LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

ITALIAN HONOUR FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM SECRETARY GENERAL

President Sergio Mattarella of the Republic of Italy has conferred the order of the Star of Italy (knighthood) on Jamal Hassan Al Musawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum. >A2

ON ROYAL DIRECTIVES, NINE SCHOOLS TO BE BUILT IN DHOFAR

The Directorate General of Education in the Governorate of Dhofar has endorsed the construction of 9 schools in the governorate's wilayats. The move comes within the framework of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's royal directives to construct 76 schools in the governorates of Oman. >A2

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Sayyid Asa'ad to patronise opening ceremony of 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists A5

NORMALCY RETURNS AS OMAN LIFTS COVID CURBS

The Supreme Committee thanked citizens and residents for their cooperation and adherence to precautionary measures

Times News Services

MUSCAT: The Supreme Committee has lifted all precautionary measures at public places and business outlets in a decision taken on Sunday.

Speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*, a senior official from the Supreme Committee, said: "It can be confirmed that we are back to our normal life, after two years of the COVID-19 pandemic."

He also clarified that we can now follow normal life by not wearing masks in closed and open places.

This includes schools, colleges, universities, malls and halls of all kinds. "However, one can wear a mask if he wants," he said.

He also clarified that it is possible to hold conferences, events and parties in various halls of all kinds, including birthday parties, marriages and engagements, or banquets and religious functions with 100 percent capacity without wearing masks or maintaining social distance.

He also said: "Even in mosques, social distancing and wearing of masks have been abolished, and now everyone including children less than 12 years can enter mosques, churches and temples."

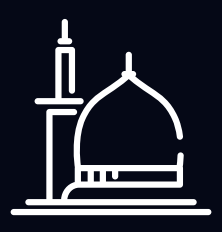
An official from the committee also confirmed that obtaining the third dose of vaccine is not necessary. "It is optional but I call on everyone, without exception, to take the booster dose for their safety."

The Supreme Committee noted that data and statistics about cases of infection, patients admitted to hospital wards and intensive care units (ICUs) point to a gradual decline in the pandemic's curve and, accordingly, decided the following:

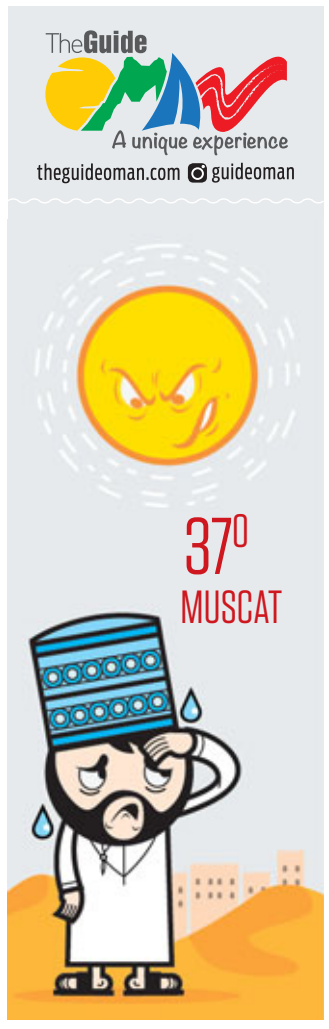
First: All precautionary measures against COVID-19 in all public places and business outlets are deemed terminated. >A2

Citizens and residents are advised to take the booster dose of COVID-19.

In the event someone experiences fever or any morbid respiratory symptoms, he/she is advised to stay at home, avoid mixing with others and wear a face mask when mingling with people.



Even in mosques, social distancing and wearing of masks have been abolished, and everyone, including children less than 12 years old can enter



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Triple delight for Muscat expat

1 An Indian expatriate living in Oman has secured a triple sweep of honours at the finals of a beauty pageant held in Kolkata. >A3

SPORTS
Oman Sail named as a dual finalist

2 Oman Sail has been chosen as a nominee for the Middle East Sports Industry Awards 2022. >A8

MARKET
Forum to explore green hydrogen prospects

3 An exploratory forum on the advantages and prospects of green hydrogen in the Sultanate will be organised on Tuesday. >B1

BIG LEAP

About 40% of Oman's aviation industry workers are women

SALEH AL-SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: Statistics have revealed a big jump in the number of Omani women working in different operational roles at the Sultanate's airports compared to the last decade.

Currently, women comprise about 40 per cent of the workforce at different airports in the country. They are in roles ranging from jobs like air navigations, terminal duty, baggage handling, guest services, check-in counters, flight dispatching to safety and security. The total number of workers in the aviation field in Oman is 24,833, of which 9,300 are Omani women.

"We now get more opportunities than before. I remember when I started at Muscat Airport, there were not many women working but now, there are a good number of them contributing in different fields of the aviation," Duaa Juma Al Hashmi, Baggage Handling System Duty Manager at Oman Airports, told *Times of Oman*.

Other Omani women in the aviation field echo the same sentiments. "Women made a big jump compared to ten years ago in the aviation field. The airport and its operations were dominated by men but now we see more women specialising in different areas joining the civil aviation and the airport field duties. This is something, for us as a nation, to be proud of," Amal Al Haaidi, an assistant supervisor at the office of the Director of Strategic Management at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), told *Times of Oman*.

Oman has four main airports and three regional ones in different parts of the country serving both the business community and passengers. Until the early seventies, Oman had only a landing strip located at Bait Al Falaj in Ruwi. Built in the 1950s, it was replaced by Muscat International Airport when it was opened in 1973. Other airports in Oman are in Salalah, Sohar and Duqm. These are supported by smaller regional airports in Marmul, Fahud and Qarn Alam.

Veteran officials at the Muscat Airport acknowledged the progress made by Omani women by occupying different positions in the aviation field.

"It is very gratifying to see many women taking up positions at the airports. It is a big progress in the aviation fields and the one we are proud of. For example, at the ground handling services, 35 per cent of our staff are women," Omar Saif Al Mahrooki, General Manager of Operations at the Ground Handling Services, told *Times of Oman*.

OMAN

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:09pm
Asr	3:30pm
Maghrib	6:50pm
Isha	8:10pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	3:57am

Italian President confers Star of Italy Order on Hassan Al Musawi

The Ambassador of Italy lauded the role of Al Musawi in enhancing the bilateral relations in the fields of culture and museums between the two countries since 2011

FUNCTION: The order was handed over by Federica Favi, Ambassador of Italy to Oman, to Jamal Hassan Al Musawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum, during a ceremony held in Muscat on Sunday. - ONA

MUSCAT: President Sergio Mattarella of the Republic of Italy has conferred the order of the Star of Italy (knighthood) to Jamal Hassan Al Musawi, Secretary-General of the National Museum.

The order was handed over by Federica Favi, Ambassador of Italy to Oman, during a ceremony held in Muscat on Sunday. The ambassador lauded the role of Al Musawi in enhancing the bilateral relations in the fields of culture and museums between the two countries since 2011. Al Musawi cooperated with Italian expertise during the foundational phase of the National Museum project, particularly in preserving and developing the museum's narrative story. In his turn, Al Musawi affirmed to Oman News Agency (ONA) that Oman-Italy relations are dated back almost two thousand years. He added that Italy is at the forefront in the field of museum industries.

"We benefitted from recruiting Italian preservation experts in the foundational phase of the national museum to contribute to restoring elements of the cultural heritage of Oman," said Al Musawi. -ONA

ROYAL DIRECTIVE

Nine schools to be built in Dhofar

SALALAH: The Directorate General of Education in the Governorate of Dhofar has endorsed the construction of 9 schools in the governorate's wilayats.

The move comes within the framework of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik's royal directives to construct 76 schools in the governorates of Oman.

7 schools in Salalah

Sheikh Yaqoub Saif Al Shehaimi, Director General of Education in Dhofar told Oman News Agency (ONA) that 7 schools will be built in the Wilayat of Salalah, of those 4 will be in Sahalnoot and 3 in Awqad. One school will be built in Tawi Ateer and one school in the Wilayat of Al Mazyoona. -ONA

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

'No work during mid-day in open areas from June'

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has stressed strict implementation of the decision banning working at construction sites and open areas during the mid-day/noon hours from June to August in accordance with the agreed upon terms and conditions.

To this end, the Ministry of Labour would continue with the awareness campaigns at the beginning of each summer in the future.

The Ministry of Labour also stressed the significance of cooperation of the companies and establishments in provision of all safety and occupational health supplies for their manpower.

Sheikh Nasr bin Amer Al Hosni, Undersecretary for Labour at the Ministry of Labour said that the ministry would continue with the efforts of reactivation of the campaign on heat stress during the current year and suspending of work during the prohibited hours from 12 noon to 3:30pm during June, July and August on a daily basis in the open areas wherein workers may be exposed to direct heat.

He also said that the Ministry of Labour would continue to work on dissemination of awareness and protection of safety and occupational health in the Sultanate of Oman for achieving the objectives of human development.

SUPREME COMMITTEE

< FROM A1 COVID-19 curbs lifted in Oman

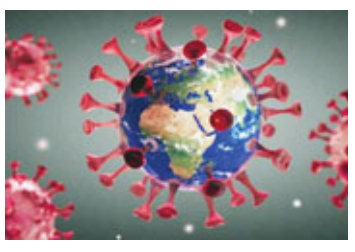
Second: Members of the society are advised to espouse a "culture of health and protection" in all respects.

Third: In the event someone experiences fever or any morbid respiratory symptoms, he/she is advised to stay at home, avoid missing with others and wear a face mask when mingling with people.

Fourth: All individuals—particularly the old-aged, people suffering from chronic diseases or immunodeficiency—are urged to stick to wearing the face mask in closed areas.

Fifth: Citizens and residents are highly advised to take the booster dose of Covid-19.

The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been following up updates on the

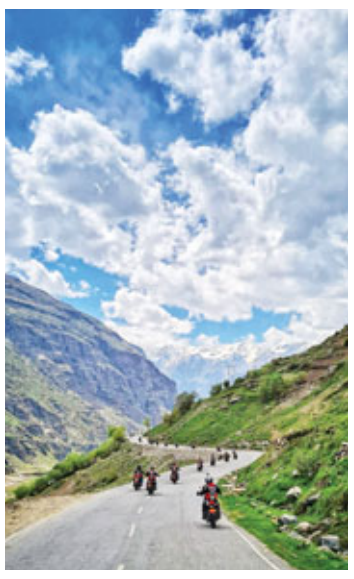


disease and means of protection against the virus measures to curb its spread.

The Supreme Committee thanked citizens and residents in the Sultanate of Oman for their cooperation, as well as their adherence to procedures and precautionary measures. It also lauds the 'constructive role' of government institutions and private establishments whose cooperation, the committee said, contributed to curbing the spread of the virus. -With inputs from ONA

UNIQUE TOPOGRAPHY

Muscat bikers clock 1,500 km in India



KHALED ORABI

MUSCAT: In their second fifteen-day tour to India, members of Muscat Bikers Club have so far clocked 1,500 kilometres, spanning five states, each with its unique topography and demography.

Taher Al Zadjali, Chairman of Muscat Bikers Club said the second tour which started on 5 May would cover over 2,000 kilometres. The tour started from New Delhi and would cover five states and regions across the country, he added.

He said the bikers have traversed long distances under different climatic conditions and topography, including mountain areas and clogged cities having traffic jams. The team, which comprised 21 members of the Muscat Bikers Club flew to India and hired motorbikes to start one of the most fascinating and adventurous tours that familiarised the team with India's unique ethnic, social and cultural diversities, he said.

He said the Muscat Bikers Club had an annual plan of organising domestic and international tours to showcase and promote the Sultanate in general and its tourism in particular. The tours also aimed to promote peace, security and stability in the Sultanate, besides its diverse topography, including its plains, wadis and mountains as also to acquaint the people of different countries with the Sultanate's cultural heritage, tolerance, security and stability.

India was chosen on account of the historic and friendly relations between the two countries, he said adding that this was the second tour to India, the first taking place in 2019.

This tour was financed by contributions from the organizers. However, we hope the future tours would receive government support and that of the private sector as well because such tours aimed to promote the Sultanate abroad, he said.

Respect for Oman

During the tour we were touched with the appreciation and respect the Indian people had for the Sultanate of Oman, besides the respect they accord to late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, he said pointing that the Indian people view the Sultanate and India as two friendly countries enjoying strong historical ties.

It may be mentioned that Muscat Bikers Club operates under Oman Automobile Association (OAA) and that the members of Muscat Bikers Club observe the traffic and safety rules during their regional and international participations.

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EXPAT LIFE

Triple delight for Muscat expatriate in beauty competition back home

WINNER: Contestants are judged on the basis of their personality: Their inner and outer beauty, behaviour, coordination and characteristics that set them apart from their co-contestants.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An Indian lady living in Oman has secured a triple sweep of honours at the finals of a beauty pageant held in Kolkata.

