

HM SENDS GREETINGS

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on the Kingdom's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan wished King Salman good health, happiness and a long life. He prayed to the Almighty Allah to bring back this auspicious occasion at a time the people of Saudi Arabia have achieved further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



6 085010 120010

HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Umaro Sissoco Embalof of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on his country's Independence Day anniversary. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes of good health and happiness to the president and to his country's people further progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 141 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

40

٤٠ عامًا من التقدم
YEARS OF PROGRESS

T & C apply

Apply now

Get Reduced Interest Rates
when applying for a loan
for the first time from Bank Muscat.

4.25% 4.5%

Home Loan Personal Loan

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

OMAN'S TRADE SURPLUS SURGES 186% TO REACH OMR4.71 BILLION IN 2022



Improved global credit rating of the Sultanate reflects the economy's improved performance

MUSCAT: More than 180 percent rise in the trade balance surplus reflects a smart recovery in the Sultanate of Oman's economy. Owing to prudent fiscal policy, the trade balance surplus grew by 185.8 percent to reach OMR4.71 billion in the first half of 2022 compared to OMR1.65 billion during the same period in 2021. The export of goods increased by 61 percent and non-oil exports by 51.2 percent during the

first half of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. **Tangible** Dr. Nasser bin Rashid Al Mawali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy reaffirmed that there is a tangible improvement in performance of Oman's economy that can be noticed in the performance of the General Budget and the improvement in the Sultanate's credit rating by global agencies. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Media ties with Egypt very strong

1 The Minister of Information said that communication and cooperation between the Sultanate's media persons and their Egyptian counterparts is vital for showcasing the development in the two countries. **>A5**

WORLD Hurricane Fiona makes landfall in Canada

2 Hurricane Fiona made landfall in eastern Canada on Saturday after sweeping past Bermuda. The hurricane brought heavy rainfall with maximum wind speeds of up to 90 miles (144 kilometres) per hour. **>A6**

SPORTS Federer bids teary farewell to tennis

3 Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal was captured in an emotional moment as his long-time rival and friend Roger Federer bid goodbye to the sport following the doubles clash at the ongoing Laver Cup 2022. **>A8**

MINISTER OF HEALTH

Hospitals told to reduce waiting list of patients

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Hilal bin Ali Al-Sabti, Minister of Health, has directed specialists in the health ministry to schedule appointments for patients in a way so that they are not put to unnecessary inconvenience in the Sultanate of Oman. An official from the Ministry of Health confirmed that Dr. Al-Sabti has issued an internal circular directing the specialists in the Ministry to cut down waiting lists for patients and expedite consultancy services at the outpatient department and surgeries at the earliest. This comes after citizens appealed to the Minister to resolve the issue of delay in seeking appointments at hospitals. Talking about the delay in appointments, Mohammed Al Nasri

said: "My daughter suffers from pain in her ear and needs surgery. When I went to the hospital, an appointment was scheduled after five months. I was taken aback. How can my daughter endure pain all this while?" "When I asked the doctor about the inordinate delay in appointment, the doctor replied that there are so many on the waiting list and that he could little regarding this." Lamenting his plight, Mohammed said, "I do not have enough money to have surgery at a private hospital, it is a very difficult situation." He said the directives of the Minister have indeed raised the hope of the suffering people. Sultan Al-Busaidi also said, "I was suffering from pain in the inner eyelid of my eye. I went to the hospital and my eyes were examined." **>A2**

TheGuide
A unique experience
theguideoman.com @guideoman

37°
MUSCAT



JUWEIRA BOUTIQUE HOTEL

HAWANA SALALAH - OMAN

ADULTS ONLY
2323 9600
www.juweirahotel.com
info@juweirahotel.com

YOUR GETAWAY TO A WORLD OF
EXCLUSIVITY,
SECLUSION,
AND SERENITY



Accredited by



Conference Organiser



In partnership with



26 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat
Timings: 9:00 am – 8:00 pm



Get **FREE** medical
consultations
from **100** hospitals
across **16** countries

REGISTER NOW

SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:04pm
Asr.....	3:29pm
Maghrib.....	6:06pm
Isha.....	7:16pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:42am

‘Oman–Saudi ties established on strong principles and values’

The Saudi envoy said that the National day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a glorious day and a source of pride for each Saudi citizen

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Abdullah Saud Al Enezi, Saudi ambassador accredited to the Sultanate, said that the Omani-Saudi relations are distinct and solid and established on stable basis and values that can cope with the new developments.

In an interview to *Al Shabiba*, the sister publication of *Times of Oman*, on the occasion of the 92th National Day celebration of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi ambassador said that the



wise leaders of the two countries are working for the interest, the renaissance, progress and prosperity of the two countries.

He said that the visits of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and the visit of His Royal Highness Crowne Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence to the Sultanate of Oman have taken the relations between the two coun-

tries to wider horizons.

He said that the relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are established on mutual respect.

Qualitative relations

Their visits were on time and have taken the relations between the two countries to a higher level and to wider horizons, he said, adding that the relations between the two



Abdullah Saud Al Enezi

countries are established on mutual respect and common values and principles.

He said that the relations between the two countries cover all fields and receives the Royal Care and attention of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crowne Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and there are higher di-

rectives on the necessity for according due support and attention and developing the relations between the two countries.

He said that the renaissance, progress and prosperity witnessed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is ascribed to late King Abdulaziz Al Saud and to his efforts in uniting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his method on which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was established and followed by his sons, kings of the KSA up to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crowne Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

He said that the Saudi Vision 2030 is ambitious and reflects all walks of daily life in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that the progress and renaissance, prosperity and creative innovations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia received the respect of all and cover all walks of life and economic, social and cultural sectors among other sectors.

He said that the National day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a glorious day and a source of pride to each Saudi citizen and a

great day of giving.

Saudi Vision 2030

In this respect, the Saudi Ambassador to the Sultanate recalled the statement of Crowne Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence in which he said, “We have great ambitious people standing high and solid like Mount Tuwaiq in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.” The Saudi people stand against any obstacle in life and we will overcome any obstacles to become better”

He said that our youth are behind the renaissance and progress we are currently witnessing in all fields, and the youths are led by Crowne Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

Renaissance led by the Saudi youth

He said that our wise leadership since establishment of the Kingdom share with the people in all walks of life and the Saudi people understand that the wise leadership provide them with prosperity and progress. The renaissance is led by the youth who accord tremendous efforts for the sake of renaissance.

A STORY OF SUCCESS

AMR ABDULLAH BAABOOD
GROUP CEO, OITE

JOIN US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

25 | 09 | 22
SUNDAY
8 PM

Brought to you by:

EMPTY QUARTER

Oman takes part in Saudi National Day celebrations

IBRI: The Sultanate of Oman participated in the 92nd National Day celebration of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Friday.

The function was organised by the General Secretariat for National Celebrations in cooperation with the Royal Oman Police at the Empty Quarter border crossing, in the presence of Abdullah Saud Al Enezi, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to the Sultanate of Oman.

Historic relations

The celebration activities included a number of events embodying the deep brotherly and historic relations between the two countries.

The ceremony began with a musical performance by the Royal Oman Police, followed by lyrical and folk music performed by bands of Al Dhahirah Governorate, in addition to a paragliding and free jumping show.

The Saudi ambassador said that this celebration reflects the close and solid relations between the two countries, praising the historic relations linking the Sultanate of Oman with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He affirmed the two countries' efforts to strengthen cooperation at all levels for the service of the two countries and peoples.

The Saudi Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman indicated that the Empty Quarter border crossing between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an icon of the strategic relations between the two countries, adding that it represents a vital and important tributary to relations in all economic, investment, tourism and trade fields.

The ceremony was attended by a number of officials from the Omani side, the Saudi side, and a group of citizens. -ONA

HEALTH

Don't delay hospital appointments

< FROM After tests, an appointment was given after about three months. Why this delay, I don't know." Al-Busaidi says: "I told the doctor that I cannot sleep because of the pain in my eyes, but he said there are many appointments and it is not possible to bring the appointment date closer."

Al-Busaidi hopes that with the directives of the Minister to the specialists in the ministry, there are chances of things improving in the future.

Every day, all day!

Call Center Number
24 596 999



**YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER**
Download the app

OMAN

Interest rate up to

2.5%



Get Higher Returns with

HIGH-YIELD SAVINGS ACCOUNT

For more information





بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

the best bank for you

2479 1111 | www.bankdhofar.com

77TH SESSION

‘Restoring lands of Palestinians key to Middle East peace’



Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman stressed that the establishment of peace in the Middle East needs the creation of a Palestinian state on all its territories occupied since 1967.

Dr Muhammad bin Awad Al-Hassan, the Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations and head of the delegation of the Sultanate of Oman to the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, said during the US-Gulf Ministerial Meeting with the participation of Jordan, Egypt and Yemen in New York on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UNGA.

Dr Muhammad bin Awad Al-Hassan said that the establish-

ment of peace in the Middle East requires the establishment of a Palestinian state on all its occupied lands since 1967, and the Sultanate of Oman is here to resolve the establishment of two states.

The US Secretary of State Tony Blinken affirmed that his country supports the two-state solution and will continue its efforts with the parties concerned to achieve this goal and to achieve peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting, they discussed aspects of strengthening relations and joint cooperation in all fields, supporting international economic recovery efforts, efforts to achieve regional security and stability, and supporting diplomatic efforts aimed at calming regional tensions.-ONA



Mega warehouse Sale

From **20%** to **70% off**

(New Stock, Showroom Display Units & Repaired units)
TVs | Home Appliances | Audio-Video | Air-conditioners | IT products

Sale Period: **21 - 25 September 2022**, Location: **OTE Warehouse, Ghala**



OTE
Oman Gulf Enterprises LLC
CR: 10788673

For information:
Mr. Alawi: 95870063
Mr. Najma: 97015886
79336776

Sale timings
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday:
9 am - 1 pm & 4 pm - 8 pm
Friday: 4pm - 8 pm

Map showing location: OTE Warehouse, Ghala, Muscat. Directions from Ruwi, Ghala, and Seb.

SUBSCRIBE



Eshhar
Your Digital Distributor

Subscribe to the Times Eshaar Classified advertisement services

Times OF OMAN

Start receiving regular discount deals and detailed information on products, services, used vehicles and much more

Whatsapp your name to
+968 93388405



IMAGINE THE TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION ON THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT



FOR A REALISTIC PICTURE,
DON'T MISS
THE GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT OMAN-2022

GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT OMAN

DEC 5-7, 2022
MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN

FOR PARTICIPATION | 7198 6246
www.greenhydrogensummitoman.com





SHOP
NOW
rafeeq.om



INCREDIBLE VIEW OF

SHAAT

IN DHOFAR



Shaat in Dhofar has the most dramatic and beautiful cliffs in Oman. The village of Shaat is located on the slopes of Jabal Al Qamar and overlooks the Indian Ocean. It is approximately 80 kilometres from Salalah. Dare beyond the boundaries of the cliff to the dangerous steep descent through the wilderness. Continue by the woods and you will end up at this secluded beach far away. The turquoise waters, sea birds, rounded pebbles, sugary sand with huge hills in the background are mesmerising. Shaat Hidden Beach, which is approximately 250 feet, is a small beach at 2 hours drive from Salalah.



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN





TANUF

First bottled water in Oman
since 1979



TANUF

WATER

NEW LOOK

NEW LOOK



JOINT VISIONS

Oman and Egypt have strong ties in media field: Dr. Abdullah Nasser

CAIRO: Abdullah bin Nasser Al Harrasi, Minister of Information reaffirmed that communication and cooperation between the Sultanate's media persons and their Egyptian counterparts is vital and necessary for showcasing the development in the two countries and for boosting the joint visions aimed to further cement awareness on the role of the media.

