

Deadline for BHA Award entries

Entries for contesting the Belarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design (BHA) ends on Thursday (December 1). The second edition of the award is dedicated for designs depicting the Maritime History Museum, which occupies an area of 14,154 sqm in the Wilayat of Sur. The contestants should attach designs illustrated by images and a brief account of the project. **DETAILS ON P2**



P9

CBO INKS MOU WITH ISLAMIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BODY



P14

GHANA HOLD OFF BATTLING SOUTH KOREA



P7

VISIT AMAD 22 AND TRAVEL 100 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE



MUSCAT

NEW OCCI BOARD CHAIRMAN ELECTED

Faisal bin Abdullah al Rowas was elected as the new board chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) for the period 2022-2026, after getting 11 of 21 votes in the chamber's recent elections. The results of elections, conducted in a secret ballot, were announced by Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, Head of the Elections Committee. **DETAILS ON P9**

MISSING WOMAN FOUND DEAD

The missing woman, Hameeda bint Hamood al Amriyah, was found dead by a citizen, the Royal Oman Police said on Monday. The procedures are under way to hand over the body to her family. The senior citizen went missing from Izki on October 3.

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Madinat Al Teeb Model City opens in Liwa



LIWA: As part of celebrations marking the 52nd National Day, HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham al Said presided over the opening of Madinat Al Teeb Model City in the Wilayat of Liwa, North Al Batinah Governorate. The project also represents

the approach of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning towards the construction of sustainable and sociable model cities in Oman.

CITY OF FRAGRANCE
The naming of the city stems from

the Royal directives of His Majesty the Sultan. Madinat Al Teeb (or city of fragrance) consists of 1,300 single and double residential units provided with all sorts of public services and utilities. It was designed to accommodate a total of 3,400 units in future. **TURN TO P2**

Inflation rate up 2.39%

MUSCAT: The inflation rate in the Sultanate of Oman in October increased by 2.39 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). The data indicated a rise in the prices of main groups in October 2022 compared to October 2021, such as food and non-alcoholic beverages by 4.64 per cent, education by 0.05 per cent, health by 3.45 per cent, transport by 2.16 per cent, recreation and culture by 1.13 per cent, restaurants and hotels by 4.35 per cent, clothing

and footwear by 1.55 per cent, furniture, household equipment and routine household maintenance by 2 per cent and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels by 1.08 per cent. Meanwhile, inflation declined by 0.05 per cent in the main group of communications. Prices also went up for oils and fats by 20.81 per cent, meats by 9.60 per cent, milk, cheese and eggs by 6.08 per cent, non-alcoholic beverages by 5.29 per cent, bread and cereals by 4.90 per cent, fruits by 3.71 per cent, foodstuff by 4.57 per cent and sugar, jam, honey and sweets by 2.32 per cent. — **ONA**

FROM PARIS TO INDIA VIA OMAN



With a motto to save the earth from degeneration and increase the organic content in soil as a means of existence for all living creatures, a French woman Nathalie Masse is cycling for more than 15,000 km. She arrived in Muscat enroute to India from France. **DETAILS P3**



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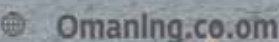
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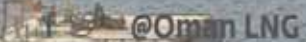


Japan

DESTINATION OF THE 3000TH CARGO













Strategic and Defence Studies Academy board meets

MUSCAT: The Board of Trustees of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies on Monday held its first annual meeting for 2022 at Bait al Falaj Garrison under the chairmanship of HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting was attended by HH Sayyid Dr Fahd bin Julanda al Said, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), Lt Gen Hasan bin Mohsin al Shraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Dr Rahma bint Ibrahim al Mahrouqiyah, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin



Khamis al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Air Vice Marshal Saleh bin Yahya al Maskari, Head of the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies, Maj Gen

Sulaiman bin Khalid al Zakwani, Secretary General of Military Affairs at the Royal Office, and Brigadier Abdullah bin Hamad al Harthy, Director General of Studies and Academic Affairs at

the Academy for Strategic and Defence Studies.

The Board of Trustees reviewed several topics within the agenda of the meeting.

— ONA

Gen Numani receives ambassadors of Iran, Italy and China

MUSCAT: Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office, received on Monday Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides reviewed the march of relations between the two countries and discussed several matters of mutual interest.

Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani also received Federica Favi, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman to bid her farewell at the end of her tour of duty.

The Italian ambassador expressed her appreciation for

the cooperation extended to her in the Sultanate of Oman. She also lauded the bilateral relations between Oman and Italy.

On his turn, Al Numani thanked the ambassador for the efforts she exerted in enhancing the relations between the two countries, wishing her success.

The Royal Office Minister also met Li Lingbing, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Sultanate of Oman.

Al Numani reviewed areas of joint cooperation between Oman and China. The two sides also touched on several matters of mutual interest and means of promoting them. — ONA

Madinat Al Teeb Model City opens in Liwa



FROM PAGE 1

The opening ceremony included artistic performances portraying the harmony of Oman — the land and the people, and a visual presentation of the city, its constituent elements and its architectural designs that reflect social, environmental and economic dimensions. The display also depicts the urban planning model catering to the needs of cities now and in future.

This was followed by a full-swing inauguration of the city as a model showcasing integrated planning.

Madinat Al Teeb constitutes a qualitative shift forward in urban planning of sustainable cities that respond to the aspirations of society. It also fits with Oman Vision 2040.

The city covers an area of 12 million sqm and it lies in the vicinity of Al Batinah Expressway. It accommodates 30,000 residents.

The city was planned in response to the Royal orders of late Sultan Qaboos to provide appropriate accommodation for local citizens whose properties were affected by the Port of Sohar

project. The Royal orders were specifically cited under Royal Decree No 52/2013 stating that all infrastructure services and facilities be provided for the city's residents.

The opening ceremony was attended by some Royal family members, ministers and top officials, governors, walis, members of the Majlis Ash'shura and local dignitaries. — ONA



Agreement to facilitate low-income families market products



MUSCAT: The Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) on Monday signed a partnership agreement with World Web IT Solutions (Webware) to enable productive social insurance and low-income families to market their products on the Maksab platform.

The agreement involves conducting training workshops, improving products, preparing marketing plans and conducting

promotional campaigns in coordination with the MoSD.

Maksab platform targets to provide smart vending outlets and a digital market for the products of the social insurance and low-income families with the aim of augmenting the income of those families and enable them both economically and socially as well as facilitating liaison between the producing families and their customers. — ONA

BHA Architecture Award: Entries deadline Dec 1

MUSCAT: Entries for contesting the Belarab bin Haitham Award for Architectural Design (BHA) will be Thursday December 1, 2022.

The second edition of the BHA is dedicated for designs depicting the Maritime History Museum, which occupies an area of 14,154 sqm in the Wilayat of Sur, South Al Sharqiyah Governorate. The entries are received via the award's website (www.bha.om).

Entries' reception constitutes the first stage of the award. It

requires the contestants to attach designs illustrated by images and a brief account of the project. The next stage is sorting, after which the arbitration committee selects the best 30 projects and notifies the participating teams of comments that will help them improve their projects. In the final stage, the best 10 projects are shortlisted for the top places in the BHA's second edition.

Selection criteria mandate that the designs highlight technical aspects of the

projects, their applicability for construction, their compatibility with international projects in the museums sector and the projects' environmental, social and economic sustainability, according to the jury.

The BHA is up for grabs by Omanis aged not more than 35 years — from among those specialised in architectural design, urban planning and architecture. The contestants can participate as individuals or three-member groups.