Neelam Singh, who juggles being a full-time mom with her roles as counsellor and healer, was named first runner-up at the Jeeo King and Queen International Beauty Pageant, where she also won the 'Beauty with Brains Award'.

"I am also now their official brand ambassador for the Middle East," added Neelam, who is firmly of the belief that hard work and determination are the key ingredients to success. "Miracles, after all, don't happen all the time."

At the event, three crowns were up for grabs: Miss India, which is open to only unmarried women; Mrs India, which is open to married women and was the pageant in which Neelam took part; and Mr India International, which is open to eligible men.

"Such competitions are a great platform for individuals who want to achieve their dreams and aspirations, and they also provides them an international stage to show their skills to the world," explained Neelam.

The event began on 3 May on Phi Phi Island in Thailand and ran for 12 days before concluding in the City of Joy on the 15th. Although initially slotted for 2021, the pageant was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Participants were expected to display their skills over a series of rounds, including the Talent Round, as well as the semi-finals and finals. Time to hone her skills before the Jeeo pageant, however, was not always easy to come by for Neelam.

"Since I am a full time working professional and a mother of a four-year-old, I began my preparations a few days before the pageant began," Neelam admitted. "My husband was of great help to me and he is the one who pushed me and encouraged me to take part in this event."

Contestants are judged on the basis of their personality: Their inner and outer beauty, their behaviour, coordination and the characteristics that set them apart from their co-contestants.

While many contestants taking part in such events do go on last-minute diets so that they look their best on stage, that process of the competition was far easier for Neelam. A qualified nutritionist, she is a vegetarian who prefers home food and anything with green, leafy vegetables, to the stuff found in restaurants.

"When I went there, I just wanted to be the best version of myself," said Neelam. "My family were extremely happy and excited for me when I entered. My parents and in-laws also supported me. It is great that they have always believed in me and supported me, so naturally, they were happy for me when I won."

"I believe beauty is not just about having a pretty face," she added. "It also requires you to have a beautiful heart and a beautiful soul. It is our responsibility to be ourselves and not blindly copy others...each one of us is unique. Life is not about finding yourself. It is about creating yourself."

APRIL 2022

More than 2,000 tourists visit Land of Frankincense sites

SALALAH: The number of visitors to the Land of Frankincense sites in the Governorate of Dhofar in April 2022 stood at 2,132 according to the latest data released by the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar.

The number of visitors to Al Baleed Archeological Park and the Museum of the Frankincense Land reached 1,127 while the visitors of Samahram Archeological Site stood at 567. Moreover, the number of visitors to the Wbar Archeological Site (Shisr) reached 438.

World Heritage List

The Al Baleed Archeological Park, Samahram, Wbar and the Wadi Dokka archeological sites are registered on the World Heritage List under the name "Land of Frankincense" sites.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, represented by the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in the Governorate of Dhofar, develops the sites and provides them with service and aesthetic facilities to serve the goals of cultural and archeological tourism in the governorate. -ONA

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

45,575 REACH

Story on Turkish Culture and Cuisine week

A story on Turkish Culture and Cuisine week in Oman reached 45,575 people and had 791 link clicks on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

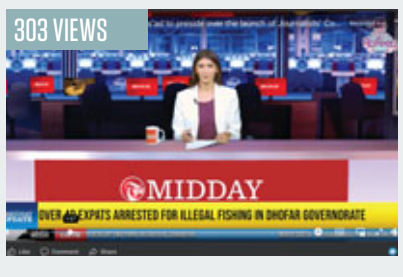
907 LIKES

Tejarah Talks

The Tejarah Talks episode had 907 views and 40 likes on Instagram.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

303 VIEWS



Midday Update news wrap

The Midday Update news wrap video had 303 views and reached 754 people on Facebook.

OMAN

E.MAGAZINE

Madayn magazine sheds light on projects in industrial estates

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) yesterday published the new edition of its quarterly e.magazine "Madayn". It sheds light on the key developments, projects and the latest statistics of its various projects in the industrial estates of Madayn.

It also aims to acquaint investors,companies and individuals with the latest developments at Madayn. Said bin Abdullah Ambusaidi, General Manager of Mizah Marketing and Business Development Co. said that the new edition of Madayn e. magazine has seen remarkable development in terms of form and content. Attractive designs based on diagrams and colours have been applied to make the magazine much more attractive to readers, he added.

He said that the new edition of Madayn e. magazine comes at a time we are witnessing further growth at Madayn on various fronts starting with the remarkable increase in the number of projects established in the industrial cities and increase in the investment value and various projects launched by Madayn during the past period.

As such, we were keen to cope with such development in all spheres, he said, adding that the edition comprises several dialogues (interviews) and subjects reflecting more details on such developments.

He also pointed to the main interviews in the new edition of Madayn e. magazine with Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), in which he reaffirmed that Madayn is so close to establish project No. 2300.

He added that the local investments in all industrial estates have reached approximately OMR7 billion and that the Omanisation percentage exceeded 38 per cent out of the total workers in Madayn industrial cities.

This makes us employ some eight per cent of the total workers in the private sector at the Sultanate's level, he added. The new edition also sheds light on the indicators of Madayn Vision 2040 which targets OMR15 billion investments of which OMR7.5 billion foreign investments and the same amount of local investments.

Madayn Vision 2040 targets reaching 270,000 workers. The Madayn e. magazine also tackles the digital transformation project and how the project came in consistent with the e. government efforts and how the digital transformation strategy of Madayn could achieve objectives such as the establishment of digital environment attractive to investments and supportive to industry.

The edition also sheds light on the relative benefits and facilities offered by Madayn in investment complexes.

The edition tackles the Omani Products Exhibition in Egypt and the great opportunity it provides for establishments and individuals in both the countries.

The edition also deals with Souq Madayn Platform which came within the care and attention the Government of Oman accorded for digital transformation programmes. The edition also covers a number of key news and events in Madayn including the receiving of 325 investment applications by Madayn, last year, and development of five new industrial cities among other issues.

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITY

Strategy to protect marine life and turtles gets a fillip

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority has signed an agreement with Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency of the United States Federal Government, to draft a strategy for the conservation and protection of sea turtles in the Sultanate of Oman.

The species will be studied and tracked by satellite, within the context of a five-year plan to group Al Rimani turtles in the Wilayat of Masirah.

World Turtle Day

As part of Oman's celebration of World Turtle Day, the 23rd of May, the Environment Authority has underscored the great attention accorded to marine life and noted that Omani beaches serve as a safe haven for sea turtles, particularly the species of Rimani, Al Hamsa and Al Sharfaf.

Oman took keen interest in surveying and enumerating the types of turtles nesting on its beaches, and it drafted a long-term plan for protecting sea turtles. -ONA

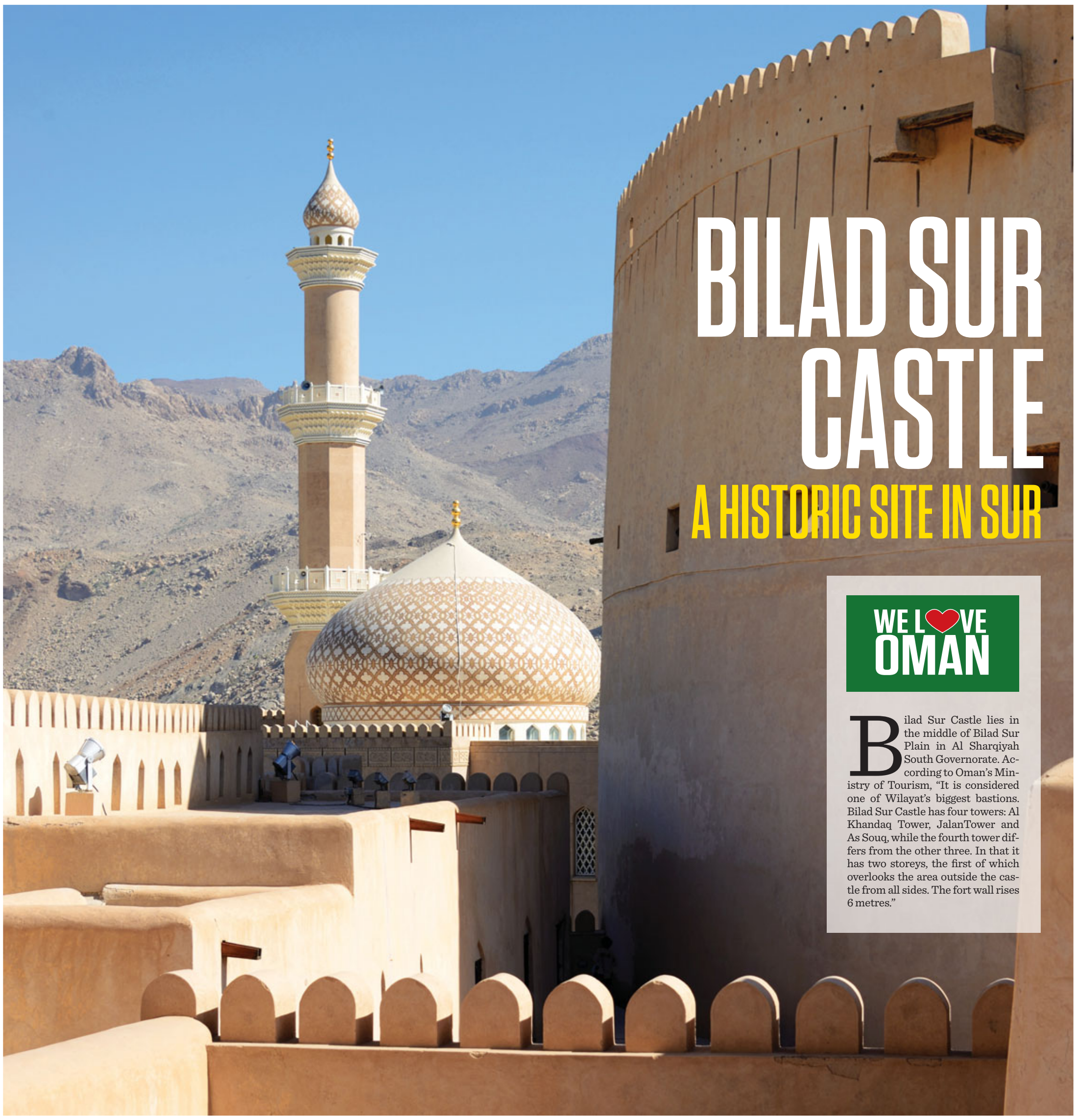
NCSI

Inflation rate in Oman up by 2.7%

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman rose by 2.7 percent in April 2022 compared to April 2021. The inflation rate also went up by 0.6 percent compared to March 2022, according to the latest data from the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The data indicate a rise in the prices of main groups in April 2022 compared to the same month in 2021, such as food and non-alcoholic beverages by 5.4 percent, education by 5.1 percent , health by 2.8 percent, transport by 2.4 percent, miscellaneous goods and services by 2.2 percent, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels group by 2 percent, recreation and culture by 1.4 percent, restaurants and hotels by 1.2 percent, clothing and footwear by 1.1 percent and furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance by 0.3 percent. Meanwhile, the tobacco group declined by 1.1 percent.

Prices also went up for oils and fats by 14.9 percent, vegetables by 9.8 percent, fruits by 8 percent, meats by 7.7 percent, fish and seafood by 6.5 percent, bread and cereals by 2.7 percent, sugar, jam, honey and sweets by 1.8 percent, milk, cheese and eggs by 1.3 percent and other foodstuff by 0.9 percent, while the prices of non-alcoholic beverages went down by 0.2 percent. -ONA



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Sayyid Asa'ad to preside over IFJ opening function

The Omani Journalists Association (OJA) will represent the Sultanate of Oman in hosting the 4-day event that starts on 31 May 2022

FUNCTION: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan will patronise the opening ceremony. - ONA

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan will patronise the opening ceremony of the 31st Congress of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

The Omani Journalists Association (OJA) will represent the Sultanate of Oman in hosting the 4-day event that starts on 31 May 2022.

The congress gains importance locally, regionally and internationally as the most prominent journalism and media related event in the Middle East.

350 journalists

As many as 350 journalists, representing associations from over 100 countries will be taking part in the event, in addition to 50 journalists and media personalities who represent newspapers, radios, television channels and e-newspapers from all over the world.

Dr. Mohammed Mubarak Al Araimi, Chairman of the OJA Board of Directors said that the OJA, in cooperation with the Secretariat General of the IFJ, will announce the Asian Federation for Journalists, which will kick start in Muscat.

During the opening ceremony of the congress, the Sultanate of Oman's award for the best press photo in the world will be announced and the families of 5 journalists who deceased on-job will be honoured.