He said during his meeting with a number of writers and chief editors of Egyptian newspapers that the bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of media are deep-rooted and developed and renewable on a daily basis.



He said that Egypt has played a key role in the various stages of development of Oman's media and that a number of Egyptian writers provide the Omani newspapers with important articles and deep visions in the various fields of knowledge.

He said that we aim at upgrading these relations to higher levels and to create communication with the new generations of the media persons in both the countries mainly in light of the new developments in the field of media, media technologies and contemporary means of communication and the opportunities they create in the joint media work.

He described Oman's presence in the Egyptian press as strong and positive and that Oman's press and media follow with the developments in the Egyptian arena including the comprehensive development led by Presi-

dent Abdel Fattah El Sisi of Egypt.

The Omani public also follow with the updates and developments in the fields of media, economy, science and culture in the Arab Republic of Egypt, he added.

The media in the two countries share responsible media message disseminated by the media persons in both the countries, he said describing such message as boosting continued communica-

tion between the peoples of the two countries in all fields.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian media persons expressed their delight over the meeting which contributes to cementing the role the media play in communication between the people of the two countries and in dissemination of constrictive community culture and exchange of expertise among the media institutions in both the countries -ONA

ECONOMY

<FROM A1> Oman's GDP up 32.4% during the first half of 2022



The improved credit rating by international agencies operating in the field is shown in the key economic indicators be it at the level of performance of economic activities or the consumer prices and labour and employment conditions which represent a key pillar in measurement of the economic condition and reflect in one way or the other the improvement in the performance of economy in general.

One of the indicators that is considered evidence for the same is the growth (at the current price) of the GDP during the first half of 2022 by 32.4 percent to reach OMR20.26 billion compared to OMR15.30 billion during the same period in 2021. At the fixed price, the GDP improved by 3.9 percent to reach OMR17.59 billion during the first half of 2022 compared to OMR16.93 billion during the same period in 2021, he added.

the increase of the value added to non-oil activities by 2.1 percent during the same period in 2022, he said.

He said there are other factors which helped in the improvement of the economic indicators, notably the increase in crude oil prices in the world markets coupled with the efficiency of the financial and economic policies followed by the Sultanate to avail benefits from such increases, including the support to the efforts at economic recovery during the Covid 19 pandemic. The factors also included the focus on optimal utilisation of oil revenues for achievement of fiscal balance and announcement of a number of development projects, he said.

Speaking on the growth of economic activities during the first half of the current year at fixed prices, he said the transport and storage activity and the activity of hotel stay and food services registered noticeable growth rates at 29.4 percent and 29.2 percent, respectively. The activity of mining and manufacturing activity has registered an increase of 15.4 percent and 11.5 percent, respectively, during the same period, he added. -ONA

Increase value added

The improvement is accompanied by the increase in the value added to oil activities by 9.2 percent forming 34.1 percent of the GDP during the first six months of 2022 against 32.5 percent during the same period in 2021 and



SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS

www.facebook.com/timesofoman

INVITATION TO TENDER

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable contractor for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference Number	Title of the Tender
DISC/W/TENDER/MAN/2022/006	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF REVERSE OSMOSIS WATER DESALINATION PLANT AT AL HALLANIYAT
Tender Fee	RO 525,000 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender documents from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender documents
Experience	minimum of three (3) years experience in the maintenance and operation of Desalination Plant, out of which at least two (2) years in Reverse Osmosis Sea Water Desalination Plant
Pre-qualification	The tenderer should be a registered business owner with proper commercial registration with ministry of commerce. The tenderer must show previous experience in performing similar jobs in the past.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 9th October 2022
Site Visit	11th October 2022
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 17th October 2022
Last date for response pre bid clarification	03:00 PM on 20th October 2022
Last date for submission of bids	03:00 PM on 27th October 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

شركة ظفار للخدمات المدمجة
Dhofar Integrated Services Company
أحدى شركات مجموعة ناما
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



Announcement of Tender

Tender No. 01/2022

The Oman Company for the Development of Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Tatweer), a wholly owned subsidiary of OPAZ, invites reputable and experienced Companies for the following services to participate in the following tender:

يسر شركة عمان لتطوير المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة بالدقم (تطوير)، شركة مملوكة بالكامل للهيئة العامة للمناطق الاقتصادية الخاصة والمناطق الحرة، دعوة جميع الشركات ذات الخبرة المتخصصة للمشاركة في المناقصة الموضحة أدناه:

Request for Proposal for Road Marking Application for SEZAD Road

تقديم عروض أعمال دهانات الطرق بالمنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة بالدقم

Purchasing and collecting softcopy of the Tender Documents The payment receipt shall be sent to the e-mail in order to receive the RFIP document.	tatweertenders@ocds.com.om	المشاركة والحصول على مستندات المناقصة الإلكترونية من خلال دفع رسوم شراء المناقصة وإرسال نسخة من إيصال الدفع عبر البريد الإلكتروني :
Submission of bids Electronically	tatweertenders@ocds.com.om	تقديم العروض إلكترونيا
Start Date (Document Collection)	25 th September 2022	موعد البدء في بيع مستندات المناقصة
Closing Date (Document Collection)	5 th October 2022	موعد انتهاء بيع مستندات المناقصة
Site visit in SEZAD HQ Building in Duqm	5 th October 2022, 10:00 am	موعد الزيارة الميدانية بمبنى المنطقة الاقتصادية الخاصة بالدقم
Closing Date for Queries	12 th October 2022	أخر موعد لتلقي الاستفسارات
Date of Bids Submission	20 th October 2022	أخر موعد لتقديم العروض
Tender Document Fee (OMR)	OMR. 100.000	قيمة مستندات المناقصة (ريال عماني)
Payment of Documents Fee to Tatweer's Bank account No.:	Bank of Muscat 0423028774030016 [For Telegraphic Transfer] [SWIFT: BMUSOMRXXX] Bank Muscat SAOG Al Tijara Street Muscat, 112 Oman	حساب شركة تطوير الدقم البنكي لتحويل رسوم المناقصة:

Important Notes

- All Bids shall be submitted through soft copy only and send them to email address: (tatweertenders@ocds.com.om).
- All clarifications should be sent to the email address: (tatweertenders@ocds.com.om).
- Any bids submitted after the Tender Submission Date/Time shall not be accepted.
- Document Fee once made shall not be refunded.

Phone: +968 25222899
P.O. Box 19, Postal Code 700, Duqm
www.ocds.com.om

ملاحظات هامة

- يجب تقديم جميع العروض بنسخة إلكترونية فقط وإرسالها إلى العنوان (TATWEERTENDERS@OCDS.COM.OM)
- يتم إرسال جميع الإيضاحات إلى البريد الإلكتروني (TATWEERTENDERS@OCDS.COM.OM)
- إن يتم قبول أي عطاءات بعد تاريخ تقديم العروض.

Hurricane Fiona hits Canada amid fears of 'historic, extreme event'

The province of Nova Scotia was on high alert, with the Atlantic Canada region preparing for what could be one of the most severe storms in the country's history

ONTARIO: Hurricane Fiona made landfall in eastern Canada on Saturday after sweeping past Bermuda.

The storm brought heavy rainfall with maximum winds of 90 miles per hour. Some areas recorded rainfall of up to 4.9 inches (125 millimetres).

The province of Nova Scotia was on high alert, with the Atlantic Canada region preparing for what forecasters warn could become one of the most severe storms in the country's history.

"It is certainly going to be a historic, extreme event for Eastern Canada," Bob Robichaud, a meteorologist for the Canadian Hurricane Center, told the media.

"It's a major hurricane ... All that momentum is trapped within the storm, so it's very difficult for



something like that to actually wind down."

Fiona transformed from a hurricane into a post-tropical storm late on Friday. However, experts said that it could still have hurricane-strength winds and would bring lashing rains and huge waves.

Trudeau: 'It's going to be a bad one'

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delayed his Saturday departure for Japan, where he was to attend the state funeral for assassinated former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"It's going to be a bad one," he said on Friday.

"We of course hope there won't be much needed, but we feel there probably will be," Trudeau said.

"Listen to the instructions of local authorities and hang in there for the next 24 hours."

Over 250,000 Nova Scotia Power customers were affected by outages just after 1 a.m. local time.

The numbers spiked by another 28,000 by the end of the hour.

Authorities in the province sent an emergency alert to phones warning of Fiona's arrival and asked people to stay indoors, avoid the shore, charge devices and have enough supplies for at least 72 hours.

Residents were also warned of wind damage to trees and structures, coastal flooding and possible road washouts.

Two of Canada's biggest carriers — Air Canada and WestJet Airlines — halted regional service

from Friday evening.

Several killed in Puerto Rico

No official reports of serious damage came in when the storm system passed by Bermuda earlier in the day.

Fiona so far has been blamed for the deaths of at least five people, four in Puerto Rico and one in Guadeloupe earlier this week, according to US officials.

US President Joe Biden declared a state of emergency in Puerto Rico, which is still reeling from the destruction caused by Hurricane Maria five years ago.

Meanwhile, in the Dominican Republic, President Luis Abinader declared three eastern provinces to be disaster zones. -DW



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box 770,
Postal Code: 112



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zedjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

US providing \$327 million in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, says Blinken

WASHINGTON: The US is providing \$327 million in humanitarian aid for the people of Afghanistan, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced on Friday.

Taking to Twitter, Blinken said, "The United States is providing nearly \$327 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and Afghans in neighbouring countries to fund emergency support and health services. We remain committed to the Afghan people." In the funding, USD 119 million was through the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and around USD 208 million through the US Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

Bringing the total US humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries to over USD 1.1 billion since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, according to the statement released by the US Department of State.

The United States remains committed to the Afghan people and continues to call on other members of the international

community to adhere to pledges made during the March 31 high-level pledging event on supporting the humanitarian response in Afghanistan.

"This assistance from the United States will continue to support the scaled-up humanitarian response in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries through international humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations Population Fund, International Organization for Migration, and other implementing partners in the region," the statement reads.

According to the statement, the funding will provide emergency cash, shelter, healthcare and reintegration assistance to internally displaced persons and returnees; as well as protection, life-saving reproductive and maternal health, and gender-based violence prevention and response services.

The funding will also support Afghans in neighbouring countries. The Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan will receive health and nutrition, particularly COVID-19 screening and vaccination services. -ANI

CLIMATE CHANGE DENIAL

World Bank chief rejects calls to quit over climate remark

WASHINGTON: World Bank President David Malpass was defiant to calls for his resignation after he declined to say whether he accepts the scientific consensus on climate change.

Environmental activists have accused Malpass of climate change denial and demanded he resign.

In an interview with Politico on Friday, Malpass said he wouldn't quit, and that none of the bank's shareholders had asked him to step down. The World Bank chief acknowledged that his remarks were "unfortunate."

'I should've said no'

"When asked, 'Are you a climate denier?' I should have said no," he told Politico.

He stressed that the bank is taking a "forceful leadership" position on environmental issues and appeared to backtrack on his previous remarks.

"It's clear that greenhouse gas emissions from human activity are causing climate change," Malpass said in the Friday interview.

"So the task for us, for the world, is to pull together the projects and the funding that actually has an impact."

At an event sponsored by The New York Times on Tuesday,



Malpass refused several times to answer the question of whether he believed in man-made climate change. "I don't even know. I'm not a scientist," he said after several attempts by journalist David Gelles to get an answer from the World Bank chief.

His response triggered an outcry by climate diplomats and organizations, who called on US President Joe Biden to remove him from his position.