The second edition of BHA was launched on October 10, 2022. The selection of the Maritime History Museum to form the topic of the award's second edition was chosen based on the orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, with the aim of celebrating and documenting Omani maritime glories and handing them down to the future generations. The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism will implement the winning project. — ONA



2,881 PARTICIPATED IN THE 30TH EDITION OF SULTAN QABOOS HOLY QURAN COMPETITION

Holy Quran memorisation contest winners announced

MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science (SQHCCS) on Monday announced the winners of the 30th edition of Sultan Qaboos Holy Quran Competition. The total number of contestants in the competition stood at 2,881.

In a press release, Habeeb bin Mohammed al Riyami, Head of SQHCCS said that the initial qualifiers, held in 25 centres across Oman's governorates, saw strong competition.

The first level—the category of fully memorising the Holy Quran — was won by Faisal bin



Mohammed al Balushi from the centre of Suhar.

The second level — the category of memorising 24 consecutive parts



of the Holy Quran — was won by Mohammed bin Said al Ghamhari from the centre of Qurayat.

The third level — the category of

memorising 18 consecutive parts of the Holy Quran — was won by Hajir bint Saleh al Kindiyah from the centre of Nizwa.

The fourth level — the category of memorising 12 consecutive parts of the Holy Quran — was won by Ahmed bin Saif al

Muqaimi from the centre of Al Khuwair.

The fifth level — the category of memorising 6 consecutive parts of the Holy Quran — was won by Sarah bint Yousef al Mehriziyah from the centre of Ibra.

The sixth level — the category of memorising 4 consecutive parts of the Holy Quran — was won by Tasneem bint Salim al Shibliyah from the centre of Ibra.

The seventh level — the category of memorising 2 consecutive parts of the Holy Quran — was won by Suhaib bin Hilal al Siyabi from the centre of Ibra. — ONA



Role of tourism in providing employment underscored

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, is taking part in the 22nd round of Global Summit of World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). The three-day event, which began in Riyadh today, is deemed the extravaganza that influences travel and tourism most.

Oman was represented in the event by Salim bin Mohammed al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism.

The summit sees a large turnout of travel and tourism experts, both from the public and private sectors, as well as investors, tourism organisations, travel agents and operators of tourist destinations from different countries of the world.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism recently embarked on the re-assessment of the tourism sector in Oman and devised

new plans and programmes to ensure sustained growth of the tourism sector in the aftermath of Covid-19, which impacted the local and international arenas, said Al Mahrouqi.

In a speech at the session of dialogue among world tourism leaders, the minister affirmed the significance of the sector in providing employment and underscored the need to lend enough support to local communities and the private sector so that they could engage in sustainable partnerships based on tourism activity.

He also called for encouraging investment in rural areas, noting that Oman mulls incentives for investors who undertake projects outside Muscat which takes centre stage now. He also vowed to develop tourism sites and seal contracts with SMEs and privately-owned establishments.

— ONA

Experts call for action to save endangered Arabian Sea Humpback Whales

KABEER YOUSUF
@kabeeryousef

Oman provides essential habitat for nearly 20 species of Arabian Sea Humpback Whales (ASHW) on Omani shores, which are facing a large-scale extinction, and action needs to be taken to preserve them, according to experts.

National and international experts and policymakers attending the two-day workshop to discuss the protection of these mammals opined that recommendations for collaborative measures to help conserve this endangered species are the need of the hour.

The ASHW is one of 20 species of marine mammal, aka cetaceans, found in Oman's waters and is one of the four species of great whales found in the Sultanate of Oman. These four are ASHW, Northern Indian Ocean blue whale, Bryde's whale and sperm whale.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has classified ASHW as endangered on the Red List of threatened species in 2008 (although evidence suggests this categorisation should be amended to Critically Endangered).

"ASHW is one of the endangered species and a small population could be pushed to the brink of extinction if threats are not addressed, which could result in an ecological imbalance in our marine environment," said Ahmed bin



Said al Shukaili, Director of Marine Conservation Department at the Environment Authority (EA).

The major threats to this unique species include collisions with ships, noise pollution, whale and dolphin watching tourism and entanglement in fishing nets. There is an urgent need to collectively mitigate these risks.

"Sustainable conservation measures incorporating a cross-cutting approach are required to mitigate the threats to the survival of this unique species. During our workshop, we discussed how various government and industry stakeholders could work together to develop a local Conservation Management Plan considering lessons learned from a global perspective, as well as ways in which Oman can collaborate with other countries within the Arabian Sea humpback range to promote regional conservation measures," said Her Highness Sayyidah Tania al Said, President of the ESO.



Arabian Sea humpback whales and other marine life.

"This workshop is part of a wider conservation and capacity-building programme that supports the conservation of Arabian Sea humpback whales. The programme supports the UN Sustainable Development Goal agenda in developing capacity for climate change mitigation. We are happy to renew our established relationship with The Environment Society of Oman in this project, which will provide a valuable opportunity to support the next generation of marine researchers and activists," said Melika Betley, CEO of HSBC Oman. Organised in a collaboration between the Environment Authority (EA) and the Environment Society of Oman (ESO), with funding provided by HSBC Oman, the event was brought together to encourage collective responsibility and further actions that could lead to a safer habitat for the regionally endangered species.

On bicycle from Paris to India via Oman

KABEER YOUSUF
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With a motto to save the earth from degeneration and increase the organic content in soil as a means of the existence of all living creatures, a French woman has been pushing the cycle pedals for more than 15,000 kilometres. She arrived in Muscat enroute India from France.

Nathalie Masse, a psychologist by profession and a passionate cyclist since childhood, has always wanted to educate her surroundings about the importance of saving the soil and to keep it as fertile and diverse as it is today. She embarked upon the journey that covers more than 15,000 kilometres from the origin to the final destination.



"It was an alarm call if we don't take action now, we will have difficulty in the next 40 years and we will be inadvertently putting the next generations, our children, in danger," Nathalie quoted Sadhguru, who inspired her to take up the cause of the earth.

Inspired by the speech of Indian environmentalist Sadhguru, Nathalie embarked

upon the tour on June 21 in London after Sadhguru launched his 'Save Soil' campaign, which will conclude in February 2023 in the Indian state of Coimbatore.

"My journey, 'Wheels for Soil' is an effort to complement his call through 'Save Soil' an initiative to address soil crisis, because it is the means of existence for at least 3.5 billion people as it preserves clean water and helps regulate the climate," she adds.

Save Soil is a global movement that aims to address the soil crisis by bringing together people from around the world to stand up for 'Soil Health', and supporting leaders of all nations to institute national policies and actions toward the cause.

"We are facing a huge

threat by our own actions as soil degradation can reduce agricultural yields and threaten farmers' livelihoods. The same soil provides plenty of free services to the whole planet. It puts food on our plates, purifies our water, protects us against flooding and combats drought. And I was really shocked to listen to the environmentalist which triggered a thought in me and here I am," she said.

After visiting many countries including France, Ankara, Bulgaria, and Islamabad, and pedalling her bicycle and travelling by air for more than 15,000 kilometres, she arrived in the Sultanate of Oman, which is her ninth country. Her single-woman journey will conclude in India, the 10th stop.

