

SHURA COUNCIL TO START ITS ANNUAL SESSION FROM TODAY

As per the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Bin Tarik, Majlis Al Shura will hold today its first regular session of the Third Annual Convening (2021-2022) for the Ninth Term (2019-2023). **>A5**



HM SENDS CONDOLENCES

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jabir Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait on the death of Sheikh Saud Abdullah Saud Al Malik Al Sabah. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sympathy and condolences, praying to the Almighty Allah to rest the deceased's soul in peace and grant his family patience to bear the loss. — **ONA**



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RNO

Sayyid Theyazin to patronise Shabab Oman II farewell event



Times News Service

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, will preside over today the farewell ceremony of the RNO Shabab Oman II, organised by the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO).

Oman's friendship yacht is to set sail today for a nearly month-long journey across the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Titled "Oman: A Renewed Approach", Shabab Oman II will first visit Kuwait, before stopping over in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar, after which it will be anchored in the United Arab Emirates for 10 days, as part of Oman's contribu-

tions to Expo 2020 in Dubai.

The yacht will depart from Port Sultan Qaboos on Sunday, 7 November, before calling at Shuwaikh Port in Kuwait City on the 11th and 12th of this month.

The crew will then sail the yacht to King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, where it will once again anchor for two days: the 14th and 15th of this month. Shabab Oman II will then make the short voyage to Bahrain's Salman Port in Manama, where it will once again halt for two more days. On the 17th, the ship departs from the Bahraini capital and heads for Doha Port in Qatar, where it will stay for the 18th and 19th of November.



The next leg is the longest overseas stay of its voyage: Shabab Oman II will be anchored at Dubai Harbour from 21 November to December 1, and will be part of Oman's attractions at Expo 2020. The yacht and its crew are back in Muscat on the fifth of next month. "During its voyage, the ship will visit a number of ports of the

brotherly GCC countries and will also take part in the offerings of the Oman Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai," said the team from Shabab Oman II, in a statement.

Shabab Oman

The first pan-GCC voyage undertaken by an Omani vessel of this nature was in 1983, when the current yacht's predecessor, Shabab Oman, embarked on a mission to spread the country's vision of friendship and cooperation.

"That was an ancient and glorious history written by authentic Omani hands, carrying on their shoulders a great legacy left by their parents and grandparents," said Shabab Oman II's management team.

OMAN CRICKET AIMS TO BOUNCE BACK AFTER EARLY WORLD CUP EXIT

The Reds have already identified weaknesses of their team that need improvement

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's national cricket team is attempting to bounce back from its early exit during the Twenty20 World Cup by qualifying for the 50-over World Cup, which is to be held in India in 2023.

In an exclusive interview with the *Times of Oman*, Duleep Mendis, the national team's chief development officer and head coach, said the Reds have realised which areas of their game needs improvement, and are currently on track for qualifying for the next World Cup.

"There were many lessons we learned from our time at the ongoing Twenty20 World Cup, and we realised the areas we need to improve," he said. "The two main areas that need working on are our middle-order batting, and our fielding, and now that we know we lack in these two disciplines, we have modified our training sessions to address these concerns."



Games from one of the two qualifying rounds of the World Cup were held in Oman. The other round was held in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates, where the rest of the tournament is also currently underway.

Although they handsomely beat Papua New Guinea by 10 wickets in their opening qualifier in Amerat, Oman went on to lose to both Bangladesh and Scot-

land. Mendis believes that had his team been sharper with both bat and ball, they would've made it to the Super 12s.

"We must understand that this is the first time our boys were playing in front of a home audience, at such a big tournament...getting there was a remarkable achievement for us, and we want to make sure we are able to build on what we have done so far," he explained.

"I believe the pressures of the tournament got to the team, and if you want to play elite-level cricket, you need to be able to handle the challenges that come with it.

"If you crack while you are out there on the pitch, there is often no time to recover, particularly in a format as competitive as Twenty20, where one or two overs can make the difference in the result," added Mendis. "Had we gotten

maybe 20 or 30 more runs on the board against both Bangladesh and Scotland this might have seen us through to the next round."

Reiterating that this tournament has been a fantastic learning experience for team Oman – which has become the first associate-level country to both host and play in a World Cup-level tournament – with the Twenty20 World Cup coming in the midst of

qualifiers for the 2023 edition of the One-Day International format of the game.

10 teams will qualify for the tournament, including hosts India, who have sealed automatic qualification. Based on their ranking, teams aiming to qualify for the World Cup are split into three leagues: the Super League, League 2, and the Challenge League.

The Super League features the top 13 cricket playing nations in the world, League 2 features seven associate-level teams (Oman being one of them), and the Challenge League contains teams ranked even lower, and split into two groups, each containing six teams.

Qualifiers

The teams that finish in the top eight positions of the Super League will automatically qualify for the 2023 Cricket World Cup, while the other five will need to book passage through the qualifier. The qualifier features another 10 teams, including the teams that finish in the top three places in League 2. These eight teams taking part in the qualifiers will be joined by two teams that make it through the qualifier play-offs.

The play-offs feature the four teams at the bottom of League 2, and the two teams that finish atop their Challenge League groups. From among these six teams, two will make it through to the aforementioned qualifiers. **>A5**

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MUSCAT

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

More than 200,000 meals distributed

1 More than 200,000 meals were distributed to underprivileged families in Oman on 6 November by charity organisation Nidaa Al Khair, in collaboration with consulting firm Protiviti Oman. **>A3**

WORLD

Sierra Leone tanker blast kills 92

2 A massive blast at a gas station in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, killed at least 92 people, local authorities said on Saturday. The blast took place after a bus struck the tanker. **>A6**

MARKET

Tethys oil production tops 1mn barrels

3 Tethys Oil's share of production from Oman's Blocks 3&4 in the third quarter of 2021, before government take, was 1,037,768 barrels of oil, corresponding to 11,280 barrels of oil per day. **>B1**

MINISTER OF HEALTH

Sultanate committed to building stronger healthcare system

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Minister of Health has affirmed the country's full commitment to taking the steps required to strengthen the country's healthcare networks, and make it more resilient against climate change, so that it becomes environmentally sustainable.

Oman News Agency (ONA) reported that this came in a recorded statement by Dr Ahmed bin Muhammad Al Saeedi, Minister of Health, coinciding with the 26th meeting of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, United Kingdom, which runs from October 31 to November 12.

Days six and seven of the event are dedicated to talking about climate and its impact on healthcare systems.

"The Sultanate of Oman will work to achieve several goals according to a specific timetable to contribute to strengthening the health system, make it more sus-



tainable, enable it to withstand climate changes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are harmful to the environment, including related supply chains," said the statement.

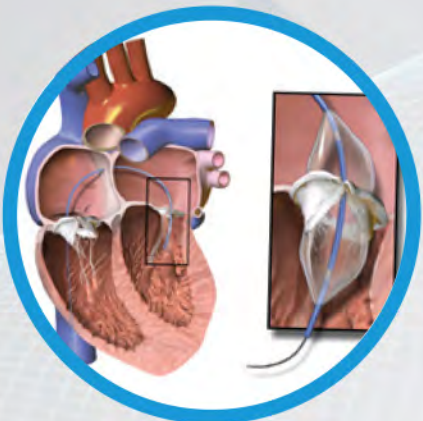
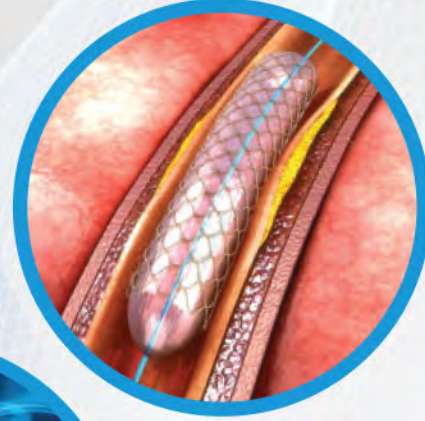
Assessment

An assessment was done of the tolerance levels healthcare centres have to climate change, and the extent to which they can, by 2023, adapt to weather developments. This will contribute to the

health sector drafting a plan, by 2024, to adapt to future climate patterns. This comes under the national plan for adaptation to climate change.

Other objectives include the use of the assessment and the national plan for adaptation in the field of health to attract the necessary funding for development of health systems in line with the principles of sustainability and respect for the environment.

>A5



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TIMES OF OMAN

Chief Editor RANA N. PARVEZE

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MUSCAT, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1976

PRICE BAIZAS 200

OMAN'S OIL PRODUCTION REACHES 134,320,000 BARRELS

Ruwi vegetable market opening on National Day—15 per cent nationals engaged in fisheries

—Saeed Ahmed Shanfari



Muscat : (By our Special Correspondent)

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Minerals H.E. Saeed Ahmed Shanfari has said that the Sultanate's present annual production of crude oil is 134,320,000 barrels, all of which is exported to various countries. 90,000 tonnes of copper is extracted from the different mines in the Sultanate. Agriculture continues to remain the basic pillar of Oman's economy and the Ministry proposes to increase agricultural output from R.O. 18 million to R.O. 30 million in 1980.

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Petroleum and Minerals Mr. Saeed Ahmad Shanfari has said that the Sultanate's present annual production of crude oil is 134,320,000 barrels all of which is exported to various countries.

Speaking to the Times of Oman in an exclusive interview, the Minister said that the Sun Oil Company will open its second exploratory well in the southern part of Masira Islands before this year is out. Meanwhile he said the other concessionaire Elf Oman Company will be working on another exploratory well in the Mount of Hormuz before the end of this year. At the same time exploration work will be carried out in Sanina region in the first quarter of the next year, he said. On the other hand Petroleum Development (Oman) is engaged in exploration activities in different areas of concession where tangible results are most likely according to geological studies already carried out. Four giant excavators are presently working on the site almost round the clock the Minister stated. Two of them are working on exploration while the other two are busy drilling from production wells. The oil experts in the Directorate of Oil participate in the studies conducted for the location of wells, the Minister stated.