On Friday, the White House said it condemned Malpass' comments.

"We expect the World Bank to be a global leader of climate ambition and mobilization," White

House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters.

Jean-Pierre said the US Treasury Department "has and will continue to make that expectation clear to the World Bank leadership."

The Treasury Department "will hold Malpass accountable," Jean-Pierre said, "and support the many staff working to fight climate change at the World Bank. But again, removal would require a majority of stakeholders."

As per a longstanding tradition, Washington picks the head of the World Bank, while European governments choose the head of the International Monetary Fund. -DW

GAZETTE NOTICE

Sri Lanka President issues gazette declaring high-security zones around Presidential Secretariat

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has issued a gazette notice declaring several areas in Colombo as High-Security Zones including the area surrounding the Parliament Complex, Presidential Secretariat and President's House, reported Sri Lanka's local media outlet The Daily Mirror.

Citing the order made by President Wickremesinghe under Section 2 of Official Secrets Act, No. 32 of 1955, the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read, "The High-Security Zones, which comprise of the areas specified in the Schedule of these Orders, are hereby declared." "The Secretary to the Ministry of Defence shall be the competent authority for the implementation of these orders. The competent authority may make provisions for the regulation of certain activities within the High-Security Zones based on the security situation or during special occasions. The competent authority may issue commands incidentally from time to time for the proper implementation of these orders," it added.



Sri Lanka continues to reel under a severe economic crisis. Earlier, protesting the dire conditions, Sri Lankan protesters had broken into then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's private residence and set it on fire. They were angered by the unprecedented economic crisis.

During those protests, several journalists were also attacked by the security forces after which more protestors gathered in the area. Notably, Sri Lanka is suffering its worst economic crisis since gaining independence in 1948, which comes on the heels of successive waves of COVID-19, threatening to undo years of development progress and severely undermining the country's ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The protests came after the

worsening economic situation in the country led to increasing tensions and reports of several confrontations between individuals and members of the police force and the armed forces at fuel stations where thousands of desperate members of the public queued for hours and sometimes days amid the fuel crisis.

Sri Lanka has been suffering a diesel shortage since February, which led to hours of daily power cuts. At present, Sri Lanka is struggling with acute food and electricity shortages, forcing the country to seek help from its neighbours.

The island nation is also facing a foreign exchange shortage, which has, incidentally, affected its capacity to import food and fuel, leading to power cuts in the country. The shortage of essential goods forced Sri Lanka to seek assistance from friendly countries.

India has been at forefront of extending economic assistance to Sri Lanka as per their requirements and is one of the countries that have provided the maximum amount of assistance in time of need. -ANI

A'Saffa
Where taste
meets nutrition



A name you can trust اسم يمكنك الوثوق به

in f t w i a s | asaffa.com



**YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER**
Download the app

WORLD

TYPHOON TALAS

Typhoon Talas lashes central Japan, kills two people

TOKYO: Two people were killed when Typhoon Talas lashed central Japan with torrential rain and fierce winds on Saturday.

The northeast Asian country is currently in typhoon season, which brings about 20 heavy storms each year that often cause flooding and landslides. The city of Shizuoka, southwest of the capital, Tokyo, was hit especially hard by the arrival of Talas with a

record 417 millimeters of rainfall, officials said.

Winds at the center of the storm were blowing at about 65 kilometers per hour (40 miles per hour), with peak gusts of almost 100 kph (62 mph), the country's meteorological agency said.

Police said one man died after he crashed his car into a pond in the wider Shizuoka prefecture. A man in his 40s was killed in a landslide.

In another part of the region, a road collapsed under the weight of the flood waters. Japanese media reports said one man managed to crawl out of a truck that got stuck but another man was missing.

Three people were injured in a mudslide in Shizuoka, according to police. Power was also cut to about 120,000 households, partly due to a landslide knocking over two electricity pylons, the local

utility company said.

The firm said it could take several months for the pylons to be repaired. Regional train services were stopped for several hours, leaving about 1,000 people stranded at an arena in Shizuoka where a concert was held Friday night.

Typhoon downgraded, potential for more devastation

Forecasters downgraded the ty-

phoon to an extratropical cyclone within hours of making landfall but also forecast further torrential rain with the potential for landslides and flooding.

In the city of Yokohama, some 30 kilometers south of Tokyo, about 3,000 people were ordered to leave their homes as a precaution.

Talas was headed toward the Japanese capital and hammering a wide area around the city with

heavy showers.

Talas reached Japan just days after Typhoon Nanmadol, one of the biggest storms in years, killed at least four people and injured more than 150 in the country's southwest. Scientists say climate change is increasing the severity of storms and causing extreme weather such as heat waves, droughts and flash floods to become more frequent and intense. **rw**

ZERO EMISSIONS

India's focus is on green growth, says PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Drawing attention to the net zero emissions target for the year 2070, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India's focus is on green growth and green jobs.

"India has set a target of net zero till the year 2070. Now the focus of the country is on growth, on green jobs. And to achieve all these goals, the role of the environment ministry of every state is enormous," Modi said at the inauguration of the National Conference of Environment Ministers in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat via video conferencing.

Stressing on the need to maintain equilibrium with nature, the prime minister said the role of the environment ministries of the states in achieving these goals is of vital importance.

"I urge all environment ministers to promote a circular economy as much as possible in the states," Prime Minister Modi said.

These steps will significantly strengthen the solid waste management campaign and will free us from the clutches of single-use plastic, the prime minister said according to an official statement.

Throwing light on the ground-water issues, Modi said the states with abundant water are also facing water shortages nowadays.

The Prime Minister remarked that the challenges and measures like chemical-free natural farming, Amrit Sarovar and water security, are not limited to the individual departments and the environment department will also have to consider these as an equally pressing challenge.

"It is critical to work with a participative and integrated approach by the environment ministries. When the vision of the environment ministries changes, I am sure, nature will also be benefitted," he said.

Stressing that this work is not just limited to Information Department or the Education Department, the Prime Minister said that public awareness is another important aspect of pro-



tecting the environment.

"As you all are well aware that in the National Education Policy that has been implemented in the country, a lot of emphasis has been laid on experienced-based learning", Modi added.

The Prime Minister remarked that this campaign should be led by the Ministry of Environment.

This will create awareness about biodiversity among the children and will also plant the seeds of protecting the environment.

"Children who live in our coastal areas should also be taught how to protect the marine ecosystem. We have to make our children, and future generations sensitive toward the environment", the Prime Minister added.

The universities and laboratories of our states should give top priority to innovations related to environmental protection, following the mantra of Jai Anusandhan.

The Prime Minister also underlined the adoption of technology in protecting the environment.

"Study and research on the conditions of forests in the forests are equally important", Modi added.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed one and all to Ekta Nagar and the National Conference of Environment Ministers. The Prime Minister high-

lighted that the conference is being held when India is setting new goals for the next 25 years.

Talking about the significance, the Prime Minister said that the holistic development of Ekta Nagar is a prime example of an environmental pilgrimage when it comes to forests, water conservation, tourism and our tribal brothers and sisters.

Giving examples of the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and LiFE movement, the Prime Minister remarked that India is not just taking huge strides in the field of renewable energy, but also guiding other nations of the world.

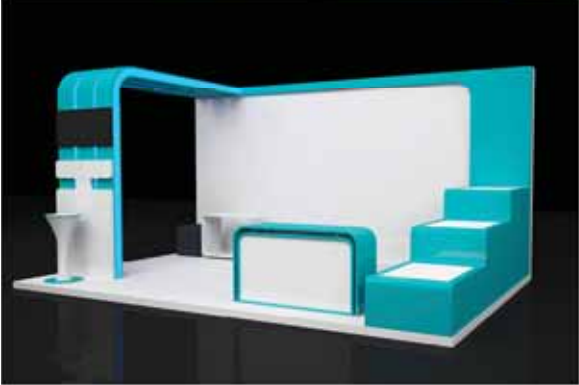
The Prime Minister said, "Today's new India is moving ahead with new thinking, new approach." The Prime Minister further went on to add that India is a rapidly developing economy, and it is continuously strengthening its ecology as well. "Our forest cover has increased and wetlands are also expanding rapidly", he added.

The Prime Minister remarked that today the world is joining India because of its track record of fulfilling its commitments. "Gir lions, tigers, elephants, one-horned rhinos and leopards have increased in numbers over the years. **ANI**



**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
EXHIBITION
BOOTHS/
DISPLAY
STANDS**

Call us on
99614066



**Contact us on rkjoshi57@gmail.com
or call/whatsApp 99614066/ 95405033
to make customized exhibition booths**

REVOKED

US revokes designation of Afghanistan as major non-NATO ally

WASHINGTON: Over a year after the Taliban overthrew the democratically elected government in Kabul, the United States has rescinded the designation of Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally.

The United States named Afghanistan a major non-NATO ally in July 2012, which paved the way for the two sides to maintain economic and defence ties. It also helped Kabul with defence and security-related aid and equipment. "By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2321k) (the "Act"), I hereby terminate the designation of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act," US President Joe Biden said in a presidential order.

In July, Biden notified the US Congress of his intent to rescind the designation of Afghanistan as a major non-NATO ally.

"In accordance with section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2321k), I am providing notice of my intent to rescind the designation of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally," Biden said in an earlier letter.

The Taliban launched an offensive against the democratically elected Afghan government last year after the Biden administration announced the end of its military presence in Afghanistan.

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban swept into Kabul without encountering any resistance and gained full control over the Afghan capital. Later in September, the Taliban declared a complete victory in Afghanistan and formed an interim government, which hasn't yet been officially recognized by any country.

Since its ascent to power in Kabul, the Islamic group imposed policies severely restricting basic rights--particularly those of women and girls.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Taliban dismissed all women from leadership posts in the civil service and prohibited girls in most provinces from attending secondary school. Taliban decrees prohibit women from travelling unless accompanied by a male relative and require women's faces to be covered in public--including women TV newscasters. **ANI**

