LET'S TALK
Times OF OMAN

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HM GREETS EMIR OF KUWAIT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, on the anniversary of his accession to power. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health, wellbeing and a long life to Sheikh Nawaf. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty for the return of this and similar occasions on Sheikh Nawaf as the people of Kuwait realise further aspirations of progress and prosperity. **-ONA**

HIS MAJESTY LEADS FAREWELL PARTY FOR UAE PRESIDENT

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) left here yesterday after a two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the farewell party at the Royal Airport, wishing the UAE President a safe return home. >A3

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HIS MAJESTY, UAE PRESIDENT TO JOINTLY BOOST PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

TWO LEADERS REITERATED THEIR INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING COOPERATION IN VARIOUS SPHERES

BILATERAL COOPERATION TO COVER REAL ESTATE, TOURISM, PETROCHEMICALS, SUPPLY CHAINS

AN AGREEMENT SIGNED FOR COOPERATION AND INVESTMENT IN FIELDS OF INDUSTRY

A MOU SIGNED FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION RELATED TO MONEY LAUNDERING, TERROR FINANCING

COORDINATED EFFORTS SOUGHT TO ENSURE REGIONAL, GLOBAL SECURITY AND STABILITY

Focus on joint efforts to further develop and diversify commercial exchange and investments

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have affirmed their determination to motivate the government and private sectors to spearhead joint efforts to develop and diversify commercial exchange and investments. The action seeks to establish partnerships between the respective sectors towards the realisation of full integration between the two countries.

Joint communique

This was stated in a joint communique between Oman and the UAE, reading as follows:

"Based on deep-rooted historical relations and fraternal bonds between the leaderships of the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates and their peoples to further cement the distinguished bilateral relations, and—in response to a cherished invitation by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Sultan of Oman, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates conducted a state visit to the Sultanate of Oman—heading a high-level delegation on Tuesday and Wednesday 27-28 September 2022, corresponding to 1-2 Rabee Al Awwal 1444 AH.

The leaders of the two countries held in-depth discussions in a spirit of brotherhood and harmony. During the discussions, the two leaders reiterated their keen interest in strengthening cooperation in various spheres of common interest. They commended the existing coordination and cooperation in political, security, economic and cultural fields benefiting the two neighbouring countries.

The two leaders underscored the role played by the Supreme Joint Committee and welcomed the effective communication between their highnesses and ministers in the two countries to discuss common issues and joint action to enhance bilateral relations in economic, commercial, investment, cultural, diplomatic, consular and educational fields, as well as the areas of environment, food security, advanced technologies and innovation, energy projects, renewable energy, industry, health and pharmaceutical fields.

Bilateral cooperation also covers real estate development, tourism, petrochemicals, converting industries, supply chains, transportation, logistical partnership, information technology, financial technology, and everything that would enhance common benefits and interests and bring prosperity to the peoples of the two countries.

The two sides also welcomed the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding on various aspects of bilateral cooperation.

His Majesty the Sultan and the President of the United Arab Emirates have affirmed their determination to stimulate the government and private sectors to work towards the elevation of joint efforts to develop and diversify commercial and investment exchanges, and to establish partnerships in various sectors and between business owners, with a view to realising integration between the two brotherly countries.

Security and stability

The two sides also exchanged views on matters, including issues on the regional and international arenas. They expressed resolve to coordinate in a manner that serves their interests and consolidates pillars of security and stability in the region and the world at large.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik extended his sincere congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the occasion of the United Arab Emirates' being proclaimed host of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change "COP-28", which will be held in 2023.

At the conclusion of the visit, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, as well as the Omani government and people for the warm welcome and sincere hospitality accorded to him, and his accompanying delegation. He wished the Sultanate of Oman further progress and prosperity." — **ONA**

High-speed passenger trains to link Oman and UAE

MUSCAT: An agreement to set up a path breaking railway network linking Oman and the UAE has been inked.

Worth a whopping $3 billion (OMR1.160 billion), the deal was signed by Oman Rail—developer and operator of the national railway network in Oman—and Etihad Rail, developer and operator of the national railway network in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

A firm to be called "Oman and Al-Ittihad Company", owned 50-50 by the two sides, will design and operate the network which will connect Sohar Port and UAE National Railway Network.

The pact was inked within the context of the state visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, to Oman. The agreement was signed on behalf of Oman Rail Company—a subsidiary of Asyad Group—by Eng. Abdul Rahman Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of the Asyad Group, and Eng. Shadi Malak, CEO of Etihad Rail Company.

Action plan

Under the agreement, the new company will set an action plan in motion to implement the project, which includes financing mechanisms, scheduling and supervision of the design, implementation and operation of the railway network linking Sohar and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in line with top standards endorsed by the two countries.

This partnership constitutes an extension of the strong strategic and historical relations binding Oman and the UAE at all levels. It will bolster business activity and boost social, economic, industrial, commercial ties. At a speed of 200 km/h, the passenger train will cover the 303 km distance between Sohar and Al Ain in 147 minutes—maintaining safety and environmental standards, while the cargo train will travel at 120 km/h. >A2

OMAN

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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:02pm
Asr	3:27pm
Maghrib	6:02pm
Isha	7:12pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:43am

INTERNATIONAL VOYAGE

Shabab Oman II sets off for Port Said

LIMASSOL: Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) vessel, Shabab Oman II, yesterday set off from port of Limassol in Cyprus heading to Port Said, Egypt, on its way back to Oman as part of its sixth international voyage themed "Oman, Land of Peace".

The vessel, through its voyage, continues introducing visitors to Oman's maritime history and culture. -ONA

MONTREAL

Oman takes part in civil aviation organisation meet

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), took part in the 41st Assembly Session of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), held in Montreal, Canada.

Oman's delegation in the Assembly, which runs till 6 October 2022, is headed by Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, President of the CAA.

Oman's participation in the ICAO Assembly session comes within the framework of boosting active international and contributing to achiving the strategic goals of ICAO.

Eng. Naif Ali Al Abri, President of the CAA was chosen as First Vice-President of the 41st Assembly of ICAO due to his experience and strong presence in international civil aviation events. -ONA

OMAN-UAE PROJECT

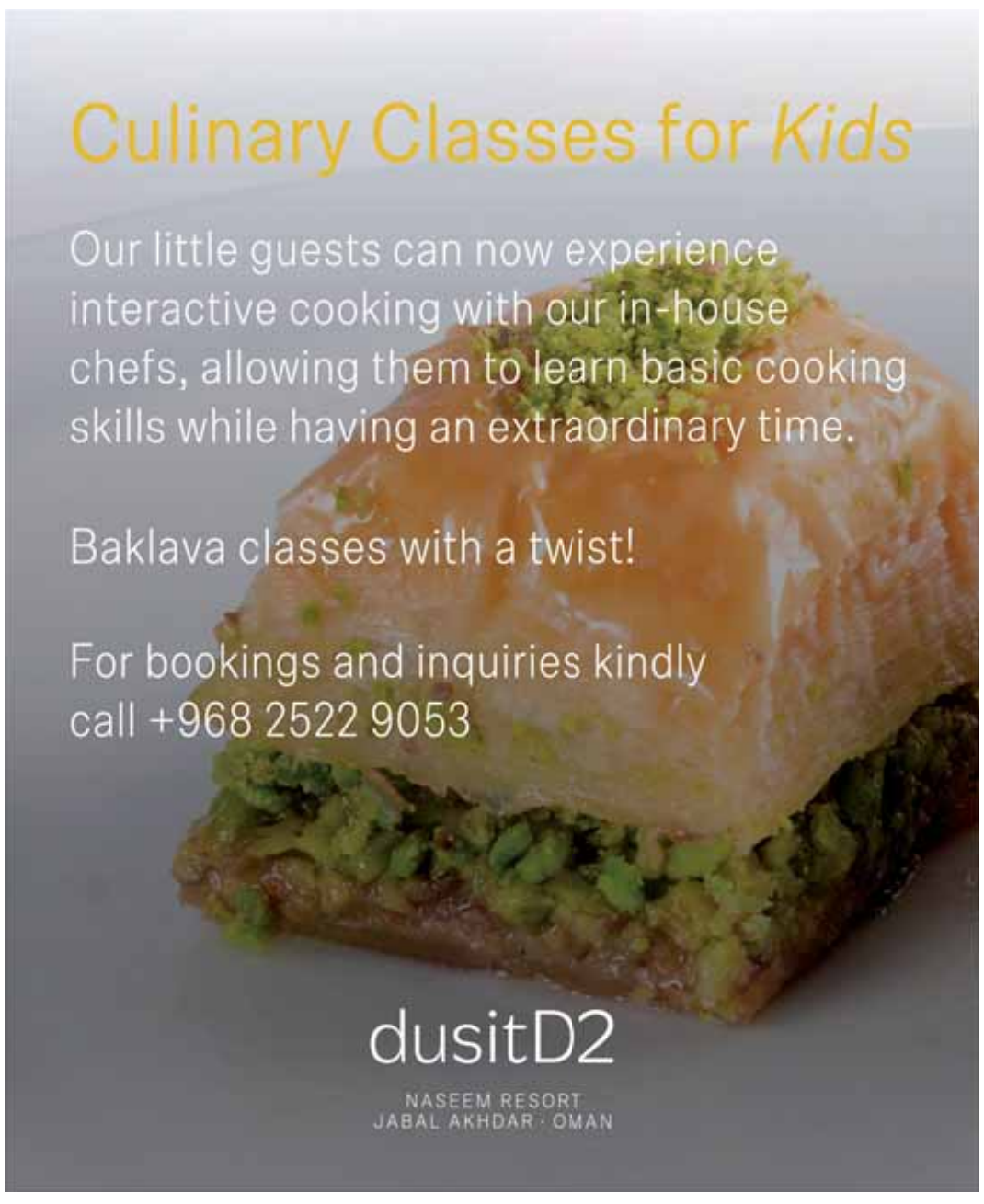
< FROM A1

Benefits of rail project

The railway network will raise the efficiency of supply chains and facilitate cross-border trade by linking commercial outlets on both sides. Compared with other means of transport, it will help augment the levels of market competitiveness, reducing the overall cost of supply chains. It will also provide new trade and investment opportunities for the private sector, which will be awarded the bulk of the project's contracts.