2nd Arab country

Oman is considered the 2nd Arab country after Tunisia and the 1st Asian country to host the IFJ congress. -ONA

EXCHANGED VIEWS

Oman, Syria to boost bilateral relations

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Sunday Dr. Lubanah Mshaweh,Minister of Culture in the Syrian Arabic Republic.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the Omani-Syrian relations and reviewed areas of cooperation.

The two ministers lauded the efforts exerted to enhance the bilateral relations between the two countries in terms of organizing arts exhibitions and antiquities restoration.

The meeting was attended by several officials from both sides. -ONA

COOPERATION

Meeting held with Iranian official

MUSCAT: Eng. Khamis Mohammed Al Shamakhi, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology's Undersecretary for Transport, explored areas of cooperation in the field of transport and logistics with Shahriar Afandizadeh, Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two sides discussed several matters of common interest. -ONA

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT

Participants explore key trends in leadership and innovation

LEADERSHIP TOOLS: The programme has been designed in partnership with Oxford University - Saïd Business School - one of the most outstanding academic institutions in executive leadership development worldwide. - Credit

Times News Service

OXFORD: The Royal Academy of Management delivered module one of "The National Collaborative Leadership Programme", with the aim of developing and building an integrated community of executive leaders from both the public and private sectors.

The NCLP provides the participants with the latest strategic leadership tools and techniques to help them deploy cross sector partnerships as one of the modern mechanisms for success in the business and investment environment.

The programme has been designed in partnership with Oxford University - Saïd Business School - one of the most outstanding academic institutions in executive leadership development worldwide.

Omani executive leaders

The programme cohort is comprised of 40 Omani executive leaders across the public and private sectors, creating a unique experience of cross sectoral collaborative work. The first module was organised and delivered by the university in the United Kingdom over a two-week period.

During the first module, participants explored key trends in leadership, digital transformation, innovation and the applications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Experiential visits to government and private institutions in the United Kingdom were also included, and aimed to translate theoretical learning and practical exposure into substantial meaning for Oman's economy.

Sustainability

Dr Ali Qassim Al Lawati, the President of Royal Academy of Management, stated: "This programme reflects an equal focus between four main pillars - leadership development, sustainability, innovation and partnership. It's the infrastructure for the future of business in the Sultanate through building a community of executives capable of achieving Oman's 2040 vision in the public and private sector addressing the emerging opportunities of the economy. In addition, the programme is in line with the Sultanate's national priorities in the development of Omani leaders in both sectors, and the investment in human capital."

Sue Dopson, Interim Dean at Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford added: "It is an honour to be part of a shared vision with the Royal Academy of Management, to develop effective leaders in the public and private sectors, who can spearhead the vision for an economically competitive, inclusive and sustainable Oman by 2040. We hope to provide insights through blended learning and access to world leading academics, with the aim of creating new perspectives."

Challenges in leadership

The National Collaborative Leadership Programme consists of a variety of topics linked to the participants leadership development including the future of Public Private Partnerships, challenges in leadership in the 21st century, the new economy, and big data in governance framework and its deployment methods in policies and strategy.

Finally, discussing the most emerging technologies of the industrial revolutions and their effect on the future of business.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES IRANIAN OIL MINISTER

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Sunday Javad Oji, Minister of Oil in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, particularly areas related to energy. -ONA

SULTANATE OF OMAN

TENDERS NOTICE

The Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources
Announces the following Tender: -

Tender no.	Description	Tender documents price (R.O)	Class	Last date for collection of documents	Last date for Submission of documents
251/2022/ MAFWR/HQ-30	Dredging Works At Dalkut Fishery Harbour	25/-	Specialized	Wednesday 8/6/2022	Tuesday 28/6/2022

- nterested Companies registered with Tender Board (in the above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: https://etendering.tDredging Works At Dalkut Fishery Harbourenderboard.gov.om against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
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- The Tenderer should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender), and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, And the bidders can contact the Esnad technical support team at the number listed below to find out how to request electronic guarantees from local banks.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: +968 24402200 or etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om.

TENDERS COMMOTTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

WORLD

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Australian PM-elect Albanese wants to 'end climate wars'

Climate change played a pivotal role in the Saturday vote, with voters unhappy with Morrison's government response to deadly fires

CANBERRA: Australia's incoming Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has said he wants to improve Australia's image abroad after ousting conservative Scott Morrison.

Climate change played a pivotal role in the Saturday vote, with voters unhappy with Morrison's government response to deadly fires and floods that hit Australia in recent years and their support of massive coal exports. Albanese's Labor party and Morrison's Liberals have been in open war over climate change since 2007 and several governments have been toppled in the conflict.

But in his victory speech, Albanese pledged to "change the way that politics operates."

"Together we can end the climate wars," Albanese said. "Together we can take advantage of the opportunity for Australia to be a renewable energy superpower."

The incoming prime minister said Canberra's partners abroad can expect a new course "particularly with regard to climate change and our engagement with the world on those issues."

Labour wins, but outcome still unclear

While Labour emerged as the clear winner of the weekend election, it was not immediately clear if the party will secure 76 seats in Australia's 151-seat assembly and form a single-party government once all votes are counted. If they fall short of an absolute majority, however, the left-leaning party can form a coalition with some of the independent deputies or the country's Greens.

Albanese and his government are scrambling to complete the swearing-in process on Monday so the politician can attend a Quad summit in Tokyo on the next day. There, he will meet US President Joe Biden as well as Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and India's Narendra Modi. The Australian leader described the summit as a "an absolute priority" and a chance to "send a message to the world."

Congratulations from neighbors, US and UK

Biden congratulated Albanese on his victory and praised him for his "early commitment" to the summit in Japan. The meeting was a "a vital opportunity to exchange views and continue to drive practical cooperation in the Indo-Pacific," the White House said.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and New Zealand's Jacinda Ardem also congratulated the 59-year-old Albanese. Fiji leader Frank Bainimarama praised Albanese's focus on climate change, saying that the two countries "shared future" depended on it. DW

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ASIA TOUR

Biden extends 'Hello' to Kim Jong Un amid nuclear tensions

SEOUL: The leaders of the US and South Korea are "prepared for anything North Korea does," US President Joe Biden said on Sunday, amid rumors that North Korea could test another nuclear weapon after a five-year break.

"We've talked through how we'd respond to whatever they do so I am not concerned, if that's what you're suggesting," Biden told a reporter at a joint press conference with South Korea's newly-elected President Yoon Suk Yeol.

The discussion also included starting "joint drills to prepare for a nuclear attack," Yoon said.

Message for Kim Jong Un is 'Hello'

On the second day of Biden's visit to South Korea, the US president also visited Osan Air Base where US and South Korean troops are monitoring potential threats from Pyongyang.

When asked by a reporter if he had a message for the North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, Biden said his message was "Hello. Period."

North Korea has amped up its missile tests in recent months, largely ignoring warnings from the West. The White House previously warned that the North

Korean regime might test missiles or weapons during Biden's Asian tour as a "provocation."

Hyundai promises to fund electric car factory

Biden also met with the head of the South Korea's car-making giant Hyundai as a part of his effort to deepen economic ties between US companies and US allies in Asia. Hyundai has pledged to invest $10 billion (some €9.5 billion) in the US. More than half of the funds will go into an electric car factory in the US state of Georgia.

Previously, Biden toured a Samsung semi-conductor plant he says would serve as a model for a new Samsung facility in Texas.

With the US facing pressure from Russia and China, Biden said Asia was a key battleground in the worldwide "competition between democracies and autocracies." DW

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former human rights minister held, released

ISLAMABAD: Former Human Rights Minister of Pakistan Shireen Mazari was arrested on Saturday, according to her daughter and a fellow former minister.

Her daughter Imaan Mazari said anti-corruption police detained and manhandled Mazari near her Islamabad home.

"My mother was illegally abducted," said told reporters. "If they the government think that the women are soft targets, they are mistaken," she said.

Later on Saturday night, Shireen Mazari was released from police custody and the Islamabad High Court instructed the government to conduct an inquiry into her arrest.

Mazari was a cabinet-level minister in the administration of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, who also served under in Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, told Geo TV that Mazari was manhandled during the arrest.

Local broadcasters aired footage of female police officers detaining Mazari. Pakistani police confirmed she had been arrested, but said: "news of any mishandling is baseless."

Chaudhry claimed that her arrest was politically motivated and that she was targeted by the new administration of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif.

She was reportedly arrested over a land dispute dating back to the 1970s. -DW

Royal Oman Police

NOTICE

Royal Oman Police – Directorate of Public Relations and Security Information - announces that no vehicles shall be allowed to park on both sides of the Sultan Qaboos Highway Road, beginning from Burj Al Sahwa Roundabout to the Wilayat of Muscat on Monday 23/05/2022.

Royal Oman Police calls upon drivers to abide by the above instructions and to cooperate with policemen for the public interest.

MONKEYPOX

Two people test positive for monkeypox in Berlin

BERLIN: At least two people have tested positive for monkeypox in Berlin, authorities said on Saturday, warning that more cases would likely emerge over the next few days.

The rare infectious disease, which causes distinctive pustules but is rarely fatal, is endemic to parts of Central and Western Africa. In recent weeks, more than 100 confirmed or suspected cases have been recorded in Europe, as well as the United States, Canada and Australia.

What do we know about the Berlin cases?

Health officials in Berlin said the two patients were in stable condition. Efforts had begun to trace their contacts.

Public broadcaster RBB said at least one patient was thought to have been infected at a Berlin club.

It is unclear which of the two groups (or "clades") of the virus

the two patients have contracted.

So far, all of the cases registered in Europe are of the milder West African group, rather than the more severe Central African one.

On Friday, Germany registered its first monkeypox infection in a patient in the southern city of Munich, who had traveled from Portugal via Spain.

The patient, a 26-year-old Brazilian national, contracted the milder West African variant, the Bavarian Health Ministry said

Authorities in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia told the German dpa news agency on Saturday that several other people may have come into contact with the virus, although the cases are yet to be confirmed.

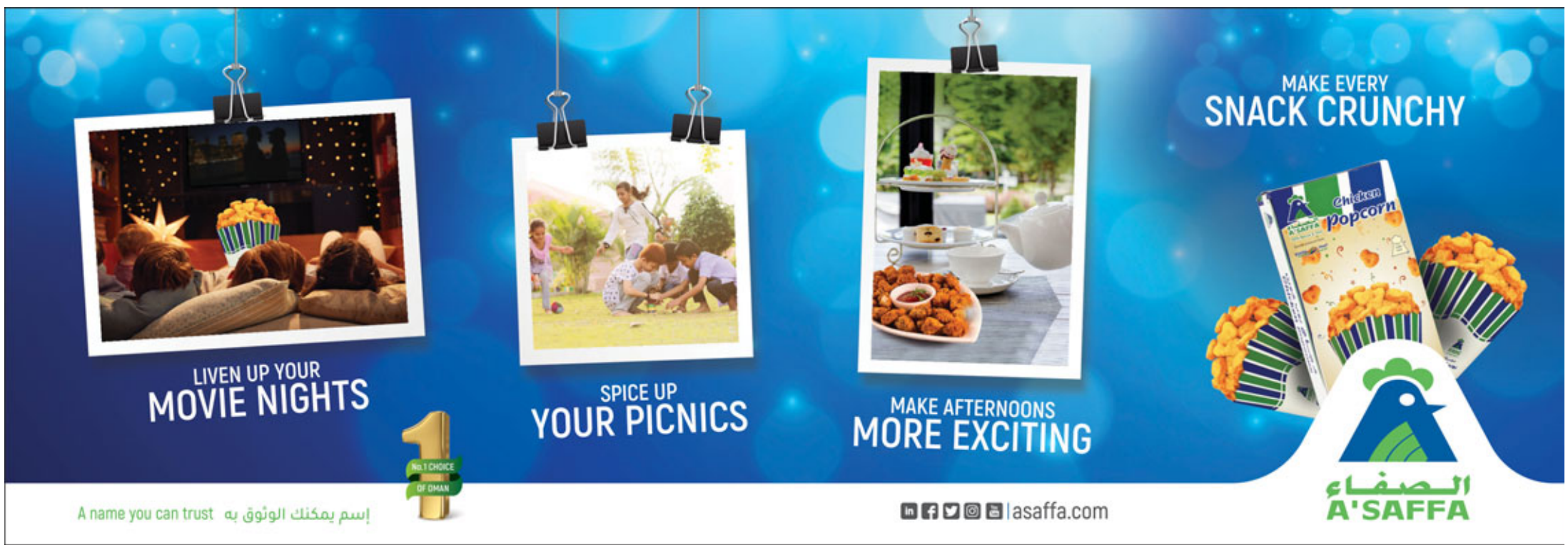
Also on Saturday, Switzerland recorded its first case. The health directorate of the canton of Bern said the patient likely came into contact with the virus abroad.

Cases confirmed in New York, Tel Aviv

A spokesman for Tel Aviv's Ichilov hospital told AFP that a 30-year-old man, who recently returned to Israel from Western Europe with symptoms, had tested positive.