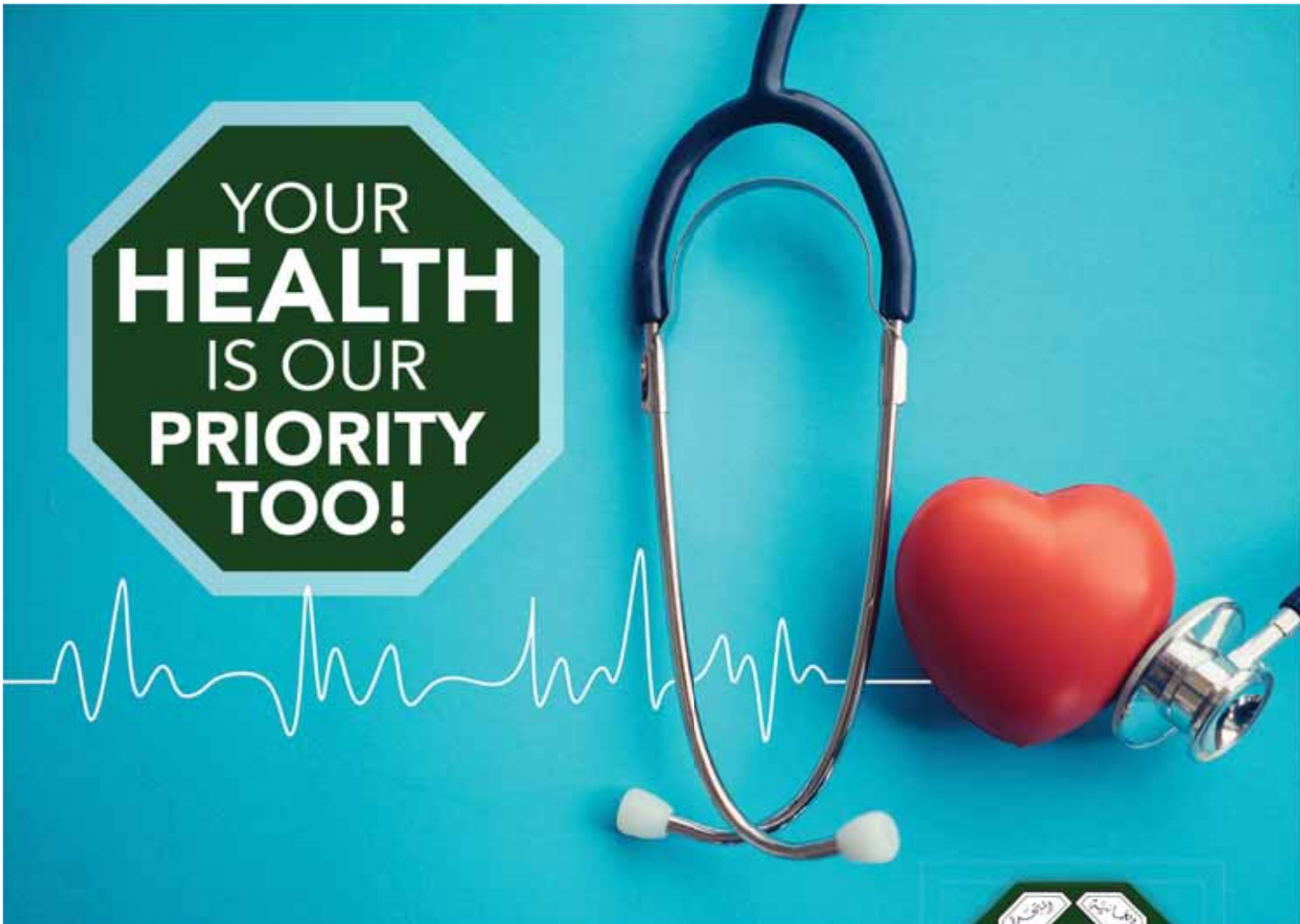
nation of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally," Biden said in an earlier letter.

The Taliban launched an offensive against the democratically elected Afghan government last year after the Biden administration announced the end of its military presence in Afghanistan.

On August 15, 2021, the Taliban swept into Kabul without encountering any resistance and gained full control over the Afghan capital. Later in September, the Taliban declared a complete victory in Afghanistan and formed an interim government, which hasn't yet been officially recognized by any country.

Since its ascent to power in Kabul, the Islamic group imposed policies severely restricting basic rights--particularly those of women and girls.

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Taliban dismissed all women from leadership posts in the civil service and prohibited girls in most provinces from attending secondary school. Taliban decrees prohibit women from travelling unless accompanied by a male relative and require women's faces to be covered in public--including women TV newscasters. **ANI**



**YOUR
HEALTH
IS OUR
PRIORITY
TOO!**

**FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, CHOOSE US
CALL US TODAY ON 24477300**

OMAN UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY SAOG
Post Box 1522, Ruwi, PC 112 Sultanate of Oman
info@omanutd.com | www.omanutd.com



SPORTS



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.com



ENGLAND VS PAKISTAN

Moeen Ali heaps praise on batters Harry Brook, Will Jacks

KARACHI: Following his side's 63-run win against Pakistan in third T20I at Karachi, England skipper Moeen Ali praised young batters Will Jacks and Harry Brook for their performances.

Unbeaten half-centuries from Ben Duckett and Harry Brook and a three-wicket haul by pacer Mark Wood guided England to a 63-run win over Pakistan in the

third T20I of the seven-match series in Karachi on Friday. "Felt it was a brilliant win. Ruthless to-night. That partnership was outstanding. Brook is showing what a player he can become potentially for the future. For us he is amazing. Guys have got a bit of experience from the PSL (Pakistan Super League), saw Will Jacks take it to the bowlers and showed in-

tent. Amazing for England, still a few players who are not here, so great for our cricket [on squad depth]. That was really quick, he bowled serious pace, its nice to see him come back. He is a massive part of our team and for the World Cup we need him firing like that [on Mark Wood]," said Moeen in a post-match presentation. **-ANI**

Roger Federer bids teary farewell to tennis career, Rafael Nadal too weeps

Nadal was also captured in tears after their loss in Federer's last match in competitive tennis



LONDON: Spanish tennis ace Rafael Nadal was captured in an emotional moment as his long-time rival and friend Roger Federer bid goodbye to the sport following the doubles clash at the ongoing Laver Cup 2022.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion, 41, and Nadal, playing for Team Europe, went down 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 9-11 against Team World's Frances Tiafoe and Jack Sock. When the match ended, Federer hugged Nadal as well as Tiafoe and Sock before he began crying. Nadal was also captured in tears after their loss in Federer's last match in competitive tennis.

Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the governing body of men's tennis, also acknowl-

edged this moment and shared a GIF that captured both the leg-ends sitting together and crying.

"How are we getting over this? @rogerfederer | @RafaelNadal | #RForever," tweeted ATP.

Though close friends, Federer and Nadal are also fierce rivals on the tennis court. The duo has dominated the world of tennis for the last two decades. Federer first battled the Spanish legend at ATP Masters 1000 event in Miami in 2004. Since then, they have faced off against each other in a total of 40 matches. Nadal emerged victorious 24 times, while Federer won 16 matches.

On Friday the legendary pair went down to the World Pair by 4-6, 7-6(2), 11-9 at the O2 Arena, making things even by 2-2 between

Team Europe and Team World. The World Pair made a comeback from being a set down to winning the next two.

Federer and Nadal were in high spirits throughout this match, entertaining the crowd with their delightful strokeplay.

Federer has won 103 ATP singles titles and overall 1,251 matches throughout his illustrious career. Federer has also won 20 Grand Slam titles, including a record-making eight Wimbledon men's singles titles. Federer's glorious career saw him reign at the top of the ATP Rankings for 310 weeks. The Laver Cup started in London on September 23 and will go on till September 25. **-ANI**

INDIA VS AUSTRALIA

Two overs by Axar made all the difference, Finch after loss to India in second T20I

NAGPUR: Following his side's six-wicket loss to Australia in a rain-hit second T20I, Australian captain Aaron Finch lauded Indian spinner Axar Patel's performance, saying that it was the difference between both the sides.

Rohit Sharma's unbeaten 46 of 20 balls helped India chase a massive 91-run target to level the series 1-1 in the second T20I in Nagpur here at the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA) Stadium in Nagpur which was impacted by rain. Axar Patel also shone with the ball, taking 2/13 in two overs. "You probably plan for a 5 over game and then a bit more to it. Rohit played brilliantly and two overs of Axar made the difference. Wade is a calm customer at the back end and he has grown into that finisher's role. Zampa was good too," said Finch in a post-match presentation.



Coming to the match, it was reduced to eight overs per side due to rain. India opted to bowl first after winning the toss. Australia posted 90/5 in their eight overs. Knocks from Aaron Finch (31 off 15 balls) and Matthew Wade (43 off 20) helped Australia post a challenging total on the board.

Axar Patel was the pick of the Indian bowlers, taking 2/13 in two overs. Jasprit Bumrah also returned to action with a two-

over spell of 1/23. Pacer Harshal Patel leaked runs once again, giving away 32 runs in just two overs.

Chasing 91, Team India was off to a great start, posting 39 in just 2.5 overs before KL Rahul was dismissed for 10 off 5 balls. Spinner Adam Zampa helped Australia make a brief comeback, trapping Virat Kohli (11 off 6 balls) and Suryakumar Yadav (golden duck) quickly, reducing India to 55/3 in 4.3 overs. **-ANI**

WORLD CUP

Will Europe's World Cup dominance come to end in Qatar?

BERLIN: To find several top European football teams in trouble at present seems a small consolation for German coach Hansi Flick. With two months out from the 2022 FIFA World Cup's kick-off, the 2014 world champion Germany has joined the struggling parties providing a poor performance against underdog Hungary in the Nations League and collecting the first defeat in 14 games under the former Bayern manager.

With Italy having missed the World Cup, England, France and Germany on the final meters seem to turn into problem children. With only Spain getting along well in the Nations League, the African, Asian and South American teams might be mulling over the possibility of breaking the evident domination of the European teams at the latest World Cups.

The past four World Cup titles were won by France, Germany, Spain and Italy, and Brazil in 2002. Not only Germany's dominant club team Bayern is struggling in their league, but Liverpool, Chelsea and Manchester United have to suffer in the Premier League, not to say Juve, Inter Milan and AC Milan in Italy. **xinhua**



Yalla! FIFA World Cup Qatar™

More than 100 Match Tickets to Win!



Buy a Kia & Scratch N Win* your Lucky coupon

- For a Fully Paid Trip for 2 to watch FIFA World Cup Qatar™ Match
- Plus, a Service of 30,000Km to 50,000Km
- 1 Yr. Comprehensive Insurance *

Kia - The Official Automotive Partner of the FIFA World Cup Qatar™ is pleased to offer its Buyers a chance to win FIFA World Cup Qatar™ Match Tickets in Scratch N Win coupon. Watch the teams of Spain, Germany, Japan & Many more in action. Just visit the nearest showrooms to choose from the latest range of Kia Sedans & SUVs.

Reliable International Automotive LLC, CR No: 1707183 | Watsapp Tel: 24579843 | Branches Tel: Al Mawelah: 92858004, Barka: 93201347, Bni: 99820162, Itri: 99820162, Nizwa: 93201458, Sohar: 26858600, Sur: 92822738, Suwaili: 93201347, Ilustaq: 92869449, Salalah: 23211460

Winners are through Scratch Cards only. Scratch Cards to customers will be provided for scratching only after the finalization & approval of their standard deal by their FC, companies/Banks. * All Models other than KIA K4000 / 18MY & 19MY are eligible. Coupons categories are: Win 30,000Km Service only, Or, Win 50,000Km Service only Or, Win 50,000Km Service + FIFA Match Tickets for 2 persons + Qatar Accommodation Or, Win 50,000Km Service + FIFA Match Tickets for 2 persons + Qatar Accommodation + Economy Class Return Airfare + The economy airfare & the match Tickets won are of designated Matches only cannot be changed or encashed. The accommodation rooms for 2 persons for 2 days will be provided in designated Fan Villages & cannot be changed or encashed. • Service Packages to be won are of 30,000Km/ 3 years & Service package of 50,000Km/ 5 years whichever is earlier. • No scratch Coupons are encashable or changed once scratched. Kia Oman bears no responsibility of winner/s, not complying with Visa or travel related conformances. • Free Insurance premium as per insurance norms. Customers can opt for additional Cash Gifts in lieu of the same. Insurance applicable would be given to the extent of a private vehicle. Additional premium as per insurance norm would have to be paid by the buyer. • Standard Cash Gift amounts vary from model/grade/model year & Purchase option taken. Cash Gifts can be used as part of down payment. • Above Offer is not applicable on Ministry, Bulk fleet, Corporate & RAC deals. Scheme Period : 05/07/2022 to 04/11/2022

OTAXI SERVICE LAUNCHED

Otaxi, one of Oman Technology Fund's investments, announced providing its public transport service in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad). This service is aimed to keep pace with the ongoing commercial and development growth that is witnessed in the zone.

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Port of Duqm Company (PODC), in collaboration with Oman Society for Petroleum Services (Opal) and Oman logistics Association (OLA) organised a forum on 'Business Opportunities at Port of Duqm', which attracted oil and gas companies operating in Oman.