Other plus points include the creation of new jobs, training nationals, activating tourism activity, enhancing the region's global competitiveness as a logistics axis for import and export business. The Minister underscored the project's significance to the logistics sector, which influences industrial sector and economic sectors and generates trade and investment opportunities for the private sector. He noted that the network will cap up the integration of Omani ports, linking them to regional and global markets.

He added that the project will yield many strategic, economic and social benefits. It will also help diversify the two countries' national economies, link their populations and industrial centres, develop infrastructure and life quality and consolidate social ties and tourism activity. -ONA



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His Majesty the Sultan leads the farewell party for UAE President

MUSCAT: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) left here on Wednesday after a two-day state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the farewell party at the Royal Airport, wishing the UAE President a safe return home.

The UAE President was also seen off by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court (Head of the Mission of Honour), Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Sayyid Dr. Ahmed bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the UAE, Mohammed bin Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, members of the mission of honour and some members of the UAE Embassy at Muscat.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was accompanied during the visit by an official delegation comprising Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Ministry of Presidential Court, Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Diplomatic Advisor to the UAE President, Ali bin Mohammed Al Shamsi, Deputy Secretary General of the Supreme National Security Council, Suhail bin Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Khalifa bin Shaheen Al Marar, Minister of State, Jabr bin Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Minister of State, Mohammed bin Hassan Al Suwaidi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company (ADQ), Mohammed bin Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and several offic ials. -ONA

OMAN-UAE RAILWAY

Rail project to boost trade exchanges: Al Ma'awali

MUSCAT: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, has said that the railway network project linking Oman the United Arab Emirates (UAE) consummates the strategic goals of the two countries.

The project will open vistas of social and economic integration as it cements ties between Sohar Port and the UAE's free zones and economic zones, he added. The project will play a major role in boosting the logistics sector and activating trade exchanges in the near future, said Al Ma'awali, noting that the project will achieve sustainable development at all economic and social levels and present a new model for cross-border transport.

He stressed that the project serves as one of the factors of industrial localisation, as it links industrial estates, accelerates the traffic of raw materials and provides an attractive milieu for investors and industrialists. -ONA

UAE PRESIDENT VISITS ROHM

MUSCAT: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), visited the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) yesterday, as part of his current state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed toured ROHM during which he was briefed on the House, its facilities and shows, as well as its programmes and the latest equipment used in the world music shows. He also viewed the ROHM unique architectural designs creatively combining Omani architectural and cultural legacy with the modern architectural pattern.

ROHM staged a concert for the UAE President which was performed by the Steel Band and the Operetta Troupe of the Royal Guard of Oman (RGO).

At the conclusion of his visit to ROHM, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, signed the Senior Visitors' Register. In his word, the UAE President expressed his happiness at visiting ROHM and enjoying the concert. He said ROHM blends tradition with modernity in a refined and vibrant harmony. The UAE President affirmed that the arts draw a global common language and a link connecting cultures. He added that arts are an important means of promoting human values, particularly communication, peace, tolerance and coexistence among peoples, which are the same values enjoyed by the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

VISITS GALLERIES

UAE President tours National Museum

MUSCAT,: Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates yesterday visited the National Museum as part of his current state visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The UAE President was greeted upon his arrival by Jamal bin Hassan Al Moosawi, Secretary General of the National Museum.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and his accompanying delegation toured the museum and its galleries. He was briefed about the National Museum's galleries and important aspects of the history and civilization of the Sultanate of Oman, namely the Land and the People Gallery, the Time line Gallery and the Splendours of Islam Gallery.

The UAE President also viewed the collections loaned from the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi. They include Iznik ceramics from the 16th Century, in addition to the objects previously loaned by the National Museum for temporary display in the Louvre Abu Dhabi, which feature the historical treasure of Al Waqba that includes more than 400 silver dirhams dating back to the early Islamic eras.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed also went on tour of the Sultan Qaboos bin Said`s Corner (the Dearest and Purest of Men) and viewed the original letter No. 1 (Letter of Will) addressed by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said to the Royal Family Council through the Defense Council.

He also took note of objects that embody the Omani-Emirati relations, comprising the demarcation agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates relating to the boundary sector from Umm Al Zumul to Eastern Uqaydat, which was signed by the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founder of the UAE, in addition to a single-edge curved sword (kittārah), presented by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 2004.

The UAE President also viewed a Scale model of Qasr Al Hosn Fort at the Emirate of Abu Dhabi presented by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan to the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said, on the occasion of the demarcation of the borders between Oman and the UAE in 1999.

The UAE President recorded a word in the Museum's senior visitors' register, in which he said, "I was pleased to visit the National Museum in the Sultanate of Oman, and got acquainted with its rich and precious artefacts that embody the nobility of the Omani people, its ancient history, and the great attention Oman awards under the wise leadership of my brother, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, to culture within the wide development system." He also thanked the museum's organizers for their efforts, and wished them success.

During his visit to the National Museum, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, was accompanied by Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court (Head of the Mission of Honour). -ONA

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His Majesty, UAE President review relations, means of promoting them

They expressed their keenness to push these relations forward in various spheres to serve interests of the Omani and Emirati peoples

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) held a bilateral meeting at Al Alam Palace on Wednesday morning.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the march of deep-rooted relations binding the two countries and means of promoting them.

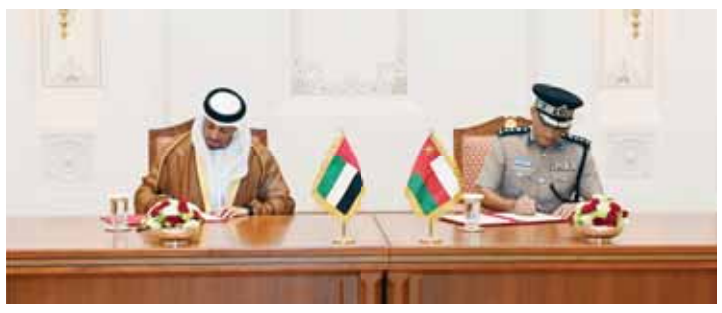
They expressed their keenness to push these relations forward in various spheres to serve interests of the Omani and Emirati peoples.

The meeting was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs and HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Emirati side by Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court, Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Member of Abu Dhabi Executive Council, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Nahyan, Advisor of Special Affairs at the Ministry of Presidential Court.

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

Oman, UAE sign 16 agreements in various fields



MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed at Al Alam Palace here on Wednesday 16 agreements and memorandums of understanding in various areas.

This came within the context of the current state visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President to the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreements and memorandums of understanding are:

A memorandum of understanding was signed in the field of energy between the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

A memorandum of understanding in the field of cooperation on transport and logistics was also inked between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

Another memorandum of understanding in the field of maritime transport was inked between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

A memorandum of understanding in cooperation and investment in fields of industry was also signed between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in Oman and the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology in the UAE. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

In the fields of culture and youth, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in Oman and the Ministry of Culture and Youth in the UAE signed a memorandum of understanding. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Oman and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in the UAE also signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in areas of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food safety. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

In the field of higher education, research, innovation and vocational training, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Oman and the Ministry of Education in the UAE. It was signed by Eng. Salim Nassir Al Oufi, Oman's Minister of Energy and Minerals and Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, UAE's Minister of Energy and Infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information, represented by Oman News Agency (ONA), signed a memorandum of understanding with Emirates News Agency (WAM) in the field of news and information exchange. It was signed by Ibrahim Saif Al Azri, ONA Director General and Editor-in-Chief and Mohammed Jalal Al Raisi, WAM Director General.

In the field of cooperation in exchanging information related to money laundering and its predicate offence and the financing of terrorism, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Center for Financial Information in Oman and the UAE Financial Intelligence Unit. It was signed by Colonel Abdulrahman Amir Al Kiyomi, CEO of Oman National Center for Financial Information and Ali Faisal Ba'Alawi, Head of the UAE Financial Intelligence Unit.

A cooperation agreement was also signed between Oman Rail and Etihad Rail. It was signed by Eng. Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of Asyad Group and Shadi Malak, CEO of Etihad Rail.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Omani Group for Communications and Information Technology "ITHCA Group" and Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company. It was signed by Atef Said Al Siyabi, Deputy Chairman of ITHCA Group and Mohammed Hassan Al Suwaidi, CEO and Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Holding.

A memorandum of understanding was also signed between Muscat Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. It was signed by Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange and Said Hamad Al Dhaheri, CEO of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

An agreement was also signed for the remote trading of brokerage companies through electronic trading (Tadawul). It was signed by Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange and Said Hamad Al Dhaheri, CEO of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

In the field of dual-listing of securities, an agreement was signed between Muscat Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. It was signed by Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange and Said Hamad Al Dhaheri, CEO of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

A memorandum of cooperation was signed between Muscat Clearing and Depository Company and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange Company. It was signed by Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange and Said Hamad Al Dhaheri, CEO of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.

In the field of dual-listing of securities, an agreement was also signed between Muscat Clearing Company and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. It was signed by Haitham Salim Al Salmi, CEO of Muscat Stock Exchange and Said Hamad Al Dhaheri, CEO of Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange. -ONA

WORLD

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ROYAL DECREE

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman appointed PM

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has appointed his son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as the kingdom's prime minister, the state-run news agency SPA reported citing a royal decree.

The 37-year-old crown prince, widely known by the acronym MBS will replace the king as Prime Minister while Prince Khalid bin Salman will become Defence Minister, Gulf News reported on Tuesday.

The cabinet reshuffle saw the appointment of Prince Turki bin Mohammed bin Fahad bin Abdul Aziz as Minister of State, and Prince Abdulaziz bin Turki bin Faisal as Minister of Sports.

The decree also saw the appointment of Yousef Al Benyan as the Minister of Education.

Heads of ministries that were kept unchanged include the minister of energy, the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of investment, the minister of interior, and the minister of finance.

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai congratulated Saudi Crown Prince on his appointment as the Kingdom's Prime Minister. ANI

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POWER CUT

Hurricane Ian knocks out power in Cuba, Florida braces for impact

HAVANA: Hurricane Ian knocked out the power across Cuba and devastated some important tobacco farms as it hit the country's western tip on Tuesday.

Cuba's Electric Union said they were working over the night to gradually restore power to the country's 11 million people.

Ian was expected to get even stronger over the warm Gulf of Mexico, approaching the southwest coast of the US state of Florida. The hurricane packed a punch with winds of up to 130 miles per hour recorded at San Juan y Martinez, a small town on Cuba's southwest coast.

