

OMAN, PAKISTAN REVIEW COOPERATION

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Wednesday Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of Staff of Pakistan's Navy. **>A3**



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OMAN ADVOCATES RESOLVING DISPUTES THROUGH DIALOGUE

The Sultanate of Oman has ratified proposals made by the independent expert who recommended the establishment of a democratic and equitable international order. Oman supported the expert's call for convening regular conferences under the aegis of the United Nations and developing stronger mechanisms to consolidate peace, security and coexistence. **>A5**



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HM THE SULTAN RETURNS HOME

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik returned home on Wednesday evening from the United Kingdom (UK) after a visit lasting several days. During the visit, His Majesty offered condolences on the demise of Queen Elizabeth II and congratulated King Charles III of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth, on the occasion of his accession to the throne in the UK. **—ONA**



MEETING

HM greetings conveyed to Egyptian President

CAIRO: Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information, conveyed the greetings of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The minister also conveyed His Majesty the Sultan's wishes of good health to the president, and further progress to the Egyptian people.

This took place during President el-Sisi's meeting with information ministers taking part in the Arab Information Ministers' 52nd session held at Al Ittihadiya Palace at the Secretariat General of the Arab League in Cairo yesterday.

In his turn, President el-Sisi asked the minister to convey his greetings and best wishes of good health to His Majesty the Sultan, as well as his wishes of further prosperity to the Omani people.

During the meeting, President el-Sisi affirmed Egypt's conviction in the strategic role of media in enhancing the efforts of Arab countries to achieve stability and development, notably by addressing national issues and deepening public awareness. **>A2**



Sayyid Fahd hails role of Legislative Councils

A5

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

ROHM unveils programmes for new season

1 Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) unveiled the events and functions for the new season 2022/ 2023, which begins from September 2022 and ends in May 2023. The unveiling was done at a press conference organised on the ROHM premises. **>A2**

WORLD

Putin announces partial mobilisation

2 Russian President Vladimir Putin said he signed a decree on partial mobilisation of troops. **>A6**

MARKET

Oman's inflation rate hits 2.4% in August

3 The Consumers Price Index (CPI) in the Sultanate of Oman stood at 2.4% in August 2022. **>B1**

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Does premium for car insurance vary in different governorates?

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Do you know that vehicle insurance prices differ from one place to another in Oman?

An official said that vehicle insurance prices are a little more in Dhofar and North and South Al Batinah governorates compared to other governorates in Oman as the former places witness natural disasters more often. "This is one of the reasons why vehicle insurance prices differ from one place to another," a CMA official said.

Speaking about the odds facing the insurance industry, including the compulsion to keep prices competitive and the rising cost of insurance coverage, an official from the Capital Market Authority, speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*, said, "Insurance companies have witnessed a significant drop in profits, and many of them are incurring huge

losses due to the adverse climatic conditions hitting the Sultanate, such as those witnessed in the form of Cyclone Shaheen in October 2021 and the heavy downpours witnessed more recently causing the wadis and the valleys to overflow, causing deaths or injuries to motorists and negligent tourists."

He further said, "Then there are the increasing prices of spare parts and the rising costs at repair shops to contend with. All these have taken a huge toll on insurance companies during the recent months, forcing them to take measures to ensure their economic feasibility and sustainability in the market."

The CMA official also said that during the past few years the prices of insurance were deliberately kept low in the face of stiff market competition. This baggage of the past few years had to be corrected at one time or the other. It is because of these corrections that insurance prices have gone up in the recent months. **>A5**

Insurance prices are a little more in Dhofar and North and South Al Batinah as the places witness natural disasters more often



NEW GUIDE DETAILS EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN OMAN

Guide provides a comprehensive detail on all the 180 services provided by the ministry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To woo more investors, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP) has launched a new business-friendly guide.

The guide will provide a comprehensive detail on all the 180 services provided by the ministry, and the services which fall under the 17 departments covering various sectors of the ministry.

"The guide includes eight basic standards for each service, the requirements, the controls, files and required documents, the service workflow diagram, the average time to complete the service, in addition to the service fees and payment mechanism, the chan-



nels that provide the same service, work timings and contact points," officials said.

Documentation service

The guide was launched in the presence of Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, undersecretaries and officials of the Ministry, so that beneficiaries could avail of the Ministry's services to achieve best practices in the government field and to facilitate the business environment for investors.

During the meeting, the elec-

tronic contract documentation service, which was launched earlier in the year, was also reviewed.

This service allows the completion of the investor's transaction electronically through video communication and electronic signing of contracts from anywhere through the 'Invest Easy' portal, without the need for investors to visit the ministry office.

This service constitutes an important and advanced step in facilitating business and investment. The service also aims at enhancing the Sultanate of Oman International Indicators

for facilitating ease of doing business. Besides, the service contributes to facilitating commercial institutions and companies wishing to sell their shares, transfer the ownership of the commercial registry to another investor, or enter a partner in the commercial registry.

Call centre

With further easing of procedures, the call centre of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion received nearly 13,500 calls in the last six months. **>A5**



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CAIRO



Oman takes part in Arab media meet

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Information, took part in the 97th session of the Permanent Committee for Arab media, held at the Arab League's Secretariat General headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

The meeting discussed many topics, particularly activating the Arab Media Strategy (2022-2026), the role of media and developing its tools to combat terrorism and extremism, the Arab media map for sustainable development and the Arab Media Excellence Award.

The meeting also touched on methods of including media studies in school curricula (of member states) for all grades, among other initiatives and projects in a bid to reach an Arab consensus on important media issues. -ONA

JOINT INTERESTS

Oman, Pakistan review cooperation

MUSCAT: Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office received on Wednesday Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of Staff of Pakistan's Navy.

The two sides reviewed means of enhancing cooperation to achieve joint interests. They also discussed several matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Rear Admiral Saif Nasser Al Rahbi, Commander of RNO. -ONA





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Embassy hosts reception to celebrate Nepal’s National Day in the Sultanate



The Ambassador stated that both countries are enjoying excellent relations based on mutual trust and understanding



promote tourism and economic activities in Nepal. He stated that Nepal’s strategic location between two major global economic powers and geographical proximity has provided tremendous opportunities for potentials of trade and investment. The Ambassador also highlighted about Nepal’s diverse natural and cultural attractions.

A celebration cake was jointly cut by the Guest of Honour and the Ambassador. The Embassy had set up “Nepali food Corner” serving Nepali MoMo, Choila, Achar and displayed Nepali products, handicrafts, and tourism materials.

Tourism promotional videos were displayed in five huge monitors inside and outside conference hall. As part of promotion of tourism there was a raffle draw for 4 two-way airlines tickets to Kathmandu/Lumbini and two nights’ accommodation including breakfast and cable car for four persons at Chandragiri Hill Resort which was sponsored by the SalamAir, Jazeera Airlines and Chandragiri Hill Resort respectively. The programme was conducted by Somesh Thapa, Second Secretary/DCM.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In celebration of National Day and Constitution Day of Nepal, a reception was organised at Sheraton Oman hotel by the Embassy of Nepal in Muscat on 19 September 2022.

Sheikh Sebaa bin Hamdan bin Sebaa Al Saadi, Secretary General of the Secretariat of the National Celebrations, the Sultanate of Oman participated as Guest of

Honour (Chief Guest).

Two members each from State Council and Majlis Al Shura, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administration and Financial Affairs, Chief of Protocol, Acting Head of West Asia Division and altogether 240 guests including Heads of Diplomatic Missions, high level government officials, journalists, tourism and business entrepreneurs, bloggers, representatives of Nepali

Community, Embassy staff and family members participated in the programme.

While delivering welcome speech Dornath Aryal, Ambassador-designate of Nepal to the Sultanate of Oman highlighted the major features of the Constitution. The Ambassador stated that both countries are enjoying excellent relations based on mutual trust and understanding ever since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1977. He told that both countries have been independent throughout their history.

Highlighting the ‘Oman Vision 2040’ promulgated by Oman, Aryal applauded the vision that it targets to achieve a developed, diversified, and sustainable national economy while identifying national priorities and addresses regional and global challenges. He expressed his confidence that the goals would be achieved under His Majestythe

Sultan’s visionary leadership and would be an exemplary thought.