East European conflict likely to affect logistics and supply chains

Aggressive tightening of the monetary policy by the Federal Reserve could accelerate the global economic slowdown

VINOD KUMAR PK
vinodkumar@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Like other markets globally, most of the financial markets in the GCC were impacted by the conflict in eastern Europe, according to an industry expert.

"The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has strongly affected energy deliveries and profoundly changed how the market worked," said Daniel Takieddine, BDSwiss CEO Mena.

Elaborating on the current oil prices, both domestically and glob-



“

Most markets in the GCC initially benefited from the increasing energy prices that resulted from the war in Ukraine and the sanctions applied by the European Union on Russia. The higher prices helped boost equities and local economies while the increasingly tighter monetary policies, in particular in the US, eroded confidence and weighed on performances

Daniel Takieddine
BDSwiss CEO Mena

ally, in the short term Daniel said, "It goes without saying that the conflict in Europe would continue to be a threat to the supply side, however, the market is seeing a decline in demand."

"This is particularly the case with the aggressive tightening in monetary policy that the Federal

Reserve is leading, which could accelerate the global economic slowdown. As a result, oil prices could continue to slide with rebounds from time to time whenever production cuts would happen," he further added.

When asked whether this escalation has a large impact on

economic growth, Daniel said that the conflict in Ukraine has already significantly affected global economic growth by pushing up commodities prices including oil, natural gas and grains among other things and by disrupting supply lines.

"This has affected countries

that depend on these products like Egypt for grains and Europe for natural gas. The ensuing inflation has accelerated monetary policy tightening which continues to affect growth. In this regard, any further escalations could exacerbate existing issues," he added.

Logistics and supplies of commodities and other essential products could still be under threat if tensions flare up, Daniel warned, adding that "Supplies of electronic components were strongly affected by the COVID-19 conditions in the past and could see similar effects if the logistics chain is disrupted with Taiwan being an important production centre along with China."

"The same could be said about grains, which are produced massively in Russia and Ukraine, and are shipped thanks to a fragile agreement between the belligerents. Additionally, the war could affect future crop harvests, which could significantly affect supplies," he pointed out.

Regarding his views about inflation in the US, the US Federal Reserve's policy and its impact on Oman and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Daniel said, "We could see the Federal Reserve continue raising key interest

rates this year and the next in a bid to fight inflation. The latter has started to decline but not as fast as previously expected which could prompt the US central bank to pursue a more aggressive policy."

"This in turn could result in slower demand for energy products which are essential exports for Oman and other countries in the region as well as in an erosion of confidence among investors, leading to lower prices on the stock market," he added.

Stock markets

Speaking about the stock markets in Oman and GCC countries, Daniel said, "Most markets in the GCC initially benefited from the increasing energy prices that resulted from the war in Ukraine and the sanctions applied by the European Union on Russia. The higher prices helped boost equities and local economies while the increasingly tighter monetary policies, in particular in the US, eroded confidence and weighed on performances."

"Currently, stock markets are mainly weighed by the global economy's slowdown and a looming recession as central banks raise interest rates to fight inflation," he added further.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

CBO raises repo rate for local banks by 75 basis points



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has increased its repo rate for local banks by 75 basis points to stand at 3.75 per cent. The move comes after the US Federal Reserve's recent announcement to hike its key policy rate.

CBO's monetary policy target is to sustain and maintain its fixed exchange rate. This policy is

aligned with the structure and nature of the Omani economy.

There are a number of advantages for Oman that is derived from this policy, namely ensuring the stability of the Omani Rial, mitigating capital outflow and promoting certainty among investors by removing exchange rate risk. The CBO has cautioned

banks not to increase the cost of borrowing to consumers given ample liquidity in the system.

The global economy is witnessing rising and sustained inflationary pressure and as such, central banks in a number of countries are attempting to address this pressure by hiking their respective key policy rates with the ob-

jective of reducing lending and by default reducing aggregate demand that in turn would translate into reduced consumption.

While higher interest rates are expected to lead to lower inflation, in some cases, as related to consumers in high-income brackets, they could result in higher savings. -ONA

INDIA HOMES 2022

Oman's NRIs meet reputed property developers from India

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Indian real estate sector has become more transparent. It is the buyers' market and the right time to buy back property in India as the real estate sector has transformed into a new dimension with 100 per cent transparency, secured and fully protected for buyers.

With the government streamlining the sector with clear and transparent policies buying a property is more secure compared to the past. Buyers are very well protected and their investment is well guarded further with the currency exchange rate at its peak it is the right time to buy and save a lot.

India Homes 2022 was held on September 23 and 24 at Al Falaj Hotel, Ruwi. Reputed builders were present with RERA-approved projects across cities in In-



dia and ICICI Bank Homes loans at very attractive interest rates.

More than 50 projects (individual villas, apartments, plots, holiday homes, and commercial properties) across various parts of India participating, offering a wide range of ready-to-move-in

and other properties suitable for the right investments.

Few of the participants offered attractive special offers for bookings done during 2 days which was a wonderful opportunity for the NRIs to consider.

NRIs looking for investment in

real estate in India would have access to first-hand information on upcoming and current real estate projects, as a range of property options, from residential apartments, plots and bungalows, to commercial properties was on display.

COLLABORATION



Vodafone signs sales partnership agreement with Al Huthaifa Group

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Vodafone in Oman has joined hands with Al Huthaifa Group, a homegrown company offering competitive business solutions in technology, recruitment and talent acquisition, to drive its sales strategy and achieve its growth goals.

Believing in the joint power of humans and technology, Vodafone has been enabling SMEs, building capacities and helping businesses in Oman scale-up, up by leveraging its international expertise, data-driven knowledge and market-leading best practices across all operational touchpoints.

The long-term partnership with Al Huthaifa Group will create 150 job opportunities for nationals across the country, offering some of Oman's budding talents a stepping stone into successful sales and marketing careers.

To date, over 80 Omanis have been enrolled on the prerequisite training which aims to enhance candidate sales skills, negotiation techniques, and overall knowledge and experience of all things Vodafone including its state-of-the-art eStore machines.

"We live and breathe our slogan - 'Together we can' - because truly when humans and technol-

ogy come together, anything is possible. Our partnership with Al Huthaifa Group is integral to the retail evolution of the Omani market as people transition from the traditional brick and mortar expectation to a completely digital experience," said Fadwa El Kosari, Head of Sales & Services.

"We have great ambitions for Vodafone in Oman and are confident that together with our partners and our ever-growing talent pool we will continue to bring a radically different digital proposition to the country."

Warda Al Manji, Al Huthaifa Group Chairperson said, "We are excited to be working with Vodafone in Oman and help realise their vision for a digital future. For over a decade, we have been building our capabilities and expertise offering corporate clients a wide spectrum of business solutions, carefully tailored to not only fit their needs but also seamlessly integrate into their operations."

Since its inception, Vodafone has been identifying and working with market pioneers to bring value-add services and benefits to its customers. To date, its partnerships have generated direct and indirect jobs in the fields of e-services, sales and marketing, IT and cybersecurity to name but a few.



MARKET



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om



Port of Duqm presents business opportunities for oil, gas sector

The Port of Duqm is currently supporting the oil and gas industry, serving both the upstream and downstream sectors

MUSCAT: Port of Duqm Company (PODC), in collaboration with Oman Society for Petroleum Services (Opal) and Oman logistics Association (OLA) organised a forum on 'Business Opportunities at Port of Duqm', which attracted oil and gas companies operating in Oman. The forum aimed at encouraging business collaboration with Port of Duqm, where a large number of professionals from the oil



and gas sector joined forum. The Port of Duqm is currently supporting the oil and gas industry, serving both the upstream and downstream sectors. Further growth in cargo volumes is expected

as downstream petrochemical projects developed in Duqm. Eventually, the Port of Duqm will essentially be serving Al Wusta Governorate particularly, which is rich in oil and gas.

Speaking on the occasion, Reggy Vermeulen, CEO of Port of Duqm, pointed out, "The Port of Duqm is rapidly becoming a new commercial gateway, thanks to its strategic location. While unlocking its full

potential to further grow its activities, the Port is opening up great prospects for cooperation, creating business opportunities in the oil and gas sector. It is standing as a port of call and a hub of economic activity for key corporates and oil and gas players." "The port is, further, facilitating the import of raw materials and re-export of goods. Capitalising on its existing infrastructure and abundant land area, the port offers opportunities to accommodate storage and distribution facilities for oil and gas cargo logistics. This is based on the rise of cargo operations, which we are currently servicing while intending to offer space leasing for cargo too. "It is the clear vision of the Port of Duqm to become the region's most preferred multi-purpose port, and the entire marketing strategy is built around that. In view of that, all major shipping lines like Maersk, CMA CGM, MSC, Hapag Lloyd, Evergreen have acknowledged Duqm as the

end destination for their containers, and containerized cargo is being shipped to and from Duqm accordingly," the CEO added. On the other hand, Abdul Rahman Al Yahyaie, CEO of Opal, said, "The Special Economic Zone at Duqm is offering several investment opportunities and I've witnessed incredible growth and development in the recent past. Oman is taking a serious aspiration for the establishment of attractive projects in Duqm while the infrastructure is being up-scaled almost on daily basis." Such business forums undoubtedly bring fruitful outcomes and benefits for all participants, including corporates and individuals alike. Further, the attendees were familiarised with the key achievements of Port of Duqm, and the future promising plans and strategies for its development. In due course, they have commended the Port of Duqm's taking the lead in organising such an enlightening economic forum. -ONA

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICE

Otaxi service launched in Sezad

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Otaxi, one of Oman Technology Fund's investments, announced providing its public transport service in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad). This service is aimed to keep pace with the ongoing commercial and development growth that is witnessed in the zone. Eng. Harith bin Khamis Al Maqbali, CEO of Otaxi, stated, "The service was launched in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and the taxi order platform has been installed at Duqm Airport. This will facilitate the service for Duqm visitors who can use this fast delivery service. Else, visitors can also use this reliable service via the Otaxi mobile app at an affordable price." Eng. Harith urged visitors and residents at Duqm to experience the Otxi service in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and express their opinions and observations on the service, which will be seriously taken into consideration. This serves to lift and improve the taxi and transport service in the Sultanate of Oman to meet the public's aspirations. The company's channels on social media platforms, mobile applications or through the 24-hour call centre mark the focal point for receiving



feedback and comments. On the other hand, Eng. Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, commended the Otaxi's cooperation to provide its services in the zone, which in turn will provide an additional advantage for arrivals, visi-

tors and tourists to the zone through Duqm Airport, which is witnessing a growing and rapid economic movement where there is a need to move in easily and flexibility. Moreover, the service will also contribute to creating job opportunities for taxi owners in Duqm.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

First-ever Industrial Safety Manifesto to be unveiled

ABU DHABI: Launched as a partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Lloyd's Register Foundation and the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS), in collaboration with Cambridge University's Cambridge Industrial Innovation Policy (CIIP), Global Initiative for Industrial Safety (GIFIS) has brought together industry leaders from across the world to develop the first-ever Industrial Safety Manifesto, representing a multi-disciplinary consensus on pioneering a safer world through the safe adoption of technology. Set to be launched at the inaugural US edition of the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS America) on September 29, 2022, in the city of Pittsburgh, the Industrial Safety Manifesto offers a blueprint for industry, government, and civil society to solve the global industrial safety challenge. The International Labour Organisation estimates that, globally, around three million deaths each year are directly attributed to inadequate safety measures and hazardous work environments, with - according to UNIDO - a loss of 3.9 per cent of worldwide GDP. In a collaboration between UNIDO, Lloyd's Register Foun-



datation, and the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit, the Industrial Safety Manifesto will set out guiding principles for the safe adoption of new technologies and the rapid deployment of technology-enabled safety solutions. The Global Initiative for Industrial Safety hosted two virtual workshops with key industry stakeholders to identify and prioritise the principles underpinning the manifesto. The first workshop on September 6 was attended by more than 20 industry experts, predominantly from the private sector, while the second workshop on September 22 was hosted by UNIDO. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Director, Division of Fair Production, Sustainability Standards and Trade, UNIDO, said:

"Industrial safety gaps can cause significant hazards, both on a human and financial level, and in the ever-changing landscape in which we operate, there is an essential need for the policy solutions proposed by the Industrial Safety Manifesto." "As industries adopt new technologies, new safety risks are emerging: robots interacting with humans can lead to new types of accidents; industrial processes connected to the internet are more vulnerable to cyberattacks; and continuous worker supervision can lead to negative stress-related health impacts. However, while technology involves new challenges, it is also enabling new solutions. We hope to be able to harness these in realising a vision of a safer world enabled by technology." -WAM



Winter Offer

50 ONLY

HOT & COLD DISPENSER

PLUS 2 FULL BOTTLES

20 ONLY

WHITE TAP DISPENSER OR TAP DISPENSER OR MANUAL WATER PUMP OR CRADLE WITH TAP

PLUS 2 FULL BOTTLES

Offer valid from 14th August to 13th November 2022. Existing Oman Oasis 5 Gallon returnable bottle customers and Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible for the offer.