Authorities in Cuba's Pinar del Rio province evacuated 50,000 people ahead of the storm. Some 6,000 evacuees were staying in state run-shelters.

The hurricane left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity and swamped fishing villages as it tracked northward toward Florida. No fatalities had been reported as of Tuesday night.

State-run media said 33,000 tonnes of tobacco from prior harvests in Pinar del Rio had been secured ahead of the storm. One of Cuba's most important tobacco farms in La Robaina was damaged due to the winds.

Rain and winds buffeted the capital, Havana, but the city was spared the brunt of Ian's impact.

"We almost lost the roof off our house. My daughter, my husband and I tied it down with a rope to keep it from flying away," street vendor Mayelin Suarez told Reuters.

Florida braces as Ian is upgraded to Category 4 storm

The US National Hurricane Center said on Wednesday that Ian had strengthened into a Category 4 storm as it bore down on the state of Florida with winds of 140 miles per hour.

"Air Force hurricane hunters find Ian has strengthened into an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane," the NHC said in an advisory.

As of 05:00 local time (09:00 UTC/GMT), mandatory evacuation orders were issued in a dozen coastal Florida counties, while voluntary evacuations were recommended in a number of areas, according to the state's emergency officials.

Coastal residents emptied grocery shelves, boarded up windows and fled to evacuation shelters as Ian lashed Florida's southern tip with tropical storm-force winds hours before it was forecast to make US landfall on Wednesday evening.

A hurricane warning has been extended to portions of far southwestern Florida as the storm's path veered slightly from previous predictions. US President Joe Biden's administration declared a public health emergency for the state in anticipation of the storm's arrival. DW

STORM NORU

Tropical storm Noru hits Vietnamese coast

HANOI: Tropical storm Noru reached the Vietnamese coast on Wednesday, still packing winds of up to 72 miles per hour despite being downgraded from typhoon status by weather authorities in the country.

The storm tore off the roofs of several homes and caused power outages in parts of central Vietnam. Vietnam's government warned residents of flooding and landslide risks triggered by heavy rains.

The resort city of Da Nang in Quang Nam province, also the home of the historic city of Hoi An, was in the center of the powerful storm's path.

Thousands in shelters, airports and highways closed

More than 300,000 people had taken refuge in shelters overnight anticipating landfall. People were told to stay off the streets of Da Nang late on Tuesday.

State media said that the Defense Ministry had mobilized around 40,000 soldiers and 200,000 militia members to use armored vehicles and boats to assist with rescue and relief operations if necessary.

People living in less robust houses, in particular, have sought out shelter. According to the AFP news agency, roughly 300 houses in the coastal region of Quang Tri had their roofs blown off late on Tuesday as the storm approached and winds started picking up speed.

Several airports in Vietnam have been shut. Schools and offices across several provinces were closed. DW

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Techno Plastic Industry L.L.C.

Techno Plastic Industry takes immense pride in welcoming on board its new CEO, Mr Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan. With more than 40 years of experience, Mr Qatan is credited with managing, leading and overseeing the growth of some of the most renowned organisations in Oman and the last one is Oman Oil Market (SOAG). Techno Plastic wishes him the very best and firmly believes in his expertise to scale the company's growth and progress to newer heights in line with Oman Vision 2040.

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Sultanate of Oman
Consumer Protection Authority

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General Automotive Company LLC

Date of Campaign Start : **29/09/2022**
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Campaign section : **Air Bag Inflator**
*** Re-announcement for the vehicles whose recall is not yet done***

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION:

The year of Production	Model	VIN Number	Number of affected vehicle
From 2003 up to 2008	Mitsubishi Lancer	JMYSTCS3A8U704790 JMYSRCS3ACU701522	380
From 2009 up to 2012	Mitsubishi Galant	4P3SYDJ3A9E801010 4P3SYDJ3ADE801620	212
From 2007 up to 2017	Mitsubishi Pajero	JMYLRV93W3J739416 JMYLYV97WGJ702288	3275
From 2007 up to 2016	Mitsubishi L200	MMBJNKB407D039372 MMBNG45KX7D039372	2450

DESCRIPTION:
Due to changes of temperature under humid conditions and long-time use, the propellant in the airbag inflator may be deteriorated.

PROCEDURE:
Replace the passenger Air Bag Inflator.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Customer with chassis numbers mentioned above are asked to please contact M/s General Automotive Company LLC for replacement of defective parts.

CONTACT DETAILS:
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WORLD

VISA BACKLOG

Jaishankar flags US visa concerns, Blinken commits to build back on backlog

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday assured that the US is "building back" on the backlog of visa applications from Indian nationals and said the Biden administration has a plan that will play out in the coming months.

"We had constraints from COVID about the number of people we could have in our embassies at any one time etc. We are now building back very determined really from that surging resources. We have a plan when it comes to India to address the backlog of visas that have built up I think you'll see that play out in the coming months," Blinken said in a press briefing. The remarks came as he met with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Washington.

Jaishankar flagged concerns and challenges that Indians have been facing in receiving visas to work and live in the United States.

"There have been some challenges of late, and I flagged it to Secretary Blinken and his team, and I have every confidence that they will look at some of these problems seriously and positively," Jaishankar said in his opening remarks.

The waiting period for Indians looking to secure a visitor visa to the US has gone up to 800 days, according to the website of the US State Department. The waiting period is nearly 400 days for student/exchange visitor visas and other non-immigrant visas.

"I'm extremely sensitive to this," said Blinken as he blamed the Covid-19 pandemic for the backlog.

"Our ability to issue visas dropped dramatically during COVID. And the last thing we want to do is make that any more difficult. On the contrary, we want to facilitate it. So bear with us. This will play out over the next few months but we're very focused on it," Blinken added.

Moreover, Blinken also noted that the partnership between India and United States is one of the most consequential in the world during the joint press conference.

"The partnership between India and US is simply one of the most consequential in the world. It is to address any global challenge that our people face - health security, climate change, food security and upholding the free and open international order. Over the past years, we have made real progress in elevating that partnership bilaterally -- through institutions like QUAD and G20 and international organisations at the United Nations," Blinken said here. India will take over the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G20) in December.

Speaking over the presidency, Blinken said: "With India holding the presidency at the UNSC in December and taking over the presidency at G20 next year, we will be able to drive more global cooperation and action together."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with Blinken earlier at the Quad meeting which saw participation from foreign ministers from India, the US, Australia, and Japan. ANI

BALLISTIC MISSILES

North Korea fires two ballistic missiles

SEOUL: South Korea's military said on Wednesday that it had "detected two short-range ballistic missiles fired from the Sunan area in Pyongyang," towards its eastern waters.

"Our military has reinforced monitoring and surveillance and is maintaining utmost readiness in close coordination with the United States," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. Wednesday's missiles were launched 10 minutes apart between 18:10 local time (09:10 GMT) and 18:20 (09:20 GMT) according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

They flew about 360 km (225 miles) and reached an altitude of 30 km (19 miles), they said, giving a maximum velocity of Mach 6 (4,600 mph or 7,450 kmh).

Japan's coast guard also identified a possible missile launch, citing the Defence Ministry, and cautioned vessels in the area to be aware. DW

Invitation to Tender

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable excellent grade EPC contractors specialized in Electromechanical works for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Reference Number Tender	Title of the Tender
DISC/Tender/2022/149	Replacement of Standby Diesel Generator Sets and Associated Works at Raysut WRP

Tender Fee	RO. 525.000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents / tender fee process.
Experience	The Tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce and the Tenderer should be a business owner registered with tender board with minimum excellent grade for supply of DG sets and shall have an agreement/ liaison with a DCRP registered electrical contractor with minimum Grade-C holding a valid DCRP registration certificate. The Tenderer should have performed similar works in the last 3 years
Pre-qualification	The Contractor or his nominated DCRP registered contractor shall have a Competent Electrical Person (CEP) certified by DISC and copy of the valid CEP certificate shall be submitted along with the bid
Tender document sales cut-off date	03:00 PM on 11th October 2022
Tender document publish date	12th October 2022
Site Visit	17th October 2022
Last date for seeking pre Bid clarification	03:00 PM on 23rd October 2022
Response for pre Last date for bid clarification	03:00 PM on 30th October 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 6th November 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

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

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company
إحدى شركات مجموعة نماء
Member of Nama Group

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

DAMAGE TO GAS PIPELINES

EU vows 'robust' response after suspected gas pipeline sabotage

COPENHAGEN: The European Union on Wednesday threatened countermeasures against the perpetrator of damage to gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, saying the leaks were "not a coincidence."

"The European Union is deeply concerned about damage to the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines that has resulted in leaks in the international waters of the Baltic Sea," the bloc's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said in a statement.

"We will support any investigation aimed at getting full clarity on what happened and why, and will take further steps to increase our resilience in energy security," the statement added.

His remarks come after three leaks were found in the pipelines, which carry gas from Russia to Europe via the Baltic Sea. The pipelines are situated in international waters but in the exclusive economic zones of Denmark and Sweden off the Danish island of Bornholm.

Denmark's defence minister, Morten Bodskov, met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Wednesday to discuss possible responses to the incidents.

What else did Borrell say?

"All available information indicates those leaks are the result of a deliberate act," Borrell said in the statement, issued on behalf of the 27 EU member countries.

"Any deliberate disruption of European energy infrastructure is utterly unacceptable and will be met with a robust and united response," he added.

"These incidents are not a coincidence and affect us all."

What happened to the pipelines?

Three unexplained gas leaks occurred on the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines on Monday. They were preceded by two large explosions that were registered by seismologists.

The pipelines are both filled with natural gas but are not delivering the fuel to Europe amid tensions with Russia caused by its illegitimate invasion of neighboring Ukraine. DW

SPORTS

Rafeeq SHOP NOW rafeeq.om

ICC

Suryakumar bags 2nd spot in T20I rankings

DUBAI: Suryakumar Yadav has moved up a slot to attain second position with career-best rating points in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings for batters, only a couple of points up from Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, who is at third position. Yadav is up to a career-best-equalling second position with 801 rating points. -ANI

NATIONS LEAGUE

Spain beat Portugal, reach Nations League final four

LISBON: In a slightly underwhelming game that will do nothing for either side's claims to be among the favourites in Qatar this winter, Spain managed to steal a 1-0 win at the death in Braga against Portugal to seal a place in the Nations League Final Four.