Mr. Shanfari pointed out that by all economic, social and political standards, agriculture continues to remain the basic pillar of Oman's economy. However, there is still a need to further develop the agricultural sector. The ministry, he said, proposes to increase the agricultural output from 18 million Omani Rials in 1976 to 30 million Omani Rials in 1980, which represents a 66% increase. The Sultanate's five year development plan 1976-80

(Continued on Page 9)

Oman to host Gulf Foreign Ministers Conference

Muscat : (By our Special Correspondent)

Hectic politico-diplomatic activity is currently going on in the capital to finalise arrangements for the Gulf Foreign Minister Conference to be held here on the 25th of this month. Following protracted meetings with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Qais Zawawi, the Ambassadors of the Gulf countries are planning to fly to their respective capitals to seek their governments' approval for the conference agenda, already discussed at the Muscat Foreign office.

Times of Oman learns from informed sources at the Ministry of Information and Culture that the conference agenda includes the evolving of an appropriate formula to defend the Gulf region, and adopting necessary measures to implement the Gulf Economic Union project. All the Gulf countries participating in the conference have prepared reports regarding the subjects and efforts are underway to bring the various viewpoints close to each other. The Economic Union project includes expeditious industrialization in the field of oil and natural resources including copper, coal, uranium and iron.

The Gulf Foreign Ministers will arrive in Muscat on Wednesday November 24. The conference will continue till the 27th.

JIMMY CARTER TO BE NEW US PRESIDENT

—See Editorial on page 3

His Majesty felicitates Jimmy Carter

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos has sent a telegram to the new President of the United States Mr. Jimmy Carter, congratulating him on his election to the highest American office on behalf of government and the people of Oman.

In his message, H.M. The Sultan expressed the confidence that the relations between Oman and the United States would continue to strengthen in years to come.

UAE Minister visits Oman

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

The Chancellor of Exchequer of the United Arab Emirates Mr. Saeed bin Sultan Al Darmaki paid a three-day official visit to the Sultanate during the week.

His Majesty witnesses sports rally

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos attended the final sports rally of the Sultan's Armed Forces arranged at the Mustafa camp, where an enthusiastic welcome was accorded to him on arrival in the camp. H.M. The Sultan distributed prizes at the end of the rally.

Nation-wide preparations for National Day

Muscat : (By our Staff Reporter)

Brisk and large scale preparations are in progress in the capital and the Interior to celebrate the National Day in a befitting manner.

His Majesty's address to the nation, children's marathon march-past, the official feasts and other important functions are to highlight the occasion.

Thousands of school children are busy in daily rehearsals for the grand march-past at the police stadium.

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PARENTS CONTRIBUTING TO CHILDREN’S WELLBEING WILL HELP IN THE LONG-TERM

MUSCAT: Doctors and exercise specialists in Oman have asked parents to take a more active role in their child’s physical and mental wellbeing.

While taking into consideration the importance of teaching them discipline and encouraging a positive attitude, they also say that the feelings of the child must be taken on board as well, particularly because of the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their lives.

The arrival of the coronavirus disrupted their daily activities, forcing them to stay indoors and avoid physical interactions with others, while also taking a toll on their mental conditioning.

Dr Nauman Ahmad, a faculty member at the Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS) at Sultan Qaboos University, says that with parents being one of the main stakeholders in a child’s learning, their contribution is directly connected with improved abilities in their offspring.

“Our parenting style openly impacts the overall performance of our child because the way of communication impacts the wisdom of our offspring, and turns into lifelong learning,” he explained. “Therefore, it is essential to make sure that our parenting style is contributing towards strong development and continuous improvement of our child.

“There are four well-known parenting styles, including: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive and uninvolved,” explained Ahmad. “If we don’t listen and think about the feelings of our child, and rely on a ‘my way or the highway’ rule, then we belong to the authoritarian style. A child raised under the authoritarian style faces high possibilities of increased self-esteem issues, because their feelings are not considered, and ideas are not appreciated by parents.

“However, if we endeavour to develop a strong relationship between us and our child, describe the logic of our instructions, consider the feelings of child and appreciate the ideas, then we belong to the authoritative category of parenting,” he added. “Research studies have proved that a child nurtured under the authoritative style grows as a responsible indi-



DR NAUMAN AHMAD, Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS), Sultan Qaboos University

vidual and feels relaxed while conveying the ideas and views.

“On the other hand, if we introduce regulations to our child but hardly implement them, and consider that our child would perform great in case of less intervention, and our involvement is required in case of serious issues, then we belong to the permissive style of parenting,” he went on to say. “A child raised under the permissive style struggles throughout the educational journey.

“However, if we don’t have discussions with our child about the educational matters, show less concern, devote less time, and hardly ever know about the classmates of our child, then we come under the classification of the uninvolved parenting style,” revealed Ahmad. “A child under the style of uninvolved parenting faces self-esteem problems and shows bad performance towards the educational journey.”

He understands, of course, that sticking to one parenting style can be difficult, but he assures parents that a hybrid approach to child rearing is a very effective solution. As life goes back to normal, he adds, parents need to develop a constant daily routine based on structured events and activities, spend one on one time with their child, enquire about educational problems, the resources they require, and other related issues.

In line with the impact COVID-19 has had on children’s education, and parenting skills, Dr Nauman recently presented at an



international conference a paper titled “Online Education during and after Covid-19 Pandemic; Challenges, Opportunities and Post-Pandemic Changes”.

“The results of these actions are extremely encouraging towards the sense of protection and healthier changes in the behaviour of a child,” he explained.

“If our child has been studying online and staying at home due to the restrictions of the pandemic pedagogy, then encouragement is the best tool to give them self-reliance. We have to compliment our child on good behaviour, and cater to the needs and resources of online education such as uninterrupted internet connectivity and

“
With parents being one of the main stakeholders in a child’s learning, their contribution is directly connected with improved abilities in their offspring

a familiar learning environment.”

Ahmed also highlights the importance of framing communication positively: using words that have positive connotations such as ‘thoughtful’ and ‘reflective’, instead of one considered negative, such as ‘shy’, or ‘high sense of order’ instead of ‘rigid’ can go a long way in developing positive progress in a child.

He explained: “Instead of saying to the child ‘we regret to tell you that our plans to hang out are going to be cancelled, because you

haven’t finished your homework’, say it positively, telling them that ‘we are very excited for this evening, and our waiting for you to finish your homework’.”

“Overall, it is strongly recommended that we have to do our best to sustain a progressive and encouraging connection with our child, along with the realisation of our authority,” he said.

Meanwhile, fitness educators have also taken steps to make sure children’s diets – many of which went awry because of the pandemic – are put back on track. To ensure dietary discipline in his young players, Chuck Martini, the head coach of Muscat Football Academy, has decided to collaborate with dieticians from Eva Clinics.

“The whole of the world has suffered with regards to COVID lockdowns – there weren’t many guidelines when it came to keeping fit and healthy, because everyone was scared of catching the disease,” he said. “Adding to that, when you are sitting at home with nothing to do, you’re indulging in foods that are not healthy for you, because they make you feel good.

“Children spent quite a lot of this time playing a lot of online games, so when you have this cocktail, you will gain weight and suffer mentally as well,” added the former Morocco international goalkeeper. “With all the food delivery services available, there was no need to go out at all, and contributed to people putting on the pounds and becoming lazy.”

Eva Clinics will now help MFA’s trainees tackle the consequences of the poor diets they followed during the more severe portions of the pandemic. Under the agreement, all of the academy’s trainees can go to Eva Clinics, where they will be provided personalised diet charts.

“I hate to use the word ‘diet’: what you eat, after all, is what defines how you live your life,” he said. “Eating healthily does not necessarily mean eating salads all the time, but I look at it as a way of life, a way all of us should live permanently. What Eva Clinics’ doctors will add is their valuable knowledge of superfoods that will enhance the kids’ physical and mental performance, and help them recover faster from strenuous activity.”

– gautam@timesofoman.com



NAKHAL’S AIN AL THAWARAH ATTRACTS VISITORS



Nakhal’s hot water springs, also known as Ain Al Thawarah, are quite popular in Oman, and are surrounded by some of the country’s best landscapes.

According to Oman’s Ministry of Tourism, “Close to the Nakhal Fort, along a winding road framed by palm trees as far as the eye can see, are the Ain Al Thawarah hot springs. To this day, locals use the springs as a trusted water supply, and there is even a small pool to enjoy the therapeutic properties of the mineral water.”