CALL TOLL-FREE **800 71 222** or GSM: **9275 5522**

IEA'S LATEST APPRAISAL

Clean energy economy is gaining ground

PARIS: Despite encouraging signs of progress across a number of sectors, stronger efforts are needed to bring the world on track to reach net zero emissions by mid-century, according to the IEA's latest appraisal of global progress on clean energy technologies. The annual Tracking Clean Energy Progress (TCEP) update assesses 55 components of the energy system - sectors, technologies, infrastructures and cross-cutting CO2 mitigation strategies - and evaluates their progress in 2021 towards reaching key medium-term milestones by the end of this decade that are set out in the IEA's pathway to Net Zero Emissions by 2050. The TCEP analysis is available as a comprehensive online resource on the IEA's website. Recent technology developments and policy actions suggest momentum is accelerating in some important regions and sectors. Initial estimates point to 2022 being a record year for renewable electricity capacity additions, with an increase of about 340 gigawatts, roughly equal to the entire installed power capacity of Japan. China accounts for about half of those additions. This year is also expected to see another all-time high for electric vehicle sales, lifting them to 13 per cent of total light duty vehicle sales globally. The pipelines for both hydrogen projects and carbon capture and storage facilities continue to expand, and last year saw record sales of heat pumps.



A pilot project last year used hydrogen to produce fully fossil-free steel, and the first commercial production of sodium-ion batteries without lithium is set to start next year. "There are more signs than ever that the new global energy economy is advancing strongly," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol. "This reaffirms my belief that today's global energy crisis can be a turning point towards a cleaner, more affordable and more secure energy system. But this new IEA analysis shows the need for greater and sustained efforts across a range of technologies and sectors to ensure the world can meet its energy and climate goals."

On the policy front, the United States' historic Inflation Reduction Act - enacted in August - provides \$370 billion in energy security and climate change investments, giving a boost to a huge array of clean energy technologies, from solar, wind and electric vehicles to carbon capture and hydrogen. Meanwhile, with its REPowerEU plan, the European Union is raising its renewables and energy efficiency targets and putting significant resources behind achieving them. Governments are also spending more on clean energy research and development, which could reach \$35 billion in 2022, while venture capital investments in

clean energy start-ups reached an all-time high in 2021. Governments are supporting major R&D and demonstration projects through measures such as the US Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the EU Innovation Fund, Japan's Green Innovation Fund and China's 14th Five-Year Plan, with an increasing focus on heavy industry, hydrogen, and carbon capture. Despite these positive signs, this year's TCEP, which evaluates the state-of-play in 2021, found that only two components - electric vehicles and lighting - were fully on track for their 2030 milestones in the IEA's Net Zero by 2050 Scenario, the same two as the previous year. -WAM



LIFESTYLE



Watching TV with your child might help in their brain development



Weak narrative, fast pace editing, and complex stimuli can make it difficult for a child to extract or generalise information. But when screen content is appropriate for a child's age, it's likely to have a positive effect, particularly when it's designed to encourage interaction

A recent study published in *Frontiers in Psychology* investigated the influence of passive screen use on a young child's cognitive development. It discovered that screen exposure — whether from a TV or a mobile device — might be beneficial depending on the context in which it's viewed.

Researchers from the University of Portsmouth and Paris Nanterre University, France, analysed 478 studies published in the past two decades. Their findings found exposure to television early on may be detrimental to play, language development and executive func-

tioning, particularly for young infants.

Dr Eszter Somogyi from the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth said: "We're used to hearing that screen exposure is bad for a child and can do serious damage to their development if it's not limited to say less than an hour a day. While it can be harmful, our study suggests the focus should be on the quality or context of what a child is watching, not the quantity.

"Weak narrative, fast pace editing, and complex stimuli can make it difficult for a child to extract or generalise information. But when screen content

is appropriate for a child's age, it's likely to have a positive effect, particularly when it's designed to encourage interaction."

Studies also show screen time is more beneficial to a child if a parent or adult is present, as they can engage with them and ask questions.

"Families differ a lot in their attitudes toward and the use of media", explained Dr Somogyi.

"These differences in the viewing context play an important role in determining the strength and nature of TV's impact on children's cognitive development. Watching television with your child and elaborating and comment-

ing on what is viewed can help enhance their understanding of the content, reinforcing their learning during educational programs.

"Coviewing can also contribute to the development of their conversation skills and provides children with a role model for appropriate television viewing behaviour."

While the right type of content can do more good than harm, the study warns watching TV shouldn't replace other learning activities, such as socialising. Instead, it is imperative to inform caregivers of children younger than 3 about the risks associated with prolonged

exposure to screen viewing in the wrong context.

The authors recommend reinforcing contexts that promote learning, such as viewing chosen age-adapted content, viewing with adult supervision, and not having a second device or TV screen on in the background.

Dr Bahia Guellai, from the Department of Psychology at Paris Nanterre University, added: "The important 'take home message' here is that caregivers should keep in mind new technologies. Television or smartphones should be used as potential tools to complement some social interactions with their young children but

not to replace it.

"I think the most important challenge of our societies for future generations is to make adults and young people aware of the risk of an unconsidered or inappropriate use of screen-use. This will help in preventing situations in which screens are used as the new type of child-minding, as it has been during the pandemic lockdowns in different countries.

"I am optimistic with the concept of finding an equilibrium between the rapid spread of new technological tools and the preservation of the beautiful nature of human relationships." -ANI



FEATURE



SHOP
NOW
rafeeq.om



Middle East’s ancient monuments are the most endangered on Earth



THANKS to climate change, the Middle East is getting hotter faster than any other part of the world. This means the region’s pyramids, castles, churches and other heritage sites are more at risk than any others.

At one time, it was the largest city in the world, thought to be home to the hanging gardens of Babylon, one of the seven wonders of the world, as well as the legendary Tower of Babel.

But today, the ancient city of Babylon in what is now southern Iraq is falling apart. The city originally founded around 4,300 years ago is a mix of modern and ancient. Now, reconstructed plaster facades, built to replicate the historical originals, are falling off walls and some buildings, once popular with tourists, have become too dangerous to enter.

“Years of groundwater seeping up and then very, very dry summers are causing buildings to collapse,” explained Eleanor Robson, professor of Ancient Middle Eastern History at University College London (UCL), who’s been visiting Iraq’s heritage sites several times a year for the past decade. “I spent a day last May walking around with Ammar al-Tae and his team [from the World Monuments Fund in Iraq] and it was so distressing,” she continued. “They’re just watching the place collapsing before their eyes.”

The ancient Iraqi city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2019, is not the only such site in the region to be feeling the increasing effects of climate change.

Sandstorms, fire, flooding
In Egypt, stones in historical structures are changing color and cracking due to high temperatures and humidity. More frequent wildfires, dust and sand storms, air pollution, increased salinity in the soil and sea level rises threaten other historical sites there.

In Jordan, there is concern that parts of Petra — a city around 2,300 years old, with intricate buildings constructed into the cliff side — are endangered by the potential for increasing landslides.

In eastern Yemen, heavy rain is damaging the famed mud brick constructions in Wadi Hadramawt and flash floods, more common in the country now, are also washing mud brick buildings away.

And in Libya, the ancient, oasis town of Ghadames is endangered because its main water source has dried up. Local vegetation has died off and residents have



left. Heritage sites on coastlines right around the region are at risk because of rising sea levels and flooding.

This month, a paper published by a team of researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany and the Cyprus Institute seemed to predict that even worse was to come. The paper concluded that the Middle East and the eastern Mediterranean region was “warming almost two times faster than the global average, and more rapidly than other inhabited parts of the world.”

This means that castles, forts, pyramids and other ancient sites in this part of the world are in more danger than ever from changes in the environment.

Most at risk

As the International Council on Monuments and Sites has said, “climate change has become one of the most significant and fastest growing threats to people and their cultural heritage worldwide.”

“And there is no doubt that Middle Eastern cultural heritage is at more risk than that in places like Europe,” said Nikolas Bakirtzis, an associate professor specialized in archaeology and cultural heritage at the Cyprus Institute.

First, heritage sites in the Middle East are at more risk than others because the region is getting hotter, faster, he said. Secondly, they’re at more risk because many of the countries in the region have other concerns that may take precedence over preservation, including economic or political crises, and even war.

“Everybody is aware that this is a challenge but not everybody can afford to have this as a priority,” he explained. Climate change obviously also affects European heritage sites but Europe is in a far better position to manage it, he noted. Countries such as Egypt, Jordan

“Everybody is aware that this is a challenge but not everybody can afford to have this as a priority. Climate change obviously also affects European heritage sites but Europe is in a far better position to manage it

and the Gulf states have been making progress on better managing their heritage sites in the face of climate change. But other nations in the region have not been able to do as much.

Often, there are government organizations set up to manage heritage sites, UCL’s Robson added. For example, Iraq has its State Board of Antiquities and Heritage. “But they are desperately under-resourced, under-equipped and under-trained because of sanctions and the aftermath of the last 20 years in Iraq,” she said. “Meanwhile, the physical needs of the sites are becoming more acute which makes them much more expensive to maintain.”

“Awareness of this issue — the need to protect heritage sites from climate change — is only just in its infancy,” said Ibrahim Badr, a professor at the Faculty of Archaeology at Egypt’s Misr University for Science and Technology, just out of central Cairo. “Some studies have been carried out but that hasn’t amounted to taking

many measures on the ground. Unfortunately, most countries in the Middle East are not ready to deal with this issue and this is having a negative impact on archaeological sites.”

Social networks vital for survival

Finally, and possibly most importantly, the experts argued that climate change was having an increasingly negative impact on the communities around the heritage sites.

“It’s not just an ancient temple or an archaeological site sitting there by itself,” Bakirtzis said. “It’s also about the communities that are sustaining its use and experience as well as the meaning of these sites.”

Climate change will cause people to migrate when their living conditions become untenable, he explained, and besides having nobody to take care of the places, their cultural meaning will also gradually fade away.

He pointed to some of the early

Christian sites in Iraq. At many of them, the local Christian communities had left because of war, attacks by the extremist group known as the Islamic State and the changing environment. “Now there’s nobody there to visit or even care a little bit about the site, so they’re just turning into ruins,” the Cyprus-based academic noted.