It was the hosts, though, that had the better of the first half and Cristiano Ronaldo came closest to the breakthrough, only to be denied by an excellent Unai Simon save from close range.

Bruno Fernandes also had the crowd on their feet, with half the ground convinced he'd scored a long-range effort, only to then realise it had hit the side netting.

Spain looked out of sorts for most of the game, a shadow of the team we know they can be. They dominated the ball but weren't able to move it around or put together passing moves of any effectiveness.

Just as in the loss to Switzerland, however, the substitutes did seem to introduce a bit of liveliness and a sense of urgency at least. Nico Williams of Athletic Club looked keen to impress and tested Diogo Costa a couple of times from distance.

Spain grew and began to control the game better as the game wore on and it was one of Luis Enrique's subs who assisted the winner.

In the 88th minute, Dani Carvajal showed good awareness to cut inside from right back and send a cross in behind towards Williams at the back post.

The 20-year-old winger showed great composure and presence of mind to head the ball back across goal into the path of Alvaro Morata who was on hand to smash home.

Williams could have been expected to go for goal on what was just his second appearance for Spain, days after his debut, but the youngster made the right decision and Spain have won the group in large part, thanks to that.

The goal was enough and Spain saw the game out to claim their first win over the Portuguese on their own turf for 19 years.

The win sees Spain advance to the Final Four yet again and they will hope to go one better this time around after being beaten in last year's final by France. -ONA

BILATERAL CRICKET

ECB offers to host India and Pakistan Test series

KARACHI: England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has made an offer to host a Test series between India and Pakistan in an attempt to revive bilateral cricket between these two Asian giants.

While they have always played high-profile clashes during the ICC Cricket World Cup, ICC T20 World Cup and ICC Champions Trophy, the last bilateral series between both took place in January 2013.

The last Test match between both sides was played way back in December 2007, almost fifteen years back. As per ESPNCricinfo, ECB's Deputy Chair, Martin Darlow floated this idea to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairperson Ramiz Raja during his visit to Pakistan during England's ongoing T20I series against them.

But it is understood that Pakistan is unlikely to accept this offer. After years of staging their home games in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), they have made a lot of progress in bringing back international cricket back to their country after it could not host it for a long time after an attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009 by gunmen. Playing such a high-profile series at a neutral venue could undermine this progress. PCB has hosted two Tests in England, a two-match series against Australia back in 2010 which ended in a draw. But the spot-fixing scandal that came to light during the series against England later that years soured the relationship between these two parties.

However, Mooen Ali, England's skipper considers this idea as an "awesome" one.

"That would be brilliant. It is a shame that they do not obviously play each other unless it is a World Cup or an ICC event, but they are two great teams and two massive playing nations," ESPNCricinfo quoted Ali as saying.

"With the viewing [figures] and all that, it would be one of the biggest games because it is not been done for a very long time. It would be a great game because Pakistan has a really good bowling attack as well as India now, and India has a great Test side. It would be really good," he added.

Both sides could meet in the final of the ongoing ICC World Test Championship at Lord's if they win the majority of their remaining fixtures. -ANI

MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,486.31 points, down by 0.16 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.55 per cent at 477.27 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.84 per cent, was the top gainer while National Biscuits, down 10 per cent, was the top loser.

Oman's crude oil, condensates production top 257mn barrels

Separately, crude oil production saw a rise of 13.9 per cent while condensates production declined by 1.7 per cent at the end of August, compared to the same period of August 2021

MUSCAT: Oman's production of crude oil and condensates recorded an increase of 10.3 per cent to reach 257.34 million barrels at the end of August 2022, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI).

Separately, crude oil production saw a rise of 13.9 per cent while condensates production declined by 1.7 per cent at the end of August, compared to the same period of August 2021.

The average price of Omani crude oil also recorded an increase of 40.4 per cent at the end of August 2022 to reach $95.30 per barrel, compared to $67.9 per barrel at the end of August 2021. The monthly average price of oil also increased by 5.3 per cent in August 2022 compared to the previous month of the same year.

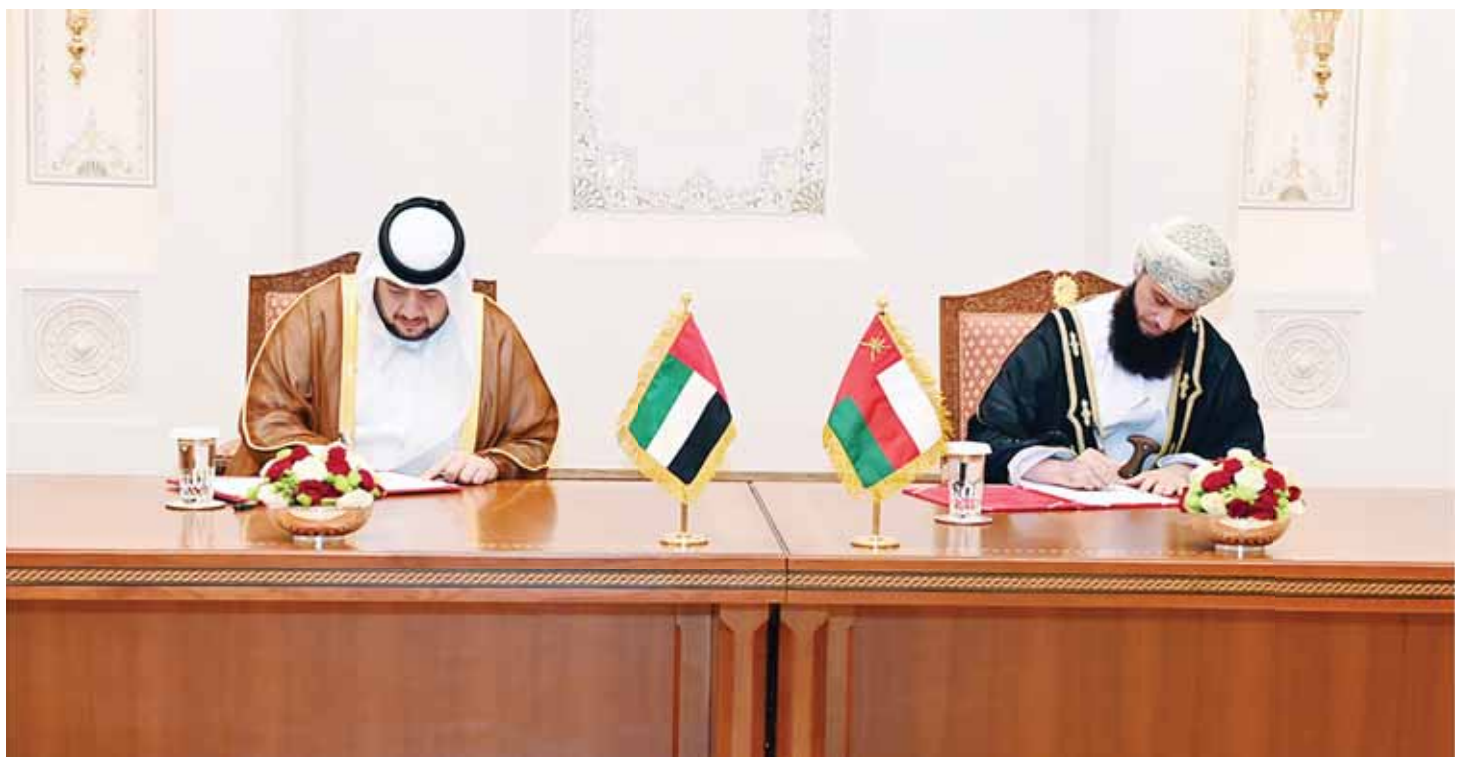
Oman's oil exports to Japan grew significantly by 252.8 per cent to reach 8,410,800 barrels at the end of last August. Oil exports to South Korea also increased by 68.7 per cent during this period.

On the other hand, natural gas production, including imports, in the Sultanate of Oman until the end of August witnessed an increase of 4.8 per cent to reach 35.26 billion cubic metres.

Data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) indicated an increase in natural gas consumption in industrial areas by 13.3 per cent, industrial projects by 8.1 per cent, and oil fields by 1.6 per cent, while gas consumption in power plants decreased by 1.8 per cent. - ONA

AGREEMENTS

OIA and UAE firms discuss investment opportunities in different sectors



STRATEGIC: Cooperation with the UAE side covers discovering joint investment opportunities and achieving mutual benefit, in addition to sharing expertise and boosting investment relations. - ONA

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and a number of United Arab Emirates (UAE) firms held talks during which they discussed a raft of investment opportunities in different sectors.

The two sides discussed investment opportunities covering diverse sectors. The outcome was that agreements and memoranda of understanding were concluded.

This took place within the context of the state visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President to Oman.

OIA and Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company (ADQ), unveiled an agreement worth OMR1 billion to empower and establish investment ventures in priority sectors in the two countries.

The two sides also earmarked initial investment opportunities worth OMR3 billion and agreed to conduct feasibility studies for each. In Oman, these investment opportunities cover new projects within the target sectors — including hydrogen and wind energy sector, aluminium, green steel, transmission lines and production of water and electricity, food, health and medicine, transport and related services, and logistics infrastructure.

Abdulsalam Mohammed Al Murshidi, OIA Chairman, said that these agreements reflect the OIA's efforts to attract foreign investments to the sectors designated in the 10th Five Year Plan. The aim is to achieve economic diversification and contribute to the overall total income of the Omani economy.

He stressed that cooperation with the UAE side covers discovering joint investment opportunities and achieving mutual benefit, in addition to sharing expertise and boosting investment relations.

In his turn, Mohammed Hassan Al Suwaidi, Managing Director and CEO of ADQ, said that the OIA constitutes a desire to build on historical ties between Oman and the UAE. Besides cementing cooperation, the agreement elevates the spirit of collaboration with a view to finding more investments in many areas and across different sectors, he added. -ONA

COLLABORATION

WTO, Fifa team up to use trade and football as drivers of economic and social development

GENEVA: The World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Fifa have agreed to work together to examine how international trade and football can serve as catalysts for economic growth and social inclusion.

Cotton programme

The collaboration, spelled out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Fifa President Gianni Infantino, seeks to foster synergies in relation to the economic dimension of sport and empowerment, especially for least-developed countries (LDCs) and women. Cooperation within the context of the WTO's cotton programme is also a central element of the agreement.

The WTO and Fifa agreed to collaborate by exchanging views on their respective activities and by preparing and implementing common strategies and projects in areas of shared interest.