“Beyond the date plantations that surround Nakhal Fort, this

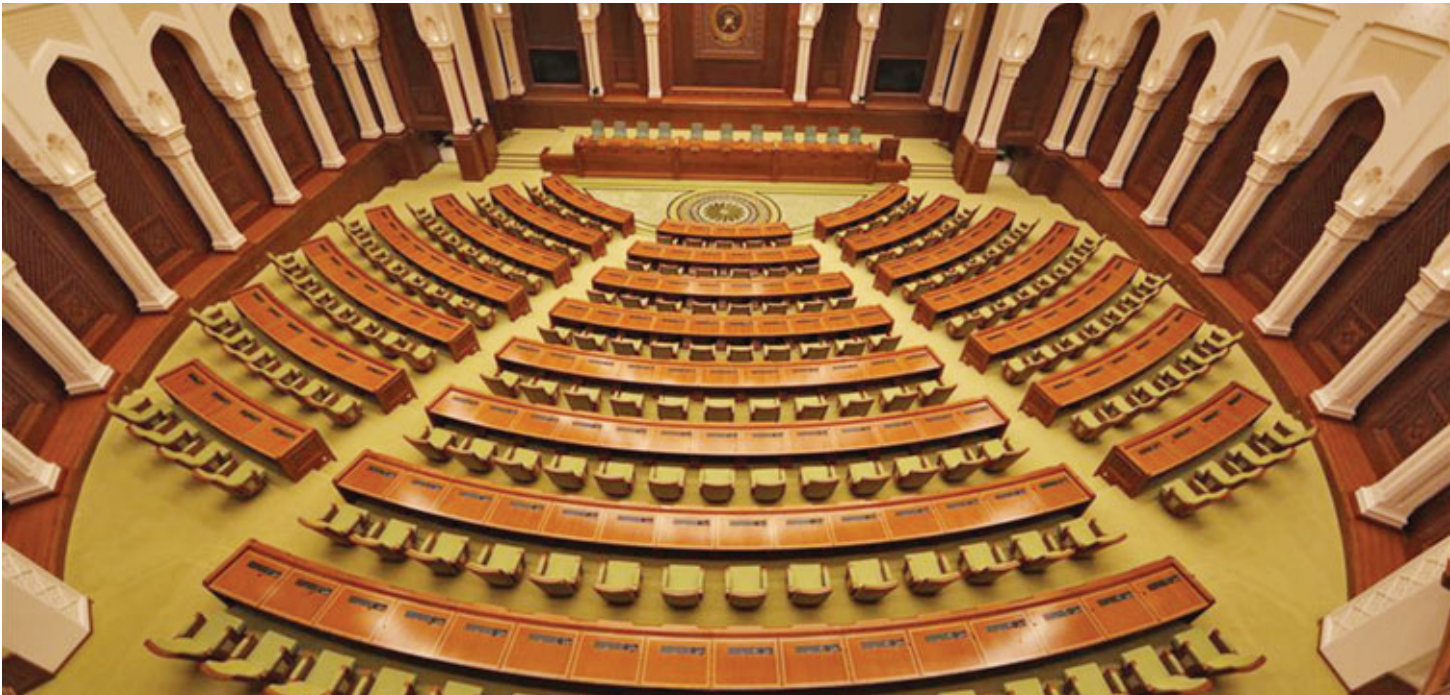


hot spring emerges from the wadi walls and is directed into a falaj (irrigation channel) for the irrigation of the surrounding plantations,” added the country’s ministry. “There are usually children and goats splashing in the overspill. Look out for the flash of

turquoise-winged Indian rollers, among other birds, attracted to the oasis.

“Picnic tables with shelters, a store and toilets make it popular at weekends,” said the ministry. “These are a collection of hot springs that gush forth all year round from the Silud Mountain and flow from the valley for a distance of 300 metres before branching out into two tributaries: Falaj Kabbah and Falaj As Sarooj. Wilayat Nakhal depends on this spring and its tributaries to irrigate its cultivated lands. The spring is one of the most popular tourist sites in Al Batinah South Governorate.”

NINTH TERM (2019-2023)



ELECT MEMBERS: The Majlis will elect the members of the Majlis Al Shura Office for the remaining term. — ONA

Majlis Al Shura to discuss vital issues at its annual session from Sunday

MUSCAT: As per the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Bin Tariq, Majlis Al Shura will open on Sunday its first Regular Session of the Third Annual Convening (2021-2022) for the Ninth Term (2019-2023).

In the session, the Majlis will elect the members of the Majlis Al Shura Office for the remaining

term. They will also reelect the chairpersons and vice chairpersons of the permanent committees, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

During the last annual convening of the ninth term, Majlis Al Shura has worked on activating its roles and powers set forth in the Basic Law of the State (6/2021)

and the Law of the Council of Oman, promulgated by Royal Decree No. 7/2021.

The Majlis Al Shura has also considered and studied a number of draft laws, a proposal for amendment of Articles 20 and 21 of the Advocacy Law and initiated a new article to the Traffic Law.

During the past annual conven-

ing, a number of draft laws were referred by the Council of Ministers to the Majlis Al Shura including amendment of some provisions of the Insurance Companies Law, amendment of Takaful Insurance Law and amendment of some provisions of the Motor Insurance Law among others.

— ONA

FROM SUNDAY

Council of Oman to convene its third annual session



MEETING: The session would be held under the chair of Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council. — ONA

MUSCAT: Pursuant to the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq on convening the sessions of the Council of Oman and based on the provisions of Article 74 of the Basic Law of the State and Article 38 of the Law of the Council of Oman, the State Council will commence the third annual convening of the seventh term on Sunday.

The agenda of the first regular session of the third annual convening of the seventh term includes the speech of the chairman and a discussion on the

study submitted by the Education and Research Committee on the actual condition of research in the Sultanate and the role the private and public sectors and international companies play in the support and development of research among other issues.

The session would be held under the chair of Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council in the presence of the members and the secretary general of the State Council.

— ONA

IN 2023

<FROM A1> Travel to India

Two teams from among the 10 in the Cricket World Cup qualifiers will earn passage to the tournament proper, and both Duleep Mendis, and Pankaj Khimji, Oman Cricket Chairman, are confident the team will travel to India in 2023.

“Oman are currently on top of League 2, so if we continue playing the way we are at the moment, we will surely be there in the qualifiers,” said Mendis.

“Just before the World Cup, we played a triangular series as part of our qualification process, at home against Scotland and PNG, and were successful, and we are looking forward to the next round of games.” Pankaj Khimji said, “We have four triangular series to play soon after the World Cup. It will be a busy period for us and the boys. But they are very excited about the tournaments that lie ahead, as well as the chance to play in another World Cup.”

GREENHOUSE

<FROM A1> Emissions

Others initiative aim to assess greenhouse gas emissions associated with the health system (including supply chains) based on baseline indicators by 2030, while an action plan is to be developed by 2030 to organise an environmentally friendly health system, with low greenhouse emissions, including those related to supply chains, including pollution, air quality, human exposure to contaminants, and the role of the health sector in reducing pollution.

MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING

22 housing units in Hai Al-Naseem completed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Twenty-two housing units in the Hai Al-Naseem project have been completed, with all their basic facilities, as announced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

‘Sorouh’ initiative

The Ministry had announced on Saturday that the Hai Al-Naseem project within the ‘Sorouh’ initiative has reached advanced stages of completion, as 22 housing units have been completed in the neighbourhood with all their basic

facilities, and work is underway to establish different models of housing units.

To be completed by 2027

In a statement to the ONA, the ministry indicated that the project is expected to be completed in 2027, as they will start receiving applications for ownership in Hai Al-Naseem, according to mechanisms and criteria for differentiation for those who first applied for residential lands in the governorates of Muscat and South Al Batinah, with proof of financial ability to purchase.



AL BUSTAN PALACE
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Tender Announcement

Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel invites sealed bids for the below.

Description	Last Date of tender submission	Tender Fee
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Tender must be submitted in a sealed Envelope along with companies Trade License and certificates addressed to:

**Coordinator of the office of The General Manager,
Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel
On or before 17th November 2021 before 2 pm.**

Note: Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel is not obliged to accept the tenders with least prices or any other tenders.



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Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology



إعلان Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology In Al Khuwair invites for the Following Project:

TENDER NO	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
33/2021/MTCIT/HQ-26	RENEWAL OF SOFTWARE LICENSES AND MAINTENANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES	07-11-2021	11-11-2021	22-11-2021	Experienced Companies And Registered With The Tender Board In Service (Excellent and First Class)	(30/-) Thirty Omani Rial Non-Refundable

Interested Companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days, and addressed to (Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee). And hard copy of the same should be submitted manually to the Tenders Section, Tenders and Contracts Department (1st Floor), Ministry of Transport Building at Al Khuwair before 11:00 am on submission date .

CORRESPONDANCE:

- Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
- E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: **Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om**

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE



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92 killed, 100 injured in oil tanker explosion at Sierra Leone gas station

The explosion took place after a bus struck the tanker in Wellington, a suburb in the east of the city

FREETOWN: A massive explosion at a gas station in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, killed at least 92 people, local authorities said on Saturday.

The explosion took place after a bus struck the tanker in Wellington, a suburb in the east of the city.

The flames then spread around the local vicinity, burning people in cars and on roads nearby.

100 people hospitalised

The mortuary at Connaught Hospital reported 92 bodies had been brought in by Saturday morning.

A further 100 casualties have been admitted for treatment at hospitals and clinics across the capital, deputy health minister Amara Jambai told Reuters news agency.

Victims included people who had flocked to collect fuel leaking from the ruptured vehicle, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, mayor of the port city, said in a post on Facebook.

“We recovered 80 bodies from the site of the accident last night with our ambulances,” a rescue worker from the Red Cross told AFP news agency, adding rescue operations were ongoing on



MASSIVE EXPLOSION: The flames then spread around the local vicinity, burning people in cars and on roads nearby.

Saturday morning.

A nurse at a hospital where the victims were taken said he had tended to many women, men and children with “serious injuries.”

“We’ve got so many casualties, burnt corpses,” said Brima Bureh Sesay, head of the National Disaster Management Agency, in a video from the scene shared online. “It’s a terrible, terrible accident.”

President Julius Maada Bio,

who is in Scotland attending the United Nations COP26 climate talks Saturday, deplored the “horrendous loss of life.”

“My profound sympathies with families who have lost loved ones and those who have been maimed as a result,” he tweeted.

“My government will do everything to support affected families.”

Vice President Mohamed Jullah visited the scene of the

blast later Saturday. Accidents with tanker trucks in Sub-Saharan Africa have previously killed scores of people who gathered at the site to collect spilled fuel and were hit by secondary blasts.