INVITATION TO TENDER



Sohar Aluminium LLC (SA), PO Box 80, PC- 327, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman hereby invites qualified Suppliers/Contractors for the following tender:

Tender No.	: 22-022
Tender Title	: Cisco Support Services
Scope	: Sohar Aluminium intends to have support under Cisco Enterprise which will cover SA Critical core devices support (Hardware + Software + Tech Support) services as specified in technical Specifications.
Tender No.	: 22-023
Tender Title	: Refurbishment of Process Water Tanks
Scope	: Refurbishment, survey, inspect & repair Water Tanks services as specified in technical Specifications.
Tender No.	: 22-024
Tender Title	: Re-painting of Piping
Scope	: Inspect and paint the Compressed air and Natural gas networks services as specified in technical Specifications.
Tender No.	: 2022-ENG-SOW-0032
Tender Title	: Stern Assembly Scanning system
Scope	: The performance of the Reduction department depends on the performance of the anode assembly (AA). To meet the specifications, the stern assembly is checked once before casting by a contractor (station 1). Defective stern do pass unnoticed leading to wasted AA.
Document Issue Date	: 8 December 2022
Last Date For Applying	: 6 December 2022
Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com For list of active tenders visit: https://www.sohar-aluminium.com/en/content/tender-listing	



Diwan of Royal Court holds poetry evening



MUSCAT: The Diwan of the Royal Court, represented by the Committee for Nurturing Poetry Talents, held a poetry evening on the occasion of the 52nd Glorious



National Day, under the auspices of Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal al Busaidy, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, in the presence of a number of officials, poets and

media professionals, at the Oasis Club in Muscat Governorate on Sunday.

The evening included a number of diverse activities, including a

poetic operetta entitled “Oman’s Vision” and a number of patriotic songs, and an exhibition of books produced by the Poetry Talents Nurturing Committee, and

publications by the staff of the Royal Court.

A group of Omani poets from various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman revived the



evening with patriotic poems of eloquent and popular poetry, expressing the sincerity of feelings on this glorious national occasion.

In brief

■ THE HAGUE



OMAN PARTICIPATES IN CSP-27

The Sultanate of Oman is currently taking part in the 27th session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-27). The event is organised by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at its headquarters in The Hague. Oman’s delegation in the five-day session is headed by Shaikh Dr Abdullah bin Salim al Harthy, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Oman’s Permanent Representative at the OPCW. The session reviews the progress of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention. It also touches on means of enhancing international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry, among other topics. — ONA

■ ISTANBUL



OMAN AT COMCEC MINISTERIAL SESSION

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Economy, is taking part in the 38th ministerial session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC). The session is held in Istanbul from November 26-29. Oman’s delegation is headed by Dr Said bin Mohammed al Sagri, Minister of Economy. The session discusses a spectrum of topics, including the progress made regarding the COMCEC strategy, the executive programme of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, international economic developments and their effects on member states, a report on boosting the role of the private sector. — ONA

Watching World Cup during office hours?

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Previous Fifa World Cups kept football fans awake till the wee hours. However, the current Qatar edition has been a boon, as the matches are held during most of the waking hours -- the first match starting at 2 pm and the last at 11 pm (Oman local time). According to a survey conducted by GulfTalent, the World Cup will affect both employees and employers and the work environment in general. Both employees and employers must balance their work duties with watching the games, and staff productivity issues, including leaves by multiple employees at the same time. The survey said 77 per cent of employees in the region plan to watch at least some of the Fifa World Cup games, including 41 per cent who plan to watch the games during working hours. Of these, roughly one-third expect they would be given permission to watch the games,



while one in six said they would watch the games live-streaming from their computers or smartphones. The survey was based on online responses from 7,000 professionals across nine countries in the Middle East. Speaking to the Observer, the general manager of a leading corporate group said, “We are not going to make special facilities for the staff to watch the match

game is visibly excited, catching up on every game possible. According to a study, late-night matches and games during the day affect employees’ productivity across the Gulf region. The study revealed that 77 per cent of the employees in the region are planning to watch at least one of the games. Of these, 41 per cent intend to watch the matches during work hours. Nearly one-third of the employees hope that the employers will give them permission to watch the games, even as one in six people who were interviewed for the survey said they plan to secretly watch the match online. Some of the employees are also planning to ask for a full day of annual leave, call in sick or leave work early to watch the matches, according to the study. The study revealed that the highest among the people who are planning to go to Qatar to watch the matches are UAE nationals, followed by people from Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Oman Air unveils ‘Super Saver’ economy class fare

MUSCAT: Oman Air has introduced Super Saver, a brand-new category of Economy Class fare that offers greater choice and more value than ever. Designed for those who travel light, the low-cost option allows passengers to opt for no check-in baggage while enjoying savings of up to 20 per cent on tickets and 7 kg of carry-on baggage allowance. Available exclusively on the airline’s website and mobile app, Oman Air’s Super Saver fares are competitively priced, making them the perfect option for budget-conscious travellers, or for those who are taking short trips and don’t require much baggage. Meanwhile, guests can purchase a variety of add-ons including extra baggage, preferred seat selection, and airport lounge access, to make their journey even more seamless and comfortable.

Treat your taste buds @ Italian Cuisine Week

LAKSHMI KOTHANETH
@lakshmioman

Experiencing the culture of a land through cuisine is in store in Muscat this week, and the flavour is Italian. “The Italian cuisine Week -- The extraordinary Italian taste’ is an initiative of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote the cultural, social and environmental dimension of gastronomy. The week began on November 26 and will continue until December 4. Ambassador of Italy to the Sultanate of Oman, Federico Favi, said that the Italian cuisine week is an opportunity to raise the awareness of the public on authentic Italian food, culinary traditions, diversity of Italian regional cuisine as well as the importance of using quality ingredients following a healthy lifestyle and of being responsible consumers thus avoiding food waste. The week began at Capri Court restaurant by Shangri-La with an evening dedicated to the great composer and gourmet Gioacchino Rossini in

the presence of the singers of the Rossini Opera Festival directly from the Royal Opera House of Muscat. For the occasion, the chef Paolo Pelosi and Daniele Di Sacco designed the menu. It included some dishes much appreciated by the master and re-proposed over time by the local Italian cuisine. The seventh Italian Cuisine Week in the World 2022 has the theme - of conviviality, sustainability and innovation with an emphasis on the ingredients of Italian cuisine for the health of people and the planet. This year some events are aimed at students with experts sharing scientific knowledge on food and agriculture. “What is important is also the concept of recycling food, especially when it comes to making use of leftover food. These dishes are delicious. This is significant for sustainability,” she pointed out. At the end of the conference, food recycling tastings of Italian cuisine are planned, made by the Michelin 1 Star chef Paolo Gramaglia of the Professional



Association of Italian Chefs in collaboration with FRESCO restaurants. “We are very grateful to Oman Air for bringing our chefs to Oman and other sponsors,” the Ambassador said. On Sunday, Fresco Restaurant, Al Mouj, presented the origins of Pizza with the Professional Association of Italian Chefs. Chef Alberto Buonocore showed how the dough should be made, how it should be handled and how the real Neapolitan Pizza is prepared from a very old recipe. Throughout the week, Crowne Plaza is participating in a journey

through Italian flavours, and typical dishes of the local tradition of the various territories will be presented together with the classic dishes on the occasion of the week of Italian cuisine. On Tuesday, November 29, Roberto Ariani, Secretary-General of the Italian Cuisine Academy, and Roberto Vasarri, the Academy’s coordinator for the Tuscany Region, will meet the teachers and the students of the Oman College of Tourism. On November 29, an invitees only event, a live cooking session, is to be held at the Ambassador’s residence, where four cooking

stations will be set up in the garden. Four chefs, two from Italy and two Italians who live and work in Oman, will prepare four typical Italian dishes: a first course, a second course with meat, one with fish, and of course, Pizza. On December 4, Stefano Vaccari, Director General will be present research by CREA, the Agriculture and Food Research Council, Italian Ministry of Agriculture will be presenting the topic, ‘Women’s nutrition before and after childbirth.’ The CREA - Food and Nutrition Research Center carries out, with a multidisciplinary approach, research, training and activities on food, its quality and its role in maintaining health and preventing the risk of food-related diseases. “This initiative is part of the Sultan Qaboos University project with Oman Cables to bring Omani women closer to STEM subjects,” explained the Ambassador while speaking to Observer. “We are very grateful to Oman Air for bringing our chefs to Oman and other sponsors,” the Ambassador said.