Exploring opportunities

Regarding the WTO's cotton programme, the WTO and Fifa will explore opportunities to enhance the participation of the "Cotton Four" (C4) countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Chad and Mali) and other LDC cotton producers in global football apparel value chains.

The two organisations will also work together in the development of publications, including a joint study on the economic impact of football and its role in unlocking global economic growth potential, and will explore options for the development of capacity-building activities that support the use of football as a tool for women's empowerment, particularly in LDCs.

Gender empowerment

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said, "I'm really excited at the prospect of collaborating with Fifa to try to leverage the cotton sector in a positive way for poor developing countries such as the Cotton 4. I'm really excited that collaboration with Fifa could help us pull these countries more into the global cotton value chain. I'm also thrilled at the prospect of working on gender empowerment. We have a big sports economy, and to the extent that we can pull this through trade to support women, this is a positive signal."

Sustainable development

Fifa President Gianni Infantino said: "Fifa redistributes its revenue among our 211 member associations to help them develop football in their countries by notably investing in infrastructure, facilities, competitions, refereeing and coaching. Yet, we believe that there is still more that football can do, especially for the youth in the developing world. This important partnership can help us find ways of ensuring that football can further promote sustainable development for everyone to benefit from the global football economy."

On behalf of the C4 countries, as well as Côte d'Ivoire and all the African countries and LDCs that produce and export cotton, Ambassador Ahmad Makaila of the Republic of Chad welcomed this "excellent initiative" undertaken in the framework of the collaboration between FIFA and the WTO.

"For the C4, the signature of the Agreement between the WTO and Fifa strengthens a common vision, an inclusive and lasting partnership and a choice to favour cooperation and negotiation at the WTO in the search for the most appropriate solutions to the cotton issue," he stated. "This robust cooperation is more than ever indispensable to ensure that our countries bounce back from the many crises we are currently facing, undertake better reconstruction and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

Economic dimension

Under the MoU, which will remain in force until 31 December 2027, the WTO and Fifa will exchange information and expertise on the economic dimension of football, through participation in conferences, regular meetings and contributions to studies. Once a year, a joint review will be undertaken to assess the collaboration and identify specific activities or projects to be implemented the following year. These activities and projects will be reflected in a Collaboration Plan. -WAM

INDIAN CURRENCY

Indian Rupee depreciates to a new low

NEW DELHI: Continuing with the consistent depreciation, the rupee slipped further from the recent low and hit another lifetime low on Wednesday. This consistent depreciation follows the ongoing strengthening of the US dollar index for a two-decade high, on hopes that demand for safe-haven currency such as the dollar would pick up.

The rising trade deficit, depleting forex reserves, and the latest monetary policy tightening by the US Federal Reserve too triggered the depreciation of the currency.

On Wednesday, it touched a low of 81.90 against the US dollar, as against the previous day's closing at 81.70.

For the record, the US Federal Reserve had raised the repo rate by 75 basis points - which is the third consecutive hike of the same magnitude, in line with expectations, which essentially means that investors will move towards the US markets for better and stable returns amid the monetary policy tightening. The Fed also hinted that more rate hikes were coming and that these rates would stay elevated until 2024.

The US central bank seeks to achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2 per cent over the long run and it anticipates that the ongoing hikes in the target range will be appropriate. -ANI

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.84 per cent, was the top gainer while National Biscuits, down 10 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,486.31 points, down by 0.16 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.55 per cent at 477.27 points. Sembcorp Salalah, up 9.84 per cent, was the top gainer while National Biscuits, down 10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 374 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.44 million, with more than 11.44 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 10 advanced, 16 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR32,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,147.06 points, down 0.27 per cent. Prices of National Bank Oman and Oman Arab Bank were up by 4 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, Al Sharqia Investment, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful and Bank Nizwa were down by 8.81 per cent, 1.24 per cent, 1.24 per cent, 1.16 per cent and 1.03 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,195.69 points, up 0.19 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed, Raysut Cement and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 7.6 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 0.79 per cent respectively. Prices of National Biscuits, Oman Chlorine and Gulf International Chemicals were down by 10 per cent, 9.65 per cent and 1.08 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.47 per cent before closing at 1,613.72 points. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Al Suwadi Power, Muscat Desalination, Al Batinah Power and Al Maha Marketing were up by 9.84 per cent, 7.5 per cent, 4.51 per cent, 2.78 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively. Prices of OIFC, National Gas, Ooredoo, Majan College and Renaissance Services were down by 3.18 per cent, 2.96 per cent, 2.44 per cent, 2.07 per cent and 1.27 per cent respectively. **– United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,504.72	4,471.70	4,486.31	4,493.54	-7.22	-0.16
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,198.71	7,126.65	7,147.06	7,166.60	-19.54	-0.27
Industry Index	6,206.23	6,176.09	6,195.68	6,183.93	11.75	0.19
Services Index	1,614.18	1,597.22	1,613.72	1,606.18	7.54	0.47
MSX Shariah Index	478.77	477.03	477.27	479.90	-2.63	-0.55
MSX TR INDEX	5,681.50	5,639.86	5,658.29	5,667.40	-9.11	-0.16
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,532.65	7,457.24	7,478.60	7,499.04	-20.45	-0.27
SERVICES TR IDX	1,676.17	1,658.57	1,675.69	1,667.87	7.83	0.47
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,441.03	6,409.74	6,430.08	6,417.88	12.20	0.19

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
11,442,947	3,441,716	374	23,182,565,794	10	16	12	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	35,040	8,960	3	0.250	0.260	0.250	0.260	0.250	0.010	4.000	0.260	0.000	0.270	0.100	422,746,053
OM0000003000	Al MAHA PETROLEUM	429	345	2	0.800	0.820	0.800	0.820	0.800	0.020	2.500	0.820	0.800	0.820	0.100	56,580,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	213,000	54,860	12	0.259	0.260	0.254	0.254	0.252	0.002	0.794	0.254	0.254	0.260	0.100	31,724,082
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	5,110	4,558	2	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.880	0.892	0.100	669,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H	40,000	2,320	5	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.100	11,600,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	201,000	20,504	3	0.102	0.104	0.102	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.097	0.102	0.100	477,366,478
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	4,146,622	2,366,490	76	0.574	0.578	0.568	0.570	0.574	-0.004	-0.697	0.570	0.570	0.576	0.100	2,139,323,163
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	156,650	17,207	14	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.109	0.110	-0.001	-0.909	0.109	0.109	0.110	0.100	15,260,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV.	6,210	498	3	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.080	0.081	0.100	7,200,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	94,000	44,038	10	0.470	0.470	0.468	0.468	0.474	-0.006	-1.266	0.468	0.460	0.468	0.100	110,639,880
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	33,113	13,248	5	0.402	0.402	0.400	0.400	0.410	-0.010	-2.439	0.400	0.400	0.410	0.100	260,377,692
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	12,000	1,464	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.126	-0.004	-3.175	0.122	0.122	0.138	0.100	28,914,000
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FIN.S	55,000	8,100	7	0.150	0.150	0.145	0.145	0.159	-0.014	-8.805	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	43,965,977
Total	13	4,998,174	2,542,591	143												

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
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	250,001	15,015	14	0.061	0.067	0.060	0.067	0.061	0.006	9.836	0.067	0.060	0.067	0.100	63,956,321
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	10,000	855	2	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.079	0.006	7.595	0.085	0.077	0.085	0.100	6,872,250
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	100	4	1	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.040	0.003	7.500	0.043	0.000	0.043	0.100	30,719,473
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	4,325	502	1	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.111	0.005	4.505	0.116	0.000	0.116	0.100	18,043,846
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	32,876	1,209	4	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.001	2.778	0.037	0.035	0.038	0.100	24,970,835
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	27,000	3,407	5	0.125	0.128	0.125	0.128	0.125	0.003	2.400	0.128	0.118	0.128	0.100	213,684,480
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	1,900	363	3	0.191	0.198	0.191	0.198	0.195	0.003	1.538	0.198	0.190	0.196	0.100	39,600,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	25,525	2,052	5	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	2,685,716
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	77,100	8,387	10	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.109	0.108	0.100	19,846,545
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	270,307	17,050	19	0.064	0.064	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	0.064	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	2,550,402	351,955	6	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.138	0.000	0.000	0.138	0.138	0.145	0.100	413,496,498
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	55,567	15,670	20	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.000	0.000	0.282	0.282	0.282	0.100	33,840,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER.	2,588,358	430,138	85	0.166	0.167	0.164	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.100	33,492,764
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	4,752	447	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	18,800,000
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	1,874	255	1	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.136	0.143	0.100	10,270,992
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	78,000	7,558	7	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.096	0.098	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000002028	GULF INT.CHEMI.	3,000	276	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.100	1,932,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	39,994	3,435	6	0.086	0.086	0.085	0.085	0.086	-0.001	-1.163	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.100	14,875,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	61,106	4,888	6	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.080	0.083	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	3,450	490	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.145	-0.003	-2.069	0.142	0.142	0.144	0.100	12,780,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	245,000	32,328	22	0.133	0.133	0.131	0.131	0.135	-0.004	-2.963	0.131	0.131	0.132	0.100	11,135,000
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	200	94	1	0.468	0.468	0.468	0.468	0.518	-0.050	-9.653	0.468	0.468	0.560	0.100	31,872,512
OM0000001186	NATIONAL BISCUIT	390	1,369	1	3.510	3.510	3.510	3.510	3.900	-0.390	-10.000	3.510	0.000	3.900	1.000	3,510,000
Total	23	6,331,227	897,747	223												

TECHNOLOGY

Apple drops plan to boost iPhone production as demand falters

CALIFORNIA: Apple is dropping plans to increase production of its new iPhones this year after an anticipated surge in demand failed to materialise, Bloomberg News reported, citing people familiar with the matter. The company told suppliers to curtail efforts to increase assembly of its flagship iPhone 14 product family by as many as 6 million units in the second half of this year, Reuters reported.

Instead, the Cupertino, California-headquartered company will aim to produce 90 million handsets for the period, nearly the same number as a year ago and in line with Apple's original forecast this summer, the report said. Demand for the higher-priced iPhone 14 Pro models is stronger than for the entry-level versions and at least one Apple supplier is shifting production capacity from lower-priced iPhones to premium models. **-BNA**

WORLD BANK

Solar mini-grids can power half a billion people by 2030

WASHINGTON: Solar mini-grids can provide high-quality uninterrupted electricity to nearly half a billion people in unpowered or underserved communities and be the least-cost solution to close the energy access gap by 2030.