In 2019, a tanker explosion in eastern Tanzania killed 85 people, while around 50 people were killed in a similar disaster in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2018. -DW



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COVID PILL

Pfizer claims COVID pill cuts risk of severe COVID by 89%

WASHINGTON: Pfizer said on Friday that its experimental antiviral pill for COVID-19 cut rates of hospitalisation and death by nearly 90 percent.

The announcement follows a day after the United Kingdom became the first country to authorize a pill for coronavirus treatment developed by competitor Merck & Co.

Patients taking the Pfizer-developed pill in combination with an older antiviral called ritonavir saw an 89 percent reduction in their combined rate of hospitalization or death after a month, in a trial study of 775 patients. This was compared to patients taking a placebo.

Fewer than 1 percent of patients taking the drug needed to be hospitalized and no one died. In the comparison group, 7 percent were hospitalised and there were seven deaths.

Study participants were not vaccinated, showed mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and were considered high risk for hospitalization due to health problems

like obesity, diabetes or heart disease. Treatment began within three to five days of initial symptoms, and lasted for five days.

An independent group of medical experts monitoring the trial recommended stopping it early.

This is standard procedure when interim results show such a clear benefit. Pfizer provided few details on side effects but said rates of problems were similar between the groups at about 20 percent.

The results appear to surpass those seen with Merck & Co Inc’s pill, molnupiravir. Last month it was shown to halve the likelihood of dying or being hospitalised for COVID-19 patients also at high risk of serious illness.

Full trial data is not yet available from either company.

Mikael Dolsten, Pfizer’s chief scientific officer, praised the results of the trial as “rare.”

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said the company was in discussions with 90 countries over supply contracts for the pill. -DW

UNITED STATES

Eight dead in crowd surge at music festival in Texas

TEXAS: At least eight people died on Friday during a crush at a music festival in Houston, Texas, local media reported, citing police.

Authorities said scores of people were injured after some in the audience rushed towards the stage at the Astroworld Festival in the city’s NRG Park.

What do we know about the incident?

The surge began around 9 p.m. Friday night local time (0200 UTC Saturday).

People began to fall unconscious, and the mayhem escalated until 9:38 p.m. when a mass casualty incident was triggered, authorities said.

“We had at least eight confirmed fatalities tonight and scores of individuals that were injured,” Houston Fire Chief Samuel Pena said.

Pena described how a compression of the crowd toward the stage

occurred while rapper Travis Scott was performing.

The fire chief said officials did not immediately know the causes of death for those who died, and said a medical examiner would investigate.

Seventeen people have been hospitalized, with 11 of those were in cardiac arrest, Pena added.

Many people were also treated at the scene, where a field hospital was set up.

The event promoters had arranged for medical units to be on scene. However once the crowd surge began, those units were “quickly overwhelmed,” Pena said.

Emergency services set up a reunification center near the park and urged relatives of those who were at the concert to head there. Video footage showed ambulance trolleys making their way through the crowd. Other clips showed paramedics performing CPR on people in the crowd while

the performance continued.

It was not yet clear what caused the disaster.

The Houston Chronicle said Scott stopped multiple times during his 75-minute performance when he spotted fans in distress near the front of the stage.

He asked security to make sure they were OK and help them out of the crowd.

What is Astroworld?

Astroworld is a music festival created by American rapper Travis Scott and launched in 2018.

The 29-year-old rapper, who has a child with reality TV star Kylie Jenner, made his breakthrough in 2013 and has received six Grammy nominations.

The Houston Chronicle said a crowd of 50,000 had attended the two-day event.

The second day of the festival was called off shortly after Friday’s incident. -DW



MUSIC FESTIVAL: People began to fall unconscious, and the mayhem escalated until 9:38 p.m. when a mass casualty incident was triggered, authorities said.

GREEN LIGHT

US Congress passes President Biden’s sweeping infrastructure bill

WASHINGTON: Lawmakers in the House of Representatives voted to approve President Joe Biden’s sweeping infrastructure bill on Friday night, weeks after it received a bipartisan green light from the Senate.

The move is a major political win for President Joe Biden — who hopes the bill and the millions of jobs it promises to bring will help boost his lagging approval ratings.

The victory, however, was likely bittersweet for the president, as Democrats abandoned plans to vote on Biden’s social welfare bill amid party infighting.

What’s in the infrastructure bill?

With a vote of 228 to 206, lawmakers in the lower chamber of Congress voted in favor of the infrastructure bill. Around a dozen Republicans supported the measure, while half a dozen left-



leaning Democrats opposed it.

The move clears the way for Biden to sign the measure into law.

The \$1.2 trillion (€1.04 trillion) infrastructure bill would fund work on bridges, roads and expand high-speed internet — with the Biden administration saying it would create millions of jobs.

After intense negotiations,

Biden’s infrastructure package received a bipartisan stamp of approval in the Senate in August.

What happened with the welfare bill?

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives was also set to vote on the “Build Back Better” social bill, but had to delay the vote.

Following pushback from a small group of moderate Democrats, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was forced to delay a vote on the “Build Back Better” bill.

“We had hoped to be able to bring both bills to the floor today. Some members want more clarification... that [the welfare bill] is fully paid for and we honor that request,” Pelosi, the chamber’s top Democrat, told reporters.

The political infighting between moderate and progressive wings of the Democrats been a source of frustration for Joe Biden’s administration as it seeks to deliver on domestic policy priorities.

It had been unclear whether the infrastructure bill would come up for a vote in the House on Friday, after progressive Democrats initially signaled that they would vote against it. The party’s progressive wing previously insisted that the two measures be passed together. -DW

EMERGENCY LANDING

Mallorca airport closed after fake emergency diverts plane

MADRID: Palma airport, on the Spanish holiday island of Mallorca, was forced to close for nearly four hours on Friday night when several passengers fled a plane that had made an emergency landing, airport authorities said.

An Air Arabia Maroc plane from Casablanca to Istanbul had been diverted to Palma de Mallorca due to an apparent medical emergency.

Passengers stormed the tarmac

When an ambulance arrived to take the allegedly ill passenger — who was reported to have fallen unconscious due to diabetes — to the hospital, he and around 20 passengers fled the plane and ran onto the tarmac.

Authorities believe the diversion was a deliberate attempt to help people to illegally enter Spain, the *El Pais* newspaper reported. At least five people were arrested, including the passenger who raised the alarm. He was taken to the hospital and found to be medically fit.

He was later held on suspicion of “assisting in illegal immigration.” His companion disappeared upon arrival at the hospital.

Investigators believe the remaining escapees managed to climb over the airport perimeter fence and disappear on the island.

Airport operator Aena said 13 arriving planes were diverted, including to nearby Ibiza airport. Sixteen departing planes were grounded. -DW



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**CRICKET
WORLD CUP
2021**



Australia keep semi-finals hope alive with win over West Indies

With this 8-wicket win, Aussies are now in a good position to make it to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 semi-finals

The two-time men's T20 World Cup winners, West Indies racked up an impressive 157/7 first up on the back of their top-of-the-order batters

ABU DHABI: Australia demolished West Indies in their final Super 12 match in Group 1 of the ongoing ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Saturday. With this 8-wicket win, Aussies are now in a good position to make the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 semi-final. David Warner and Mitchell Marsh played the innings of 89* and 53 respectively as Australia chased the target of 158 in 16.2 overs. The two-time men's T20 World Cup winners, West Indies racked up an impressive 157/7 first up on the back of their top-of-the-order batters. And in reply, Australia never looked uncomfortable in chasing it down, as they gathered two points with 22 balls to spare. Opener David Warner was in

fine form, as he brought up a half-century to keep Australia well on track in their chase. With some help from Mitchell Marsh, he brought down the ask to an even 60 needed off 60 balls. Australia went into the drinks break at 98/1. The duo continued with carnage as after six overs following Marsh dismissal, Aussies chased the target. Earlier batting first, West Indies posted 157/7 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi. Kieron Pollard and Evin Lewis played innings of 44 and 29 respectively. Josh Hazlewood came back from an expensive first over to pick up four wickets. **Brief scores:** West Indies 157/7 (Kieron Pollard 44, Evin Lewis 29; Josh Hazlewood 4-39, Adam Zampa 1-20) vs Australia 161/2 (David Warner 89*, Mitchell Marsh 53; Akeal Hosein 1-29, Chris Gayle 1-7). **ANI**



ICC T20 WORLD CUP: Opener David Warner was in fine form, as he brought up a half-century to keep Australia well on track in their chase.