Late Friday, New York City confirmed its first case after recording two possible infections.

Cases have been recorded in Britain, France, Spain and Sweden, among other countries. DW



SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE MEETS WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE

Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Defence welcomed the US side's affirmation of the Kingdom's support in developing its military capabilities and meeting its defence needs

Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has met here with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

During the meeting, they reviewed the strategic and historical relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America and ways to strengthen them.

The efforts being made concerning the Yemeni issue and its latest developments were also discussed, as the Deputy Minister of Defence, currently on a visit to the United States of America, affirmed the Kingdom-led coalition' support of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council and its supporting entities, and the Kingdom's aspirations for the Yemenis to reach a comprehensive political solution that would move Yemen to peace and development.

Also, the Deputy Minister of Defence stressed that, despite the positiveness of the announced truce to a large extent, there is an important role that the United Nations and the international community must play to put pressure on militias to open Taiz roads, deposit the revenues of Hodeida port and engage seriously in peace efforts to move Yemen to security, stability, construction and prosperity.

The two sides also affirmed the two countries' common vision to confront destabilising policies in the region, which includes security and diplomatic coordination between the two friendly countries to confront regional threats, including dealing with nuclear threat and ballistic missiles.

The Deputy Minister of Defence also met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of files of common interest, mutual coordination and continuous cooperation between the two friendly countries to achieve support for efforts in maintaining security, peace and stability in the region and the world.

They also reviewed developments the Kingdom is witnessing within the framework of its Vision 2030, commending the cooperation and dialogue between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Minister of Defence voiced his welcome to the US side's affirmation of the Kingdom's support in developing its military capabilities and meeting its defense needs.

The meeting was attended by Princess Rima bint Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States of America; the Saudi Ambassador to Yemen Mohammed bin Saeed Al Jaber and a number of senior Saudi and US officials. -SPA

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM 2022

Saudi Arabia to participate in the World Economic Forum 2022 with high-level delegation

THE KINGDOM of Saudi Arabia will participate in the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2022, in Davos, Switzerland, with a high-level delegation set to attend a number of meetings between 22 – 26 May.

WEF is returning after a two-year absence because of the pandemic, and the theme for this year's event – which has been billed as the most significant in the event's history – is "History at a Turning Point: Government Policies and Business Strategies".

His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz Al-Assaf, Minister of State and Member of the Cabinet of Ministers, is heading the Kingdom's delegation, which includes Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency the Eng. Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Falih, Minister of Investment, His Excellency Mr. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan, Minister of Finance, His Excellency Eng. Abdullah bin Amer AlSwaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, His Excellency Mr. Faisal bin Fadhil Alibrahim, Minister of Economy and Planning, and Princess Haifa bint Muhammad Al Saud. Assistant Minister of Tourism.

The Saudi delegation to WEF will engage in meaningful dialogues with the Kingdom's international partners in several public and private sessions to seek solutions to critical global challenges including climate change, the emerging economic crisis, disrupted logistics and supply chains, geopolitical tensions, global energy security and the ongoing fallout from the pandemic.

The delegation will highlight the Kingdom's continuous local and international efforts to respond to the eight main themes of this year's meetings at WEF, which cover climate and nature, fairer economies, tech and innovation, jobs and skills, better business, health and healthcare, global cooperation, society and equity.

Members from the Saudi delegation will also outline the Kingdom's achievements in responding to the global challenges presented by these themes. They will showcase the qualitative leap underway across Saudi's socioeconomic and business landscape as it forges ahead with its ambitious diversification efforts under Vision 2030.

The Kingdom's comprehensive social and economic empowerment plans – including doubling the representation of women in the labor market, accelerating the pace of job creation in new sectors – will also be discussed in detail during the delegation's meetings in Davos.

The Saudi delegation will also touch on the Kingdom's widely-lauded COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, the nation's burgeoning healthcare industry, with public health and safety becoming an increasingly important economic measure of progress.

Furthermore, the climate-action policies and environmental projects underway in the Kingdom and the Middle East, including the "The Middle East Green" initiative, will be explored by the delegation as they outline the Kingdom's commitment to prioritizing sustainability at all levels.

The delegation will also present the Kingdom's long-term vision for the future and its strategic goal of developing a robust pipeline of talent while attracting foreign talents to accelerate the adoption of smart solutions, advanced technologies and Fourth Industrial Revolution applications.

The Saudi delegation will also outline its view on the security of resources and commodities, as well as its pivotal role in ensuring the security and stability of energy markets. It will also its long-term investments into innovative, clean and renewable energy sources to diversify the local and global energy mix.

-SPA

AMUSEMENT PARK

Jeddah Pier, the greatest amusement park on the sea

THE ACTIVITIES of the "Jeddah Pier" zone was launched as part of the Jeddah season 2022. It is the largest mobile game city on the Red Sea and is characterized by its unique waterfront, in addition to the diversity of its activities that are appropriate for all ages.

"Jeddah Pier" offers over 39 unique entertainment games and provides seven diverse international experiences, in addition to the first roller coaster, paw patrol trials, lol surprise, pipa pig, and many other exciting entertainment shows. Furthermore, it is the site of several daily activities that will bring excitement and enjoyment to both children and adults, as well as all family members.

During the season, it is expected that "Jeddah Pier", which will open its doors daily from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., will see a large turnout of residents and visitors to Jeddah to enjoy the package of services and exciting entertainment events offered by this zone, as well as the entertainment experience with a unique international feature.

The Jeddah Pier zone can accommodate more than 18,000 visitors, and the activities are spread out over several locations, including the Colorful Garden, which is a distinctive area with a tunnel made of roses, in addition to a large play area for kids featuring their favorite characters such as LOL, Pig Pippa, and others. The adrenaline area, which includes a group of games in addition to Ain Al-Arous, a rollercoaster, and other thrilling games, is one favorable places. Furthermore, "Jeddah Pier" has a relaxation space as well as numerous stores, restaurants, and cafes.-SPA

Read online
timesofoman.com

CITY WALK RECEIVES ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENT ENTHUSIASTS

As part of 2022 Jeddah season, "City Walk" zone received its visitors with many interesting shows and various events that meet all desires and suit family members. »

JEDDAH JUNGLE WELCOMES VISITORS WITH THRILLING SAFARI EXPERIENCES

The activities of the "Jeddah Jungle", one of the zones of the Jeddah season 2022, are still going strong, with a huge number of visitors of different nationalities and ages. »

SPORTS

Oman Sail named dual finalist for Middle East Sports Industry Awards

In 2021, Oman Sail delivered nine major projects in the sport of sailing, attracting over 2,500 international competitors

FINALIST: Shortlisted for both 'Best Sports Event Organiser of the Year' and 'Best Sports Event of the Year' for the Youth Sailing World Championships 2021, Oman Sail showcased hosting capability post-pandemic by delivering on a series of world sailing championships.

The penultimate event of 2021 was the ICLA 6 World Championships, where Oman Sail once again offered a COVID safe venue for some of the world's best sailors

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail has been announced as a nominee for the prestigious Middle East Sports Industry Awards 2022 (SPIA), joining a host of renowned sports events and organisers from across the region.

Shortlisted for both 'Best Sports Event Organiser of the Year' and 'Best Sports Event of the Year' for the Youth Sailing World Championships 2021, Oman Sail showcased hosting capability post-pandemic by delivering on a series of continental and world sailing championships, culminating in the hosting of the 50 th edition of the Youth Sailing World Championships, making the Sultanate the first country in the region to host this prestigious event.

In 2021, Oman Sail delivered nine major projects in the sport of sailing, attracting over 2,500 international competitors to experience the world class facilities and conditions that Oman has to offer. Utilising its many years of international event management experience, the Sultanate of Oman positioned itself as a COVID safe destination for major global sailing events, ensuring championship events could proceed following the withdrawal of original host venues.

These events were planned and delivered by a 96% Omanised team, contributing over OMR 2.8 million to the national economy, including over 7,800 hotel room nights to the Sultanate's tourism industry.

Dr Khamis Al Jabri, Oman Sail CEO, said, "2021 was an incredibly successful year for Oman Sail as we managed to come back strongly to host a significant number of international events in the Sultanate, while a considerable part of the world was still experiencing COVID 19 related challenges. We welcomed nations from around the world to Oman through our event hosting and ensured all athletes, support teams and race officials were best placed to deliver their optimum performance and delivery on and off the water. Our 96% Omanised workforce delivered a world class portfolio of events and firmly established the Sultanate of Oman as a renowned destination for world class sports events."

Barcelo Mussanah Resort played host to the Asian and African Sailing Olympic Qualification event in April 2021, bringing 456 Sailors from 46 nations to Oman to decide qualification for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Following the completion of the Games in Tokyo in August, the eyes of the sailing world moved to Oman where three World and two Asian sailing championship events were staged, in addition to two of Oman Sail's signature events.

October 2021 saw the start of a busy final quarter of the year as Oman Sail hosted the 2021 Asian Windsurfing Championships and Mussanah Race Week – which included a Para Sailing event for the first time - before welcoming the 2021 49er & 49er FX Asian Championships and the 2021 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 World Championships. The annual premier event, Sailing Arabia – The Tour, began in Mussanah on 24 November and ran through to 5 December with teams competing from 4 different nations. The penultimate event of 2021 was the ICLA 6 World Championships, where Oman Sail once again offered a COVID safe venue for some of the world's best sailors and the perfect preparation for the management team prior to the start of the Youth Sailing World Championships.

The Youth Sailing World Championships attracted over 800 international guests, including 357 sailors, making it the largest ever edition of this annual event. The Championships also witnessed another landmark achievement as Oman Sail set a new Guinness World Records™ title for the Most Nationalities Collecting Litter in a single location. Under supervision by an adjudicator from Guinness World Records™, participants at the Youth Sailing World Championships, including sailors, Oman Sail officials and staff at Barceló Mussanah Resort broke a new record with 73 nationalities collecting over 344kg of litter at Mussanah public beach.

Dr Khamis added, "The experience gained during 2021 will leave an indelible legacy on the country's potential to shine on the world stage and adds to the growing belief in the global sports community that our largely-Omani team of event professionals can deliver events on a par with anything across the globe. We believe our work has cemented Oman's reputation as world class destination for major sports events. The hosting of such events will support of the growth of the nation's sports tourism market and contribute to the long-term prosperity of our nation".

Organised by Sport 360X, the SPIA Awards recognise the achievements of the sporting industry across the Middle East in 18 categories. The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony on 31 May 2022 at the W Hotel in Dubai. For more information, please visit www.spiame.com.

FOOTBALL HISTORY

Neymar joins Ronaldo and Romario in elite group after completing 100 goals for PSG

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain star Neymar has emulated Cristiano Ronaldo and Romario to cement his place in football history after bringing up 100 goals for the Ligue 1 club.

PSG finished their 2021-22 campaign in style as they thrashed Metz 5-0 at Parc des Princes on Saturday. Kylian Mbappe scored a hat-trick, opening the scoring with a quickfire double in the first half before getting his third after the break.

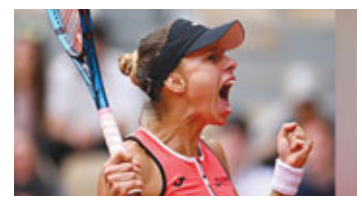
Neymar chipped a lovely finish over Caillard between the Frenchman's last two goals. Angel Di Maria also scored on his final appearance for the club just after Traore was sent off for his second booking.

Neymar's strike against Metz was his 13th of the season for PSG. It marked his 100th goal in 144 appearances across all competitions for Ligue 1 champions since his arrival from Barcelona in 2017.

The 30-year-old is now only the third player in history to have scored 100 goals for three different clubs, having also achieved the feat with Barca and Santos.

Ronaldo managed the milestone at Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juventus, while Brazil legend Romario reached 100 goals in his club career for PSV, Vasco Da Gama and Flamengo. ANI

FRENCH OPEN



Jabeur suffers early exit; Stephens, Osorio advance

PARIS: Magda Linette of Poland on Sunday knocked out No.6 seed Ons Jabeur of Tunisia 3-6, 7-6, 7-5 in the opening round of the French Open 2022 on the main stadium, Court Philippe Chatrier.

Jabeur came into the tournament with 17 matches victory on clay this season. After the success in Madrid Open, No.6 seed Jabeur was seen as a potential contender. However, her campaign was undone on Sunday by 24 unforced errors in the two-hour 28-minute play. Last year in the third round of the tournament Linette had to face defeat against Jabeur.

Meanwhile, Sloane Stephens of America started her campaign on a winning knot as she defeated Jule Niemeier 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 in a match that lasted for two hours and 26 minutes.