But to realise the full potential of solar mini-grids, governments and industry must work together to systemically identify mini-grid opportunities, continue to drive costs down, and overcome barriers to financing, says a new World Bank report.

Around 733 million people – mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa – still lack access to electricity. The pace of electrification has slowed down in recent years, due to the difficulties in reaching the remotest and most vulnerable populations, as well as the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the current rate of progress, 670 million people will remain without electricity by 2030.

"Now more than ever, solar mini-grids are a core solution for closing the energy access gap," said Riccardo Puliti, Infrastructure Vice President at the World Bank. "The World Bank has been scaling up its support to mini-grids as part of helping countries develop comprehensive electrification programmes. With $1.4 billion across 30 countries, our commitments to mini-grids represent about one-quarter of the total investment in mini-grids by the public and private sectors in our client countries.

Several actions

"To realise mini grids' full potential to connect half a billion people by 2030, several actions are needed, such as incorporating mini-grids into national electrification plans and devising financing solutions adapted to mini-grid projects' risk profiles."

The deployment of solar mini-grids has seen an important acceleration, from around 50 per country per year in 2018 to more than 150 per country per year today, particularly in countries with the lowest rates of access to electricity. This is the result of falling costs of key components, the introduction of new digital solutions, a large and expanding cohort of highly capable mini-grid developers, and growing economies of scale.

Solar mini-grids have become the least-cost way to bring high-quality 24/7 electricity to towns and cities off the grid or experiencing regular power cuts. The cost of electricity generated by solar mini-grids has gone down from $0.55/kWh in 2018 to $0.38/kWh today. Modern solar mini-grids now provide enough electricity for life-changing electric appliances, such as refrigerators, welders, milling machines or e-vehicles. **-WAM**

NEW STUDY

Saudi Arabia's economy 60% more resilient to oil market shocks as a result of Vision 2030 reforms

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's economy, measured by total gross domestic product (GDP), is estimated to become 60 per cent more resilient to oil price shocks by 2030, according to a new study by the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (KAPSARC).

Vision 2030's economic reforms will make Saudi households' consumption 40 per cent less volatile, stabilise economic activity, employment levels and household income, improving the overall well-being of households in the long-term.

The study, "Resilience of Saudi Arabia's Economy to Shocks: Effects of Economic Reforms," employs a KAPSARC model that mimics the economy's response to external shocks. It uses economic data - GDP, investment, and household income - before and after the implementation of Vision 2030's economic reforms are completed, such as diversifying the economy away from oil. Ultimately, when simulating economic response, the lower it is to external shocks, the more resilient the economy is.

"As expected for the world's largest oil exporter, oil price shocks are a major source of macroeconomic fluctuations. Ending this vulnerability is the core of Vision 2030, as the Kingdom aims to diversify its economy," explained Dr Axel Pierru, KAPSARC's Energy Macro & Microeconomics Programme Director.

ECONOMIC REFORMS: Vision 2030's economic reforms will make Saudi households' consumption 40 per cent less volatile, stabilise economic activity, employment levels and household income, improving the overall well-being of households in the long-term. . **- Photo used for illustrative purpose only**

Dr Hossa Almutairi, a co-author of the study, highlighted that "resilience to external shocks results in more stable economic activity, which is highly beneficial to businesses and households."

Saudi Arabia's oil reserves will remain an important source of revenue for the country in the long term. The Kingdom will increase its oil production capacity by one million barrels per day in the coming years. At the same time, the transformation of the Saudi economy will continue, leveraging the reforms implemented in 2016 to improve the business environment and boost the private sector. Saudi Arabia is now ranked 24th based on the IMD global competitiveness indicator.

In this new, enabling environment, economic diversification has already started taking off. Since 2015, the number of industrial facilities in the Kingdom has already increased by almost half, and the services sector has expanded by one-tenth.

A report released in August by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects Saudi GDP growth of 7.6 per cent this year, overtaking India to become the world's fastest-growing economy.

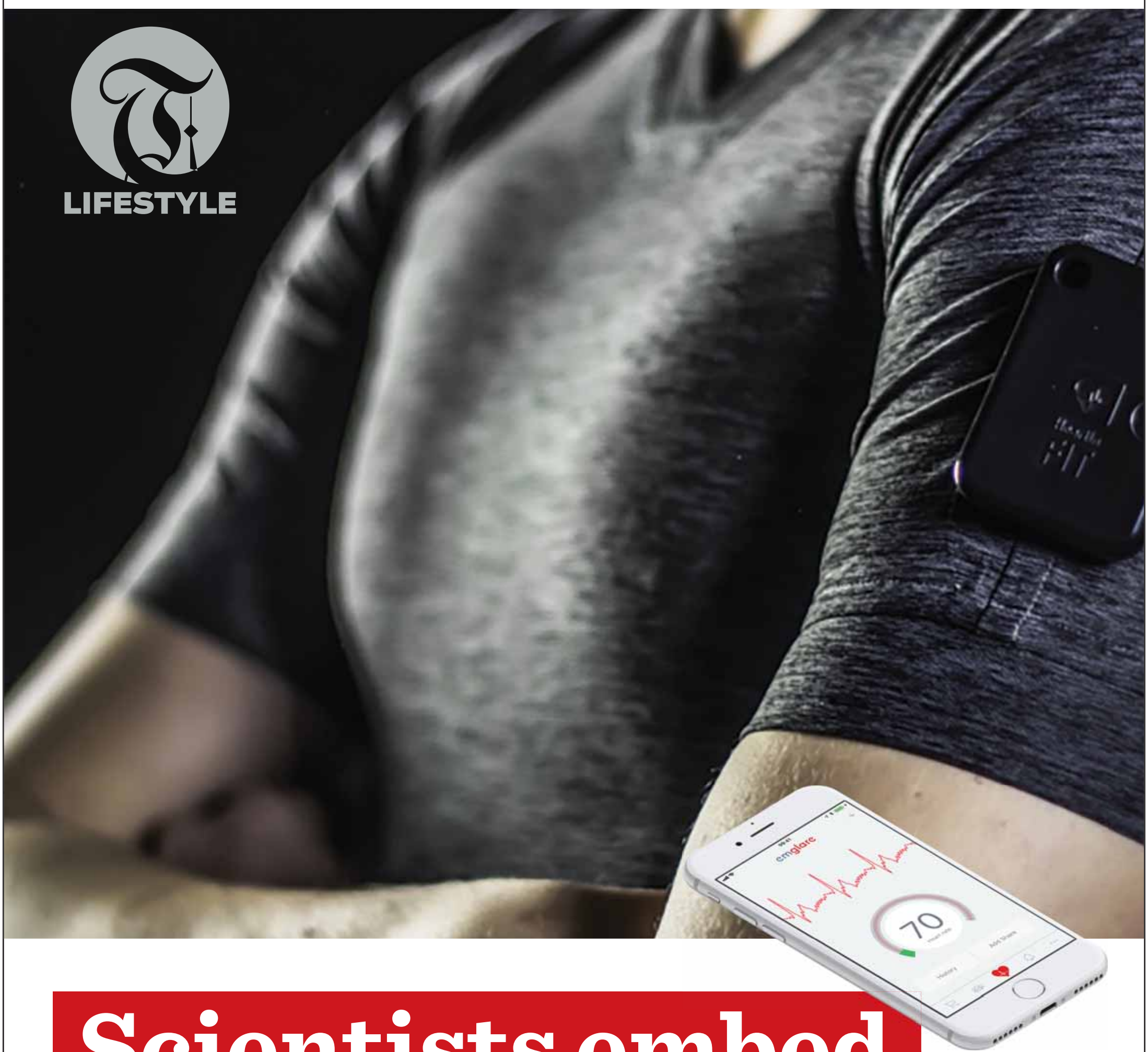
Before the implementation of the Vision, Saudi Arabia's economic growth and government spending were closely linked to oil prices. This meant the Saudi economy was historically less stable than more developed and diversified economies. This had expensive repercussions for Saudi households and businesses.

Historically, the Kingdom protected the domestic economy from oil price swings by acting within OPEC to stabilise the oil market. It also used its deposits and reserves at the Saudi Central Bank as a buffer to separate government spending from oil revenue fluctuations.

However, the increased resilience brought by Vision 2030 is a game changer since it brings structural reforms that decouple the economy from the vagaries of the oil price.

KAPSARC President Fahad Alajlan explained, "As we witnessed during the Covid pandemic, resilience is critical to any economy to withstand major shocks. The Saudi Vision has increased the resilience of the economy and as we get closer to 2030, we expect it to be even more resilient as more reforms are implemented." **- SPA**

IMPERIAL RESEARCHERS HAVE EMBEDDED NEW LOW-COST SENSORS INTO T-SHIRTS AND FACE MASKS THAT TRACK BREATHING AND HEART RATE.



Scientists embed sensors into T-shirts to monitor breathing, heart rate

Potential applications range from monitoring exercise, sleep, and stress to diagnosing and monitoring disease through breath and vital signs.

Spun from a new Imperial-developed cotton-based conductive thread called PECOTEX, the sensors cost little to manufacture. Just $0.15 produces a metre of thread to seamlessly integrate more than ten sensors into clothing, and PECOTEX is compatible with industry-standard computerised embroidery machines.

The first author of the research Fahad Alshabouna, PhD candidate at Imperial's Department of Bioengineering, said: "The flexible medium of clothing means our sensors have a wide range of applications. They're also relatively easy to produce which means we could scale up manufacturing and usher in a new generation of wearables in clothing."

The research team embroidered the sensors into a face mask to monitor breathing, a T-shirt to monitor heart activity, and textiles to monitor gases like ammonia, a component of the breath that can be used to track liver and kidney function. The ammonia sensors were developed to test whether gas sensors could also be manufactured using embroidery.

Fahad added: "We demonstrated applications in monitoring cardiac activity and breathing, and sensing gases. Future potential applications include diagnosing and monitoring disease and treatment, monitoring the body during exercise, sleep, and stress, and use in batteries, heaters, anti-static clothing."

The research is published today in Materials Today.