DRAWING THE CURTAINS
Dwayne Bravo retires from international cricket

ABU DHABI: West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo on Saturday hanged his boots as his team's T20 World Cup campaign came to end following the defeat against Australia. On Thursday, moments after West Indies' loss to Sri Lanka, Bravo had told ICC on the post-match Facebook Live show that he will be drawing the curtains on his international career after the showpiece event, as West Indies faced a defeat at the hands of Australia on Saturday, Bravo played his last game in international cricket. The West Indies all-rounder bowled four overs and gave 36 runs in the game against Australia in the T20 World Cup on Saturday. The seam-bowling all-rounder is one of the greatest performers in the shortest format, and his bowling at the death is exceptionally good. He has excelled and is the leading wicket-taker for West Indies with 78 wickets in 91 matches. His best figures are 4-19 which came this year against South Africa at the Grenada National Stadium. A two-time T20 World Cup winner, Bravo scored more than 1000 runs. He had made his international debut in 2004. **ANI**

T20 WC
Can't understand why people doubted Warner, says Finch

ABU DHABI: Australia skipper Aaron Finch said he cannot understand why everyone doubted opener, David Warner, in the T20 World Cup. **Lean patch** Warner was going through a lean patch before the start of the World Cup but the opener played important knocks in crunch games to see Australia home. **Warner delivered** On Saturday, with the stakes high and a win needed to put Australia on the cusp of an ICC men's T20 World Cup 2021 semi-final, said Finch after the win. **Nine fours and four sixes** The 35-year-old smashed nine fours and four sixes in a swash-buckling unbeaten 89 from only 56 balls. "Really pleasing day. The way Evin Lewis came out and played, I thought it was going to be a long day but we held our nerve. I think the way he (Warner) managed his innings (was impressive)," said Finch after the win. "He was able to get off to a flier and allow Mitch Marsh into the game quickly and allow him to takeover for a period and then once that partnership was flour-



ishing he took the reins again. Super player, he has been for a long time. Lot of people doubted him recently. I can't understand why," he added. Australia needs to wait till the game between South Africa and England to see who qualifies for the semi-finals. "Now we have to wait for the South Africa game, fingers crossed. We are going to be on the bus to Dubai. I'm sure someone will be streaming it. Its tournament cricket isn't it," said Finch. "You know it is going to come down to this. We can hold our heads high if it doesn't go our way. We have won four games out of five," he added. **ANI**

GROUP A & B



POINTS TABLE

GROUP A				
POS	TEAM	PLD	NRR	PTS
1	ENGLAND	5	+2.464	8
2	AUSTRALIA	5	+1.216	8
3	SOUTH AFRICA	5	+0.739	8
4	SRI LANKA	5	-0.269	4
5	WEST INDIES	5	-1.641	2
6	BANGLADESH	5	-2.383	0

GROUP B				
POS	TEAM	PLD	NRR	PTS
1	PAKISTAN	4	+1.065	8
2	NEW ZEALAND	4	+1.277	6
3	INDIA	4	+1.619	4
4	AFGHANISTAN	4	+1.481	4
5	NAMIBIA	4	-1.851	2
6	SCOTLAND	4	-3.494	0



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WORLD FOOD PRICES

The UN barometer of world food prices has surged to a new peak, reaching its highest level since July 2011, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) announced. The FAO Food Price Index is up 3.9 per cent from September, rising for a third consecutive month.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



AHLIBANK PROFIT RISES

Corroborating its current market standing and competitiveness, ahlibank has reported a 10.1 per cent growth in net profit in its preliminary unaudited financial results for the nine months ending 30 September 2021.

Tethys oil production surpasses 1mn barrels

The net entitlement, Tethys Oil's share of production after government take, amounted to 428,121 barrels, corresponding to 41 per cent of the total production



OIL PRICE: The achieved oil price during the quarter amounted to \$66.7 per barrel and 448,740 barrels were sold. - File picture

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Tethys Oil's share of production from Oman's Blocks 3&4 during the third quarter of 2021, before government take,

amounted to 1,037,768 barrels of oil, corresponding to 11,280 barrels of oil per day.

The net entitlement, Tethys Oil's share of production after govern-

ment take, amounted to 428,121 barrels, corresponding to 41 per cent of the total production. The achieved oil price during the quarter amounted to \$66.7 per barrel

and 448,740 barrels were sold, the company said in a press statement.

Net entitlement is the share of production available for sale by Tethys Oil and is calculated monthly in accordance with the terms of the Exploration and Production Sharing Agreement (EPSA) for Blocks 3&4. The net entitlement will vary depending on the level of production, oil price and costs incurred.

The net sales of 448,740 barrels in the third quarter of 2021 reflects the June, July and August lifting nominations and does not include the September nomination which was lifted in early October.

Consequently, the third quarter of 2021 Achieved oil price reflects the pricing from June to August and does not include the September Official Selling Price (OSP). The average Official Selling Price (Average OSP) for July to September 2021 was \$70.3 per barrel.

The third quarter and nine months report 2021 will be published on November 9, 2021.

SOHAR INDUSTRIAL CITY

Omani business owners briefed on investment opportunities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A business delegation from Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Branch of South AlSharqiyah Governorate, visited Sohar Industrial City, which falls under the umbrella of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates - Madayn, to get acquainted with the available investment opportunities.

Hamad bin Hamoud Al Qasabi, Director General of Sohar Industrial City, received the Omani business owners and briefed them on Madayn's mission in attracting industrial investments and providing continued support through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value-adding services, and easy governmental processes.

During the visit, Madayn of-

ficials informed the delegation that Sohar Industrial City is divided into seven phases where the occupancy rate in the first four phases has touched 100 per cent, while the occupancy rate of phases 5 and 6 is almost 70 per cent, and the occupancy rate in phase 7 is about 40 per cent.

The Omani business owners were then introduced to the incentives offered by Madayn to attract local and foreign investments into its industrial cities across Oman. They were also briefed on the objectives of Masar Service Centre in Sohar Industrial City, which was established by Madayn to offer an integrated platform that eases investment procedures for the investors to obtain related approvals, permits and licenses under one roof and within a specific timeframe.

HYPERMOTION DUBAI



PANEL SESSION: Sayyid Nasr Al Busaidi, General Manager Customer Experience at Oman Post & Asyad Express joined policymakers, strategists and industry experts in a panel session titled 'Automation Strategies to Manage Growth in eCommerce Fulfilment', to outline the challenges and opportunities within the Middle East's eCommerce, as well as logistics and supply chain sectors. - Supplied picture

Oman Post & Asyad Express highlight future of automation in eCommerce fulfilment

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Post & Asyad Express, member of Asyad Group, participated at Scalex Dubai (Supply Chain and Logistics Excellence) conference as part of Hypermotion Dubai, taking place on the sidelines of the Expo 2020 Dubai.

Sayyid Nasr Al Busaidi, General Manager Customer Experience at Oman Post & Asyad Express joined policymakers, strategists and industry experts in a panel session titled 'Automation Strategies to Manage Growth in eCommerce Fulfilment', to outline the challenges and opportunities within the Middle East's eCommerce, as well as logistics and supply chain sectors.

Panelists discussed the latest digitally-enhanced technologies that will be driving future automation and sustainability initiatives and efforts. They also focused on how to improve eCommerce performance through automation and robotics. In addition, Sayyid Nasr also shared the Oman Post & Asyad Express model and the latest milestones related to the company's recently opened state-of-the-art fulfilment centre in Muscat.

Commenting during the event, Sayyid Nasr said, "We discussed how the eCommerce and logis-

tics industries are transforming when it comes to introducing, implementing and accelerating automation in the marketplace. At the end of the day, the ultimate goal is to guarantee customer satisfaction and meet the evolving customer expectations and requirements.

He added, "Hence, Oman Post & Asyad Express opened its state-of-the-art fulfilment centre earlier this year. The integrated-logistical solutions' facility offers customers storage services, as well as pick, pack and dispatch of online orders for last-mile domestic and international delivery while integrating the latest technologies and facilities that provide local and international eRetailers of all sizes, with innovative, fast, and reliable fulfilment and logistics services."

The Scalex conference is part of Hypermotion Dubai, the Middle East edition of the German-initiated industry convex that reimagines the transportation and logistics industries. The conference drew together global disruptors who are re-envisioning travel, moving goods and services in the near future. The conference aimed to tear down boundaries between logistics, mobility, infrastructure, and transport while looking to replace them with networked, integrated, and inter-modal systems.

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MARKET

ahlibank registers 10% growth in net profit

This growth demonstrates its financial and operational resilience and notable overall performance, despite the global economic recession

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Corroborating its current market standing and competitiveness, ahlibank has reported a 10.1 per cent growth in net profit in its preliminary unaudited financial results for the nine months ending 30 September 2021.

This growth demonstrates its financial and operational resilience and notable overall performance, despite the global economic recession.



The bank was able to achieve an impressive 18.2 per cent growth in total assets, amounting to OMR3,065.2 million. While its operating income increased by 11.9 per cent, reaching OMR60.14 million as of the end of September 2021; its operating expenses increased by 9.4 per cent. Customer deposits increased by 15 per cent, reaching OMR2,041.2 million, compared with the same period

in 2020. Net loans, advances and financing grew by 9.5 per cent, reaching OMR2,365 million.

Said Abdullah Al Hatmi, CEO, ahlibank, remarked, “Being resilient, despite the ever-changing financial and economic landscape, has allowed us to strengthen our core banking services and products, while continuously serving our customers and clients by responding to their needs more swiftly and effectively. It has also been a key factor in facilitating the sustainability of our operational activities for further growth.”

“To maintain this exemplary performance - amidst the gradual economic recovery - we will continue to develop our competitive strength by enhancing and expanding our product and service portfolio; boosting our digital capabilities and infrastructure, with particular focus on upgrading our e-banking service; and widening our branch network, alongside the expansion of our headquarters.”

Adding further, he said, “As a testament to our commitment to the ‘customer-first’ approach we uphold, we recently won two awards at the prestigious OER Oman Banking & Finance Awards 2021: ‘Excellence in Private Banking’ for

ahlibank and ‘Excellence in Islamic Retail Banking’ for ahli Islamic.”

Complementing its business operations and activities is the bank’s heightened commitment to corporate social responsibility, which demonstrates its support to the government’s economic development agenda. The bank has contributed to the national COVID-19 vaccination campaign, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, whereby it was able to provide vaccines to more than 3,000 people, including its staff and their families. It has also supported the ‘Back to School’ venture, which aims to provide school supplies to children from low-income families. Further, the bank has sponsored the ‘Not Discovered Yet’ filming project, the first exploratory mission that aimed at highlighting Oman’s environmental and tourism features for global audiences.