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In brief

■ GENEVA



MONKEYPOX TO BE RENAMED MPOX: WHO

Monkeypox is to be renamed mpox in English, the World Health Organization announced on Monday, in a bid to avoid stigmatisation stemming from the existing name.

Monkeypox received its name because the virus was originally identified in monkeys kept for research in Denmark in 1958, but the disease is found in a number of animals.

“Following a series of consultations with global experts, WHO will begin using a new preferred term ‘mpox’ as a synonym for monkeypox. Both names will be used simultaneously for one year while ‘monkeypox’ is phased out,” the UN agency said.

■ TOKYO



JAPAN TO BOOST DEFENCE SPENDING

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida instructed ministers to double defence spending to about 2 per cent of gross domestic product in five years, the defence minister said on Monday. A panel of experts advising Kishida this month recommended broad tax measures to pay for the hike and cautioned against raising debt that could expose US ally Japan to international market changes.

Kishida's administration has pledged to “substantially” increase defence spending to counter growing threats. “Given the present security situation, we need to strengthen defence spending urgently in five years,” Defence Minister Yasukazu Hamada told reporters.

■ ISLAMABAD



PAKISTAN TALIBAN END CEASEFIRE

Pakistan's Taliban said on Monday they have called off a shaky ceasefire agreed with the government in June and ordered fighters to stage attacks across the country.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a separate entity to the Taliban in Afghanistan but sharing a similar ideology, have been responsible for dozens of violent attacks and hundreds of deaths across Pakistan since emerging in 2007.

“As military operations are ongoing against mujahideen in different areas... so it is imperative for you to carry out attacks wherever you can in the entire country,” it said in a statement.

WAR INCREASES CHEMICAL WEAPONS THREAT: WATCHDOG

Ukraine warns of fresh Russian missile strikes on energy grid

KYIV, Ukraine: Ukraine said on Monday that Russia was preparing for a fresh wave of missile attacks on its energy grid that have plunged swathes of the country into the cold and dark.

The warning came as foreign ministers from several European countries, including Nato-hopefuls Finland and Sweden, arrived in Kyiv for unannounced visits in a show of support.

A Ukraine military spokesman said a Russian warship capable of firing cruise missiles had recently deployed to the Black Sea with Kalibr-type missiles on board.

“This indicates that preparations were under way,” said spokeswoman Natalia Gumeniuk.

“It's quite likely that the beginning of the week will be marked by such an attack,” she added.

With temperatures dipping below zero, repeated Russian attacks have left Ukraine's energy grid teetering on the brink of collapse and have disrupted power and water supplies to millions over recent weeks.

In its most recent barrage,



A Russian conscript called up for military service poses for a picture with his acquaintances, as he waits before boarding a train and departing for a garrison at a railway station in Omsk, Russia, on Monday. — Reuters

Russia fired dozens of cruise missiles at targets across Ukraine last week, and an official in Kyiv said on Monday that residents in and around the capital were still suffering disruptions as a result.

“Emergency electricity shutdowns are ongoing in the Kyiv region. About 40 per cent is

currently without power. These are the consequences of the massive rocket attack that happened last week,” governor Oleksiy Kuleba told local media.

MAJOR THREAT

Russia's war on Ukraine has increased the threat from weapons of mass destruction including

chemical munitions, the head of the world's toxic arms watchdog said on Monday. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine, its chief Fernando Arias told the regulator's annual meeting. — Agencies

■ VACCINATION CAMPAIGN



A health worker administers polio vaccine drops to a child during a vaccination campaign in Lahore, Pakistan, on Monday. — AFP

Australia falls short in Great Barrier Reef efforts

PARIS: Despite warnings, Australia's efforts to save the Great Barrier Reef still fall short of protecting the world's largest coral reef system from pollution and climate change, experts said on Monday.

Australia had taken unprecedented steps towards the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, which the United Nations has designated a world heritage site, but more was needed to avoid the site being declared “in danger” by Unesco, the UN agency which compiles and manages a list of heritage sites.

Such a designation puts a government on notice that a site could be removed from the World Heritage list altogether, a very rare event. “Despite the unparalleled science and management efforts”



made by Australia over recent years, the Great Barrier Reef is “significantly impacted by climate

change factors”, Eleanor Carter at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

and Unesco representative Hans Thulstrup said in a report based on a mission to the Reef. “The

4 dead in hotel siege in Somali capital: officials

MOGADISHU: At least four people were killed in an ongoing attack by Al Shabaab militants who laid siege to a popular hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu overnight, a security agency official said on Monday.

Gunfire and explosions could still be heard more than 12 hours after the militants stormed the hotel near the presidential palace in a hail of bullets.

Mohamed Dahir, an official from the national security agency, said the gunmen were holed up in a room at the Villa Rose surrounded by government forces.

“So far we have confirmed the death of four people”, he said, adding that others had been rescued from the besieged venue.

“Very soon the situation will return to normal.” Government officials were among others injured, he added. The Villa Rose is frequented by MPs and located in a secure central part of the capital just a few blocks from the office of Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.

Al Shabaab, a militant group affiliated with Al Qaeda that has been trying to overthrow Somalia's central government for 15 years, claimed responsibility for the attack. Police said the gunmen rushed into the hotel in Bondhere district at around 8:00 pm (1700 GMT) on Sunday and an operation was under way to “eliminate” them. More than 12 hours later, witnesses near the scene described still hearing loud explosions and gunfire.

“I saw several military vehicles with special forces heading towards the hotel, and a few minutes later, there was heavy gunfire and explosions,” said local witness Mahad Yare.

In a statement late on Sunday, the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), a 20,000-strong military force drawn from across the continent, praised the “swift” security response to the attack. On its website the Villa Rose describes the hotel as the “most secure lodging arrangement in Mogadishu” with metal detectors and a high perimeter wall. — AFP

COP and Cup...

Sweet November is usually a cool month when the weather is colder, families are together, and holidays are always just round the corner.

However, there are two global events that made this November 2022 hotter than usual setting the scene for the rest of this decade.

One event is the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, known as COP27, in Sharm El Shaikh, Egypt, where I had the honour and the pleasure of participating with the Sultanate of Oman’s delegation along with 44.01 the Oman-based climate technology company working on saving our planet through eliminating CO2 emissions solutions.

The other event also held for the first time in our region is the Fifa World Cup 2022 in the neighbouring Doha, Qatar.

As you might have well-noticed, while the noble missions of both events bring us to work together to protect life on earth, and to promote sportsmanship, health, and wellness, they have also brewed cultural clashes that distracted us from investing together for a better sustainable impact of world events in our daily lives.