The Ambassador mentioned that more than 220 projects above one megawatt installed capacity are under construction in Nepal which will generate more than 7,000 MW of electricity. He expressed the confidence that three International Airports including newly built two International Airports and existing 43 domestic airports would significantly help

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NEW LOOK
NEW LOOK



Sayyid Fahd hails role of Legislative Councils

Sayyid Fahd reviewed the Omani shura experience which is based on civilised heritage and responding to requirements of the time



MEETING: HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers underscored the importance of the role undertaken by the GCC legislative councils in promoting ties among GCC people. - ONA

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers received here on Wednesday chiefs of GCC shura, representatives, national and Ummah councils who are taking part in the 16th meeting of the GCC Legislative Councils. The meeting is hosted by the

Sultanate of Oman. His Highness Sayyid Fahd reviewed the Omani shura experience which is based on civilised heritage and responding to requirements of the time. He hailed the constructive role of the Council of Oman in cooperation with the state institutions in supporting the march of comprehensive development

in the country. He also underscored the importance of the role undertaken by the GCC legislative councils in promoting cooperation and enhancing ties among GCC peoples to realise the envisaged goals. Conversation during the meeting touched on the march of the GCC legislative councils, and well as experience of each country in

building its institutions. The latest regional and international developments were also reviewed during the meeting. In their turn, the chiefs of GCC shura, representatives, national and Ummah councils expressed their thanks to the Sultanate of Oman for the good preparations of hosting this meeting that contributed in reaching many positive outcomes. They also commended Oman's constant support for the GCC march. They also lauded the Omani experience in building the state of institutions and the rule of law, as well as consolidating pillars of domestic nation-building that ensures decent life for all citizens. The meeting was attended by Khalid Hilal Al Ma'awali, Chairman of Shura Council, Adel Abdulrahman Al Asoomi, Speaker of the Arab Parliament, Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs and Sheikh Al Fadhl Mohammed Al Harchy, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers. -ONA

Uzbek delegation explores investment opportunities



MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) yesterday hosted an Uzbek delegation, which is visiting Oman to explore investment opportunities in both countries. The meeting also explored means of enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries. The visiting delegation was headed by Furkat Sidikov, Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan. Businessmen from both countries were present during the meeting. Several B2B meetings were held between Omani and Uzbek businessmen from several sectors, particularly energy, mining, food industries and construction materials. -ONA

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Oman advocates resolving disputes through dialogue

GENEVA: The Sultanate of Oman has ratified proposals made by the Independent Expert who recommended the establishment of a democratic and equitable international order. Oman supported the expert's call for convening regular conferences under the aegis of the United Nations and developing stronger mechanisms to consolidate peace, security and coexistence. This was stated in Oman's speech before the Human Rights Council's 51st Session focusing



on Clause 3, titled "Interactive Dialogue, Rethinking International Peace and Security—the Risks Posed to the Global Democratic System". The speech was delivered by Talal Hilal Al Seyabi, member of Oman's permanent delegation to the UN in Geneva, who asserted that Oman has always been "an advocate of international peace and security that worked for fostering ties of coexistence among nations and resolving disputes through dialogue and peaceful means".

Al Seyabi pointed out that Oman's stands are compatible with international calls for consolidating global peace and coexistence, the rejection of conflicts and the settlement of disputes through understanding in a manner that eases tensions. Al Seyabi reiterated the pillars of Oman's foreign policy which, he said, is based on principles of respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. He added that Omani foreign policy stems from the "human

dimension" in establishing relations among different countries of the world. He affirmed that these pillars form development and the future of progress and prosperity of nations. Oman strives to transform proper algorithms of peace and security into added values—in the context of development—with the prime aim of enhancing shared benefits, said Al Seyabi, noting that this approach tallies with the theme of Article 1 of the "International Declaration on Right to Peace". -ONA

NEW STEPS

<FROM A1> Moving to digital economy

The main tasks of the call centre are receiving incoming calls to the ministry, responding to inquiries about services related to investors and beneficiaries of services, providing callers with accurate data that serves their requirements, following up on issues related to communications that have been received, communicating with the concerned and informing them of the developments and measures taken in this regard, in addition to receiving

complaints and referring them to the relevant authorities for resolution. It may be noted that the ministry is seeking, through the launch of various electronic services, to complement the efforts made to achieve the work requirements of the National Program for the Digital Economy, and the executive plan of the government digital transformation programme 2021 – 2025 approved by the esteemed Council of Ministers, and

within the framework of the comprehensive development of services provided by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment Promotion and converting all its services to electronic services, in order to save time and effort for business owners and investors, and to create a stimulating investment environment in light of the elements that contribute to the establishment of many diverse economic projects.

INSURANCE

<FROM A1> Premium price depends on the type of vehicle

"We have noticed the low prices of insurance in the past few years -- the price of third-party insurance at some insurance companies had come down to as low as OMR37. This was due to the intensity of competition among the companies. To remain financially viable and sustain themselves, therefore, they were left with little choice but to make corrections," he said. Prices of premium are also dependent on the type of vehicle, the location of the policy holder, the age of the policy holder, etc., he said, adding that the insurance companies also investigate whether the policy

holder had any traffic violations, including accidents recorded against his name. "If the used car is imported, the companies assesses whether they were involved in accidents or not. There have been cases where buyers have imported used, but damaged cars, and then got it repaired with cheap parts. Following their insurance, and in case of a second accident in the Sultanate and the subsequent damages, the buyers claim insurance for expensive spares and materials, leading to losses to the company," he said. Besides, cars which have been manufactured after 2018, especially those of European or Amer-

ican make have to be necessarily repaired at the authorised workshops. Now, since these workshops are also sellers of spare parts, they very often inflate the damages sustained by the car in an accident. These damages may not be a direct fall-out of the accident, but while claiming insurance, the 'damages' are included in the job cards prepared at the workshops. Naturally, the insurance companies are obliged to pay more than what they would have paid for damages sustained in the accident. "This also has compelled the insurance companies to raise the prices of insurance," he said.



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Big increase in Chinese tourists visiting Oman



More than 80 agents of travel and tourism companies, hotel facilities and airlines in Oman participated in the programme

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism organised a second workshop to enlighten partners in the Omani tourism sector about how to deal with Chinese visitors and understand their needs. The workshop was held in the pres-

ence of Azzan Qassim Al Buisaidi, Tourism Undersecretary. From 44,580 Chinese tourists visiting Oman in 2018, their numbers increased to 107,446 in 2019, an increase of 141 percent. These figures reflect a much stronger growth compared to



other long-distance exporting markets. During the workshop, a programme titled "China Ready" was presented by Marcus Lee, CEO of CBISN, which already launched the programme in 49 countries across 6 continents. More than 80 agents of travel and tourism companies, hotel facilities and airlines in Oman participated in the programme. The workshop is a curtain raiser ahead of the re-opening China. Target groups, preferences and the behaviour of Chinese tourists have changed after the Corona pandemic. -ONA

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NCDs

Oman's Health Minister takes part in New York meeting



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al-Sabti, Minister of Health, presided over a delegation participating in the first Gathering of the Global Group of Heads of State & Government for the Prevention & Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the United States of America (USA), New York.

The meeting aimed to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of NCDs within the national and international Sustainable Development

Goals (SDG). NCDs have become the leading cause of death in most countries, resulting in 150 million premature deaths among people aged between 30 and 70 years.

The meeting deliberated on how to leverage the collective action to inspire and support global action on NCDs and the SDGs by highlighting actions taken by the countries to reduce these diseases.

Furthermore, the meeting's agenda focused on the importance of concerted efforts of Governments to accelerate the SDGs.

COMEDIAN PASSES AWAY

Indian comedian Raju Srivastava dies after suffering heart attack

NEW DELHI: Comedian Raju Srivastava died in Delhi on Wednesday at the age of 58, his family said.

Srivastava was admitted to AIIMS Delhi on August 10 after he experienced chest pain and collapsed while working out at the gym. He underwent an angioplasty the same day.

Srivastava has been working in the entertainment industry since the late 1980s and received recognition after participating in the first season of the stand-up comedy show "The Great Indian Laughter Challenge" in 2005.

He has featured in films like 'Maine Pyar Kiya', 'Aamdani At-thanni Kharcha Rupaiya' and 'Main Prem Ki Deewani Hoon' among others.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the demise of comedian Raju Srivastav who passed away in Delhi on Wednesday at the age of 58.

In a tweet, the Prime Minister said: "Raju Srivastava brightened our lives with laughter, humour



and positivity. He leaves us too soon but he will continue to live in the hearts of countless people thanks to his rich work over the years. His demise is saddening. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." The PM shared a photo of himself with the comedian along with the tweet.

Taking to Twitter, President Droupadi Murmu tweeted in Hindi, "The untimely demise of comedian Raju Srivastav is extremely sad. He had enthralled the audience with his comical performances. He gave a new identity to the comedy scene in India. My condolences to his family and fans." -ANI

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

Russian President Putin announces partial mobilisation of armed forces

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said he signed a decree on partial mobilisation beginning Wednesday.

Putin said in a televised address on Wednesday that his aim was to "liberate" Ukraine's Donbas region and that he was defending Russian territories, adding that people in the region did not want to return to what he called the "yoke" of Ukraine.

The Russian leader stressed he was "talking about partial mobilization, that is, only citizens who are currently in the reserve will be subject to conscription, and above all, those who served in the armed forces have a certain military specialty and relevant experience."

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said 300,000 reservists would be called up.

Putin's address comes a day after Russian-controlled regions in eastern and southern Ukraine announced so-called referendums on joining Russia.

The "referendums," to be held



between September 23 and 27 in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, represent around 15% of Ukrainian territory, or an area about the size of Hungary.

"When the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal to protect Russia and our people. This is not a bluff," Putin said. The West aims to "weaken, divide and ultimately destroy our country," Putin added.

Peter Stano, the spokesman for the European Commission, accused Putin of a "very dangerous

nuclear gamble," adding that it was important for the international community to put more pressure on his "reckless behavior."

"Putin is doing a nuclear gamble. He's using the nuclear element as part of his arsenal of terror. It's unacceptable," Stano said.

Stano made the comments at a press briefing, and added that EU member states had already held a "coordination meeting where discussions have been held in terms of an EU response to the continuation of the war of aggression against Ukraine." -DW

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WORLD





At least eight people injured in Chicago residential building blast

CHICAGO: At least eight people were injured after an explosion ripped through a residential building in Chicago on Tuesday, according to local fire department authorities.

Chicago Fire Department confirmed the explosion at 9:45 am (local time) and tweeted pictures which showed that the top floor of the four-story brick apartment building on the city's West Side almost completely destroyed by the blast.

The department said that the blast occurred near Washington Boulevard and Central Avenue.

