed and a smooth experience from OMR215.145 (With VAT), it’s one of the most anticipated tech products in years.

Adhwa Al Billa Technology is the sole distributor for Oman.

Faris Al Juma, CEO ABTL said, “We are delighted to introduce the Nothing product range to Oman region a new innovative phone with elegant style and features of pure Android, distilling the operating system to just the essentials, where every byte has a purpose. It is designed to deliver a fast, smooth and personal experience. With a coherent interface, the hardware seamlessly integrates with software through bespoke fonts, colours, graphical elements and sounds and a unique Glyph interface on the back, showing off how several strategically placed LED strips pulse, flash, and light up to give you unique notification lights, among other things.”

“We designed Phone 1 as a product we’d be proud to share with friends and family,” said Carl Pei, CEO and Co-founder of Nothing. “This simple principle helped us wander off the beaten path, tune into our instincts, and create an experience that hopefully marks the start

of a change in a stagnant industry.”

Glyph Interface

Nothing like you’ve seen before, the Glyph Interface is a new way of communicating to help minimize screen time. Unique light patterns made up of 900 LEDs indicate who’s calling and signal app notifications, charging status and more. Simply pair individual contacts to a ringtone, each with a unique Glyph pattern, to never miss what’s truly important.

For quieter focus, the Flip to Glyph feature triggers silent, lights-only notifications by placing Phone 1 with the Glyph Interface face up.

Considered design

Design that goes beyond the surface. Nothing Phone 1 features a transparent back with a unique design composed of over 400 components. Its 100% recycled aluminium frame makes it light and robust, while over 50% of the phone’s plastic components are made with bio-based or post-consumer recycled materials - an industry-leading percentage.

Dual-side Gorilla® Glass 5 provides toughness, whilst advanced vibration motors make touch responses life-like. The symmetrical bezels and aluminium frame add elegance, lightness and durability.

Refined Nothing OS

Nothing OS delivers only the best of Android. No bloatware, just pure speed and a smooth user experience. Hardware and software



speak a single visual language, with bespoke widgets, fonts, sounds and wallpapers, all designed in-house.

The Nothing Ecosystem is the home for all your favourite tech. No more separate apps. Control third-party products from Phone (1)’s Quick Settings as easily as Nothing ones, starting with Tesla. Unlock doors, turn on AC, see miles left and more. More third-party brand integrations are to be announced soon.

Power is delivered where it’s needed most with smart software that learns which apps are your favourite. Your most-used apps load super-fast, whilst the rest are frozen to save battery.

Display your NFT collection and track floor prices directly from Phone 1’s home screen with the NFT Gallery.

Advanced dual cameras

Time to unlearn that more cameras mean better quality photos and videos. Phone 1’s dual camera has two advanced 50 MP sensors, with the main camera powered by the flagship Sony IMX766. The wide f/1.8 aperture, dual image stabilisation and 10-bit colour videos give you everything you need to shoot exceptionally stable,

true-to-life and brilliantly detailed content. Intelligent features like Night Mode and Scene Detection tailor the perfect settings for every frame, doing the work for you.

Set the Glyph Interface to full brightness and illuminate close-up subjects with a gentle light. It’s a portable ring-light, without the harshness of the flash.

Powerful performance

Behind Phone 1’s startling speed is the powerful and reliable Qualcomm® Snapdragon™ 778G+ chipset, custom-made for Nothing to include wireless and reverse charging. Delivers phenomenal graphics and advanced camera features, all accelerated by 5G. Game Mode precisely matches sound to graphics and minimises notifications for captivating, immersive gaming. Charge fast and charge wirelessly. Get 18 hours of use with every charge, and two days on standby. Reach 50% power in just 30 minutes of charge. Power accessories like Nothing Ear 1 with 5W reverse charge. The charging coil Glyph even lights up to indicate reverse charging is happening.

Sales open for Nothing Phone 1 start at 12am on August 18 across Oman.

GOLD SPONSOR



Oxy Oman signs agreement to sponsor Oman Science Festival

MUSCAT: In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Oxy Oman representatives recently attended the sponsorship signing ceremony for the Oman Science Festival, which the company will support as a gold sponsor.

The Oman Science Festival is a biennial six-day exhibition that will be held in October 2022 and targets over 200,000 school students and other community members from all over the Sultanate. The festival will host scientific workshops, lectures, interactive corners, and showcases for all age groups, under the organisation of the Ministry of Education.

The signing event was held at the Ministry of Education; under the auspices of Dr Abdullah bin Khamis Ambusaidi, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education for Education. Steven Lauver, President and General Manager of Oxy Oman and Dr Ambusaidi signed the sponsorship agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

The Oman Science Festival will be held at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Center and is expected to host booths and ac-

tivities from over 80 government and private sector organizations. Festival visitors and participants will have the opportunity to join competitions and interactive events on programming, robotics, hackathons, drone technology, and other emerging technologies. Oxy Oman will also host a company booth showcasing company achievements in technology and energy, with interactive educational experiences for youth.

“We are excited to serve as a gold sponsor at the Oman Science Festival, as Oxy Oman continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Education on targeted initiatives which promote innovation and creativity for Omani youth,” said Lauver.

“We aim for the festival to bring together local organisations and communities in an interactive knowledge exchange and display of local achievements, in alignment with the Omani government’s national goals.”

This sponsorship is part of Oxy Oman’s endeavour and long-term commitment to support educational initiatives that enhance knowledge and creativity and encourage innovation and excellence.



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