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The writer is an entrepreneur and innovation adviser

BOTH COP27 AND WORLD CUP 2022 BROUGHT US TOGETHER PHYSICALLY YET DISTANCED US FROM EACH OTHER INTELLECTUALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

disadvantaged east without willingness to address the damage the west’s industrialisation inflicted on the east.

I believe in science, and it has proven over and again that human beings live only in one planet, and unless we pivot the rhetoric from sides against each other to sides investing east other future generations will no habitable planet to enjoy.

WORLD CUP

I have never been alarmed by sensational media coverage like while reading today’s media coverage of World Cup 2022 in Qatar.

The constant accusations by some well-established media organisations in the west show a lack of objective reasoning and lean more towards believing in stereotypes and lack of willingness to understand or even listen to other.

While this disappoints me personally, and every person who has been blessed was educated and lived or interacted with the west, it has also been an eye-opener that we cannot take the significance of “intercultural understanding” for granted.

Our region benefits so much from constant engagement for the purpose of making progress in human rights, on all fronts.

This is better achieved through consistently respectful feedback and not through condescending lecturing and derogatory remarks.

Both COP27 and World Cup 2022 brought us together physically yet distanced us from each other intellectually and spiritually.

History has proven that distance invites estrangement and conflict.

The question today is: Is this right time to for us to pause all these global meetings to invest in evaluating their impact on our progress and or lives?

UNMINDFUL OF THE DEMOLITIONS



A woman cuddles a baby as excavators of the Israeli army demolish two Palestinian houses in the Jabal Johar area of Hebron city, near the Kiryat Arba Israeli settlement, in the occupied West Bank, on Monday. – AFP

Take a break... and refresh yourself

A break is round the corner. Interesting how the word ‘break’ can have so many different implications. From breaking something to a brief change, holiday to a break up, the list can be made vivid, sad and happy.

What we now mean is a break from the routine.

And this would mean now we would have to analyse what is that we have been wanting to do.

For some it could be sleeping without an alarm clock ringing giving options of stop or snooze.

There is a bit of a philosophy there, if you must, in life when we want to quit habits so often we think we would just edge out a habit slowly and that is when we keep pressing the snooze button, but in reality one of the best ways could be stop it once and for all.

When you snooze for five minutes the alarm rings again and there you are half sleepy for the rest of the morning.

Stop the alarm and jump out of the bed and you have extra time for everything.

The funny thing about holidays is that when you do not need to set the alarm, the body clock works with precision waking you up on the regular time.

And this true especially with children.



Lakshmi Kothaneth
@lakshmioman

The writer is a senior journalist and a radio anchor

ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF A BREAK WITH FOUR DAYS IS ONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TOGETHER. LET THIS BE A TOGETHERNESS OF COMFORT AND SUPPORT AND NOT OF JUDGING

Sleep and how much ever you try, you are wide awake.

So this time around, let’s not stretch out to the mobile phone and access social media, instead let us sit and reflect.

That is what holidays gift us - time.

Let us ask ourselves what is that we really want? What is that we are truly grateful.

Who are the people who keep appearing in our lives when we go through a rough patch? What is that we have been looking forward to learning but has been pushing aside?

The commitments that have been taking bad seats.

What is the food you have been missing? The hobbies that need a revisit.

And if you are one of them who are going to wake up early in the morning without an alarm clock then just pop out of the house and enjoy the sunrise and take time to indulge in a bit of Vitamin D.

Hopefully one does not need to rush through the holidays.

But most people would want to explore and be a tourist.

The options are many but one place that everyone can enjoy without any indulgence is of course the beach.

This holiday coinciding with

the Italian Cuisine Week, makes it the perfect time to explore flavours of Italy.

In most places there are facilities to sit out and watch the World Cup and maybe this is an ideal time to indulge in some watch match sessions.

Most importantly it is the time to spend with nature and that is like going back to our origin.

Shuttling from appointments to phone calls we hardly feel the breeze on our face or notice the sunset.

This is the time to do so.

If you feel you need more than four days then it is a vacation you are seeking. But short and sweet

is a beautiful combination and it is enough to kick back into action once the holiday is over and we are back to reality rejuvenated and inspired.

Hopefully not sun burned and exhausted.

But then what is life without some adventure?

It is always good to visualise the beginning and ending so it might be a fine idea to plan out the ending of the break and eye at the preparation or things to do when going back to work.

Road trips are going to be inevitable and the most important part here is safety while driving.

It is never wrong to be cautious and being defensive while driving is cool no matter what others say.

You are on a break and you want to be happy and healthy.

One of the best parts of a break with four days is one has the opportunity to get together.

Let this be a togetherness of comfort and support and not of judging.

There are many who go through anxiety thinking of being part of a gathering.

There is no ritual or traditions when it comes to enjoying a break.

Let it be something different and one to cherish forever.



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Visit AMAD 22 and travel 100 years into the future



By Mai Al Abri

With the cold winter breeze engulfing Duqm, the youth of Oman are warming up to take part in the biggest youth activity that takes place in Oman as the country welcomes "AMAD Duqm 22".

Hosting more than 30 activities in various fields such as culture, sports, innovation, technology, sustainability and entertainment, in line with the aspirations of young people, the event is set to receive more than 20,000 young men and women between the ages of 13 to 40 years from in and outside the Sultanate of Oman.

The visitors to the event will feel as if they've travelled 100 years into the future. They will encounter an environment that appears to be somewhat familiar but it is from a different time. The event is cloaked

in mystery, suspense, and entertainment because all of its elements appear bizarre; they are from the future.

AMAD 22 encourages contemplation and mediation by distributing dozens of abstract and interactive art works and structures throughout the village. A variety of recreational activities will also take place in the village.

Beginning the day with a contemplation session with Ghaitha al Muaini at five in the morning, the day-long events extend to satisfy all tastes of visitors. Other events include an electric bike circuit (scooter), Badil exhibition games, an obstacle course, drones, a remote control car racing circuit, art labs, video games, an astronomy camp, backgammon and others.

One of the main events taking place as part of AMAD 22 is the Nufoon Sculpture Forum, which fea-

tures a number of workshops given by the participating sculptors to introduce the community's visitors, the staff members of the businesses operating in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and schoolchildren to the art of sculpture and the various works of art created by the sculptors.

In order to reflect the distinctive natural, geological, and touristic features and landmarks in Duqm, a group of international sculptors from Spain, Germany, Bulgaria, Romania, and Tunisia, as well as three of the most renowned Omani sculptors, created artistic statues of different sizes ranging from 2 to 3 metres.

Khalil al Kalbani, a sculptor, fascinatingly created his piece "from Ocean to one's self" depicting all the different changes that the universe experienced through the tough times of the Covid pandemic. The lines in Khalil's sculpture reflect

some kind of ambiguity and uncertainty, as he resembles to the ambiguous circumstances that people underwent during that period.

While Ahmed al Shabibi was inspired by the Garden of Rocks in Duqm. The park is a good example of coexistence between the natural and the human activities practised in the area where the garden remains untouched. My sculpture reflects this reality as the base is small compared to the size of the work. This shows that it is not impossible to survive in each medium if circumstances demand it.

In addition to using the sculptures' outputs to furnish the expanded public spaces and give them an aesthetic character for the visitors to interact with, the forum aims to enrich the artistic movement in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm and provide angles for filming and recording moments.

The "AMAD Duqm 22" event is held as part of the efforts to highlight the Special Economic Zone at Duqm as a contemporary, prosperous city that values creativity and innovation. Along with promoting tourism initiatives, it also aims to present Duqm as a futuristic city that draws young people and their projects in a variety of industries, including energy, manufacturing, and logistics. The Event gives young people the chance to turn their innovations and skills into promising business ventures that take advantage of the possibilities. It also aims to offer different housing and infrastructure options.