"Background on explosion. This is a four-story apartment building. With 35 units. Investigation underway into cause by CFD OFI. Assisted by ATF and CPD. Looking at 4th Floor as possible source," Chicago Fire Department said in a tweet.

ABC News reported that three of those injured are in a critical condition.

Fire officials said that a building adjacent to the site of the explosion was being evacuated.

Deputy Fire Commissioner Marc Ferman told reporters during a midday briefing that

first responders have completed primary and secondary searches of the building after the explosion.

"Right now we feel like we're confident we got everybody out," Ferman said. The fourth floor of the building had collapsed and was "compromised," he said, as per reports.

Two of the victims are female, while the other six are male, according to the fire department. One victim was in a building across the street from the explosion when it happened, Ferman said.

Ten ambulances and 135 first responders were called to the scene, Ferman said.

Meanwhile, videos have surfaced on social media, showing debris strewn across the sidewalk, streets and several cars and windows were blown out of the building.

According to CBS News the apartment building had failed annual inspections repeatedly over the last 12 years, and received citations in 2017 and 2018 for "failing to repair or replace defective or out of service smoke detectors and operate continuously." **ANI**

EXPLOSION



OIL LEAK

Oil leak from ship off Gibraltar affects fishing, beaches

MADRID: Teams are working to mitigate the impact of a new oil leak from a partly sunken cargo ship in Gibraltar that has affected fishing and bathing in both the British territory and in a town in nearby Spain, officials said today.

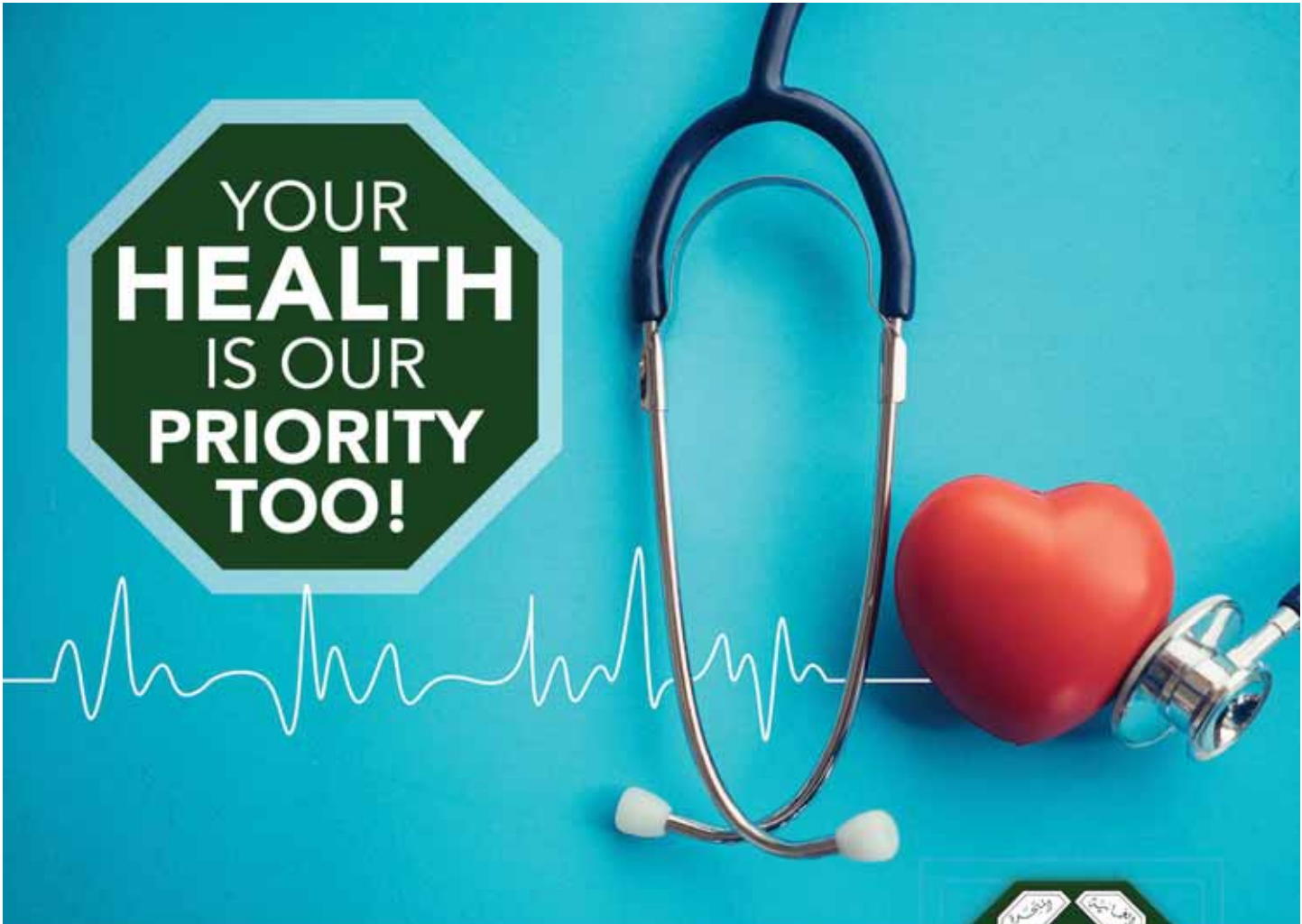
The Gibraltar Port authority said the bad weather over the weekend triggered the leak.

The authority said improved weather yesterday allowed it to

place a boom around the ship to try contain the spill.

Two beaches in Gibraltar and one in the Spanish town of La Línea de La Concepción were closed so workers could clean them of oil waste. The ship collided with another vessel on 29 August 2022. Most of the fuel was pumped out of the ship but some that leaked out in the first week reached beaches, and affected port activities. **ONA**

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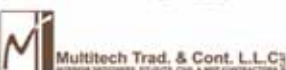


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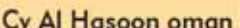
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Al Harthy relishing Spa return for penultimate race of Elms season

The Omani sportsman is determined to climb back up the LMGTE championship standings

Times News Service

BRUSSELS: Ahmad Al Harthy returns to the scene of the biggest race victory of his glittering motor racing career this coming weekend, 24th/25th September, when the European Le Mans Series arrives at Belgium's Spa-Francorchamps for the penultimate round of the 2022 season.

The Omani sportsman, who is part way through his maiden campaign in the prestigious ELMS, is determined to climb back up the LMGTE championship standings



after a frustrating outing at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya last time out with Oman Racing.

Having qualified the No.69 Aston Martin Vantage GTE on pole position for the fourth round of the season, contact in hour two of the four-hour encounter led to damage and an unscheduled pit-stop which wrecked the squad's podium challenge. Instead, they had to settle for 10th position.

Al Harthy, who is partnered by British driver Sam De Haan and Danish ace Marco So-

rensen, is hungrier than ever to return to winning ways as the ELMS season heads into its latter stages. The trio, of course, secured a faultless first LMGTE class victory at Italian track Imola in May.

Spa-Francorchamps has long been a favourite track for Al Harthy, equally it is a track which holds incredible memories for the multiple champion racer - the biggest

being his and Oman Racing's win in the Pro-Am class at the Total 24 Hours of Spa back in 2019.

The remarkable victory, which came following an enforced pit-plane start, was the springboard from which Al Harthy claimed his second Pro-Am title in the then Blancpain Endurance Cup, now known as the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS Endurance Cup.

Two years prior, Al Harthy and Oman Racing sealed their first Pro-Am crown in Blancpain with a second place finish during the Spa round. More recently, in 2020, Al Harthy won at Spa on his debut in the International GT Open.

"We have many good memories from racing at Spa, the highlight being the win in the 24 hour race back in 2019", said the Omani, who is supported by the Oman Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sohar International Bank, OQ, Omantel and MHD-ITICS, "It's an incredible track and one where we have always gone well, so I'm hopeful we can continue that this weekend in European Le Mans.

"Barcelona was disappointing in the end, we definitely had the capability of finishing on the podium, so now we're all more determined than ever to hit back.

Formula 1 announces calendar for 2023 Championships

LONDON: Formula 1 has announced the calendar for the 2023 FIA Formula One World Championship, which has met the approval of the World Motor Sport Council.

The announcement was made on Tuesday. The Championship will start off in Bahrain on March 5 and will conclude in Abu Dhabi on November 26. The 2023 season will feature 24 races, which is a record. China and Qatar are set to make a return, Las Vegas will also arrive as the penultimate round for a Saturday night race.

In August, the traditional summer break will stay. But there are changes in race dates, due to which Belgium has moved to the end of July as back-to-back with Hungary and Netherlands is twinned with Italy after the restart.

Formula 1 CEO and President Stefano Domenicali said in a statement as per F1 website: "We are excited to announce the 2023 calendar with 24 races around the world. Formula 1 has unprecedented demand to host races and it is important we get the balance right for the entire sport."

"We are very pleased with the strong momentum Formula 1 continues to experience and it is great news that we will be able to bring our passionate fans a mix of exciting new locations such as Las



Vegas to the Championship with much-loved venues across Europe, Asia and the Americas."

"The presence of 24 races on the 2023 FIA Formula One World Championship calendar is further evidence of the growth and appeal of the sport on a global scale," added FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem.

"The addition of new venues and the retention of traditional events underlines the FIA's sound stewardship of the sport. I am delighted that we will be able to take Formula 1's new era of exciting racing, created by the FIA's 2022 Regulations, to a broader fan base in 2023."