“We are currently witnessing the results of positive market indicators, and I am confident this will drive the bank to continue upgrading its services to provide a unique banking experience in accordance with its ambitious vision for sustainable growth,” Al Hatmi concluded.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

World food prices reach highest level in more than a decade

ROME: The UN barometer of world food prices has surged to a new peak, reaching its highest level since July 2011, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) announced.

Food Price Index

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks the international prices of a basket of food commodities, is up 3.9 per cent from September, rising for a third consecutive month.

Cereal prices overall increased by 3.2 per cent, with wheat rising five per cent, due to reduced harvests in major exporting nations, including Canada, Russia and the United States. Prices of all other major cereals also increased.

The vegetable oil index went up 9.6 per cent, hitting an all-time high, and dairy rose by 2.6 points, with increased demand for butter, skimmed milk powder and whole milk powder, as buyers try to replenish low stocks. By contrast, cheese prices remained stable.

For the third consecutive month, the meat index declined, amid a sharp decline in beef from Brazil. Poultry and sheep prices rose.

After six consecutive month-

ly increases, sugar prices also dropped, by 1.8 per cent, amidst limited global demand and large surpluses for export.

Compared to last year, global cereal production for 2021, is anticipated to increase and reach a new record level, of some 2,793 million tonnes.

World cereal consumption for 2021/22 is heading towards a 1.7 per cent gain, led by an anticipated increase in global food consumption of wheat, rising in tandem with a growing global population. The production, distribution and consumption of all this food, uses about a third of the world’s total energy, according to a new report launched on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN’s Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow.

Feeding the world population is also responsible for about a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, making it a priority in the fight against climate change.

The report, Renewable energy for agri-food systems – Towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, shares several examples of how that can be accomplished. **-WAM**

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CHINA INTERNATIONAL IMPORT EXPO

Record number of US firms attend China’s import expo

SHANGHAI: About 200 US companies are attending the fourth China International Import Expo (CIIE) that kicked off on Thursday night in Shanghai, hitting a new high, the CIIE Bureau told Xinhua.

From 2018 to 2020, the number of US companies attending the

CIIE increased from about 180 to 198, and their total exhibition area has been one of the largest among all participating countries and regions, said the bureau.

Many iconic industry leaders have become regulars at the event. Multinational conglomerate Honeywell, a fourth-time

exhibitor at CIIE, has expanded its booth area to more than twice that of last year, showcasing innovative technologies in aviation, smart manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics.

Initiated in 2018, the CIIE is the world’s first dedicated import exhibition. **-Xinhua**

SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS

Instagram, Twitter enable link previews

WASHINGTON: The nine-year-old internet feud between two of the mega social media giants has seemed to settle down.

URL text

Users when they next share Instagram links on Twitter will be able to see a preview of the link that includes an image instead of just the URL text.

As per The Verge, the feature was rolled out on Wednesday to Android, iOS, and the web. Both Instagram and Twitter are promoting the change.

Reportedly, Instagram turned off the ability to see previews of posts on Twitter after it was acquired by Meta (formerly Facebook) in 2012.

Kevin Systrom, Instagram’s founder and former CEO, said that the decision was his and not Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s.

Acquisition

As per The Verge, Instagram wasn’t the only one that made changes limiting Instagram and Twitter’s integration, though; Twitter removed a feature that let users find people they follow on Instagram, on Twitter, a few months after the acquisition was announced. **-ANI**

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1BR flats at Mabella, with Split a/c's.	200 OMR	150 OMR

Call Yahya: 98864783/ WhatsApp: 72582888

2BR Flats at Azaiba	250 OMR	210 OMR
1BR Flats at AL khuwair, near Oasis Mall	200 OMR	180 OMR
2BR Flats at Seeb & Al Hail	225 OMR	190 OMR

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Pls send yours CVs to: jobmuscat2021@gmail.com

FINANCE

Senior Accountant, Indian Male MBA (Finance) with 9 + years of experience of which 6 years of experience in KSA in Financial Accounting including VAT. Currently in Oman.

Contact: 78370670
Email: abid.khan.a@gmail.com

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10 year Oman Experience in Sales Marketing and Customer relation, looking for any type of suitable Job. Release Letter/NOC and driving Licence available.

Contact 95034204

ACCOUNTS ADMIN

Accountant with 10 yrs experience in Trading & Contracting, Oil & Gas, Building Materials, Manufacturing, Constructions & IT sectors. Expertise in Accounting, Finalization, Auditing, Budgeting, Costing, Payroll & VAT. NOC / Local release & Driving licence available.

Contact: 91183601
E-mail: suneel.suneel@gmail.com

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Job Requirements:

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- Good, neat, clean & pleasant personality with good sense of house management.
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- Good communication skills, pleasant personality.
- Experience in home health care & nursing an advantage
- Labour clearance available for candidate with immediate release.

INTERESTED CANDIDATES CAN SEND YOUR RESUMES TO: squarespaceweb@outlook.com OR YOU CAN CONTACT US AT: +968 95157976

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Please Send your CV's to: vacancyinmuscatoman@gmail.com

PROJECT ENGINEER

Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.

Contact 91731694

Inventory Coordinator

Indian male 31: Having 8 years experience handling Retail F&B Operations, inventory, purchase, Sales & Accounting with various other skills, NOC available.

Contact: 96219904
Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

PURCHASE

Inventory, Purchase, Sales: Indian male 30, having 8 years experience in Retail F&B Operations, Accounting and various other skills, NOC available

Contact: 96219904
Email: khanshah98@gmail.com

FINANCE

Indian Male, Manager Accounts, M.Com with over 20 years of experience in Oman and India, in Accounts, Finance and Software implementation is looking for an immediate opening in senior level post. NOC available.

GSM: 92334161

FINANCE MANAGER

Finance Professional CA/CIMA/ MBA, with 18 years of GCC experience, open to Immediate Managerial Vacancies.

Contact Number # 78556829

IT/ HR / ACCOUNTS

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Contact: 95297497

ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED

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Interested candidates may please contact on +968 99443014

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GSM : +968 71198240
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+968 79645179, bdomanconstruction@gmail.com

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Contact: +968 9527 8838, anup2p4p@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCIES

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Need experienced Sales Executives for a Healthcare Business.

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Send your CV to: jobmct19@yahoo.com with your photo

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Please contact 99735820

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Email: apexhealth21@gmail.com
Whatsapp no: 968 95773456

MISCELLANEOUS

Looking For Carpenter and Office Staff. Contact 24709144
Email: atf24704415@gmail.com

Chemical Engineer (Omani)

Fresh graduate, bachelor degree from The University of New Mexico (USA)

Contact +96896444740
Email: msr15@live.com

OMANI HR/PRO

Omani, 15 yrs experience, PRO, Relation development, Labour & Crime law, HR & Time Management. Fluent in English, Arabic & Hindi seeks Part Time job.

Contact 97264447

Process Engineer (Omani)

Bachelor degree from German University of technology in Oman, 3 year experience in process and Contract engineering worked with Multiple Water and wastewater companies in Oman in different Sites and STPs.

Contact number: 92115804
Email: Faiza112@outlook.com

HR / Finance

Indian, Male, Masters degree in HR and Finance with 5+ years of experience in Oman as HR Asst with valid Omani D/L. Looking for a job, Currently in Oman.

GSM : +968 93835905
Email : chris_alwin@yahoo.com

PROJECT ENGINEER

Indian male, having 7years of experience in Construction with Masters from England, Currently working as PROJECT ENGINEER in Muscat (family status). D/L available.

Contact 79170769

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

Indian Female(MBA Finance) having more than 15 years of experience in Oman in Finance and Accounts seeks suitable senior positions. NOC Available.

Contact # 94953826 / 92824146

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS MANAGER

MBA - Finance with 15years experience in 5 countries including GCC & Africa. Handled accounts, costing & banking of Trading, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Construction & service company. Available for employment in Muscat with transferable visa.

Contact 93270023 rajugetme10@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCIES

ADMIN/HR

Urgently required staff with 3-5 years of experience in Oman with administrator & sales skills to manage real estate portfolio with valid Omani driving license.Please share your CV to darwishjobs2021@hotmail.com

MECHANIC/TECHNIC

A reputed Trading & Contracting Co. located in Muscat, Urgently required a **Civil / Mechanical Foreman** with 3-4 years' experience. Priority for experience in paint division.Candidate must have Oman D/L & NOC. Send your CV to: jobvacancy007788@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

ACCOUNTS/FINANCE

Accounting manager, 12 years' experience in Oman doing up to finalization.Looking for suitable position D/L & NOC available.
Contact 95570425 (Call/WhatsApp)

18+ year GCC experienced Accounts Manager/Senior Accountant with valid UAE D/L looking for a suitable placement, will be available immediately. Contact 91454929
Email: sahilmoulana@gmail.com

Corporate Banking and Wealth Management professional with 4 years experience in premiere Indian Banks. Seeking opportunities in Finance & Consulting. Education: PGDM Finance and B.Tech. Contact: 9430 9593

Indian Male 33 MBA looking for Senior Accountant.Having Byrs experience including 5 yrs in Oman. Presently in Oman with NOC. Contact 78275075 or Email: smumair4u@gmail.com

Indian male Senior Accountant having 11 years experience in Accounts, Audit & Taxation looking for immediate placement. NOC available. Contact 95075222

Indian,13 years Accounts experience in Oman seeks suitable position. Contact 96496435

HOSPITALITY

Indian 25 yrs, Hotel management course completed Chef seeks job. Contact 79892681, 79523339
Email: abusamir8@gmail.com

Required **Sales & Marketing Executives** experience in Building materials, spoken Arabic with Driving License. Apply with photographs to: salesjobsds@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

ADMIN/HR

Indian male having 21 years HR & admin experience in Oman seeks suitable job. Contact 79329696