It is worth noting that the event is being held on an area of 500,000 sqm, and was designed to simulate a residential village with integrated facilities. Duqm was chosen because it is the gateway to the Omani economy in the future stage.





INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



michaelclicks

Bidiyah - بديه

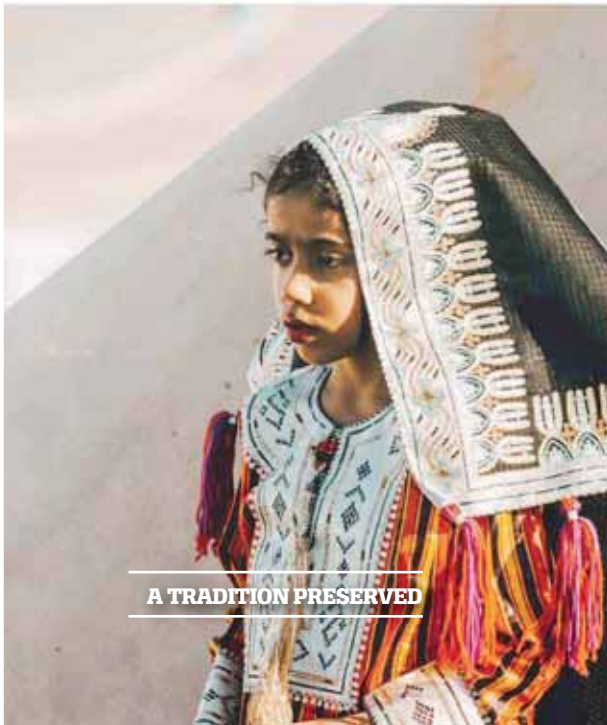


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AROUND THE WORLD

ENTERTAINMENT

Agatha Christie's 'The Mousetrap' to make Broadway debut in 2023



AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "The Mousetrap" will open on Broadway for the first time after 70 years on the London stage.

The world's longest-running play was first staged in London in 1952 and has never been performed in New York, but is now set to open there in 2023.

It will be a co-production between the "The Mousetrap" British producer Adam Spiegel and Tony-award winner Kevin McCollum, whose credits include Broadway productions of British hit shows "The Play That Goes Wrong" and "Six."

McCollum said: "I am thrilled that Agatha Christie's beloved murder mystery that changed popular theatre and has been a landmark attraction for US visitors to London's West End for the past 70 years will now be coming to Broadway."

"I'm excited for the huge Christie fan-base in North America, and for the acting company in New York who will join the esteemed ranks of 'The Mousetrap' alumni."

Spiegel said: "There can be no better way to mark today's milestone in 'The Mousetrap's' illustrious run, than to look ahead to a production in New York."

"I feel after the longest out of town try-out in history, 'The Mousetrap' is finally ready to transfer to Broadway."

In celebration of the anniversary, Private Eye writer and cartoonist Nick Newman has created a cartoon commemorating 70 years since the show first opened in London.

"The Mousetrap" has been performed 28,915 times in the city, according to the producers of the production.

It is against Christie's wishes for the play to be performed on Broadway, according to the Times. — **PA Media/dpa**

CULTURE

Celebrated Greek cheesemakers brought low by inflation



ON HIS BOUGAINVILLEA-covered farm on the Greek island of Naxos, Yannis Karganis milks his sheep, wondering anxiously how he will cope with soaring costs and keep his cheesemaking business afloat.

After the war in Ukraine sparked an inflationary spiral in the price of cereals, fuel and other goods, farmers on Naxos and across the country have been left fearing for their survival.

"I earn nothing from my cheeses," says the septuagenarian, who makes Naxos graviera, a hard yellow cheese popular throughout Greece and beyond.

"I work day and night and despite this, I still cannot live."

Inflation in Greece rose to 12 per cent in September before dropping to 9.1 per cent in October.

Even though the government announced nearly 280 million euros (\$291 million) in support benefits for young farmers earlier this year, there is still heavy pressure on the country's agricultural sector which employs 11 per cent of the workforce.

"Last year, a bag of feed cost 14 euros. This year it's 21 euros. Gasoline has skyrocketed to 2.30 euros per litre at the moment," the greying Karganis sighs, stirring a large cauldron to make cheese in his small kitchen.

SOCIAL STRESS

Throughout the country, social pressure is rising in the face of soaring energy prices.

In November, a general strike on the issue paralysed Greece.

Dimitris Kapounis, head of the union of Naxos agricultural cooperatives, warns that if nothing changes "in the medium term, there will be no more milk on the Greek market, no meat, potatoes, or anything else."

Naxos graviera — made from 80 per cent cow's milk and 20 per cent sheep or goat's

milk — is one of Greece's most popular cheeses.

The Greeks like it sprinkled on pasta, fried or as a table cheese.

But even carrying the vaunted European Protected Designation of Origin label, and exporting to a dozen countries including the United States and Germany, hasn't helped stem the slide in output as costs

Yorgos Margaritis, who owns 250 cows, is one of the local farmers to have already made this painful decision.

He gestures to some of his nearby animals which he says would normally have been inseminated by now for producing calves.

"(Instead), they will be slaughtered," he says.

The cost of transporting



ramp up.

This year, the usual annual production of more than 1,250 tonnes has already fallen by 130 tonnes, the cooperative said.

LACK OF MILK

The squeeze on animal feed and fuel has resulted in a fall in milk production, explains local shepherd Yannis Vavoulas.

"We can't maintain feeding them properly," the 42-year-old says.

"We feed them two or three times (a day) with little food," which means the animals produce less milk.

The crisis is so acute that some farmers have had to slaughter part of their herd, further reducing milk production.

goods from the Greek mainland is also becoming prohibitive — it takes more than five hours by boat to get from the main Greek port of Piraeus to Naxos. In an act of desperation, the Naxos cooperative in April went as far as neighbouring Bulgaria to buy animal feed, where prices are lower.

"If the milk producers are not helped... then we are all lost," warns Yannis Kavouras, head of the largest cheese factory in Naxos.

And as the EU's protected status regulations permit only the use of local milk, shipping it in from elsewhere is not an option either.

"If the producers don't bring any more milk, what am I going to use — water?" wonders Kavouras. — **AFP**

OF BOOKS, LIFE, AND POP CULTURE



Rasha al Raisi

Our Gentle Strays

WITH A HEAVY heart, I'd been following the wake of stray dogs shooting that happened in many areas here.

Emotions were high on social media, between anguished locals and concerned Europeans contemplating ways of helping the surviving dogs. Amid all this hubbub came the voice of reason and practicality in the form of our local rescue heroines Maryam, Nada, Varsha and many others who organised themselves in teams transporting injured dogs to veterinary clinics, finding fosters for the orphaned puppies, and asking their followers to help by any means.

The Omani Paws took a step further and published a post asking their followers to upload selfies of themselves with stray dogs they know, to emphasise the gentleness of these creatures for any doubters. Not being a selfie person and neither are my pack of wild dogs, I share the experience of feeding them for a year and a half now.

My pack started with the 4-month-old siblings Fayga and Rayga, who later got separated (Rayga stayed in the wadi and Fayga joined another pack). Rayga became the alpha female of the area as her mother before her. She got pregnant once and lost her puppies for some reason, yet while nursing them she came across two orphaned puppies who she adopted and they followed her everywhere (I called them Sa'do and Sa'dial).