> **Our research opens up exciting possibilities for wearable sensors in everyday clothing. By monitoring breathing, heart rate, and gases, they can already be seamlessly integrated, and might even be able to help diagnose and monitor treatments of disease in the future**

SEAMLESS SENSORS

Wearable sensors, like those on smartwatches, let us continuously monitor our health and wellbeing non-invasively. Until now, however, there has been a lack of suitable conductive threads, which explains why wearable sensors seamlessly integrated into clothing aren't yet widely available.

Enter PECOTEX. Developed and spun into sensors by Imperial researchers, the material is machine washable, and is less breakable and more electrically conductive than commercially available silver-based conductive threads, meaning more layers can be added to create complex types of sensor.

Lead author Dr Firat Guder, also of the Department of Bioengineering, said: "PECOTEX is high-performing, strong, and adaptable to different needs. It's readily scalable, meaning we can produce large volumes inexpensively using both domestic and industrial computerised embroidery machines.

"Our research opens up exciting possibilities for wearable sensors in everyday clothing. By monitoring breathing, heart rate, and gases, they can already be seamlessly integrated, and might even be able to help diagnose and monitor treatments of disease in the future."

Next, the researchers will explore new application areas like energy storage, energy harvesting and biochemical sensing, as well as finding partners for commercialisation. -ANI

IN PICTURES

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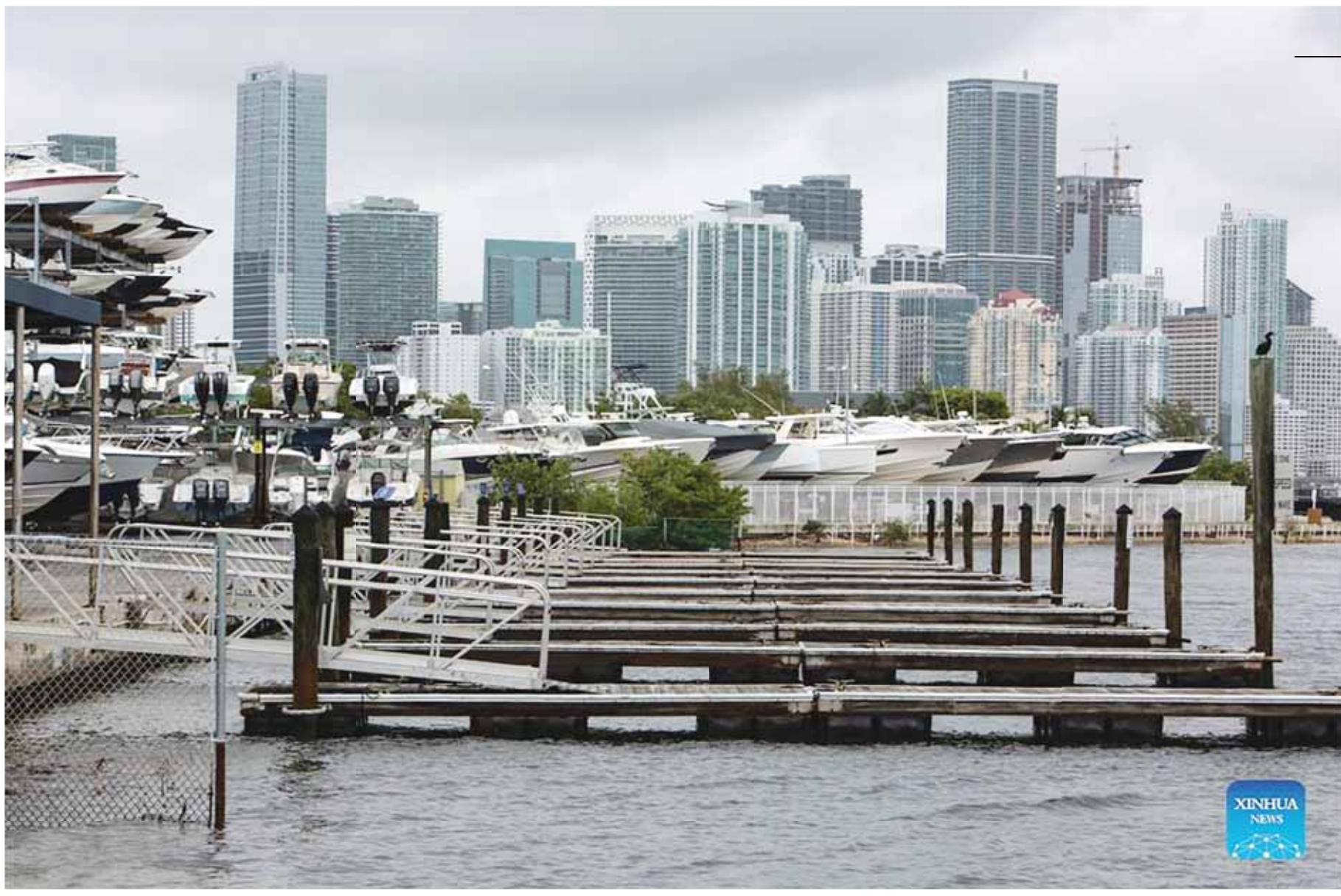

Hurricane warning extended as Florida braces for potentially devastating Ian
Picture shows yachts berthing in a bay in Miami, Florida, the United States. A hurricane warning has been extended southward on the west coast of the US state of Florida to Chokoloskee, forecasters said. Xinhua

World Tourism Day celebrated in Lalitpur, Nepal
Girls in traditional attire perform during a celebration for the World Tourism Day at Patan Durbar Square in Lalitpur, Nepal. Xinhua

Daily life in Slavyansk
Kids enjoy swings in Slavyansk. Xinhua

Amman Jazz Festival celebrated in Jordan
Artists perform during the Amman Jazz Festival in the town of Al-Fuheis near Amman, Jordan. Xinhua

Egypt seeks 25-30% annual increase in foreign tourists: Minister
People attend an evening ceremony held at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt. An evening ceremony was held at the Egyptian Museum to mark the annual World Tourism Day on Tuesday, which coincides this year with the 200th anniversary of the creation of the field of Egyptology and the decoding of ancient hieroglyphs. Xinhua

Mozambique starts to vaccinate adolescents against COVID-19
A student receives a jab of vaccination against COVID-19 in a school in Maputo, Mozambique. Xinhua

Exhibition of antiquities held in Egypt to mark World Tourism Day
Visitors view ancient Egyptian statues during a temporary exhibition of antiquities at Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt. The Egyptian Museum on Tuesday opened a temporary exhibition of antiquities to mark World Tourism Day, which coincides this year with the 200th anniversary of the creation of the field of Egyptology and the decoding of ancient hieroglyphs. Xinhua

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FEATURE

New research shows how to prevent ANTIBIOTIC-RELATED HEARING LOSS

One of the primary causes of hearing loss in people is ototoxicity, or hearing loss brought on by drugs. There are more than 48 million hearing-related issues in the US.

RESEARCHERS at Indiana University School of Medicine are coming up with fresh approaches to investigate why antibiotic results in permanent hearing loss and the death of hair cells in people.

The researchers described how they discovered the autophagy mechanism in hair cells that is connected to the permanent hearing loss caused by aminoglycosides, a family of antibiotics, in a study that was just published in Developmental Cell. The researchers also created one of the first laboratory models that are resistant to hearing loss brought on by aminoglycosides. According to Bo Zhao, PhD, assistant professor of otolaryngology-head & neck surgery, "this work finds numerous possible treatment targets for reducing hearing loss induced by aminoglycosides."

One of the primary causes of hearing loss in people is ototoxicity, or hearing loss brought on by drugs. There are more than 48 million hearing-related issues in the US.

For almost a century, serious infections have been treated using aminoglycosides. Due to its low cost and low prevalence of antibiotic resistance, the medication is the first-line treatment for life-threatening infections, particularly in developing nations. However, it has been reported that in 20-47 per cent of patients, it causes the death of hair cells, which leads to permanent hearing loss. The underlying mechanisms are unclear. In the inner ear, hair cells are in charge of sound reception.

Zhao employed biochemical screening to find proteins present in hair cells. Zhao's lab studies the molecular pathways causing hearing loss. They initially found that aminoglycosides bind to the RIPOR2 protein, which is important for hearing.

We think that RIPOR2 is necessary for aminoglycoside-induced hair cell death since aminoglycosides specifically cause a fast localization change of RIPOR2 in hair cells, according to Zhao.

In the lab, the researchers created a mouse with normal hearing but drastically reduced RIPOR2 expression. Zhao claimed that after receiving treatment with aminoglycosides, the model neither had severe hair cell death nor hearing loss.

"The autophagy mechanism in hair cells is then regulated by RIPOR2, we later learned. Knowing this, we created other laboratory mice that did not express a number of essential autophagy proteins and did not experience hearing loss or hair cell death when exposed to the antibiotic "According to Jinan Li, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Zhao lab and the paper's first author.

According to the study's authors, future research may employ the proteins discovered in this study as therapeutic targets to prevent hearing loss brought on by aminoglycosides.

The article's authors also include Ulrich Mueller, PhD, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and Biology at Johns Hopkins University, Chang Liu, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow in the Zhao group, and Zhao and Li. The National Institutes of Health and Indiana University School of Medicine funded the study. -ANI

ROUND-UP

Benefit with comfortable drives in Ford Expedition

The Expedition offers best-in-class fuel economy and power, with up to 375 horsepower and 637Nm torque available

MUSCAT: The Ford Expedition is an ideal choice for those looking to make the most of every journey with their family that too with space and comfort.

The Ford Expedition ranks well when it comes to space, comfort, features and capability.

Offering pure driving thrill is a 3.5-litre EcoBoost engine with standard Auto Start-Stop plus a class exclusive new 10-speed automatic transmission. The Expedition offers best-in-class fuel economy and power, with up to 375 horsepower and 637Nm torque available.

Making every drive a joy are the driver-assist technologies, high-strength, aluminium-alloy body and redesigned high-strength steel frame for rugged off-road and strong towing capabilities.

In terms of safety, Ford has thoughtfully equipped the Expedition with impressive safety features. It includes collision avoidance detection system that helps drivers avoid other vehicles or pedestrians, while available Blind Spot Information System helps monitor blind spots outside the driver's immediate view.

In addition, Expedition offers connectivity technologies and convenience features, including – Wireless charging, SYNC® 3, Power in every row: With four 12-volt power points, six USB chargers and a 220-volt power outlet that lets passengers stay charged and connected; Advanced cargo manager with an adjustable shelf, and Panoramic Vista Roof.