Omani Male 35 years old looking for PRO Job with 15 years of experience of same. Contact 92049106, 95422144

DRIVER

Bangladeshi driver with 5 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 95160208

Bangladeshi driver with 8 yrs experience seeks job. Contact 96317701

Driver from Bangladesh with 4yrs experience seeks job.Can speak Arabic,Hindi.Contact 97625632

EDUCATION

Indian Female, B.Ed, MSc Maths - with Distinction. 6 yr's exp seeking teaching jobs. Contact 92106767

JOB WANTED

DESIGNER/AUTOCAD D/MAN

Freelancer 2D /3D Autocad Revit drafting MEP, Arch, B.Tech. Contact 99506977

LOGISTIC

Indian male, 24 yrs BBA,diploma in logistics & shipping, 2 yrs experience as logistics coordinator, 3 months training in customs clearance. Contact 95725785. Email: melbinm003@gmail.com

Indian male, 15-17 yrs exp in commercial/Warehouse/inventory & procurement field seeks suitable position. Owns D/L, Contact 98531104

MANAGER

29 yrs Gulf experienced BE(Civil) available with NOC to work at Senior Management level with reputed Consultant/Clients/Contractors or real estate companies. Contact 968-92279480. Email: abdulwahab.aw880@gmail.com

Project Manager (Interior turnkey Fitout Decor & MEP), B.E. having 14 years experience looking for a suitable position can handle projects independently. Call 98405111

JOB WANTED

ENGINEER

Male Civil Engineer having 15 yrs experience in Contracting project management,construction management,consultancy of mega building projects.8 yrs experience in Oman. Contact 94234934. Email ayub.engr@yahoo.com

Indian male (24) Mechanical engineering 2 years (Oman) experience in oil and gas field with OQ approved permit authority with D/L. Currently available in Oman looking for suitable placement. Contact 72050244, 98523127 Email: kssanju97@gmail.com

Electrical project manager (Btech) 14+ years experience in substation, OHL EPC projects upto 132kv with NOC and Omani D/L seeking placement. Contact 95290833

Srilankan Quantity Surveyor, Male with 4 years of Civil & ID experience in Oman.Looking for a job # 92187572 Email: sifathhasani1995@gmail.com

Senior Surveyor, Indian National, Diploma with 15+ years of experience both in India & Gulf countries is available in Oman with NOC to join immediately. Holding Omani D/L. Contact at 9045 9497 or mahesh.rsmahima@gmail.com

B.E civil engineer having 13 yrs Oman Experience mainly in building construction looking for a suitable position. Please contact 72132426

Diploma Civil Engineer, Indian total 11 yrs experience in Oman,seeking urgent placement (NOC available) Contact 90655964

Indian Project Engineer 11 year experience in the execution of Electro Mechanical projects seeking suitable placements NOC available Contact 79111574

Electrical Engineer & PMP with over 15 yrs experience in Oman,UAE &India seeks suitable placement. Contact 94029124
Email: rkdvb@yahoo.com

Indian, 25yrs, Planning Engineer, 3 years & 5 months experience in Oil & Gas (maintenance) seeks suitable placement. Contact 95586241/99892757

Sudanese electrical engineer with 8 years of experience in the field of operating distribution and transmission networks, including 4 years in Oman with Global and Tanweer Company seeks job in the field of operation or projects.Have D/L. Contact 98005485

BE Mechanical engineering, 5 years gulf experience, currently working in Oman with D/L & NOC for visa transferring seeks placement as Telecommunication Engineer/supervisor. Contact 94483729 Email ananth4004@gmail.com

Indian male, 28 Mechanical engineer 2 yrs oman experience,with D/L Searching sales/engg jobs. Contact 98040564 sayujvc@gmail.com

Indian B.E. Automobile Engineer 23 years, Male quick learner and ready to join immediately. Contact +91 8928691432 / +968 96131298 Email: tabishdhenkar.ttt@gmail.com

Quantity Surveyor (Srilankan) with 06 years of experience in building and pipeline projects. Looking for the job, presently available in Oman. Contact 968 79991752

Sudanese Mechanical engineer have 5 years experience 1years in MEP and 4 years in factories,maintenance and with D/L. Contact 93521100

MEP Supervisor

Indian male, 36years old, diploma graduate having 15+years of Oman experience in MEP supervisor role in an excellent grade construction and trading company with good practical knowledge, have MEDC, CEP, MEDC Electrician license. NOC available, is looking for suitable opening. Oman D/L.

Contact +968 96135973
Email kddhaya2@gmail.com

JOB WANTED

SALES/MARKETING

Indian, 35 yrs, experience of more than 12 yrs in Project Sales & Marketing (Turnkey & Building Materials) seeks placement.MBA (Marketing & IBM), Oman D/L. Contact 96656162,
Email: egubal,jspm@gmail.com

Indian male, MBA,13 yrs Oman exp in sales, marketing & distribution, available immediately, Contact 78097687

Experienced and academically qualified senior retail professional available in Oman with more than 20 years experience in multinational brands. Looking for a challenging opening in the top management role. GSM: +968 92629143

Looking for Sales & Marketing operations job, 5 years experience with FMCG company in GCC. Contact +968 78050760
Email: Jazmri.musawa@gmail.com

22 year old fresh Indian Chemical Engineering graduate on resident visa with Oman D/L seeks immediate opening in reputed companies. Contact 96087321/93972362

Marketing & Business development Manager 32 yrs with good market knowledge & experience of 12 yrs.Gcc D/L, Can Join immediately,, Fluency in English, Hindi, Malayalam & basic Arabic. Contact +968 79975463
nadeemshaikh198925@gmail.com



SIMPLE STEPS FOR ECO-FRIENDLY EATING



What you eat not only impacts your body, it also impacts the planet. Fortunately, you can make healthy choices for your body and healthy choices for the world. Learning more about eco-friendly eating and making a few sustainable swaps can help you feel your best while helping the earth to thrive. Consider these four simple steps to transform your eating habits to be more eco-friendly:

Shop small and local
Instead of defaulting to the grocery store or ordering from a warehouse for home delivery, consider shopping locally. Even doing this once or twice a month to supplement your household needs can make a big difference. Consolidate your shopping and take fewer trips to make the most of each visit.
Not only are you sourcing goods closer to home — and therefore cutting down on carbon emissions associated with production and shipping items — you are supporting community businesses and helping your neighbours thrive. Research local bakeries, family-owned cafes, co-ops and more to feel good every time you shop.

Get produce locally
When it comes to things like fruits, vegetables and herbs, fresh is the best. And there's no better way to enjoy fresh than when you get foods as close to the source as possible. For some people, this means growing their own garden for fresh produce just outside their door. Another option is an indoor herb garden for convenient year-round fresh flavors.

Buy carbon-neutral products
Research and support carbon-neutral or carbon-free companies. This means the organization is removing the same amount of carbon dioxide that it is producing, creating net-zero carbon emissions.

Choose organic foods
To reduce the amount of chemicals in a food or used to create it, some people look for items labelled natural when shopping. The problem with the term "natural" is it isn't highly regulated and often can be misleading. The best way to ensure you're eating foods that were grown without the use of manmade fertilisers or pesticides is to look for certified organic items.
Organic farming practices promote ecological balance, so when you choose organic foods, you're eating more sustainably. Fruits and vegetables are often what people think of when shopping organic, but you can also choose organic eggs, dairy and meat, which means they are given no antibiotics or growth hormones, and oftentimes are provided an organic food diet themselves.
The choices you make influence both your health and the health of the planet. -BPT

FEATURE



OMAN SAIL’S MUSSANAH RACE WEEK WRAPS UP AN EXCELLENT WEEK OF SAILING WITH A THRILLING FINALE

MUSCAT: The 11th edition of Mussanah Race Week came to a close at the Barcelo Mussanah Resort with a battle for medals between 50 sailors from four countries in different sailing classes. The award ceremony was attended by His Excellency Sayyid Ibrahim Al-Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Musandam. After eleven rounds in the Optimist class, Elyass Al Fhdli took the gold from fellow Omanis Abdulhatif Al Qasmi in second and Tameem Al Balushi in third.

In the ICLA 4 Class, Othman Abdulkareem from the UAE finished first, ahead of Omani sailors Mohammed Al Qasmi in second and Nebras Al Owaisi in third. Al Muta’asem Al Farsi from Oman finished strongly in the ICLA 6 Class to claim gold, overcoming Abdulmalik Al Hanai and Ali Al Sadi in a close battle for second and third.

The first para sailing competition ever to take place at Mussanah Race Week ended with the crew of Adil Al Siyabi and Ahmed Al Shukaili coming back from an early disqualification to win the gold. The crew of Ali Al Ghasaini and Ahmed Al Harrasi came second overall while Hassan Al Lawati and Zahar Al Atabi got the third position.

Shaima Al Asmi, Mussanah Race Week Project Manager, said, “This was a fantastic return for Mussanah Race Week. With 50 top young sailors from around the world here to compete at such a high level, we are sure that the future of sailing is going to be very bright. We hope to see everyone here again in the future.”

She added, “The introduction of para sailing and the SailFree team has been overwhelmingly successful. We are so proud of our

para sailors and look forward to seeing them develop. One of the main components of Mussanah Race Week is the social and educational aspect, where sailors from different backgrounds are able to interact and learn from each other on and off the water. This is such a valuable experience for everybody and we are delighted that the event was able to return this year.”

The event is supported by a lineup of supported including the national carrier Oman Air, OQ and the Barcelo Mussanah Resort as official partners, and Be’ah as environmental supporter. The National Mineral Water Company Salsabeel Water provided all essential water supplies for the event while the Royal Navy of Oman provided medical support throughout.