"In framing the 2023 F1 calendar, WMSC Members have also been mindful of the timing of the prestigious 24 Hours of Le Mans," he concluded. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

The magnificent five strikers in European football arena

MADRID: There are the magnificent five strikers in Europe's football. These players guarantee goals. They are the only players in Europe's top leagues who average a goal or more per game in their respective leagues.

Robert Lewandowski and Borja Iglesias in the Spanish LaLiga

Santander; Erling Haaland in the English Premier League (EPL); and Neymar and Kylian Mbappe in the French Ligue 1, are tearing it up at the start of the season, a Spanish newspaper reported.

Lewandowski's start at Barcelona has been spectacular. New team, same performances. The Pole is still going about his busi-

ness of scoring for fun. He is the current top scorer in the Spanish LaLiga, with eight goals in six games, averaging 1.33 per game.

He is making history at the Camp Nou, having scored eight goals in six games, five of them in consecutive games. This tally has not been achieved by any of the recent top strikers who signed for

the club.

Borja Iglesias is on fire. The 'Panda' is the only player in the Spanish LaLiga who maintains the battle with Lewandowski for the Pichichi.

Six goals, three from penalties, have been scored by the Real Betis striker in six games, at a rate of one goal per game. In addition, he is al-

most 100 percent effective when the ball is on target. Seven shots have been on target, six of which have ended with the ball in the net.

He seems to have no limits. Haaland's numbers in the EPL have been out of this world. No adaptation period has been needed for the Norwegian, who has scored 11 goals in seven games, which

gives an incredible average of 1.57 per game.

These numbers are absolutely unattainable for other strikers. On top of that, he has also added an assist.

While Kylian Mbappe and Neymar allegedly are not seeing eye to eye off the field, there are no problems on it. **DNA**

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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,508.68 points, up by 0.72 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.7 per cent at 481.57 points. Oman Qatar Insurance, up 5.41 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Thread Mill, down 8.7 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's inflation rate hits 2.4% in August



As far as the governorates in Oman are concerned, Al Buraimi recorded the highest inflation rate of 4.3 per cent

MUSCAT: The inflation rate of the Consumers Price Index (CPI) in the Sultanate of Oman stood at 2.4 per cent in August 2022, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

The data indicated a rise in the prices of main groups in August 2022 compared to August 2021, such as education by 5.1 per cent, food and non-alcoholic beverages by 4.9 per cent, health by 3.5 per cent, transport by 3.1 per cent,

restaurants and hotels by 2.1 per cent, miscellaneous goods and services by 1.5 per cent, recreation and culture by 1.4 per cent, furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance by 1.2 per cent, clothing and footwear by 0.9 per cent and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels by 0.6 per cent. Meanwhile, the prices of some main groups remained unchanged, such as tobacco and communications.

Prices also went up for oils and fats by 19.2 per cent, meats by 8.8 per cent, fruits by 7.5 per cent, non-alcoholic beverages by 4.4 per cent, bread and cereals by 4.1 per cent,

milk, cheese and eggs by 3.2 per cent, sugar, jam, honey and sweets by 2.3 per cent, other foodstuff by 1.9 per cent and fish and seafood by 1.7 per cent. Prices declined for vegetables by 2.9 per cent.

As far as governorates are concerned, Al Buraimi recorded the highest inflation rate of 4.3 per cent, followed by Al Dakhiliyah by 2.9 per cent, Dhofar by 2.7 per cent, Al Dhahirah by 2.6 per cent, North Al Batinah by 2.4 per cent, North Al Sharqiyah and South Al Sharqiyah by 2.3 per cent, while the Governorate of Muscat recorded the lowest inflation rate of 2.1 per cent. -**ONA**

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Ahli Islamic announces bouquet of convenient, easy financing offers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mindful of the changing needs and requirements of the local market, Ahli Islamic has announced a bouquet of easy and convenient financing offers to partner in fulfilling its customers' personal responsibilities.

From mortgage-free auto finance to home and personal finance, Ahli Islamic presents its broad range of Sharia-compliant financing products with attractive profit rates. While the key objective behind the new scheme is to facilitate financial opportunities for retail customers, Ahli Islamic is also utilising this platform to demonstrate its commitment to upholding its service standards of 'partnering' with the customer, instead of merely financing. This will translate into simple financing procedures and convenient options for its growing customer base.

As per the new offer, customers looking for mortgage-free auto financing can choose repayment periods of up to 10 years, with the advantage of a competitive profit rate starting from only 3.49 per cent. Post-dated cheques financing is also available for periods of up to 7 years with profit rates starting from only 4.99 per cent. As for home and personal finance, the profit rate starts from only 4.75 per cent.

Yousuf bin Salim Al Rawahi,

Deputy General Manager and Head of Ahli Islamic, said, "As a responsive and responsible corporate entity, it is our duty to engage with our customers on a professionalised basis. Our core objective is to partner with our target group and create financial avenues for them to feel secure and bold when budgeting and taking purchase decisions. Our increased reliance on customer feedback and market trends has demonstrated the need for fiscal help in the wake of a gradual economic recovery after the protracted pandemic slowdown. While there have been significant changes in consumer behaviour brought on by the pandemic, the months following have exemplified people's desire to get back to life as they knew it, with the comfort of easy finances to realise their aspirations."

Further, underscoring Ahli Islamic's motto of 'truth and transparency in banking', Al Rawahi pointed out that the Bank has adopted measures and standards to enhance customers' confidence in their fiscal abilities and instil a sense of security in their everyday dealings. "We owe our sustained growth and popularity to our customers who repeatedly used our market-specific products and services. We will continue to support customers who need that extra leverage to achieve their set targets," he added.

FROM BLOCKS 3 & 4

Tethys August oil production in Oman reaches 306,846 barrels

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of the production, before the government take from Blocks 3 & 4 onshore in the Sultanate of Oman, in August 2022 amounted to 306,846 barrels of oil, corresponding to 9,898 barrels of oil per day.

The Official Selling Price (OSP) for Oman Export Blend Crude Oil for August 2022 was \$112.93 per barrel. The OSP, as published by the Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Energy and Minerals, is the benchmark price for Tethys Oil's monthly oil sales excluding trading and quality adjustments.

Tethys Oil, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Tethys Oil Block 3&4, has a 30 per cent interest in

Blocks 3&4. Partners are Mitsui E&P Middle East with 20 per cent and the operator CC Energy Development (Oman branch) holding the remaining 50 per cent.

Tethys Oil is an oil exploration and production company with a focus on onshore areas with known oil discoveries.

The company's core area is the Sultanate of Oman, where it holds interests in Blocks 3&4, Block 49, Block 56 and Block 58.

Tethys Oil has net working interest 2P (proved plus probable) reserves of 26.2 million barrels of oil and net working interest 2C Contingent Resources of 15.6 million barrels of oil and had an average oil production of 11,136 barrels per day during 2021.



GLOBAL CRUDE OIL PRICES

World oil prices rise on supply woes



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Global crude oil prices rose by more than two per cent on Wednesday after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilisation, raising fears of a shortage in oil and gas supplies.

Brent crude futures rose \$2.28, or 2.5 per cent, to \$92.90 a barrel, after falling \$1.38 in the previous session, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures rose by \$2.22, or 2.6 per cent, to \$86.16 a barrel.

Oman oil price

Oman oil price (November Delivery 2022) on Tuesday reached \$92.84, comprising a rise by 24 cents from the price of Tuesday which stood at \$92.60, on the Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME).

The average price of Oman oil

(September Delivery 2022) has stabilised at \$103.21 per barrel, thus \$9.72 per barrel lower than August Delivery 2022.

"Oil markets strongly rebounded in response to the Russian president's announcement regarding the conflict in Ukraine. The planned mobilisation of Russian troops could result in increasing tensions, disruptions in oil deliveries as well as new sanctions from Europe," Wael Makarem, Senior Market Strategist - MENA at Exness, said to Times of Oman.

"This could add to the concerns around supply levels, possibly shifting attention away from the decreasing demand for a moment. Geopolitical tensions could also affect current price trends if the confrontation flares up," he further added.

At the same time, traders re-

mained concerned about the slowing demand as global economic output continues to cool down. This could continue to affect oil prices over the longer term as geopolitical tensions abate, Makarem said.

The US Federal Reserve is widely expected to hike rates by 75 basis points for the third time in a row later on Wednesday in its drive to rein in inflation. This could also impact expectations regarding the global economy and demand for energy. A stronger-than-expected interest rate hike could put downward pressure on oil prices, he said.

"As a result, energy markets could see strong volatility in the coming days as traders react to the central bank's decision on one side as well as to the increasing tensions in Europe on the other," he added.

GLOBAL TRADE FAIR

Gulfood Manufacturing 2022 set to tackle global food system challenges

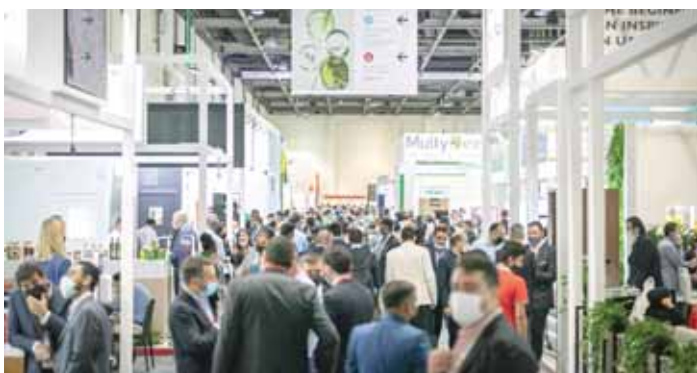
DUBAI: Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) has announced leading global trade fair, Gulfood Manufacturing, will take place from November 8 to 10.