More looting

Another issue that might arise is that when locals become desperate, they may start looking for artifacts that can be sold or smuggled.

“When people can no longer support themselves from the land because of desertification and high temperatures, we are likely to see a resurgence of archaeological looting, both professional and subsistence looting,” Robson explained. She recalled this happening after the 2003 US invasion of Iraq.

All of this is why more and better efforts should be made to manage the impact of climate change

on Middle Eastern cultural heritage, the experts all agreed.

“In hard-nosed, archaeological terms, you might say [about Babylon] that it’s just another site collapse, the same thing that’s happened several times over the past 5,000 years,” Robson said. “And future archaeologists can just come and dig it up again.”

But it’s about far more than that for the locals, she explained.

For example, Iraqis may argue about a lot of things but one of the topics that unites them and makes them proud is their country’s history as “the cradle of civilization,” the site of ancient Mesopotamia where the first writing, agricultural practice and cities were created.

“We have a personal relationship with heritage. It’s literally an inheritance that informs that sense of who we are, what our role in the world and in our community is,” Robson concluded. “It brings a sense of cohesion and is fundamental to our sense of identity.” —BW





YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

SPORTS



OMAN SAIL LAUNCHES THE 2ND EDITION OF OMAN SAILING FESTIVAL



The Oman Sailing Festival will offer free Try Sailing, Para Sailing, Windsurfing and Kite Surfing sessions

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Sail has announced the launch of the Oman Sailing Festival 2022, a nationwide initiative to introduce communities across the country to the sport. The Oman Sailing Festival will offer free Try Sailing, Para Sailing, Windsurfing and Kite Surfing sessions under the supervision of Oman Sail's coaches, along with SME engagement and beach clean-up events to help conserve the local environment and keep the seas clear of litter and other items damaging to marine life.



The Oman Sailing Festival will begin on 4-9 October in Sohar, and then visit Mussanah from 11-14 October, Sur Al Hadeed in Seeb from 19-22 October, Duqm from 1-6 November and Salalah from 6-12 November. The Oman Sailing Festival will then continue in Mussanah from 23-26 November, Sur from 27 November to 4 December, Al Mouj Muscat from 7-11 December, and concluding in Musandam from 17-25 December 2022.

Three high profile sailing competitions will also be staged during the festival, focusing the attentions of the sailing community

firmly on Oman. The first event of the season will be the Arab Sailing Championships at the Barceló Mussanah Resort from 11-15 October 2022. Fifty sailors from 14 countries across the region will compete in Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, RS:X and iQFOiL windsurfing and RS Venture para sailing. Sailors will be visiting from Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia and the UAE for the first Arab Sailing Championships since 2019. The Barceló Mussanah Resort will also host the RS Ven-



ture Connect World Championships, the first exclusively Para Sailing championship to be staged in Oman. Taking place from Sunday 20 November until Sunday 27 November, 36 teams from 15 nations, including members of Oman Sail's SailFree team, will compete in the RS Venture para sailing, designed specifically for people with disabilities. The final event will see a return to Omani waters for the RC44 Cup. Oman Sail hosted the inaugural round of the RC44 Cup in 2013 and the final event of the 2014 RC44 Cup and will now host the



final round of this year's campaign. Nine teams from across Europe are currently in a close-fought battle for supremacy at the top of the leaderboard and the winner will be crowned at the Al Mouj Marina after five days of intense racing from 7-11 December 2022. Dr Khamis Al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, "This is an exciting time for sport in Oman and we are very proud to take a leading role in sharing the excitement of sailing, windsurfing and kite sailing with the community. We look forward to showcasing the potential of sailing to capture the imagination of people across Oman

and reaching the next generation of sailors. The events will attract a diverse demographic to our nation, which benefits the national economy, and offers a glimpse at the highest level of the sport which can inspire the local population to pursue a new activity, train and, ultimately, represent the Sultanate of Oman." Dr Al Jabri added, "It is always a great honour for Oman Sail to be chosen as hosts for international sailing events and be able to lend our experience to other organisers as we work together to continue building Oman's excellent reputation in the global sporting community." Each event will incorporate the need to maintain the natural environment and promoting sustainability. Oman Sail will host beach clean-up events and provide recycling facilities on site to reduce the human impact and raise awareness of the need to preserve Oman's natural resources. The sailing festival is supported by OQ, the National Mineral Water Company (Tanuf), Barceló Mussanah Resort, while RC44 is supported by Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's premier lifestyle destination, as host venues.

ROUND-UP

SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om

Bank Muscat inaugurates Green Sports fields in Suwaiq and Samail

Bank Muscat’s Green Sports initiative is one of the leading CSR programmes in Oman, which provides support to local sports teams as part of the bank’s efforts to develop sports infrastructure in Omani sports and provide green spaces throughout Oman

MUSCAT: In line with the bank’s commitment to community development and promoting Oman as a sporting nation, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, continues to hand over Green Sports fields across the Sultanate.

Recently, the bank inaugurated the Al Ghalila Sports and Cultural Team’s Green Sports field in the Wilayat of Suwaiq at an event held under the patronage of Sheikh Sultan bin Mansour Al Ghufaili, the

Wali of Suwaiq, and in the presence of Abdul Rahman bin Abdullah Al Shezawi, Regional Manager – South Batinah, Bank Muscat.

The bank also inaugurated a second new Green Sports field for the Al Samadi Sports Team at a function held under the patronage of HE Salim bin Ali Al Hakmani, Chairman of the Consumer Protection Authority, and in the presence of Taya Eid Bait Sabeea, Deputy General Manager, Bank Muscat.



On this occasion, Taya Eid Bait Sabeea, Deputy General Manager, Bank Muscat, said that the bank’s landmark CSR programme, Green Sports, was continuing to achieve great success in creating sustainable green spaces across the Sultanate. He congratulated the Al Samadi Sports Team and their members for their achievement. He added that new sports fields are also being used by local communities for a number of activities apart

from sports and pointed out how these new facilities are helping improve community bonding and the harnessing of the talents of Omani youth across the country.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the Al Ghalila Sports and Cultural Team’s Green Sports field in the Wilayat of Suwaiq, Abdul Rahman bin Abdullah Al Shezawi, Regional Manager – South Batinah, Bank Muscat expressed his warm wishes to the team and the

community for completing their project. He hoped that it would prove to be an incubator to develop the skills of the team members and other affiliates, and called on everyone in the community to make the best use of the facilities.

Bank Muscat recently announced the opening of 4 Green Sports fields in the governorates of Al Dakhiliyah and South Al Batinah and Al Dhahirah. The projects included greening of foot-

ball pitches and lighting as part of the well-known CSR programme, which was launched in 2012. The bank also recently announced the 20 winners of the programme for 2022, having increased the number of beneficiary teams annually from the previous year on the occasion of the programme’s 10th anniversary.

Bank Muscat’s Green Sports initiative is one of the leading CSR programmes in Oman, which provides support to local sports teams as part of the bank’s efforts to develop sports infrastructure in Omani sports and provide green spaces throughout the Sultanate of Oman. The facilities developed as part of the programme are often used as a venue for other social activities by local communities leading to stronger social bonding and positive behaviour among young people as well as the development of talented Omani youth. It is a matter of great encouragement that the Bank Muscat’s Green Sports programme has so far benefited 163 teams with over 50,000 team members across the Sultanate of Oman.

HEALTHCARE

Kerala’s Iqraa Multispeciality Hospital set to extend its services to Oman



MUSCAT: Iqraa Multispeciality Hospital, Calicut, Kerala is a charitable healthcare initiative by JDT Orphanage, one of the pioneer orphanages in India.

The hospital is now extending its services to Oman.

VMA Hakkim, Managing Director of Al Hakkim Medical Tourism asserts, “We are bringing Iqraa Hospital to Oman because of its low costs, and its dedicated quality services to the lower income population. A major section of Omani patients travelling abroad cannot

afford the costs of advanced treatments. Iqraa is an answer to them.”

The hospital in association with its Omani representative Al Hakkim Medical Tourism Co, Muscat is participating in the upcoming Oman Health Expo from September 26 to 28. Expert doctors from the hospital will give free medical advice and consultations at the venue.

The hospital is well known for its charity activities, and for maintaining high-quality medical treatments. Iqraa is most popular for its Kidney Care centre. It has an exclusive 6000m² kidney treatment division, with the largest dialysis unit in the region, performing over 5000 dialyses a month. They have achieved over 500 kidney transplants, all at highly subsidized costs.

Consultations with Iqraa are free. It can be fixed at Stall No: 1011 at the Oman Health Expo from 11am to 7pm from September 26 to 28.

Iqraa was established in 2000, to deliver advanced healthcare services at affordable costs to the poor and needy. IQRA has 436 inpatient beds and is NABH accredited.

IMPRESSIVE FEATURES

Powerful entry-level smartphone Huawei nova Y90 now in Oman

MUSCAT: Huawei nova Y90, taking a great stride forward with more advanced hardware, bringing young users another chic and high-tech choice for smartphones. With the trusted, innovative, user-friendly and secure AppGallery available on the Huawei nova Y90, where users can easily navigate, explore, find and download a wide range of high-quality apps.



The Huawei nova Y90 brings a series of impressive features, including a 6.7-inch Huawei Edgeless FullView Display for immersive viewing, enhanced battery life with a large 5000mAh battery and 40W Huawei SuperCharge solution, as well as an upgraded 128GB large storage capacity. Huawei nova Y90 has also demonstrated upgrades in terms of imaging capabilities. It is equipped with a Rear 50MP AI Triple Camera that supports innovative features such as Super Night Mode, Front/Rear Dual-view Video, and AI Snapshot, bringing users an excellent imaging experience.

Huawei nova Y90 - comes in Emerald Green, Pearl White, Midnight Black, and Crystal Blue and is available for pre-order now in Oman on Huawei’s official website and at Mall of Oman and Palace Vendome.

In a matter of minutes, Huawei nova Y90 brings the 40W Huawei SuperCharge, which is also stable and safe. Users can enjoy 2.3 hours of gaming just by charging the phone for 10 minutes. In addition, the Huawei nova Y90 inherits the long-lasting battery life of the Huawei nova Y series, equipped with a 5000mAh (typical value) large battery to satisfy all-day heavy use.

Impressive inside and out with 6.7-inch Huawei Edgeless Full-View Display

The Huawei nova Y90 is equipped with a 6.7-inch Huawei Edgeless FullView Display that supports up to 90 Hz display refresh rate and 270 Hz touch sampling rate, bringing a smooth and user-friendly experience whether for everyday use or gaming. The screen’s ultra-narrow bezels measure only 1.05mm, the result of which is an incredibly high screen-to-body ratio of 94% and an immersive visual experience. Additionally, to provide a comfortable reading experience, Huawei nova Y90’s screen supports features such as smooth screen dimming control, eye comfort mode, and e-book mode to further enhance users’ viewing experience.

To let users fill up the battery

128GB large storage

Thanks to the 128GB large storage of Huawei nova Y90, users have access to ample storage for their favourite apps, games or files for work and study.

50MP AI Triple Camera brings innovative shooting features to rock your social media

To let users capture every detail in pictures, Huawei nova Y90 is equipped with a High-Res 50MP Main Camera. There is also a 2MP Depth Camera and a 2MP Macro Camera. The smartphone possesses excellent night shooting capabilities thanks to the powerful performance of its 50MP Main Camera. The Super Night Mode function captures night shots that are bright and clear, delivering higher image quality with more details captured. Huawei nova Y90 features an AI Snapshot function, which can intelligently analyse the scene and perceive the amplitude of moving subjects and objects in front of the camera in real time. The advanced algorithm adaptively adjusts the shutter speed and captures fast motion shots instantly. Furthermore, the Continuous Front/Rear Recording for a seamless switch between the front and rear cameras.