On the other hand, Camila Osorio of Colombia also eased past French wildcard Harmony Tan 6-4, 6-3 in one hour and 22 minutes to advance into the second round. ANI

COMMENTARY

Inconsistent Delhi Capitals pay the price

Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

When the big auction happened in February, Delhi Capitals looked the most solid side on paper and most of the Pundits expected this could be the year they can have their hands on the IPL trophy which has eluded them since its inception in 2008. But sadly it was not to be.

The Delhi Capitals team blew hot and cold through all 14 games this season that they managed to win just 7 games out of the 14 and could not even make it to the playoffs this year. They started off the season with a victory over Mumbai Indians in their first game which should have given them the right tonic but it was not to be. They were good in one game but the opposite in the other game. Despite having big batters like David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, Romvell Powell, Rishab Pant, Prithvi Shaw, all-rounders like Axar Patel, Lalit Yadav and Shardul Thakur, their batting never clicked consistently.

Their foreign players like David Warner, Mitchell Marsh and Romvell Powell were more often than not doing the bulk of scoring but the Indian batters were not scoring when it mattered.

In their last match they had to beat the bottom placed Mumbai Indians and everyone felt they would do that and make it to the playoffs. But the pressure got on to their batsman and at one stage they were 50/4 before Romvell bailed them out to took them to a score of 160 to defend.

They had Mumbai on the mat till a bizarre decision of captain Rishabh Pant deciding not to review the caught behind decision of the dangerous Tim David cost them the game and a place in the playoffs which allowed Royal Challengers Bangalore to sneak in.

Yes, there was dew but their bowlers choked under pressure and let the winning match slip.

This situation would have never come to such a pass if their batsman had been consistent and scoring runs but they failed and paid the price. Their captain Rishab Pant scored 300 runs but most of them did not help.

The off field drama also did not help Pant when in the game against Rajasthan Royals he wanted to call his players back when a waist height full toss was not given.

Their team also had a few cases of COVID-19 and more importantly their opener Prithvi Shaw was out for a few games due to typhoid. All these things did not help Delhi Capitals cause and they ended falling short once again. It's been a year of so near yet so far but this was Delhi Capitals best chance but sadly they let it slip.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Expat women volleyball tournament on May 27

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The expatriate women volleyball tournament will be held on May 27 from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm at Muscat College in Bausher.

This sports event has been special to stay healthy, socialise and compete for many years. Organised by Khalil Al Balushi and Khalid Balushi who have been the driving force behind this tournament bringing together the community year after year.

During the tournament, 16 female volleyball teams will be competing for the title. They are: Fox Hard, Blazers, Heat, Happy Team, Muscat Strikers, No Name, Slashers, Volley Diggers, Titan, Elite Fighter, PSO, Force One Team, Phil Oman, Foodtrip Warriors, Wadi Team.

This volleyball tournament will give away gifts to winners and the tournament has been sponsored by Oriental LLC , Perfumery & Cosmetics distributor in the Sultanate of Oman. Trophies and medals have been sponsored by Hussain Al Balushi Al Hayat Hospital has always been taking a great care of the players when injuries occur.

AAA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE

WWW.TIMESOFOMAN.COM
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,140.44 points, down by 0.39 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index also ended down by 0.03 per cent at 471.79 points. Takaful Oman, up 6.45 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 9.68 per cent, was the top loser.

Initiative launched to streamline services

The Mangam Labs Initiative targets 1,731 services within the context of the government's digital transformation programme

MANGAM LABS INITIATIVE: More than 100 representatives of government and private establishments are participating in the labs, along with academicians, experts and representatives of civil society institutions and beneficiaries. — ONA

MUSCAT: In cooperation with Oman Vision 2040 Follow-up Unit, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology on Sunday launched a series of workshops (labs) to streamline government services under the codename of 'Mangam Labs Initiative.'

Workshops being held

Towards this objective, workshops are being held at Oman Institute for Oil and Gas (InstOG)—till 16 June—to gauge the impact and efficiency of the labs aimed at streamlining government services within the context of the Digital Government Transformation Programme 2021-2025.

More than 100 representatives of government and private establishments are participating in the labs, along with academicians, experts and representatives of civil society institutions and beneficiaries.

The Mangam Labs Initiative targets 1,731 services within the context of the government's digital transformation programme. The preliminary stage focuses on 45 services covering the sectors of investment, municipal services, health services and housing services, in addition to 10 services proposed by civil society institutions.

The streamlining process involves the re-engineering of the service sector's configuration so that it could operate in an innovative, prompt and smooth manner that caters to the needs of service beneficiaries. — ONA

RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

Forum to explore green hydrogen prospects in Oman

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation, in cooperation with the Sustainable Energy Research Centre (SERC) at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), will hold a forum on Tuesday on the prospects of green hydrogen.

Constructive cooperation

The event aims to promote constructive cooperation between institutions concerned with the clean and renewable energy sector.

It will include several working papers and seminars that cover a spectrum of topics, including the prospects of green hydrogen in Oman and the experiences of regional projects in the field of hydrogen energy, among other topics.

The forum highlights the advantages of green hydrogen and ways of benefitting from it in areas of sustainable development in line with Oman Vision 2040.

— ONA

COOPERATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS: The event aims to promote constructive cooperation between institutions concerned with the clean and renewable energy sector. — ONA

IN INDUSTRIAL CITIES

ENHANCING AWARENESS: The programme is aimed at enhancing awareness on statistical concepts, and methods of data collection, analysis, interpretation and reporting. — Supplied picture

Madayn training scheme focuses on skill development

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) organised a training programme on 'Data Analysis and Reporting Techniques' as part of its ongoing plan to develop the skills of human cadres in the various industrial cities.

The programme is aimed at enhancing awareness on statistical concepts, and methods of data collection, analysis, interpretation and reporting.

Madayn organises a series of training programmes throughout the year with the objective of focusing on trending topics and developing the capabilities of human cadres in the industrial cities.

Moreover, Madayn aims through these programmes to complement the efforts made by the Sultanate to support training and Omanisation to meet the needs of the industrial sector.

Madayn also makes significant efforts to strengthen partnership with the educational and training related bodies to benefit from their expertise in the field of human resource development, improve production processes, simplify work procedures, and conduct industry-related research and studies.

ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Germany eases cost of living by launching €9 ticket plan over the next three months

BERLIN: Germany's parliament has approved a plan that will cut the cost of travel in the country over the next three months. Parliament's upper house on Friday, signed off on the €9 ($9.50) per month ticket plan, which will run for the next three months beginning June 1. This will include public transport across Germany with all modes of city and regional transport.

For comparison, the €27 passengers can pay for the ticket over the 90-day period is about half the cost of the cheapest monthly ticket for Berlin's inner zones.

The ticket, called "9 for 90," is a response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has contributed to increases in already high energy prices. Part of a larger package of financial relief, it aims to reduce gasoline consumption and promote climate-neutral travel by public transport.

"Every person who uses public transport contributes to weaning our country off Russian energy and bringing us closer to climate neutrality," Transport Minister Volker Wissing said following a meeting with state-level counterparts earlier this month.

The federal government's bill would provide €2.5 billion to finance the programme.

"This might tempt more people, longer-term, to take public transport rather than their car," Jon Worth, a rail advocate, told DW. "And it will even work for tourists too; anyone can buy these passes."

While foremost intended for commuters to get around locally without their gas-guzzling cars, the subsidised ticket can get you much further. For those with time to spare and unfazed by multiple changes, all of Germany — and even some points just across its borders — would be reachable for €9.

"Even if it's an attractive, albeit limited, offer, the cheap price alone will not increase the switch to public transport. For a long time, the German Tourism Association has been demanding a fast and committed expansion of rail and mass transit infrastructure, better connections and more frequent service. That's what will really trigger a transition," Huberta Sasse, a spokesperson for the German Tourism Association, told DW in a statement.

Thirteen million daily commuters in Germany use regional trains operated by Deutsche Bahn, the national public railway. They routinely complain about overcrowded trains, poor service, delayed trains and canceled routes. In response, the company has said service interruptions are partly due to track work that will improve conditions in the long run.

"With new and newly designed trains, we are increasing capacity and comfort, and improving passenger information. This continual modernization is a constant boost in attraction for rail and mass transit — including for the period of the €9 ticket," Maria Menz, a railway spokesperson, told DW in a statement.

It's unclear how the €9 ticket will affect demand. In a recent poll for public broadcaster ARD, 44% of people in Germany said they definitely or probably want to use the ticket. Sixty percent of city dwellers were in favor, compared with under 40% in rural areas.

The ticket is expected to have little impact on suburban and rural areas, where residents have far fewer public transport options than cities and rely more heavily on cars. The spokesperson for local administrations, Reinhard Sager, criticized the government's plan as a political move that would take a lot of effort to implement and wouldn't lead to lasting change. Better, he told the dpa news agency, to invest the billions on improving infrastructure and service.

Local transport companies, while welcoming the political attention, have complained of administrative headaches. They have to develop new platforms for selling the special ticket, and passengers with an existing monthly pass will need to be compensated for the difference during the three-month period.

The biggest unknown is what happens after August. In its coalition agreement, the federal government agreed to increase its financial support for local transport. That was before inflation and war caused energy prices to skyrocket. Neither the Transport Ministry nor the Finance Ministry, both controlled by the neoliberal Free Democrats, have made firm financial commitments beyond the €9 ticket.

— DW

DALAL STREET

Indian stock market week ahead: Five factors to look for

MUMBAI: Snapping five consecutive weeks of losing streak, the Indian stock markets' key indices gained around 3 per cent during the week ended May 20.

There was extreme volatility at Dalal Street during the week. The key indices, Sensex and Nifty, started the week on a positive note and rallied around three per cent in the first two days. However, the benchmark indices tumbled by more than 2.5 per cent on Thursday. Bulls were back on Dalal Street on Friday, the last trading session of the week. The indices more than covered the losses incurred in the previous day. The Sensex and Nifty surged by around three per cent on Friday.

Rally in small firms was sharper. BSE smallcap index surged by around 4 per cent during the week outperforming the gain of around 3 per cent in the midcap index. Metal led the gains among the sectoral indices. BSE Metal index soared 7.3 per cent during the week. The capital goods index gained 5.3 per cent.

Foreign Institutional Investors

The benchmark indices rallied around 3 per cent during the week. It was purely led by retail and domestic institutional investors. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) were the net seller during the week. The foreign institutional investors sold equities worth Rs 11,401 crore during the week ended May 20. Since the beginning of the month, FIIs have offloaded equities worth Rs 44,102 crore.

Earnings

Several big companies are scheduled to announce their financial results during the week. The companies that are scheduled to announce their Q4 results are Mahindra & Mahindra, NHPC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Bank of India, Coal India, Adani Ports and SEZ, Grasim Industries, Bank of India, GAIL (India) Ltd, Fortis Healthcare, Jindal Steel & Power, Godrej Industries and India Cements. This will be the last leg of the earnings session for the January-March 2022 quarter. More than 1,200 companies are scheduled to announce their financial results for the January-March quarter during the week. Earnings data will have a significant impact on the market's trend during the week.

Ongoing conflict

The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has created volatility in the stock markets globally. Investors across the world are keeping eye on the conflict. It has created huge setbacks for the global economy, which was already rattled by the COVID-19 pandemic. Development in the Russia-Ukraine conflict will have a significant impact on the global equities markets as also on the other markets globally.

Global Markets

Investors closely follow the developments in the global equities. The volatility during the week was largely due to the trends in the global equities.

Major global indices including Dow Jones Industrial Average, Nasdaq 100 futures and S&P 500 futures had witnessed volatility during the week. This dampened the sentiments in the Indian equities in the middle of the week. However, the bull ruled the Dalal Street on Friday despite the weakness in the global equities.

US macro-economic data and the Federal Reserve's action on policy rates and liquidity management are closely tracked by the investors.

Indian Rupee

The Indian rupee dipped to a new record low of 77.92 against the US dollar during the week. The rupee touched an all-time low on Thursday amid a meltdown in the equities markets. Movement in the currency markets will be closely watched. Investors will also keep a watch on the US dollar's exchange rate against major global currencies including China's Yuan, Japan's Yen, UK's Pound Sterling and the EU's Euro. — ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends lower marginally

Takaful Oman, up 6.45 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 9.68 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,140.44 points, down by 0.39 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index also ended down by 0.03 per cent at 471.79 points. Takaful Oman, up 6.45 per cent, was the top gainer while, A'Saffa Foods, down 9.68 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of National Bank Oman were the most active in terms of number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 353 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR1.79 million, with more than 11.24 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 6 advanced, 14 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR57,097 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR52,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR5,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,570.33 points, down 0.1 per cent. Prices of Takaful Oman and Ahlia Insurance were up by 6.45 per cent and 2.65 per cent respectively. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance, United Finance, Taageer Finance and Al Anwar Investment were down by 2.78 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 2.13 per cent 0and 1.25 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,079.24 points, down 0.19 per cent. Construction Materials was the only gainer up by 2.86 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Oman Fisheries and Oman Cement were down by 9.68 per cent, 3.28 per cent and 0.39 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.07 per cent before closing at 1,613.37 points. Prices of Phoenix Power, Oman Education & Training and Al Jazeera Services were up by 4.17 per cent, 2.86 per cent and 0.37 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Telecom, Oman National Engineering and Al Maha Markting were down by 3.13 per cent, 1.89 per cent and 0.59 per cent respectively.