As I head everyday to the wadi with my basket of food, I'm accompanied by a few of my protective female cats -male cats are busy eating, if you're wondering- in the less-than-a-minute perilous journey that includes walking in the neighbour's parking area and crossing a side road.

When Rayga spots us, she gives one bark that disperses my feline garrison and sends them back to the corner of the parking where they sit waiting for me (and meowing when I get late, reminding me of where my loyalty

should lie).

Rayga's pack increases and decreases depending on the season. Normally they're no more than ten dogs but sometimes they exceed fifteen, with other packs joining in and staying for a week to feed before disappearing. Being an alpha female, Rayga maintains hierarchy like a good referee especially during feeding.

If the puppies dare and eat with the adults, Rayga would leave her plate and runs towards them barking warningly before pushing them over, while they yelp in complain. Yet she has no say when her mother is around and becomes very submissive. I learned that when dogs sniff the air, it means that others are joining them and usually they're welcomed with happy barks and tail wags.

The dogs and I share what we call in Arabic: "love of hearts" as they maintain their distance but are always happy to see me.

A few weeks back, I slipped while going down the wadi sending half of the dry food in the air. I fell on my back and my left elbow hit the ground hard but luckily nothing broke.

The pack barked anxiously as I got up and started picking up the food from the ground. Rayga and Sa'do came and sat nearby me till I was done then accompanied me down the wadi. I end this article with a plea for a more humane solution to the increasing stray dogs' population such as neutering and providing for.

Wadi dogs are a mixed breed that is unfairly ignored by the locals, who's prefer the exotic types that could barely survive our summers. However, they're adopted overseas as they're considered family dogs. Strays are an essential part of our environment. Raising awareness about their importance should start now.

Rasha al Raisi is a certified skills trainer and the author of: The World According to Bahja. rashabooks@yahoo.com

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Faisal al Rawas elected OCCI Board Chairman

New mandate: Elections held for Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the period 2022-2026.

BALQUEES AL ORAIMI
MUSCAT, NOV 28

Omani businessman Faisal bin Abdullah al Rawas (**pictured**) was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of Oman Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (OCCI) for a four-year term (2022 – 2026). The election, by secret ballot, was held under the auspices of Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, who is also Chairman of the Chamber's Elections Committee for the period 2022-2026. Announcing the results, Dr Saleh said the elections were also held for the Chamber's Board of



Directors, Chairman's two deputies, and members of the permanent

committees. The elections, taking place by secret ballot, were held in line with Article 23 of the Chamber's charter issued by Royal Decree 56/2022. While Faisal bin Abdullah al Rawas was elected Chairman with 11 votes out of a total of 21, his deputies were Rashid bin Amer bin Muhammad al Muslehi (with 11 votes) and Hamoud bin Salem al Saadi (with 14 votes). Other winners were Anwar bin Hamad al Sinani and Nayef bin Hamid Fadhil as members of

the Executive Committee; Saud bin Ahmed al Nahari; Zahir bin Muhammad bin Zahir al Kaabi and Saeed bin Ali al Abri, as members of the Investment Committee; and Muhammad bin Nasser al Maskari, Hussein bin Abdul-Hussein al Lawati and Mustafa Ahmed Salman as members of the Audit Committee. Together they represent the Chamber's Board of Directors for the current period 2022-2026. The elections were held at the Chamber's main headquarters

in Ruwi on Monday, November 28, 2022, in the presence of Dr Saleh, members of the Election Commission, members of the Muscat Governorate representatives, and chairmen of the boards of directors of the branches, and representatives of public shareholding companies, and the foreign investor. Dr Saleh congratulated the candidates on their victory and urged them to work collectively in realising the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.

CBO inks MoU with Islamic financial institutions body

BUSINESS REPORTER
MANAMA, NOV 28

The Central Bank of Oman signed on Sunday, November 27, 2022, a memorandum of understanding with the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI), with a focus on several areas, including standards development, capacity building, and knowledge exchange. The MoU signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the AAOIFI and Islamic Development Bank 17th Annual Islamic Banking Conference, which was held in Manama on the theme "Economic Resilience and Governance in Disruptive Times". The signing of the MoU also coincides with Oman completing a decade since the official introduction of Islamic finance in the country. During this decade, Islamic finance in Oman managed to take 16% of the market share, making its growth one of the fastest in the world. With assets totalling RO 6.1 billion (\$16 billion), the Omani Islamic banking market is today the 15th largest internationally.



AAOIFI is an Islamic international autonomous non-for-profit corporate body, established in 1991 and based in Bahrain, that prepares accounting, auditing, governance, ethics, and Sharia standards for Islamic financial institutions and the industry. AAOIFI aims to standardise and harmonise international Islamic finance practices and financial reporting in accordance to Sharia. In this regard, it complements the work of the Islamic Financial Services Board, which has a broader mandate and is more focused on prudential regulation standards for the industry.



OMAN LNG SHIPS 3,000TH LNG CARGO

SUR: Oman LNG loaded its 3,000th shipment of liquefied natural gas at its Qalhat complex on Monday, November 28, 2022. The cargo is bound to Osaka Gas of Japan on board the 135,000 cubic metre capacity Jamal LNG Ship. With the successful loading of the 3,000th cargo, Oman LNG has achieved the production of 191.2 million metric tonnes of LNG to date. It has so far completed 21 years of operations, shipping LNG cargoes to as many as 22 countries globally, including Puerto Rico. This achievement also translates Oman LNG's permanent commitment to applying the highest standards of health, safety and the environment in all its activities. This commitment resulted in the achievement of 35 million man-hours without lost injury in 2019. On the other hand, the company's activities in sustainability and its ongoing projects reflect its continuous endeavour to reduce its carbon footprint and enhance greenhouse gas management, which is in line with the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman to reach zero emission neutrality by 2050. – **ONA**

Oman's first PPP-based truck road project to boost mineral exports

New link: Project estimated to cost between RO 200m - 250m

CONRAD PRABHU
MUSCAT, NOV 28

The Omani government's maiden initiative to tap the private sector in the construction of the country's first carriageway based on the Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model formally got under way on Monday, November 28, 2022. Spanning a distance of 67 kilometres, the proposed Salalah – Thamrait carriageway will be designed primarily for heavy trucks bearing mineral ores, among other goods, from mineral-rich areas of the Wilayat of Thamrait in Dhofar Governorate. Dubbed the Salalah – Thamrait Truck Road (STTR), this new road venture serves as an efficient, all-weather alternative to the current 85-km carriageway that, as part of the arterial Adam – Salalah highway, currently serves as the only lifeline connecting the north of Oman with Dhofar Governorate. The Ministry of Finance, which administers all PPP-based projects in Oman, is overseeing the competitive process for the procurement of the Salalah –

Thamrait Truck Road project in coordination with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. On Monday, it issued a Request for Expressions of Interest inviting suitably qualified developers to bid for its mandate to 'Design, Finance, Construct, Operate and Maintain' the STTR project on a PPP basis. A key beneficiary of the new road link will be the governorate's thriving mineral industry, which has long called for easier and cost-competitive transportation of ores from Thamrait to Salalah Port, presently the principal staging point for Omani mineral exports. Gypsum and limestone ores mainly mined from Thamrait constitute the lion's share of the 16 million tonnes of general cargo volumes (2021 figures) handled by Salalah Port annually. Almost all of the minerals exported via the port originate at Thamrait, and must be transported by heavy truck along the sole dual carriageway that also serves the general motoring population. However, as the dual carriageway twists and turns through the Dhofar Mountains, its sharp bends and steep gradients have made it prone to accidents and also contributed to frequent

traffic snarls. Furthermore, an upsurge in mining, quarrying and farming activity in the Thamrait area in recent years has resulted in sharp increase in the number of heavy trucks and commercial vehicles headed to Salalah city and its transshipment hub. The new alignment, while shorter than the existing carriageway, will nevertheless traverse undulating terrain that will necessitate the construction of bridges at several locations. The overall cost of construction is estimated in the range of RO 200 million – 250 million, according to industry experts. In addition to the mineral sector, the new link will also open up parts of Thamrait — notably the Najd with its promising agriculture and farming potential — to investment and development. Trade flows with neighbouring Yemen, via Al Mazunah Free Zone, are expected to grow as well. Importantly, to help the selected developer recoup its investment in the project term, users — trucks in particular — will be required to pay a toll — the first such levy of its kind in Oman. Toll-based collection will be a key component of privately funded road ventures procured on a PPP basis going forward.