Showcasing new global products, solutions and technologies across the food and beverage value chain, this year's edition is set to be 40 per cent larger than the previous years', with 25 per cent of exhibitors new to the show.

A steep growth trajectory further demonstrates Dubai's global market attraction and the overall competitiveness of the UAE's industrial sector and its business ecosystem, in line with the National Strategy for Industry and Advanced Technology, Operation 300bn.

The event will bring together the F&B manufacturing industry across sectors in processing, packaging, ingredients, supply chain solutions and control and automation; in a single food ecosystem with an agenda that will shape the future of the manufacturing industry - amplifying the opportunity created by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and building upon and supporting the transformation of the country's industrial sector into a global manufacturing hub, in line with the UAE's 'Make it in the Emirates' vision.

Over the three days of the event, Gulfood Manufacturing 2022 will



examine themes of Sustainability, advanced Technology adoption; Nutrition and Efficiency evolution, and stimulating Innovation, to help organisations reduce costs, grow and transform.

The biggest challenges in global food production will also be addressed, rising food prices principal among them. With food, prices have risen by nearly 14 per cent this year in emerging markets and by over 7 per cent in advanced economies, inflation - and the repercussions for the world's poorest - will be a key focus area for conversations this year.

Trixie LohMirmand, Executive Vice President, Dubai World Trade Centre commented, "Through Gulfood Manufacturing, we will unveil the next era in the evolution of the F&B manufacturing industry. From ad-

ressing global food challenges to discussing the ESG wave that is transforming food systems, and together exploring the huge opportunities presented by innovation - particularly in the tech space - our aim is to create a lasting positive impact on the industry and take it to new heights, further cementing the UAE's reputation as a global destination for leading future industries."

A key feature this year includes the Food Tech Summit where over 100 of the industry's most dynamic and engaging speakers will convene to discuss an issue-driven agenda ranging from food engineering innovations, factories of the future, web 3.0 applications in food, emerging markets, food safety, circular ecosystems, sustainability-linked finance models, and much more. -**WAM**

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MSX index ends higher

Oman Qatar Insurance, up 5.41 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Thread Mill, down 8.7 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,508.68 points, up by 0.72 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.7 per cent at 481.57 points. Oman Qatar Insurance, up 5.41 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Thread Mill, down 8.7 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of HSBC Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Ooredoo were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 331 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.9 million, with more than 8.33 million shares changing hands. Out of 40 traded securities, 16 advanced, 9 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR86,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR79,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR7,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,163.24 points, up 0.33 per cent. Prices of Oman Qatar Insurance, National Bank Oman, Bank Dho-

far, Sohar International Bank and Oman Arab Bank were up by 5.41 per cent, 3.31 per cent, 1.45 per cent, 0.97 per cent and 0.83 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Finance, Ahli Bank and Ominvest were down by 1.54 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 1.2 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,284.77 points, down 0.09 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium, Al Anwar Ceramics, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Fisheries and Galfar Engineering were up by 4.88 per cent, 2.56 per cent, 2.04 per cent, 1.89 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Raysut Cement and Oman Cement were down by 8.7 per cent, 5 per cent, 4.31 per cent and 0.67 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.48 per cent before closing at 1,621.53 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Oman National Engineering, Ooredoo and Oman Telecom were up by 3.13 per cent, 2.8 per cent, 2.02 per cent and 1.33 per cent respectively.

There were no losers for the day. — **United Securities**

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,508.68	4,476.35	4,508.68	4,476.35	32.33	0.72
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,176.66	7,124.45	7,163.24	7,139.75	23.49	0.33
Industry Index	6,309.82	6,284.76	6,284.76	6,290.36	-5.60	-0.09
Services Index	1,621.53	1,615.33	1,621.53	1,613.86	7.67	0.48
MSX Shariah Index	481.82	478.79	481.57	478.22	3.35	0.70
MSX TR INDEX	5,686.49	5,645.72	5,686.49	5,645.72	40.77	0.72
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,509.58	7,454.94	7,495.53	7,470.95	24.58	0.33
SERVICES TR IDX	1,683.81	1,677.37	1,683.81	1,675.84	7.97	0.48
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,548.53	6,522.53	6,522.53	6,528.34	-5.81	-0.09

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
8,337,989	1,902,735	331	23,218,342,892	16	9	15	40

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	149,710	36,821	10	0.242	0.252	0.242	0.250	0.242	0.008	3.306	0.250	0.245	0.250	0.100	406,486,589
OM0000001152 OMAN NAT. ENG.	40,000	4,400	5	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.107	0.003	2.804	0.110	0.105	0.110	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	5,000	2,000	1	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.390	0.010	2.564	0.400	0.380	0.400	0.100	88,000,000
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	1,091,527	4,572,270	27	0.398	0.404	0.398	0.404	0.396	0.008	2,020	0.404	0.392	0.404	0.100	262,981,469
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	107,590	96,330	6	0.904	0.912	0.900	0.912	0.900	0.012	1,333	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.100	684,000,000
OM0000003396 SOHAR INT ESTATE	1,302,000	133,684	23	0.103	0.104	0.102	0.104	0.103	0.001	0.971	0.104	0.102	0.102	0.100	477,266,476
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN	20,000	2,500	1	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.000	0.000	0.125	0.113	0.125	0.100	29,625,000
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV.	19,500	1,585	5	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	7,290,000
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	606,564	348,269	67	0.574	0.578	0.574	0.574	0.574	0.000	0.000	0.574	0.572	0.574	0.100	215,433,957
OM0000003000 AI MAHA PETROLEUM	4,000	3,200	3	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.000	0.000	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.100	55,200,000
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.	551,000	271,096	2	0.492	0.496	0.492	0.496	0.496	0.000	0.000	0.496	0.476	0.490	0.100	117,259,360
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	13,500	4,023	2	0.298	0.298	0.298	0.298	0.300	-0.002	-0.667	0.298	0.298	0.300	0.100	98,600,068
OM0000001533 OMINVEST	60,225	19,905	8	0.332	0.332	0.330	0.330	0.334	-0.004	-1.198	0.330	0.330	0.332	0.100	220,560,591
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	716,300	91,686	3	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.128	0.130	-0.002	-1.538	0.128	0.128	0.132	0.100	249,556,156
Total	14	4,686,828	1,453,268	163											
Parallel Market															
OM0000006979 OMAN QATAR INSUR.	5,000	975	1	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.010	5.405	0.195	0.185	0.194	0.100	19,500,000
OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.	100	9	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.082	0.004	4.878	0.086	0.076	0.086	0.100	2,887,145
OM0000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE	2,189	208	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.091	0.004	4.396	0.095	0.093	0.095	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING	65,900	2,175	6	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.032	0.001	3.125	0.033	0.030	0.033	0.100	6,587,975
OM0000002267 GULF MUSHROOM P.	12,000	3,000	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.245	0.005	2.041	0.250	0.245	0.255	0.100	10,401,318
OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	44,250	4,812	8	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.108	0.106	0.002	1.887	0.108	0.108	0.110	0.100	19,664,467
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	277,072	38,494	10	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.140	0.138	0.002	1.449	0.140	0.140	0.144	0.100	419,489,201
OM0000005260 OMAN ARAB BANK	51,050	6,228	2	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.121	0.001	0.826	0.122	0.122	0.125	0.100	203,668,020
OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEER	6,000	979	2	0.163	0.164	0.163	0.164	0.163	0.001	0.613	0.164	0.161	0.163	0.100	33,289,777
OM0000002904 ASAFFA FOODS	14,434	3,947	7	0.274	0.274	0.273	0.273	0.272	0.001	0.368	0.273	0.273	0.276	0.100	32,760,000
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	1,302,338	199,860	33	0.154	0.154	0.153	0.154	0.154	0.000	0.000	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	308,043,170
OM0000001681 OMAN EMIRATES HO.	5,000	415	2	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.083	0.085	0.100	10,115,625
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	697,337	56,533	32	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.080	0.082	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	826,000	79,521	22	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER	10,000	390	2	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.038	0.039	0.100	26,320,610
OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER	1,078	43	1	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.100	28,576,254
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	7,103	313	2	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.000	0.000	0.044	0.044	0.048	0.100	64,354,464
OM0000007084 MCT DESALINATE	13,630	1,505	5	0.110	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	17,266,094
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	59,400	3,802	4	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.063	0.064	0.100	19,657,365
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	12,000	2,402	4	0.208	0.208	0.200	0.200	0.209	-0.009	-4.306	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.100	40,000,000
OM0000001301 DHOFAR CATTLE	168,394	12,404	16	0.075	0.080	0.072	0.076	0.080	-0.004	-5.000	0.076	0.077	0.077	0.100	614,400
OM0000003447 OMAN REIT FUND	6,800	394	1	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.063	-0.005	-7.937	0.058	0.058	0.069	0.100	27,328,810
OM0000002036 Muscat Thread MILL	3,000	189	1	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.069	-0.006	-8.696	0.063	0.000	0.063	0.100	1,012,577
Total	23	3,590,963	418,597	164											

GOVERNMENT DATA

STATISTICS

Mineral production in India rises by 6.1% in April-July

Value of merchandise exports in Saudi Arabia reaches SAR141bn

NEW DELHI: Mineral production in India increased by 6.1 per cent year-on-year in the April-July period of the current financial year, as per the government data released on Wednesday.