DEPENDABLE

Toyota offers an opportunity to customers to make business profitable with its commercial range of vehicles

MUSCAT: Toyota is offering customers in Oman, an opportunity to take their business place with the dependable and capable commercial range of vehicles. The impressive models include the Land Cruiser pick-up, Hilux and the all-new Lite Ace.

The Toyota Land Cruiser Pick-up’s large wheels and stable footprint allow it to offer good control. Carrying forward the Land Cruiser’s proven legacy, the Land Cruiser pick-up is built to taken-on any hurdle with ease. A heady blend of rugged functionality, dynamic handling and all-out reliability, the Toyota Land Cruiser Pick-up is truly built to last.

The Toyota Land Cruiser Pick-up is packed with many features that include an Advanced 7” Navigation System with DVD Player featuring AUX, USB and Bluetooth, Stylish Radiator Grille in addition to Day-time Running Lights (DRL) and side protection moulding with chrome inserts. The Land Cruiser Pick-up is well-detailed and has Classy Silver Garnish on AC Vents, Keyless Entry System, Fog Lamps, Power Windows, Woodgrain Panelling, Wood Finish Steering Wheel, Chrome Outer Mirrors with Turn Signals, Front Bumper Guard and much more. Land Cruiser pick-up is a Part-time 4WD with easy switching



between 4WD and 2WD mode – it is powered by a mighty 4.0L, V6, VVT-i Engine generating 228 HP.

The rugged Hilux is available with J-Deck. The noteworthy features include a 2.7 Litre Petrol Engine that is available in 5-speed Manual Transmission and 6-speed Automatic Transmission, outputting 164 HP. The Hilux is not only a tough vehicle but also an advanced pick-up with stylish cues hitherto found only on SUVs. The front of the Hilux gives a sense that the vehicle is wider than it is. This is achieved by the horizontal Bars that make up the Grille and Sleek Headlamps that wrap around the

front of the Fenders. The Hilux sports a thick Front Bumper sculpted like an SUV, Front Fog lamps, Alloy Wheels, apart from Side Stripes that adorn the vehicle. The Toyota Hilux rises above expectations, to deliver some of the finest on-road and off-road experiences ever.

The Hilux really is two vehicles in one: a work truck through the week and a family vehicle on weekends, thanks to added comforts and safety features. Indeed the Hilux models are stunning in design and features. Their performance & safety parameters are amongst the best and the strong frame and suspension impart toughness for

any demanding task.

The new Toyota LITE ACE has been designed to maximize loading capacity in a compact, easy-to-maneuvre vehicle, while providing a comfortable driver and passenger experience. Low steps just 425 mm in height enable smoother cabin entry, with a roomy foot area. Moreover, the placement of the gear shift lever next to the steering wheel also facilitates easy access to the front passenger seat. The cockpit is designed to provide enhanced operability and visibility, creating greater convenience and peace of mind for the driver. With a low floor height of 620 mm and a spacious rear door entrance, the Toyota LITE ACE makes it easy to load and unload large cargo. Delivering a dynamic driving experience, the new Toyota LITE ACE comes with a 1.5-ltr four-cylinder engine that generates a maximum output of 96.5 hp and 134 nm of torque.



Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing

pH 9.1 to 9.5



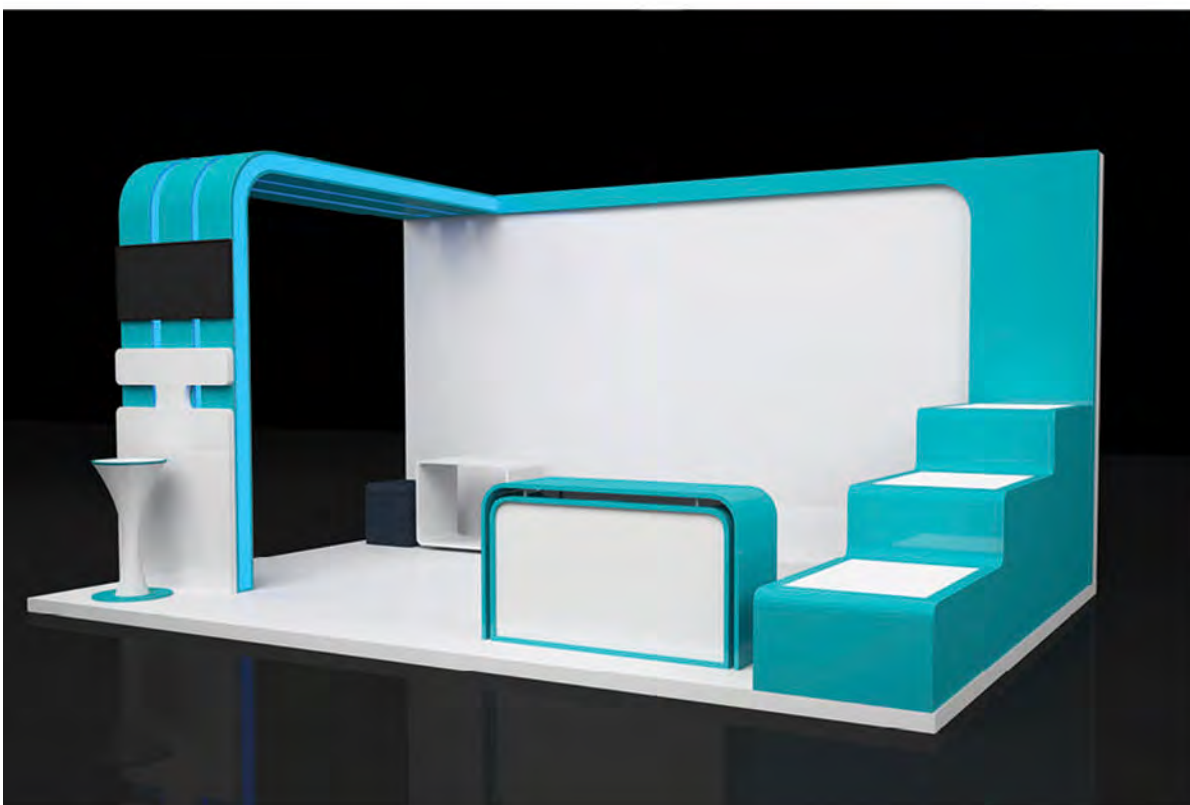
Toll-free
800 71 222 or
9275 5522

C.R. No.: 1365452



**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
EXHIBITION
BOOTHS/
DISPLAY
STANDS**

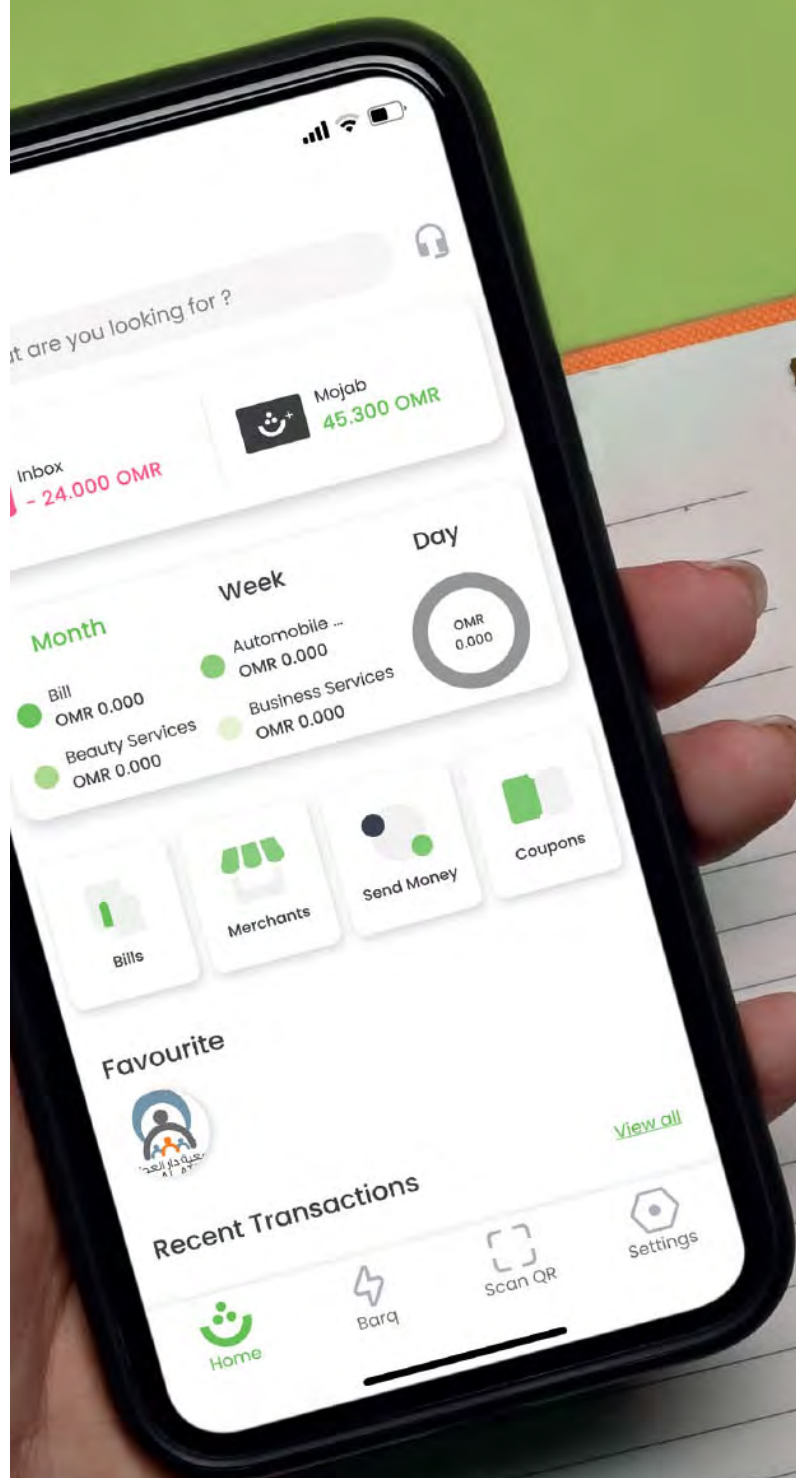
**Call us on
99614066**



**Contact us on rkjoshi57@gmail.com
or call/whatsApp 99614066/ 95405033
to make customized exhibition booths**



A card that is
delivered at
your doorstep



www.thawani.om

Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to download
and order your card for free





DO MORE

EXPLORE *the* WORLD *with* MG

YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE MIGHT
BE JUST ONE MG AWAY!



TRAVEL VOUCHERS,

FREE INSURANCE,

FREE REGISTRATION,

2 YEARS / 30,000 KM SERVICE,

& WINDOW TINTING

* T&C APPLY

CR NO. 1001990



Al Manuma | Al Azaiba | Bidayah | Al Buraimi | Ibra | Ibri | Nizwa
Jalan Bani Bu Ali | Salalah | Sinaw | Sohar | Sur | Wattayah

WhatsApp : 71557334

mg-om.com
/mgmotoroman
@mgmotoroman





Drop in for a rewarding career path in hospitality

MHA introduces VET BY EHL Professional programs in Oman.
Complementary internships and guaranteed jobs.

VISIT US

on our OPEN DAYS 26th and 28th SEPTEMBER 2022.

Timings: 10:30 – 15:30

Please ensure you arrive 15 minutes before the start.

Register now on

mha-om.com

For more info, call us at **99314332**

📍 **5024 AL ILAM ST., BOUSHAR 112**