— United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,161.88	4,140.44	4,140.44	4,156.68	-16.24	-0.39
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,582.42	6,570.32	6,570.32	6,576.79	-6.47	-0.10
Industry Index	6,090.57	6,079.24	6,079.24	6,090.57	-11.33	-0.19
Services Index	1,619.81	1,613.37	1,613.37	1,614.42	-1.05	-0.07
MSX Shariah Index	472.54	471.70	471.79	471.95	-0.16	-0.03
MSX TR INDEX	5,242.65	5,215.64	5,215.64	5,236.10	-20.46	-0.39
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,881.95	6,869.30	6,869.30	6,876.06	-6.76	-0.10
SERVICES TR IDX	1,669.16	1,662.52	1,662.52	1,663.61	-1.09	-0.07
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,320.98	6,309.23	6,309.23	6,320.98	-11.76	-0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
11,241,895	1,786,664	353	22,400,678,096	6	14	23	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, MAY 22

REGULAR MARKET

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	14,000	3,787	4	0.271	0.271	0.270	0.271	0.270	0.001	0.370	0.270	0.270	0.274	0.100	16,586,358
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	2,693,686	538,737	58	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.197	0.200	0.100	325,189,271
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	1,351,977	195,374	21	0.145	0.145	0.142	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.142	0.143	0.147	0.100	34,365,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	76,800	33,024	4	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.430	0.434	0.100	94,600,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	73,200	27,084	8	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.370	0.000	0.000	0.370	0.368	0.374	0.100	46,212,245
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	501,000	59,118	5	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.125	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	92,520	39,784	4	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.430	0.440	0.100	101,656,300
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	1,747,200	192,917	17	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.108	0.111	0.100	328,906,852
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	834	274	1	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.000	0.000	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.100	213,509,707
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	3,000	177	1	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.100	14,001,120
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	508,033	267,449	26	0.528	0.528	0.524	0.526	0.528	-0.002	-0.379	0.524	0.524	0.532	0.100	1,974,182,427
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	125,212	31,925	5	0.256	0.256	0.254	0.255	0.256	-0.001	-0.391	0.254	0.254	0.256	0.100	84,372,541
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	11,500	4,013	2	0.342	0.350	0.342	0.348	0.350	-0.002	-0.571	0.350	0.000	0.350	0.100	34,800,000
OM0000003000	Al MAHA MARKTING	8,700	5,916	5	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.684	-0.004	-0.585	0.680	0.680	0.680	0.100	46,920,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	10,019	1,042	2	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.106	-0.002	-1.887	0.104	0.104	0.110	0.100	14,560,000
OM0000003281	TAAGEER FINANCE	5,244	483	2	0.093	0.093	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.002	-2.128	0.092	0.091	0.092	0.100	23,796,886
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	100,000	7,030	9	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.778	0.070	0.069	0.077	0.100	14,000,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	46,521	40,439	6	0.872	0.872	0.868	0.868	0.896	-0.028	-3.125	0.868	0.868	0.884	0.100	651,000,000
Total		18	7,369,446	1,448,573	180											

Parallel Market

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RO)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	25,000	1,650	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.062	0.004	6.452	0.066	0.068	0.068	0.100	6,600,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	355,200	17,761	10	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.048	0.002	4.167	0.051	0.047	0.051	0.100	73,130,073
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	367,738	26,655	35	0.071	0.073	0.071	0.072	0.070	0.002	2.857	0.073	0.073	0.075	0.100	4,500,000
OM0000002580	OMAN EDU TRAINING	17,244	3,725	1	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.216	0.210	0.006	2.857	0.216	0.216	0.218	0.100	15,120,000
OM0000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	7,000	2,170	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.302	0.008	2.649	0.310	0.290	0.310	0.100	31,000,000
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	10,000	1,900	1	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.185	0.000	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	11,700	1,024	2	0.088	0.088	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.085	0.087	0.100	2,920,716
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	5,000	555	1	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.108	0.112	0.100	224,035,032
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	15,193	1,747	3	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.112	0.118	0.100	344,580,415
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	500	424	1	0.848	0.848	0.848	0.872	0.872	0.000	0.000	0.848	0.848	0.000	0.100	53,431,800
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER.	60,000	6,480	3	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.108	0.000	0.000	0.108	0.107	0.117	0.100	21,922,536
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	73	8	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.090	0.104	0.100	8,140,275
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,579,570	150,616	17	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	1,818	200	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.100	10,758,238
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	80,000	7,440	3	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.093	0.099	0.100	16,275,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	50,000	2,450	5	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.100	33,069,484
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	173,248	8,663	5	0.050	0.051	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.050	0.051	0.100	35,720,317
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	568	64	1	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.108	0.113	0.100	17,577,195
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	500	49	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.091	0.091	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.092	0.098	0.100	18,200,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	60,950	5,130	6	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.086	0.100	10,237,500
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	410,167	32,584	18	0.080	0.081	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	100,000	9,036	6	0.090	0.097	0.088	0.090	0.092	-0.002	-2.174	0.088	0.088	0.092	0.100	31,422,997
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	173,730	12,401	11	0.072	0.072	0.071	0.071	0.073	-0.002	-2.740	0.071	0.070	0.071	0.100	21,807,389
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	280,500	33,215	26	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.118	0.122	-0.004	-3.279	0.117	0.117	0.118	0.100	21,485,251
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	86,750	12,145	12	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.155	-0.015	-9.677	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	16,800,000
Total		25	3,872,449	338,091	173											

PILL-SHAPED DESIGN

Xiaomi Mi Band 7 launch on May 24

BEIJING: Xiaomi confirmed the launch of its Mi Band 7 on May 24, the same day as the Redmi Note 11T series.

The Xiaomi Band 7 will be released as a successor to the successful Xiaomi Mi Band 6, and while the former features are better, the design is pretty much the same as the latter. Mi Band 7 will adopt the familiar pill-shaped design of its predecessors but with a 1.62-inch AMOLED screen up from the 1.56-inch size on the outgoing Mi Band 6, as per GSM Arena.

The poster shared by Xiaomi on Weibo gives us some details about its specs as well as some images of its design.

The larger panel of the Mi Band 7 allows for more watch complexity on the watch screen. This should be easier to read than the previous model. It will be interesting to see how the larger screen affects the overall form factor of the band.

The new teaser also describes the existence of NFC. This will probably be market dependent again. Other features include heart rate, blood oxygen, and training data measurements, as well as the usual combination of built-in apps for weather, music control, and alarms.

— ANI

INDIA

Centre bears full cost of excise duty cut on petrol, diesel, says Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: India's Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday clarified that the entire cost of the reduction in excise duty on petrol and diesel is borne by the central government and the state's revenue won't be impacted by the move.

In a tweet, the finance minister noted "Basic Excise Duty (BED), Special Additional Excise duty (SAED), Road & Infrastructure Cess (RIC) and Agriculture & Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC) together constitute Excise Duty on petrol and diesel." The Basic Excise Duty is sharable with states. Special Additional Excise Duty, Road & Infrastructure Cess, and Agriculture & Infrastructure Development Cess are non-sharable.

On Saturday, the finance minister announced excise duty cut of Rs 8 per litre on petrol and Rs 6 a litre on diesel. This reduction is in the Special Additional Excise Duty. This is no-sharable. So the entire burden is borne by the central government.

In November 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi government had cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs 10 per litre.

The duty cut in November 2021 was from the Road & Infrastructure Cess (RIC) category.

According to the finance minister, the entire cost of these two reductions in excise duties on petrol and diesel is borne by the central government.

"Basic ED which is sharable with states has not been touched. Therefore, the entire burden of these two duty cuts (made in Nov, 21 and yesterday) is borne by the Centre," Sitharaman said.

The duty reduction made on Saturday has an implication of Rs 1,00,000 crore a year for Centre. The duty reduction made in November 2021 has an implication of Rs 1,20,000 crore a year for Centre. Total revenue implication to Centre, on these two duty cuts is thus Rs 2,20,000 crore a year, the finance minister said. — ANI

India's Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman — ANI

FOR NEXT 5 YEARS

Infosys reappoints Salil Parekh as CEO & MD

BENGALURU: Infosys Limited, India's second-largest IT services company, on Sunday said it has reappointed Salil Parekh as its chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) for a five-year term ending March 2027.

The decision was taken in the meeting of the company's Board of Directors held on May 21, 2022. The board took the decision based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) of the company, Infosys Limited said in a regulatory filing to the stock exchanges. Salil Parekh has been the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys since January 2018. His reappointment is subject to the approval of shareholders.

"It may be noted that Salil Parekh has no relationship with any member of the Board of directors and meets all the criteria to be reappointed as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director under applicable laws including circulars issued by stock exchanges from time to time," Infosys said.

Parekh has more than thirty years of global experience in the IT services industry with a strong track record of driving digital transformation for enterprises, executing business turnarounds, and managing successful acquisitions, it said.

Before his appointment to Infosys, Parekh was a member of the Group Executive Board at Capgemini, where he held several leadership positions for 25 years. He also served as a Partner at Ernst & Young and is widely credited for bringing scale and value to the Indian operations of the consultancy firm. — ANI

LIFESTYLE

HEALTH ADVANTAGES OF 5 DIFFERENT HERBAL TEAS

Tea is one of the most popular beverages in the world and in India, it is even regarded as a culture. People can be found sipping a hot cuppa of the beverage almost anywhere and anytime. We celebrated International Tea Day on May 21. The United Nations General Assembly in the year 2019 marked May 21 as International Tea Day in a bid to promote the production and consumption of tea and create awareness about its significance in fighting poverty and hunger.

From modest 'chai tapris' to the most sophisticated cafes, tea and tea enthusiasts can be found in every corner of the world.

Traditional teas are made from the leaves of the Camellia Sinensis plant, such as Green Tea, Black Tea, and Oolong Tea. Herbal teas, on the other hand, are flavoured with fruits, herbs, spices and flowers and are available in a variety of flavours and tastes.

From modest 'chai tapris' to the most sophisticated cafes, tea and tea enthusiasts can be found in every corner of the world.

On International Tea Day 2022, here is a list of herbal teas that provide numerous health benefits.

1

Ginger Tea

A cup of ginger tea is an evergreen favourite and especially if you have the chills, a couple of sips through the day acts as panacea. Because of its high content of Vitamin C, Magnesium, and other minerals, it is offered as a medicinal remedy. Lemon, honey, or peppermints go well in this calming drink. It helps in motion sickness therapy. Nausea induced by pregnancy, surgery, or morning sickness is often relieved by consuming adrak chai. It also helps to prevent stomach ulcers.

2

Lemongrass Tea

A steaming hot cup of lemongrass tea, one of the most well-known herbal tea kinds, is nothing but pleasant and delightful. It has a zesty taste and is packed with vitamins. Lemongrass Herbal Tea is commonly consumed after supper to assist in digestion. It has anti-anxiety qualities and helps you burn more calories by increasing your metabolism. Essential nutrients for skin and hair are also present.

3

Tea with Lemon Balm

Lemon balm is a member of the mint family with a lemony flavour. People who suffer from insomnia or anxiety will benefit from this plant. It includes antioxidants that can aid with a variety of health issues, including the herpes virus. But a note of caution, don't consume too much of it over an extended period of time. This tea helps to improve mood and mental performance, elasticize the arteries and reduce the activity of an overactive thyroid.

4

Chamomile Tea

This is a variety of herbal tea. Camomile is a famous health beverage prepared from the Asteraceae plant family. Chamomile tea is wonderful for your health and skin because it is high in flavonoids yet low in caffeine. This soothing beverage has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antispasmodic properties. It aids in the prevention of long-term diabetes.

5

Hibiscus Tea

Hibiscus tea will appeal to those who appreciate the sweet and tangy flavor of cranberries. There are hundreds of different types of hibiscus, but the most popular is Hibiscus sabdariffa, which produces hibiscus tea that can be served hot or cold. Both systolic and diastolic blood pressure is reduced. It also enhances liver function and has vitamin C in abundance.

ROUND-UP

LuLu distributes prizes to winners of recent 'Shop & Win' promotion

The prizes were distributed to the winners by the senior management members of LuLu Oman in the presence of shoppers, well-wishers as well as management and staff of LuLu Hypermarket Oman

MUSCAT: LuLu Oman distributed the prizes to the winners of its recent 'Shop & Win' promotion, which was held from March 10 to May 7, 2022, coinciding with the Ramadan and Eid celebrations.