However, mineral production in July 2022 was 3.3 per cent lower when compared with the same month last year.

The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of July 2022 (Base: 2011-12=100) at 101.1, was 3.3 per cent lower as compared to the level in the month of July 2021, according to data released by the Ministry of Mines.

As per the provisional statistics of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), the cumulative growth for the period April- July, 2022-23 over the corresponding period of the previous year has increased 6.1 per cent.

The production level of impor-

tant minerals in July 2022 were: Coal 603 lakh tonnes, Lignite 33 lakh tonnes, Natural gas (utilised) 2811 million cu. m., Petroleum (crude) 25 lakh tonnes, Bauxite 1526 thousand tonnes, Chromite 192 thousand tonnes, Copper conc. 9 thousand tonnes, Gold 93 kg, Iron ore 155 lakh tonnes, Lead conc. 29 thousand tonnes, Manganese ore 153 thousand tonnes, Zinc conc. 127 thousand tonnes, Limestone 306 lakh tonnes, Phosphorite 160 thousand tonnes, Magnesite 10 thousand tonnes, and Diamond 22 carat.

Important minerals showing

positive growth during July, 2022 over July 2021 include: Phosphorite (39.3 per cent), Coal (11.2 per cent), Copper conc (8.8 per cent), and Zinc conc (5.9 per cent).

Other important minerals showing negative growth include: Iron Ore (-21.5 per cent), Manganese ore (-17.9 per cent), Lignite (-16.6 per cent), Gold (-10.6 per cent), Magnesite (-10.5 per cent), Chromite (-9.0 per cent), Limestone (-8.8 per cent), Lead conc (-3.9 per cent), Petroleum (crude) (-3.8 per cent), Bauxite (-1.4 per cent), and Natural Gas (U) (-0.3 per cent). -ANI

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German gas giant Uniper nationalised amid spiralling energy costs

BERLIN: The German government will acquire a 99 per cent stake in the ailing gas importer Uniper, as Russia's gas supply freeze threatened to drive the company into bankruptcy.

On Wednesday, Finnish state-owned energy company Fortum, the former majority shareholder of Uniper, announced it had signed an agreement in principle that will be finalised following the completion of a capital investment and the acquisition of Uniper shares by the German government.

The German Economy Ministry confirmed that the government is taking of a total of 99 per cent of Uniper, creating a "clear ownership structure in order to secure Uniper and thus the energy supply for companies, municipal utilities and consumers."

The acquisition of the shares will be completed after the fulfilment of various regulatory requirements, along with approval at Uniper's general assembly meeting and approval from the European Commission, it added.

Germany's winter gas woes

As winter approaches, Germany is doing all it can to save natural gas. Estimates are that storage tanks are currently 90 per cent full.

Germany's economy minister, Robert Habeck, has expressed optimism that the country will make it through.

"As a whole, we have coped quite well with the situation," said Habeck told reporters in Berlin Wednesday.

"But for Uniper, the situation become has significantly more dramatic and significantly worse," he added. Habeck said that a gas surcharge will go into effect as planned on October 1.

In August, the amount of planned levy was announced at 2.4 euro cents per kilowatt hour.

Habeck said Wednesday that the surcharge is necessary to ensure the financial integrity of Uniper, and Germany's other energy providers.

"The state will...do everything necessary to keep companies stable on the market at all times," Habeck said, adding that the gas levy was a mechanism allowing companies to pass on higher costs in advance.

However, now that Uniper is a state-owned company, there are questions as to whether it is the levy will be in accordance with German law. Habeck said that legal analysis is ongoing.

The economy minister added that the nationalisation of Uniper should be completed in around 3 months, and that the €8-billion capital injection is the same announced in July, which has jet to be distributed.

Why is Uniper being bought out?

Uniper, Germany's largest natural gas importer, serves as an intermediary between Russian suppliers and German consumers.

However, after Russian invaded Ukraine and cut gas supply to Europe following Western sanctions, the company has been forced to buy gas elsewhere at higher prices, while absorbing the costs without passing them on to consumers.

The company was one of those involved in building the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which was not activated after construction and is frozen indefinitely as part of the package of sanctions imposed in response to the invasion.

But the situation for Uniper became trickier still earlier this month. Russian energy giant Gazprom said gas supplies to Western Europe via the Nord Stream 1 pipeline had completely stopped due to equipment issues, giving no time frame on when it would resume activities.

The ailing energy importer has been burning through cash reserves sourcing gas on the expensive spot market. -DW

STAR-CHILDHOOD SHAPES STELLAR EVOLUTION

IN CLASSICAL MODELS OF STELLAR EVOLUTION, SO FAR LITTLE IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO THE EARLY EVOLUTION OF STARS. SCIENTISTS NOW SHOW THAT THE BIOGRAPHY OF STARS IS INDEED SHAPED BY THEIR EARLY STAGE

From babies to teenagers: stars in their “young years” are a major challenge for science. The process of star formation is particularly complex and difficult to map in theoretical models. One of the few ways to learn more about the formation, structure or age of stars is to observe their oscillations. “Comparable to the exploration of the Earth’s interior with the help of seismology, we can also make statements about their internal structure and thus also about the age of stars based on their oscillations” says Konstanze Zwintz. The astronomer is regarded as a pioneer in the young field of asteroseismology and heads the research group “Stellar Evolution and Asteroseismology” at the Institute for Astro- and Particle Physics at the University of Innsbruck. The study of stellar oscillations has evolved significantly in recent years because the possibilities for precise observation through telescopes in space such as TESS, Kepler, and James Webb have improved on many levels. These advances are now also shedding new light on decades-old theories of stellar evolution.

Stars are called “children” as long as they are not yet burning hydrogen to helium in their cores. At this stage, they are on the pre-main sequence; after ignition, they become adults and move onto the main sequence. “Research on stars has so far focused mainly on adult stars – such as our Sun” says Thomas Steindl, a member of Konstanze Zwintz’s research group and lead author of the study. “Even if it sounds counterintuitive at first glance, so far little attention has been paid to the evolution of the pre-main sequence because the phase is very turbulent and difficult to model. It’s only the technological advances of recent years that allow us a closer look at the infancy of stars – and thus at that moment when the star begins to fuse hydrogen into

helium.” In their current study, the two Innsbruck researchers now present a model that can be used to realistically depict the earliest phases of a star’s life long before they become adults. The model is based on the open-source stellar evolution program MESA (Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics).

Inspired by a talk given by astronomer Eduard Vornov of the University of Vienna at a 2019 meeting, Thomas Steindl spent months refining the method for using this stellar evolution code to recreate the chaotic phase of early star formation and then predict their specific oscillations. “Our data show that stars on the pre-main sequence take a very chaotic course in their evolution. Despite its complexity, we can now use it in our new theoretical model,” Steindl said. Thus, the astronomer shows that the way the star is formed has an impact on the oscillation behaviour even after ignition of nuclear fusion on the main sequence: “The infancy has an influence on the later pulsations of the star: This sounds very simple, but it was strongly in doubt. The classical theory assumes that the time before ignition is simply irrelevant. This is not true; Comparable to a musical instrument, even subtle differences in the composition lead to significant changes in the tone. Thus, our modern models better describe the oscillations in real stars.”

Konstanze Zwintz is delighted with this discovery and is very optimistic about the future: “I was already convinced about 20 years ago, when I first saw the oscillation of a young star in front of me on the screen, that I would one day be able to prove the significance of early stellar evolution on the ‘adult’ star. Thanks to the great work of Thomas Steindl, we have now succeeded: Definitely a eureka moment for our research group and another milestone for a better understanding of the growth steps of stars.” -ANI



IN PICTURES



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Saudi Arabia celebrates National Day with Cirque du Soleil show

An artist performs during the Cirque du Soleil show entitled 'The Wealth of a Nation' at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University theatre in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The show was staged to celebrate the country's National Day. **xinhua**



22nd Pingyao Int'l Photography Festival kicks off

People visit the Pingyao International Photography Festival in Pingyao County of Jinzhong, north China's Shanxi Province. The festival displays works of over 1,200 photographers from home and abroad. **Xinhua**



Scenery of Arxan National Forest Park in Inner Mongolia
Picture shows the scenery of a river in the Arxan National Forest Park in Arxan of Hinggan League, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. **Xinhua**

Kruger National Park in South Africa
Elephants walk near a tourist at the Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga, South Africa. The park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa and covers an area of 19,485 square kilometres in northeastern South Africa, the park is a home to an impressive number of species. **xinhua**



Cambodia raises minimum wage for garment factory workers for 2023
Garment factory workers buy food in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **Xinhua**



Saloum Delta region of Senegal
Two lions rest at a safari park in the Saloum Delta region of Senegal. Senegal's Saloum Delta lies at the estuary of the Saloum River which flows into the North Atlantic Ocean. **Xinhua**



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ROUND-UP



Jeep brand reveals plan to lead global SUV electrification

As part of an ongoing comprehensive product plan, 50% of Jeep brand sales in the US will be fully electric by 2030, while 100% of European sales will be all-electric by then

MUSCAT: The Jeep brand recently announced a comprehensive plan for its next generation of fully electric 4xe vehicles as part of a sustainable transformation to become the leading electrified SUV brand in the world.

The plan, which premiered on the brand's YouTube channel calls for the introduction of four all-electric SUVs in North America and Europe by the end of 2025. As part of an ongoing comprehensive product plan, 50% of Jeep brand sales in the US will be fully electric by 2030, while 100% of European sales will be all-electric by then. The plan is in full support of the net-zero carbon emissions targets set by Stellantis during the Dare Forward 2030 long-term strategic plan.