Oman Sail is a strong supporter of World Sailing’s ‘Back the Bid’ campaign to reinstate para sailing to the 2028 Paralympics in Los Angeles, USA. The success of the inaugural para sailing event in Mussanah shows the potential of the sport to grow and for sailing to become inclusive across Oman and the Middle East.

A busy winter season of sailing continues in Al-Mussanah Sports City straight away with the 2021 Asian 49er, 49er FX & Nacra 17 Championships. A fleet of 50 people from four countries across the continent and guests from around the world, including some of Asia’s top male and female sailors, including KC Ganapathy of India, Molly Highfield of Hong Kong, Dylan Whitcraft of Thailand and a strong team of Omani sailors, will look to gain vital experience ahead of the World Championships, also in Mussanah from 16-21 November, while competing for the title of Asian Champion.



ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat wins Corporate and Consumer digital banking awards

The awards for Best Consumer Digital Bank (Oman) and Best Corporate / Institutional Digital Bank (Oman) were received by Mohammed Sultan Al Habsi, Chief Representative, UAE Representative Office, Bank Muscat, at the Middle East Digital Bank and Innovators Awards 2021 held recently in Dubai

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has won two prestigious awards for digital banking from Global Finance. The awards for Best Consumer Digital Bank (Oman) and Best Corporate / Institutional Digital Bank (Oman) were received by Mohammed Sultan Al Habsi, Chief Representative, UAE Representative Office, Bank Muscat, at the Middle East Digital Bank and Innovators Awards 2021 held recently in Dubai. The winners were selected based on a number of criteria, including their strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Faqir Al Balushi, Chief Corporate Banking Officer, Bank Muscat, said, "Bank Muscat is delighted to win these prestigious awards from Global Finance, recognising the innovative digital banking services provided by the bank for its customers. With an emphasis on multiple channels and new products that cater to different sectors, the bank is focused on maintaining its leadership in offering cutting-edge products and services, including electronic payment and online services. We would like to thank all our corporate and retail banking customers for their continued patronage and strong confidence in Bank Muscat's brand." Ahmed Faqir Al Balushi added, "Bank Muscat is in the process of implementing its digital strategy to offer the latest of the digital fi-



ancial services and solutions for its individual, corporate, as well as government and public sector customers. The international awards won by the bank recognise its success in providing the best digital banking services to all its customers, in line with the latest global and technology trends. We are delighted to keep offering new services, which are especially designed to meet the ever-growing needs of our customers." Digitalisation is in line with the goals of Oman Vision 2040 and

will further enhance financial inclusion in Oman. The bank's customers are benefiting immensely from the latest devices, solutions and technological advances made available to them through the implementation of cutting-edge technology. As the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, Bank Muscat has the largest banking network in Oman with 174 branches and over 800 ATMs, CDMs and other devices. The number of retail customers using digital banking services has

increased manifold in recent years to over 1.2 million retail banking customers today. Similarly, digitalisation is helping corporates too speed up transactions, optimise the efficiency of their employees, minimize data-entry related risks in payment processes and improve security. Digitalization addresses the entire value chain of corporates by providing sophisticated analysis of data sets, real-time insights to ensure transparency and greater control for corporate customers to

make better-informed decisions. With state-of-the-art solutions and services like the Business-to-Business (B2B) Connect platform, Corporate Online Banking platform, Direct Debit solutions and Remote Deposit Capture, Bank Muscat's Corporate Banking offer secure 'best-in-class' digital solutions and services are based on customer feedback and needs as well as global trends. It must be noted that Bank Muscat recently launched its new and improved Corporate Banking website (<https://www.bankmuscat.com/en/Business/Pages/Business-Home-page.aspx>), which provides direct links to services and solutions including Corporate Online Banking, business loans and solutions, trade finance, agency and custody services, sectoral insights and eApplications for various trade solutions and other banking services. The bank plans to keep introducing new digital services and features that further enhance banking convenience and security in the future too. Bank Muscat's customer-centric vision and the adoption of global best practices have resulted in numerous accolades in the past. Earlier in June 2021, Bank Muscat was recognized as one of the "Top 100 Companies in the Middle East" and as one of the "Top 50 banks in the Region" by Forbes Middle East. The bank has also won a number of awards from prestigious international publications like Global Finance, Euromoney, The Banker and EMEA Finance for its different lines of business in the past.

RENT A CAR

Speedy Enterprises adds Renault vehicles to its fleet

MUSCAT: Entering a partnership with Renault Oman, a car rental company, Speedy Enterprises an independently owned and operated car rental company has added top Renault models to its fleet. The models included are Renault Megane, Renault Koleos, Renault Duster and Renault Symbol. A spokesperson for Renault Oman said, "We are delighted to supply top Renault models to Speedy Enterprises Rent A Car's fleet. Renault's celebrated models are characterised by strength, functionality and safety. Renault models continue to be the most preferred choice for corporate entities, rent-a-car fleets as well as families. Packed with top-notch technology and innovation, Renault vehicles also offer performance, significant power, fuel efficiency." K. V. Jayadev, the Managing Director of Speedy Enterprises said, "Our fleet of automobiles provides our customers with a wide variety of rental options. We are delighted to partner with Renault Oman. Renault is a world-class brand today, focusing mainly on important aspects such as safety, style, performance, value and reliability which is important for our customers. We concentrate on offering a personal touch in a professional environment while maintaining international standards. Our commitment to excellence has pushed us to the top position in Oman." The recent collaboration with Renault has seen an influx of high-quality vehicles of all classes to be added to Speedy Enterprises fleet, pushing its numbers to above 200 vehicles in Oman alone. Speedy Enterprises has been operational in Oman since 1999. Starting as a modest car rental company, Speedy Enterprises has recently diversified its portfolio by adding airport transfers, tour



packages and chauffeur services all managed by a group of young talented professionals. Speedy Enterprises has been involved in the promotion of Oman in the overseas markets by providing quality holiday packages and car rental options to tourists from all over the world, as well as the diverse and multicultural residents of Oman. Speedy has rental offices in Salalah and at Al Ghubra - Royal Tulip, Muscat. Speedy Enterprises is on the verge of opening additional branches in Duqm and Sohar, to further serve their growing clientele in the corporate and industrial market sector. **Renault Megane** Combining striking good looks and head-turning performance, Renault Megane, the vibrant and chic saloon, is appreciated for its daring expressive design and assertive style. Acclaimed for its performance credentials, Renault Megane is extolled for its best-level low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. Its energetic lines and substantial proportions add to its increasing popularity with car

aficionados in Oman. Recognised worldwide for its performance excellence and looks, head turner Renault Megane has a style of its own, which is both lively and elegant. It presents a high-class driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and roominess. Renault Megane is available in a 2.0 litres engine configuration along with a 1.6 litres variant. **Renault Duster** Renault brand's celebrated model the aspirational SUV Duster, is about strength, functionality, and safety. Consisting of a powerful engine, an attractive modern design, a comfortable and spacious cabin, Renault Duster is available as 1.6 litre 2WD and 2.0 litre 4WD or the Urban and Sports variants. Reflecting Renault's inherent characteristics of strength and SUV capability, the Duster's variants feature a powerful engine, an attractive modern design, a comfortable and spacious cabin, in addition to strength, functionality and safety to meet the aspirations of buyers. The SUV is characterised by powerful engines, 1.6 litre 2WD

and 2.0 litre 4WD for off-road enthusiasts. It also has an advanced automatic transmission with outstanding performance and significant fuel economy and carbon dioxide emissions to keep pace with the current trends and needs. Renault Duster's 'Urban' and 'Sports' editions are loaded with superior SUV capabilities and enhanced features have been designed to make a statement. Equipped with multiple outstanding features and technology enhancements, it is certain to set new benchmarks in Oman. The additional features of Renault Duster's 'Urban' edition, which is a 4x2 model include a door sill, boot sill, 16" alloy wheels and side steps. Renault Duster's 4x4 model 'Sports' edition boasts of wing extension, door moulding, sidebar and 16" alloy wheels along with a feature of three modes selection. **Renault Koleos** With its athletic profile, robust front end, roomy seats, taut lines underscored with chrome, Renault Koleos allows owners to take their journey with confidence.

OMAN ARAB BANK



OAB announces Hasaad savings scheme winners for September

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently announced the names of the winners of its Hasaad Savings Scheme for September 2021. The draw witnessed 101 customers winning prizes of OMR 500 each and two winners of OMR 10,000 as part of the Big Prize Draw. As for the Elite account holders, one customer was the winner of the Elite Grand Prize of OMR 25,000 from the Quriyat branch. Commenting on the winners of the recent scheme, Rashad Al Shaikh, Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "As we come to the end of the third quarter of this year, we are delighted to see a huge increase in the number of savings across all our valuable customer accounts. Keeping in mind the need to encourage saving especially in the cases of unforeseen circumstances, we ensure that all our customers are well rewarded for their efforts.

We believe that it is our responsibility to motivate our customers to have a savings culture and help them maintain sound financial management practices." The Hasaad Savings Scheme 2021 will see 101 lucky winners from 52 branches win OMR 500 each per month, as well as five winners of OMR 1,000 each. This is in addition to a Big Prize draw, which will see two winners of OMR 10,000 each every quarter. The Elite Draws will see two winners every month of OMR 10,000 each. This is replaced by an Elite grand prize draw conducted every three months with one lucky winner of OMR 25,000. "On behalf of Oman Arab Bank, I extend my warmest congratulations to all the winners of this month's draw. I encourage all our customers to continue saving to increase their chances of winning for the remaining draws for 2021," Rashad added.

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A portrait of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, wearing a red sequined top and a large, ornate ring. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark with large, overlapping red circles.

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