The prize distribution ceremony was held at Lulu Hypermarket in Avenues Mall. The prizes were distributed to the winners by the senior management members of LuLu Oman in the presence of shoppers, well-wishers as well as management and staff of LuLu Hypermarket Oman.

The first-of-its-kind promotion 'Shop & Win' gave 281 customers a chance to win cash prizes worth OMR100,000. A Grand Prize of OMR10,000 cash as well as Weekly Cash Prizes of OMR5000, OMR750, OMR500, and more were won by Lulu customers from all over Oman. The winners of each draw were picked and their names were announced in the presence of officials from the MOCI, the management of LuLu and other dignitaries.

Shoppers purchasing for a minimum value of OMR10 at any LuLu Hypermarket in Oman during the promotional period were entitled to register themselves to be part of 8 e-raffle draws held during the entire period.

Commenting on the success of the promotion, Ananth A V, Director of LuLu Hypermarkets Oman & India, stated, "I congratulate all the winners of our Shop and Win Promotion, especially the Grand Prize winner. The response to this year's unique promotion was overwhelming. We could see a perceptible excitement during the promotion, which was a clear indication of the promotion having caught the customer's imagination. We at LuLu, constantly strive to up our offerings and enhance the customer experience so that the process is rewarding in more than one respect", he added.

Expressing his deep appreciation to the customers for their loyalty and support, Shabeer K.A., Regional Director – Oman, said, "We offer 'meaningful deals and discounts' to meet consumer needs for every season and occasion. Our innovative strategies and ideas are tailored to meet and exceed customer expectations. A lot of other promotions, deals, offers and discounts were also offered alongside the Shop and Win promotion to make shopping at Lulu an enjoyable and rewarding experience for our customers during Ramadan," he added.

All of Lulu's value-driven promotions are part of the Group's continued commitment to not only reward their patrons but also make shopping an enjoyable and exciting experience for all. In this season of giving, Lulu Oman was involved in several initiatives in giving back to the society through its multi-pronged and continuous CSR activities that helped the outreach programme.

MUSIC AND DRAMA CLASSES

AGS Duqm celebrates learning, literature from around the world

MUSCAT: During their English, Arabic, Music and Drama classes, the focus of children's learning has been in the study of Fairy Tales, African Folk Tales, Original Tales, and Arabic literature.

Through this range of writing styles, children are able to demonstrate their understanding of how an author uses storytelling to explain the origin of myths and the culture of a society.

This has involved children reading text and unfamiliar words to extend their use of vocabulary and develop the skills to create their own stories.

During art classes, children have created decorations for their classroom which reflect the country and origin of the stories they have studied and during Arabic lessons, they have learned to retell these in Arabic.

This cross-curricular learning journey has led the children of AGS to celebrate their learning, reciting literature, recreate theatrical performances, and performing music from around the world.

Peter, Principal said "As educators, it is our responsibility to provide children with opportunities to express themselves. This event has enabled them to do this through words, language and the performing arts. Demonstrating confidence in their knowledge of writing, speaking, listening, performing and most importantly, the ability to have fun while they learn."

"The children and teachers of AGS Duqm have grasped this opportunity and worked together to create an amazing programme for our parent community to enjoy"

ONE-STOP-SHOP

Danube Home offers fully customised kitchen solutions

MUSCAT: Danube Home the region's leading one-stop-shop for home improvement and furnishing needs has a one-stop solution for customers looking for the perfect kitchen. With a range of stylish and functional kitchen fittings, designed to suit the tastes and needs of every family – from space maximization to state-of-the-art design innovation and beyond, Danube Home is setting a new standard for home kitchens. Apart from the stellar range of products, Danube Home also offers a Design and Develop service that helps customers design their dream kitchens, from scratch.

Danube Home offers free kitchen designing and consultation services. The in-house design team starts with an initial consultation with the customer, to understand their specific requirements in order to design a seamless workspace. Danube Home then works with interior designers and site engineers to create a 3D design of the intended kitchen so clients can visualise their future space and make necessary edits. Once the design is finalised, the team begins the execution to bring the vision alive.

The expert Danube Home Design and Develop team work with a wide variety of kitchen styles and can recommend the ideal solution based on the available space – from islands, to parallel and U-shaped kitchens and more. Customers can also choose from a variety of natural or modern finishes like Melamine, Lacquer, Acrylic and PVC depending on their specific tastes. Danube Home products are affordably priced and our design team is expert in working within budgetary and time constraints.

To make the process even easier, Danube Home offers the option of kitchen designs that come with built-in appliances like refrigerators, ovens, stove, chimneys, dishwashers and washing machines so customers can maximise the use of their kitchens. What's more, all Danube Home Kitchens come with a warranty of up to 30 years so customers can be assured that Danube Home is just a call away in case of any issue and your kitchen will remain perfect for a long time.

To find out more, customers can visit their nearest Danube Home Showroom or call 80088876.

Danube Home is a leading home improvement and home furnishing retail brand with a strong, vibrant, ever-growing presence in the Middle East, Gulf Region, and the Indian Sub-Continent. Danube Home is known for its unwavering commitment to the highest standards of customer service, unmatched quality, strikingly beautiful designs, and innovative retail services.

Danube Home offers more than 50,000 products across 16 product-specific categories. The company has 17 showrooms and more than 5 million square feet of logistics and warehousing space. The product portfolio of Danube Home includes Luxury Sanitaryware, Ceramic Wall & Floor Tiles, Parquet Flooring, Elegant Curtains, Wallpapers, Window Blinds, Chandeliers, Carpets and Home Decors.

Rafeeq
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TELECOM SHOW

Vodafone set to make its debut at Comex 2022

MUSCAT: Vodafone will be making its entrance into the 31st edition of the Comex Technology show, which will be held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) & Virtual Support Platforms today. Vodafone will be a sponsor as well as a participant in this event, which has been highly acclaimed as the Sultanate of Oman's Official Technology, Communications, Innovation and Digital Transformation Show. The 31st Annual Hybrid event will see major players across key sectors and industries coming together to bring about a new perspective on technology and showcase innovative advancements in various fields as well as be the single point of contact for chief ICT decision-makers in the region.

Radically different

Commenting on the sponsorship and participation, Bader Al Zidi, CEO of Vodafone said, "As a brand, Vodafone's objective was not only centred around our entrance as the third telecommunications operator but to showcase how we set ourselves apart by our radically different digital propositions. We also aim to be a key driver of differentiation with a series of "firsts" that only Vodafone can bring to the market, such as our first virtual store, eStores and being among the first to launch with 5G services and bring new experiences to our target segment. We pride ourselves as a digital-first company that leverages the latest digital technology and agile working culture to deliver sustainable and profitable growth, alongside an unmatched digital customer experience during their entire lifecycle. Our onboarding process emphasises on simplicity, transparency and personalisation via our "My Vodafone App" which ensures that the customer is always in control."

"Our participation at Comex 2022 will help shape our commitments and reinforce the ambitions we have set to achieve, especially under our brand slogan, "Together We Can", which highlights the collaboration of human elements and technology to bring about a better future for society and sustainable solutions for challenges in the long run. At the event, we will be showcasing our state-of-the-art and unique products and services by creating a holistic digital experience for our customers within our booth at the event's premises," Al Zidi added.

Comex is Oman's annual official Technology, Communications, Innovation and Digital Transformation Show.

This year's edition will be held Face to Face and cover a host of events and activities, including Exhibitions, Conferences, Awards, Workshops, Seminars, Certified Training Programs, Gaming, B2B Meetings and Attractions, under its theme of "Embracing Future Technologies".

Vodafone is available across the Sultanate through the My Vodafone App on Google Play Store, Huawei AppGallery and the App Store and in more than 3,500 outlets across Oman. The full list can be found on www.vodafone.om

Strategic partnership

Vodafone Oman was established through a strategic partnership between the Oman Future Telecommunication Company and Vodafone Group, one of the largest providers of mobile, fixed, broadband and digital TV services.

In 2021, the Company obtained a Class I License to establish and operate public mobile telecommunications services in the Sultanate, becoming the third telecom operator in the local market.

Vodafone Oman seeks to employ the latest technologies and digital solutions in the world of telecommunications, aligning its efforts to contribute towards the achievement of the Oman Vision 2040 objectives. This is made possible by giving individuals, companies, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) the opportunity to foster innovation.

Alizz Islamic Bank launches leadership development initiative

With this programme, Alizz Islamic Bank endeavours on a mission to develop Leadership to suit the "Future of Work" by steering a holistic and an accelerated development journey to its potential future leaders

MUSCAT: During a festive ceremony, Alizz Islamic Bank launched "Ruwad Alizz" Programme, in collaboration with, Harvard Manage Mentor, the online learning platform and a subsidiary of Harvard University, one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

With this programme, Alizz Islamic Bank endeavours in a mission to develop Leadership to suit the "Future of Work" by steering a holistic and an accelerated development journey to its potential future leaders. Further, The Bank believes that there is immense opportunity in collaborative learning and exchanging ideas in the new age of digital and automated business environment. Upholding this vision of the CEO, the programme pursues to make the learner experience more enriching by including delegates with potential from different industries in Oman which would also be conducive in nurturing alliances. Moreover, the future business ecosystems will also need communities of interconnected individuals, organisations and industries that work in tandem in a complex environment, where members play roles of leaders, innovators, and most importantly, entrepreneurs who will be able to develop commercial allies across industries.

The event was attended by, Sulaiman bin Hamad Al Harthy, Chief Executive Officer, members of senior management along with the internal and external delegates who were selected to join the pilot Batch. The event was also graced by the Line Mangers of the external delegates, the representatives from the Performance Factory – the training partner for Ruwad AlIzz, and Shatha Al Maskiry as the Guest Speaker for the event.

Welcoming the guests, Mohammed Al Balushi, Chief Human Resources Officer at Alizz Islamic Bank, stated that the initiative was suggested by the CEO, which was later consented by the Board of Directors.

Al Balushi added that the program aims to certify 60 delegates every year, across two batches. He further elaborated that the program is not restricted to lecture-based classes, it is rather a blended program that consists of different methods of learning. It includes self-study using learning materials of Harvard Manage Mentor through their on-line learning platform followed by class-room assimilation to discuss bi-weekly topics covered in the e-learning modules. The classroom assimilation sessions will be conducted by the Oman wing of the Performance Factory, a leading consultancy firm renowned for their work in Management Consulting & Organisation Development. The delegates will also be subject to several assignments and assessments to measure effectiveness in learning, and there will be mentors appointed from the senior management of AlIzz Islamic Bank for each delegate to support them along this leadership development journey.

In addition, participants will get the opportunity to join several Leadership Exchange sessions by connecting with Thought Leaders across different walks of life. The Leadership Exchanges aim to provide them with a glimpse into business topics and careers which focuses on education out of the classroom, and through positive social interactions about their professional journeys in transforming people or organisations, or new ideas or ways of thinking about business.

Adding further variety to the program, the delegates will join field visits to various Industry floors with a vision of enriching themselves with the practical insights of different companies. Another objective in organizing these industrial visits is for the delegates to get a first-hand experience of the issues and experiences of the manpower working in real industrial scenario. By interacting with the key persons, the delegates also will come to know the solutions, which are many times outside the purview of the text book syllabus.

The learning journey concludes with the delegates joining in for Group based Action Learning Projects (ALP) to address a selected real life specific problem in their organisation, with a deadline of two months to collaborate and submit the proposal.

A ceremony will be held to honor graduates who manage to meet the criteria for the certification and they will be awarded with a joint certificate from AlIzz Islamic Bank and Harvard Manage Mentor.

Alizz Islamic Bank is a wholly-owned and fully licensed Islamic banking, fully owned by subsidy of Oman Arab Bank. Which is part of the extensive Arab Bank Plc network. With Oman Arab Bank and Arab Banks' rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions established in the Sultanate and the Arab world respectively, the Group provides a complete range of financial products and services for personal banking and corporate banking clients.

As part of a larger group Alizz Islamic Bank benefits from Arab Bank plc's successful experience in Islamic Banking on an international level.

This Synergy has helped create an enriching Shari'a Compliant banking experience designed for today's modern world, the Bank has focused its investments on human capital and best of breed of technology to ensure the delivery of exceptional, responsive customer service.

Transparent processes and innovative products and solutions that are inspired by Islamic Shari'a cater to the diverse needs of both commercial and corporate customers.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering hosts best project competition

MUSCAT: Department of Electrical & Communication Engineering, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of College of Engineering, National University Jointly organised Best Project Competition – on 19 May 2022 for students of various programmes in the CRI Building Lobby,at Caledonian Campus -Al Hail Campus.

This college level competition was held to choose the best final year technical projects in each of the UG programmes of the engineering departments during the spring semester 2022.

The main aim of the competition was to encourage students of the college of engineering to take up innovative, challenging projects and to instil a sense of competition.