"On its path to becoming the leading zero-emission SUV brand in the world, and building on the success of its electrified 4xe portfolio in North America and Europe, Jeep is designing and developing some of its most capable and sustainable SUVs to date," said Hatem Al-Najjar, General Manager of Dhofar Automotive. "Electrification brings with it a great number of benefits, especially for a brand like Jeep. The performance benefits it offers makes these electrified models even more capable, exciting and fun, while at the same time also making them more sustainable. More importantly, however, this forward-thinking strategy will help ensure millions of Jeep



fans around the world continue to have a planet to explore, embrace and protect."

The Jeep brand showed the first images of two fully electric SUVs – the all-new Jeep Recon and an all-new Wagoneer, codename Wagoneer S– that will arrive in North America and other regions around the world, while confirming that the all-new, all-electric Jeep Avenger will launch in Europe early next year.

Jeep brand electrified portfolio in North America
Building upon the success of the Jeep Wrangler 4xe, the best-selling plug-in hybrid vehicle (PHEV) in the US and the recently introduced Grand Cherokee 4xe, the brand is developing a comprehensive electrified product range specifically developed to enhance the brand's legendary capability and expanding its reach in North America.

"Jeep is expecting to have its full lineup electrified by 2025, including four all-electric vehicles competing in the heart of the marketplace. With the continued implementation of 4xe technology

across the brand's entire portfolio, Jeep is redefining the way we view freedom and adventure in a way that only the Jeep brand can," said Hatem Al-Najjar.

This electrification plan will also expand the Wagoneer portfolio. The brand will offer an all-new, all-electric Wagoneer in the premium midsize SUV segment, while in the large SUV segments the Wagoneer models will deliver powertrains that target an estimated 640 kilometres of combined range.

By 2030, the Jeep brand will offer a full range of new battery-electric vehicles (BEV), establishing a lead in the SUV industry in terms of the number of models, segment participation and sales volume. As a result, 50% of brand sales in the US will be all-electric vehicles.

All-new Jeep Recon: 100% Jeep; 100% Zero Emission
One of the first all-new electric SUVs that will launch in North America is the Jeep Recon. This all-new vehicle is aimed at those who love to explore extreme adventures in near silence with a rugged, fully electric vehicle package.
The Jeep Recon is designed

from the ground up to be 100% Jeep 4x4 and 100% zero emission. This SUV will be offered exclusively as a BEV, and it will enhance off-roading adventures with:

True trail-rated capability with Jeep Selec-Terrain traction management system, e-locker axle technology, under-body protection, tow hooks and aggressive off-road tires

Authentic Jeep open-air freedom with a one-touch power top, removable doors and glass

The latest generation Uconnect system, including detailed travel guides of the most notable off-road trails

"One of the main highlights of the all-new, all-electric Jeep Recon has to be its range. Not only does it have the capability to complete the mighty Rubicon Trail, one of the most challenging off-road trails in the US, but can do so with enough range left over to drive back to town and recharge," said Hatem Al-Najjar.

This global SUV will be displayed to the public next year and production will start in 2024 in North America. The Jeep Recon will be sold in major markets around the

world, including Europe.

An all-new, all-electric Wagoneer – The Art of American Premium

The Wagoneer family is also set to grow with an all-new SUV. Codenamed Wagoneer S, this fully electric vehicle will continue to expand the brand's presence in the premium SUV segment by offering a unique, sleek, aerodynamic design and 4x4 capability as standard, with all-terrain management, advanced Jeep brand-focused technology and impressive performance credentials.

This new, all-electric, global SUV will be offered exclusively as a BEV, targeting a range of 640 kilometres on a single charge, 600hp and a 0-96kmph time of around 3.5 seconds.

With an exterior design marked by a signature LED-lit grille, this SUV is driven by aerodynamic efficiency, combined with the upright iconic Wagoneer side view.

"With the all-new, all-electric Wagoneer, Jeep is all set to delight its customers with a premium, highly efficient SUV that is loaded with technology and high quality craftsmanship, offering 4x4 capability, high performance, rapid acceleration and a target range of 640 kilometres on a single charge," added Hatem Al-Najjar.

The all-new Wagoneer BEV will also be displayed to the public next year and production will start in 2024 in North America. It will be sold in major markets around the world, including Europe.

All-new Jeep Avenger, the First-ever Fully Electric Jeep SUV, Arrives in Europe in 2023

In Europe, the Jeep brand has already made a big shift by offering only electrified SUVs in countries such as Germany and France. By the end of this year, 100% of the Jeep SUV portfolio will be electrified in almost all of the European markets.

The plan revealed today builds upon this 4xe momentum, developing a portfolio of capable, fully electric vehicles designed and right sized for Europe. The brand will introduce four zero-emission vehicles in Europe by 2025, with offerings in the main volume segments. As a result of this product onslaught, all the Jeep vehicles on sale in the region will be 100%

electric by 2030.

The first model of this product offensive is the all-new, all-electric Jeep Avenger, a compact SUV that was presented during the Stellantis Dare Forward long-term strategic plan earlier this year.

The all-new Jeep Avenger, to be introduced in Europe and other markets, such as Japan and South Korea, will be positioned under the Jeep Renegade and will be produced in the high-efficiency plant in Tychy, Poland.

With a targeted electric range of 400 kilometers, this new SUV will offer impressive ground clearance, breakover and approach angles for its segment, while delivering a modern and technologically advanced interior, with plenty of space for people and cargo.

"The all-new Avenger will offer Jeep brand capability that is right-sized for the European market," said Hatem Al-Najjar. "As a Jeep brand alternative to current players in the market, this modern, fun and emotional vehicle will appeal to a growing set of customers who want a capable, compact, and modern all-electric SUV."

The Jeep Avenger will debut during the Paris Motor Show press day, on October 17, with reservations opening for customers that same day. The all-new Jeep Avenger will arrive in showrooms in early 2023.

4xe is the new 4x4

The Jeep brand continues to expand its 4xe portfolio across the globe, enhancing its legendary 4x4 capability with the use of electrification and technology. While details of the current plan focus on North America and Europe, specific plans for other regions will be announced at a later date.

"With this video, Jeep shared but a glimpse into its new portfolio of all-electric SUVs and what we can expect from the iconic brand in the next 24 months. It also firmly reinforces Jeep's claims that 4xe is the new 4x4," said Hatem Al-Najjar. "This powerful combination of Jeep design, legendary 4x4 capability and electrification will no doubt reshape the SUV market, allowing for more customers in more countries and in more segments join Jeep on its path toward Zero Emission Freedom."

CAREER GUIDANCE

Unlock your academic potential with Allen Overseas' success carnival

MUSCAT: Allen Overseas' is conducting its famous success carnival in Oman this weekend. The career guidance, enlightenment, and felicitation session will take place in person on September 22 in Sohar and September 23 in Muscat.

The event is open to students currently studying in classes V to XII and their parents. It provides them with a fantastic opportunity to interact with Allen Experts, ask questions, create academic portfolios, and learn academic secrets. The session will include Unlimited intellectual vigour, a Cultural performance by Allen students, a Felicitation ceremony, an Introduction to TALLENT-EX Overseas, and a Message from Allen leaders.

Success Carnival will take place on September 22, 2022, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Sohar from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and on September 23, 2022, at the Ministry of Education in Muscat for Classes V to IX from 1:30 to 4:00 PM and for classes X to XII from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Allen Overseas is the global initiative of Allen Career Institute. They offer unrivalled high-quality education to the students in classes 6th to 12th. The premium coaching institute aims to provide high-quality education to students worldwide through its unique Allen pedagogy.

Allen is known for its unparalleled track record in India's prestigious pre-medical and engineering entrance exams. In keeping with tradition, once again, they proved the same in the recently held JEE Main 2022 and NEET-UG 2022, where Al-



len Overseas students triumphed once again and demonstrated the power of ALLEN.

ALLENite Gauri Sankaran Nedumbamana from Saudi Arabia went on to become JEE Main 2022 Female topper outside India with a 99.46 percentile. She is among the 6 ALLEN Overseas toppers who scored above 90 percent in JEE Main 2022. In the NEET-UG 2022, ALLENites Alexie Binu and Geetika Radhakrishnan from the UAE Classroom Program also achieved reputable ranks. Alexie Binu earned 620 marks on the pre-medical exam and is also a CBSE Board Class 12th topper.

Allen Overseas offers online classroom programmes for Oman students in Class VI through XII. Recently, they also introduced the Biggest and most rewarding talent encouragement exam, TALLENT-EX Overseas 2023, in Oman. Slated on November 12, 2022, it is open to students from Classes V to XI. The scholarship exam recognises, fosters and rewards brilliance.

OFFICIAL DAIRY PARTNER

Mazoon signs pact with Outward Bound Oman

MUSCAT: To provide fresh and healthy quality products to customers across Oman, Mazoon, the Sultanate's flagship dairy company has signed an agreement with Outward Bound Oman to become their official dairy partner.

As part of this partnership, Mazoon Dairy will supply their refreshing range of fresh milk, juices and spreadable cheese to all the participants enrolled in Outward Bound Oman's courses. Mazoon will serve participants at Outward Bound's three training centres in Muscat, Al Qabil, and Jabal Al Akhdar as the official dairy partners for the academic year 2022/2023.

Furthermore, both Mazoon Dairy and Outward Bound Oman

will team up to support the local community in the Buraimi Governorate by offering training courses for students in the wilayat.