The Ford Expedition also offers the best towing capability of any full-size SUV, together with features such as Pro Trailer Backup Assist, which makes backing up a trailer as easy as turning a knob. Plus, an available power liftgate makes loading cargo easy.

The Expedition has impressive space that can comfortably seat up to 8 people with their luggage. This full-size SUV makes modern family adventures more comfortable during short and long trips alike.

The Expedition is the first full-size utility SUV to feature a sliding second-row seat with tip-and-slide functionality, providing easy access to the third row without the need to first remove a child safety seat. Once in the third row, even adults will appreciate more legroom and reclining seats.

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

WORLD HEART DAY

Aster Volunteers launches 2nd edition of 'Heart2Heart Walks'

MUSCAT: Aster Volunteers, the global CSR arm of Aster DM Healthcare, one of the largest integrated healthcare provider network in GCC and India, has launched the second edition of 'Heart2Heart Walks' on occasion of World Heart Day.

The global initiative aims to encourage people to walk for their heart health, while also providing them with a greater cause of saving the lives of underprivileged children in need of heart surgery.

The second edition of #Heart2Heart by Aster Volunteers commenced today at Aster Royal Hospital and will run until 16th October 2022. During this period, individuals wishing to participate can register online via heart2heart.astervolunteers.com and walk a minimum of 10,000 steps per day for 2 weeks of the campaign period. With the combined efforts of the participating individuals, Aster DM Foundation will be donating INR100 for minimum 10,000 steps a day, towards Pediatric Cardiac Surgery for underprivileged children through Aster Volunteers Treatment Aid programme in India

Flagging off the initiative, Dr Ashendu Pandey – CEO, Aster Hospitals & Clinics Oman, said, "Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of deaths globally, however, half of these can be prevented. In India, 2 million children have undetected congenital heart issues. Through the Heart2Heart Walk initiative by Aster Volunteers, we at Aster want to encourage people to take proactive measures to safeguard their heart health and support underprivileged children with cardiac ailments in gaining a healthy future. Our efforts are in line with WHO's theme of World Heart Day 2022 - 'Use Heart for Every Heart'. Let us give hope to people, lets walk for our own health and for the smiles of underprivileged kids."

Last year, the 'Heart2Heart Walks' organised by Aster Volunteers had contributed INR2.26 million for pediatric-cardiac surgeries of underprivileged children, towards the right direction of touching little lives and promising them a healthier tomorrow. To contribute this year, participants will need to record their steps on their gadgets/smartphones and share their step count through screenshots on heart2heart.astervolunteers.com or whatsapp it onOman number - +968 92167864. Alternatively, one can upload it in on their social media channel with #Heart2Heart and #Astervolunteers.

FOOT AND HAND CARE

Jumeirah Muscat Bay launches renowned Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio by Bastien Gonzalez for the first time in Oman

MUSCAT: The best kept secret for picture-perfect hands and feet has opened at Jumeirah Muscat Bay.

Taking wellness in the Sultanate to the next level, Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio by Bastien Gonzalez is the epitome of foot and hand care. Combining unique treatment concepts developed by experts in the French medical pedicure field with specialised, innovative products developed in collaboration with cosmetologists and formulated using responsibly sourced natural ingredients, powerful plant extracts and essential oils, Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio by Bastien Gonzalez will leave you walking on air.

A pioneer in the field of bespoke hand and foot beauty for over two decades, Bastien Gonzalez is a recognised and award-winning pedicure-podiatrist with outlets in luxury hotel establishments around the world. The uniqueness of his concept lies in the synergy between treatment, beauty and well-being. His treatment protocols are based on medical-grade care for the nail, resulting in restored, incredibly shiny and healthy nails. The ultimate secret of these exceptional treatments are their relaxing properties: whether for a hand or foot treatment, a massage is performed which relieves any muscle tension or heaviness from toe-to-knee or finger-to-elbow.

"At Jumeirah Muscat Bay, we are committed to working with leading wellness practitioners from around the world to offer exclusive treatments and products that get results. We are delighted to partner with award-winning Bastien Gonzalez to provide our guests with his breakthrough treatments, which will deliver a truly transformational experience for our guests," said Zeki Ozal, General Manager - Jumeirah Muscat Bay.

BANK MUSCAT

Asalah referral scheme with guaranteed cash prizes up to OMR2,000 gets excellent customer response

MUSCAT: In line with the bank's vision 'To serve you better, everyday', Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, launched its special Asalah referral scheme for 2022 earlier in the year.

The scheme, which offers guaranteed cash prizes worth up to OMR2,000 for successful Asalah referrals, has been getting an excellent response from customers. It has been hailed as an excellent example of the bank's continuous innovation in serving customers better every day. All that existing Asalah Priority Banking Customers have to do is to successfully refer new customers to Asalah Priority Banking during the promotional period which ends on 31 December 2022.

A reward of OMR100 per successful referral will be paid out once the referred customer meets all eligibility criteria for a minimum of three months after opening an Asalah account with the bank. Existing customers can win up to OMR2,000 by making up to 20 successful referrals during this year.

All that customers need to do is to download the referral form from the bank's website, fill up the details of the referrer and the referee and then email it to AsalahReferral@bankmuscat.com. The referee should ensure that the account is opened and their salary or deposit should be credited within 30 days of the date of referral, to be eligible for participation in the scheme.

Cash rewards of OMR100 each will be credited directly to both the referrer's and referee's account for maintaining the eligibility criteria during the 3-month review period.

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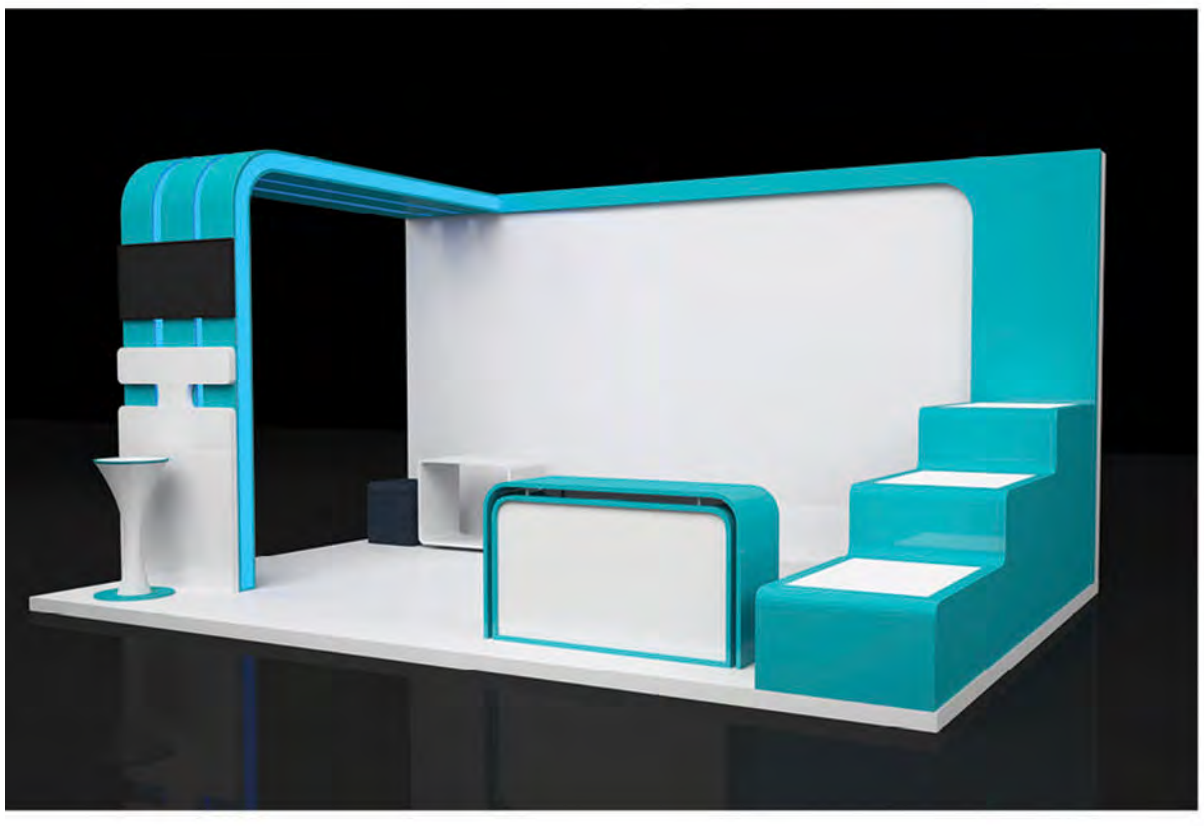

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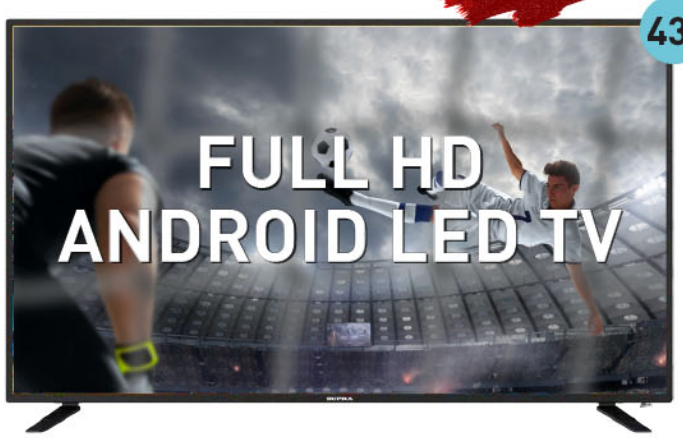

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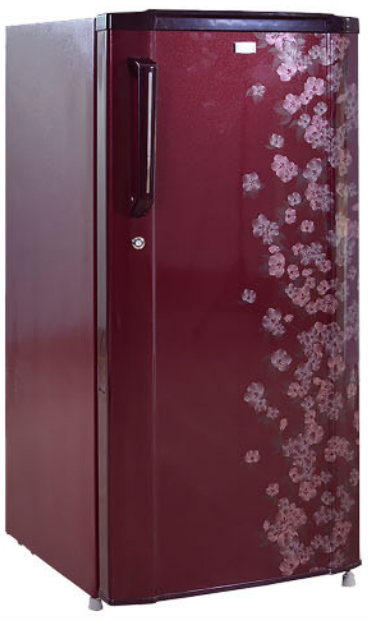

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