This event was a platform for the students to showcase their technical skills in an open forum, and to prove their competencies and presentation abilities. This also paves a way for the students to build confidence in their practical work and motivate them to become an entrepreneur.

The competition witnessed 71 student participants across all three engineering departments exhibiting their graduation projects. Faculty members and mentors of the professional student chapter blessed the event which was also well supported by the college administration.

Prof. Dr. Ahmed Hassan Al Bulushi, Dean of College of Engineering, Prof A Vallavaaj, Assistant Dean, Ali Abdullah Al Mahruqi, Head of ECE Department, Prof. C.V. Sudhir , Head of MIE Department, Dr. Hafez Al Sadeq Head of CEE Department of College of Engineering, National University congratulated each and every participant for their innovative project work and appreciated their sincere efforts.

Dean has advised the participants that it is required to take their projects to the next level for commercialisation with passion. At the end of this competition, Dean distributed the Best project award to the winning Students and certificates distributed by the Head of the respective department.

ROUND-UP

Rafeeq SHOP NOW rafeeq.om

Bank Muscat organises Annual Leadership Forum for this year

The forum witnessed the launch of the logo '40 Years of Progress' to celebrate the Bank's achievements and continuation of leadership in achieving the very best possible for the Sultanate and society

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, organised the Bank's Leadership Forum for the year 2022 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre, in the presence of Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer. The event was attended by members of the Executive Management as well as officials and branch managers from both Bank Muscat as well as Meethaq Islamic Banking.

The organisation of the annual forum comes as part of the Bank's strategy to enhance strategic alignment with managers and frontline employees, and also discuss various business strategies and plans aimed at developing the Bank's operations and services, in addition to exchanging knowledge about upcoming trends and challenges and how to address them. The Annual Leadership Forum also plays an important role in introducing employees to the Bank's future strategy, goals and how to achieve them, as part of its customer-centric vision "To serve you better, every day."

Coinciding with the Leadership Forum this year, Bank Muscat also announced the launch of its 40th Anniversary Logo and the celebrations of its great successes and achievements, which have contributed to strengthening the Bank's leadership within the Sultanate's banking sector. These include providing the best banking services and facilities to customers as well as contributing to the growth and development of various economic and social sectors, and a strong Public-Private Partnership to serve the community. The Bank released a special logo for the occasion, which presents a futuristic and modern view of Bank Muscat.

Addressing the 2022 Leadership Forum, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, stressed that the Bank's strategies and plans primarily focus on serving customers and providing them the best banking services and facilities possible in the Sultanate. He explained how the Bank's customer-centric vision "To serve you better, every day" plays a key role in achieving these goals, and also helps keep pace

with the numerous developments in the financial sector. Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar expressed his thanks and appreciation to all customers including individuals, corporates, institutions and business owners for their strong confidence and trust in Bank Muscat's numerous services and facilities.

Bank Muscat's CEO also commended employees for their dedication and commitment in taking the Bank to ever greater heights. He reminded all employees that sustainable development required each and every Bank employee to constantly make efforts to better serve customers in such a manner that Bank continues to lead, progress and excel. This will ensure that the Bank is automatically associated by everyone as the leading financial institution contributing to the socio-economic development of the Sultanate. He stressed on the need to implement all the Bank's plans and strategies in a new and innovative manner that inspires customer service and at the same time, achieves all of the Bank's goals.

Sheikh Waleed Al Hashar also expressed his sincere delight and great pride in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Bank. The Bank has played, and continues to play an ever-growing and important role in sustainable development and in pioneering Corporate Social Responsibility in Oman. He called on all employees to work with team spirit and continue their efforts to benefit society as a whole. He concluded by drawing attention to the Bank's glorious history, steady leadership and excellent corporate culture that features a pioneering mentality. He exhorted all employees to continue working with dedication, integrity, accountability and partnership.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Faqir Al Balushi, Chief Banking Officer pointed out the important role that the Bank plays in the Sultanate's economic and social development, and the initiatives implemented by the Bank recently to enhance financial inclusion across the country. He expressed his great delight and pride on the occasion of the Bank's celebration of 40 years of excellence and leadership in the banking sector. He stressed on the importance of implementation of the Bank's customer-centric vision as well as its plan and strategy to contribute to digital transformation and providing the best banking services and facilities that meet the aspirations and needs of customers.

The Chief Banking Officer also expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to customers for their strong confidence in the Bank's services and products. He explained that it was the responsibility of each and every Bank employee to ensure that journey of progress was continued successfully in the future too, and to ensure that everyone contributed their very best for the good of society and the nation. He added that the Leadership Forum provides an opportunity to thank and appreciate the Bank's employees for their hard work and sincere efforts to contribute to the Bank's success. He encouraged everyone to continue on this approach and provide the best services possible to customers.

The Leadership Forum also witnessed an interesting session by a leading trainer and business executive who shared some thought-provoking ideas on the current competitive landscape of banking and future predictions, top digital trends, and the way forward. A number of presentations, interactive activities and competitions were also presented during the event and shed light on recent achievements by the Bank. Also, a short play was staged by Bank employees to highlight the Bank's 40th anniversary and its pioneering role in serving the community in Oman. Organising the Leadership Forum annually contributes greatly to the Bank's ability and flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing global factors and enhancing communications, leads to further exchange of knowledge and is an important part of continuing to achieve excellence and market leadership to achieve the aspirations of the Bank's shareholders and customers. As the leading Bank in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat strives for continuous improvement both as an organisation and through its employees to continuously do better.

FORD BRONCO SUV

Tough build, powerful performance

MUSCAT: The Ford Bronco is built for outstanding experiences. Power, style, features and performance that will leave you thoroughly impressed, the Bronco is available as a Bronco two-door, first-ever Bronco four-door model and all-new rugged, small SUV, Bronco Sport – the only domestic brand of SUVs with standard 4x4.

The all-4x4 Bronco brand is Built Wild™ and ready to deliver thrilling experiences with its heritage inspired style, engineering and smart off-road technology, plus innovative features to help outdoor enthusiasts create adventures in the most remote corners of the world.

Just like the first-generation Bronco, the all-new Bronco delivers maximum 4x4 go-anywhere, anytime capability and confidence. Bronco incorporates off-road mapping and drive technologies to give novice adventurers as much fun as hard-core off-road experts, while its Built Wild durability makes for lasting performance in the harshest of conditions for generations to come.

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

offered including Normal, Eco, Sport, Slippery and Sand, with Baja, Mud/Ruts and Rock Crawl for off-road driving.

The base system utilises a two-speed electronic shift-on-the-fly transfer case, while the optional advanced system features a two-speed electromechanical transfer case that adds an auto mode for on-demand engagement to select between 2H and 4H.

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

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

Race-bred EcoBoost® engines and a 10-speed automatic transmissions give the all-new Bronco the optimal combination of power, torque and gear ranges to perform in a wide variety of terrains and uses. Best-in-class projected gasoline-powered horsepower and torque is available with the 2.7-litre EcoBoost V6 engine, which is projected to produce 310 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque, while the 2.3-litre EcoBoost is targeted to deliver best-in-class four-cylinder torque of 310 lb.-ft. with an expected 270 horsepower. Inside, all Bronco models are purpose-built and ready for action. The instrument panel is inspired by the first-generation model, with gauges and controls clearly visible and intuitive. A multifunction colour LCD instrument panel is front and centre. Further setting Bronco ahead of the off-road competition is an available segment-exclusive 12-inch SYNC® 4 system.

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

Those interested in experiencing the Ford Bronco can visit their nearest Ford showroom.

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

AL HASHAR PHARMACY

Major beach clean-up campaigns organised

MUSCAT: As part of its Golden Jubilee celebrations, Al Hashar Pharmacy employees gathered on last Saturday at Ghoubra Beach with a mission to keep our beaches clean. A positive initiative against Global warming and climate change, a phenomenon that every country is facing worldwide, and Oman is no exception. The campaign was organised in collaboration with the Environment Authority and the Muscat Municipality.

60 employees across all divisions and departments gathered to pick several odd plastics bottles, bottle caps, barbeque sticks, empty cartoons, trash papers and several articles.

"Creating positive impact within us while minimising negative impact of others is what we do at Al Hashar Pharmacy. Small and simple gestures such as proper trash disposal can make a significant difference in creating a safer and more sustainable world not only for us but also for future generations. Our children should learn the importance of keeping surroundings clean and preserving the environment. As a leading healthcare organisation dedicated to the well-being of the people of Oman, we can play a key role in creating awareness on the importance of protecting the environment. The pristine beauty of the beaches in Oman is always refreshing & can be enjoyed with friends and family. However, cleaning up afterwards is equally important because otherwise it pollutes the environment, negatively affecting the safety of marine life and other species like birds," said Suresh Gandhi, the CEO of Al Hashar Pharmacy.

Employees who participated in this initiative felt a deep sense of satisfaction as they perceived contributing towards keeping our environment clean. One of the enthusiastic participants expressed that "working with each other especially towards a noble cause was fun, at the same time enjoyed the early morning hard work as an effort to exercise and keeping oneself fit."

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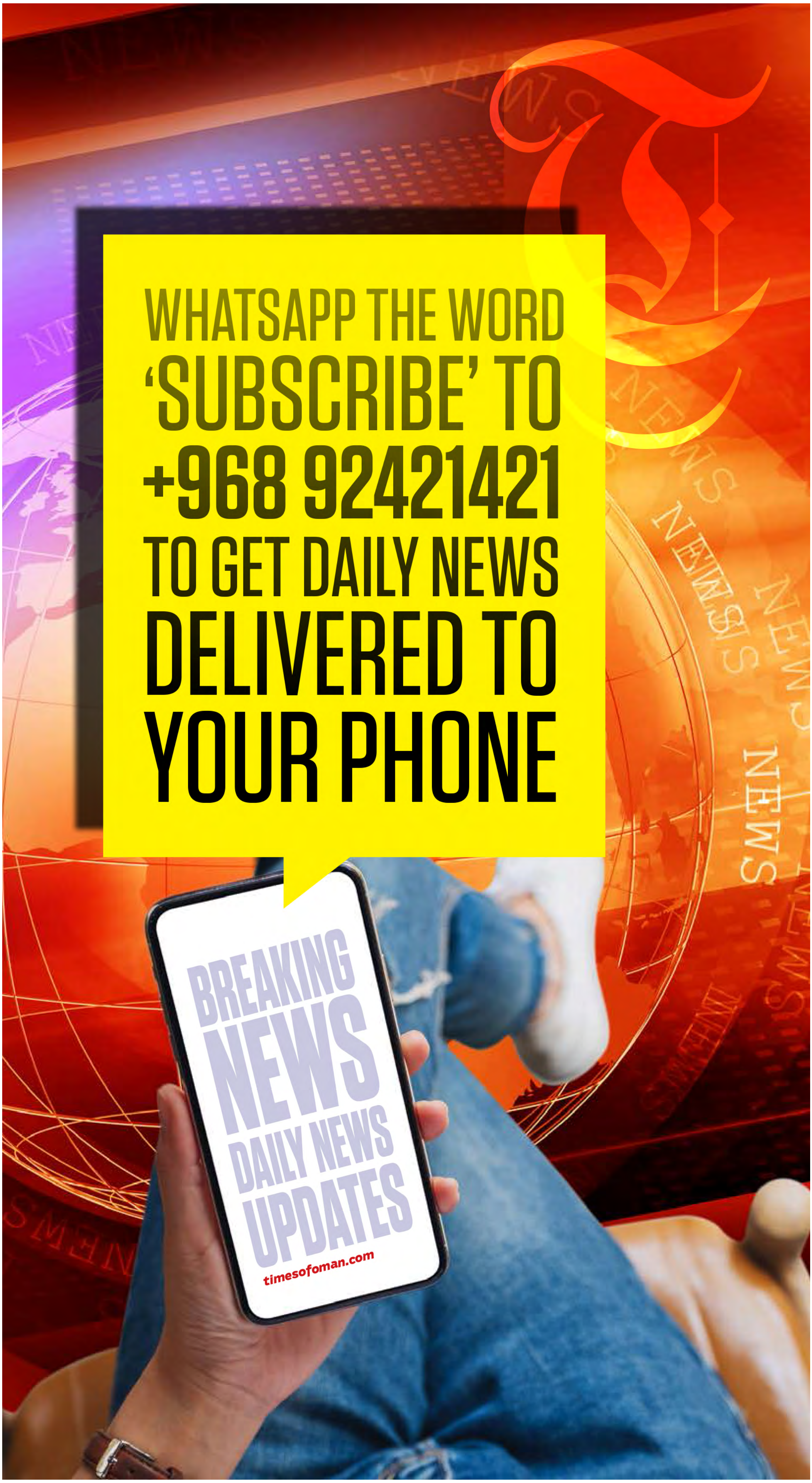
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