With summer in full swing, Mazoon's refreshing range of fresh fruit juices, milk and flavoured milk delights are the healthiest way to stay cool and hydrated. Not only are Mazoon's fruit juice and milk products rich in essential vitamins, but they're easy, on-the-go source of energy. In addition to producing high-quality products for the Sultanate, and raising the local dairy industry standards to support and develop the same, Mazoon Dairy is dedicated to playing a key role in creating sustainable communities throughout Oman and the GCC.



SALES STRATEGIES AND SKILLS

GAC conducts training workshop for sales staff



is our sales staff. For this reason, investing in training our employees is vital to our business growth, especially in vehicle sales. This sales training program was conducted to ensure our sales staff has the right skills and tools at their disposal. This will enable them to provide our customers with the

highest quality service possible." Congratulations to everyone who completed the course successfully. With their newfound knowledge, I am confident they will be able to provide a higher level of service to their customers," concluded Manoj Ranade.

The 4-day course was focused

on sales strategies and skills.

Furthermore, these training workshops are held for keeping all employees motivated, as well as to help them better respond to customer inquiries, demands, and requirements. In turn, this improves sales for their teams, and the company as a whole operates more efficiently.



ROUND-UP



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Lulu Hypermarket conducts HSE training programme for its staff

The objective of the session was to impart a sound health and safety programme to protect customers and workers at the outlets

MUSCAT: Lulu Hypermarket recently organised an HSE training for health and safety officers from their hypermarkets across Oman. The objective of the session was to impart a sound health and safety programme to protect customers and workers at the outlets. The training was aimed at providing an awareness of the common workplace hazards, risks and safety controls and as a result, minimising workplace injuries which cause significant challenges to both organisation and the workers. The three-day event themed 'TOSH - Managing Safely', educated the participants on the importance of health and safety at the workplace and associated workplace benefits. The programme also taught the learners about their core responsibilities and guided them on how to assess and react to hazardous situations. The 3-day training programme was held on the Oman National Training Institute premises in Al Khuwair.



The training programme is one of the many initiatives that have been devised as a part of the continuous development programmes Lulu Hypermarket imparts to its work force. "The 'TOSH - Managing Safely' programme has been a result of extensive planning and is making steady progress, providing the building blocks to address some pertinent issues in our operations. The safety programme has made an impressive start and is moving in line with international best practices. I commend the HSE Department on their work and hope that they build on the foundations that have been laid to make their services future-ready," said Shabeer K.A, Regional Director, Lulu Oman. Twenty-four safety officers from Lulu hypermarkets across Oman participated in the workshop. Upon completion of the course, the participants obtained certificates approved and validated by the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). The training encompassed several key areas which included ensuring that the staff know how to work safely and without health risks, developing a positive health and safety culture, where safe and healthy working, and meeting your legal duty to protect the health and safety of your employees and customers, thereby equipping them with competence to manage health and safety concerns. Speaking at the event Nasr Bin Salim Al Maawali, General Manager- HR at Lulu Group, said, "The organisation has made a commendable effort by implementing the programme - 'TOSH- Managing safely' and this will improve emergency readiness at the stores. I'm delighted to be a part of this efficient team who knows the value and convenience they will bring to the system. I look forward to more exciting developments". Being the leading retailer in the region, Lulu Group has been constantly providing learning & development modules to its employees who are expected to benefit them professionally and personally in the long run.

COURTYARD RESTAURANT

Delhi - Lahori theme nights at Sheraton Oman

MUSCAT: Food that leaves you smacking your lips is great! But turns out, that discerning buffet-goers like a little added flair to the entire affair. So, when Sheraton Oman announced the Delhi-Lahori theme nights at the Courtyard Restaurant, appreciative brows were raised! Why? That's because it meant another beautiful amalgamation of good food, the right ambience, and pleasurable entertainment, hosted by hoteliers who value true hospitality. The people of both Delhi and Lahore are famous for being food lovers. The cuisine - rich, flavourful, and delectable - is a testament to that very love! The passionate chefs at Sheraton ensured that they embraced every aspect of the culture, added their secret twists, and laid out a buffet that had everyone going for seconds (and thirds). We let the subtle melody of the live band lead us to the Courtyard Restaurant and it was impossible to not surrender to the vibe of the evening as the glass doors opened in welcome. Whether a first-timer to this unique cuisine or a regular, the preparations are bound to leave you in awe every time. Walking to the table, you'll be tempted to pause a couple of times to admire the kebabs being tossed, a pani-puri being filled, or a lassi being



stirred. Made in traditional lagans and degchis, it's as delightful to watch as it is to eat. Items at the Delhi-Lahori Night include an assortment of kababs, koftas, and kormas as well as ever-green favourites like Paey Lazeez, Gosht Nihari, Chapali Kebab, Balti Fish Curry, Sindhi Biryani, and Yakhni Pulao alongside the popular Jama Masjid street dishes. Get started with a savoury, tangy, and tantalizing plate of chaat, try some gurma and chicken haleem, or give in to your sweet tooth and help yourself to some jalebis, malpuas, and gulab jamuns at the Mishtan Bhandar. If you're feeling adventurous about food and want to indulge in a traditional, authentic, and fulfilling dining experience, then the Delhi-Lahori theme night is the place to be. It is scheduled on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. The buffet is priced at OMR 13 for adults with a 50 per cent discount for kids below 12, while children below 6 years can dine completely free of charge.

FESTIVAL



ICAI Muscat Chapter celebrates Onam

MUSCAT: The Muscat Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) (Under the sponsorship of the College of Banking and Financial Studies) celebrated the festival of Onam at Oman Avenues Mall on 3 September (Saturday). The celebrations were attended by Indian Ambassador to Oman Amit Narang. Other attendees included past Chairpersons of the Chapter, over 300 members with their families and other invitees. Various cultural programs were held including 'Chendamalam', visit of 'Mahabali', 'Thiruvathira Kali' stage performances by the members and their family, dance performances, exciting games and concluding with a traditional 'Onam Sadhya' lunch. Addressing the gathering Narang conveyed Onam wishes to all and highlighted the spirit of the nation in celebrating diverse festivals irrespective of geography and religion. CA Sajeer Surendran, Chairman, ICAI Muscat Chapter extended Onam greetings to all the members and observed that the event was being held after a break of three years. The Chapter, led by a managing committee of eight members, is conducting several events for the continuing professional development of members. The Chapter has over 350 members and has sub-committees functioning in Salalah and Sohar.

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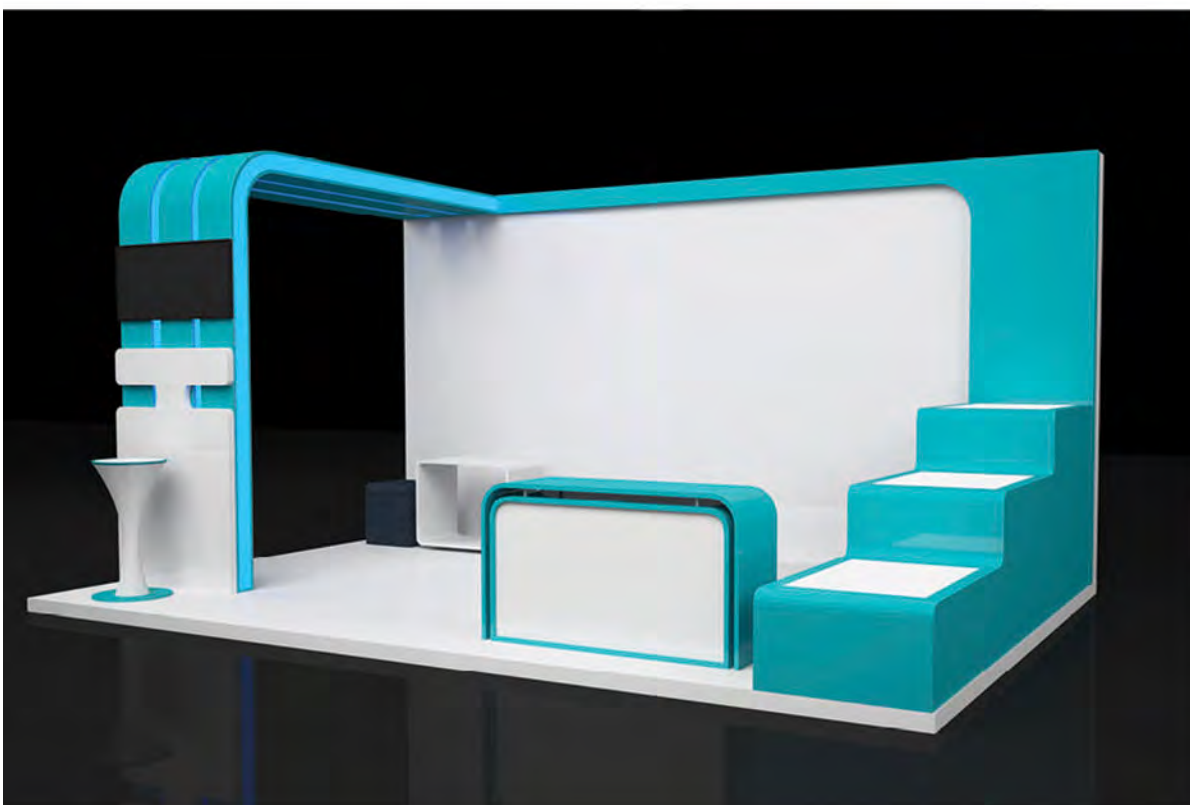
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