(For illustration only)

Meethaq announces 50 per cent discount on safe deposit lockers

MUSCAT: As part of Oman's Glorious 52nd National Day celebrations, Meethaq Islamic Banking has announced a special discounted offer to its customers for safe deposit lockers wherein customers will receive a 50 per cent discount on the annual fees for the first year.

Hafawa Private Banking customers can enjoy the locker services for free for a full year under this offer. Meethaq has encouraged customers to take advantage of this attractive offer which will be valid until the end of March 2023.

On this occasion, Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager, Retail Banking – Meethaq, said, “Meethaq Islamic Banking is pleased to continue offering a wide range of exclusive offers, innovative products and services with multiple features tailored for our customers.

We expect that this offer will benefit our valued customers who are keen to keep their precious belongings securely.

Our valued customers will also be able to take advantage of other benefits thanks to our customer-centric strategy.”

Sami Bait Rashid concluded by expressing his happiness with the



continuous confidence shown by customers for Meethaq's various services and products. He added that Meethaq would continue to innovate and keep pace with global Islamic finance trends and the needs and requirements of customers in Oman.

In line with its excellent customer-centric vision and full commitment to offer a world-

class Islamic banking experience, Meethaq, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2022, has established the largest Islamic branch network in Oman consisting of 12 branches in Muscat and 12 branches across other governorates.

In addition to its already excellent network of branches, Meethaq has a dedicated network

of over 40 ATMs/CDMs while also providing free access to about 800 ATMs and CDMs of Bank Muscat across the country for customers to conduct their banking transactions with ease.

Customers can also benefit from the world-class Mobile and Internet banking facilities as well as access to a state-of-the-art call centre, which is easily reachable at 24656666.

Meethaq has adopted industry best practices in Islamic banking and finance right from the very beginning to provide a robust model that benefits its customers.

Every Meethaq product goes through Shari'a compliance certification by the Shari'a Supervisory Board and is created in line with the guidelines of the Central Bank of Oman.

Meethaq continues to receive industry and customer recognition of its industry Leadership and customer-centric vision and has recently won the GIFA Market Leadership Award for Islamic Banking Window Operations at the Global Islamic Finance Awards, Best Islamic Digital Bank in Oman from Global Finance and also Oman's Most Trusted Brand (Islamic Banking) from Apex Media.

OOMCO opens 30th LubExpress centre in Oman



MUSCAT: Oman Oil Marketing Company (OOMCO) is celebrating the opening of its 30th LubExpress centre in Oman. Located in Wadi Kabeer, Muscat, the facility will offer customers premium lubricants, a 15-point checklist, and frequent promotional offers, all with high quality service and expert care.

It is the latest addition to OOMCO's rapidly expanding range of service hubs, which revolve around providing a unique one-stop-shop experience.

Tariq al Junaidi, Chief Executive Officer of Oman Oil Marketing Company, said, “It is important to us to give our customers across Oman access to everyday services that

complement their journeys and provide them with the best care possible. Our LubExpress centres offer excellent value and convenience with the assurance of our OOMCO branded products. Meanwhile, we continue to grow our footprint across Oman, while endeavouring to be the first choice for automobile owners.”

As well as its sites in Oman, OOMCO also has ten LubExpress centres internationally, including Kenya, Bahrain, Bangladesh, and Egypt. With an unparalleled chain of service hubs, the company continues to fulfil its commitment to provide more and better services while becoming among the most customer-centric marketer both locally and within GCC countries.

Genesis G90 named 2023 MotorTrend car of the year



MUSCAT: MotorTrend named the 2023 Genesis G90 as its 2023 Car of the Year during the Genesis press conference at the Los Angeles International Auto Show on November 17.

This marks the third time Genesis has received top honours from MotorTrend, following GV70 as 2022 SUV of the Year and G70 as 2019 Car of the Year.

“We are humbled to have our flagship G90 sedan named as 2023 MotorTrend Car of the Year,” said Claudia Marquez, chief operating officer of Genesis Motor North America. “Genesis is pleased to receive this recognition, further demonstrating the focus we place on delivering products with a level of design, performance, and refinement that customers have come to expect.”

G90 competed against twenty Car of the Year contenders in MotorTrend's annual evaluation of the most competent, desirable, and capable vehicles to debut for the 2023 model year.

As part of testing, MotorTrend editors put eligible vehicles through their paces on both the street and on the test track to determine a verdict.

Toyota Oman announces 16th Toyota Dream Car Art Contest

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Automotive announced the 16th edition of the popular Toyota Dream Car Art Contest. The annual event scheduled to be held across the country, is open to kids from various age groups. Winners will be awarded exciting prizes that include 43” UHD TVs, Dell i3 Laptops and more.

The winners of the national contest will be eligible to take part in the world contest. Conditions apply.

The contest is open to any legal resident of the Sultanate of Oman aged 15 years or under.

Artwork can be created using any paint including water paint, colour markers, crayons and should be drawn by hand. Digitally created artwork will not be accepted.



Artwork should include a background and should be submitted on entry forms available at Toyota showrooms; Judging will be based on originality, artistic expression, concept and colouring.

All artworks should be submitted with an entry form signed by the participant

and a parent or guardian. To participate, contestants are encouraged to visit any Toyota showroom to collect the drawing sheets. The last day of submission is December 18, 2022.

The Toyota Dream Car Art Contest has been encouraging imaginations to soar to great limits since 2004. This initiative from Toyota Motor Corporation is a social contribution that gives children an opportunity to put their imaginations on paper.

Each year the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest is held in different countries all over the world with the theme ‘Your Dream Car’.

The importance of recognising a dream for children is the goal, as well as, encouraging children to become interested in cars

by using their creativity and imagination.

Toyota has ‘great hopes for the Dream Cars from the children's rich imaginative powers. The age groups for the participants are under 8 years, 8-11 years and 12 – 15 years.

To take a look at previous Toyota dream car art contests in the region, log onto <https://www.toyota-dreamcarart.com/meca/en/>

For the latest press releases, test drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, and instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/. For any further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota Showroom.

Beaconhouse students receive Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards

MUSCAT: Four students from Beaconhouse, Oman have received prestigious awards from Cambridge Assessment International Education, to acknowledge their outstanding performance in the November 2022 Cambridge examination series.

The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards programme celebrates the success of students taking Cambridge examinations in over 40 countries around the world.

Cambridge places learners at the centre of their international education programmes and



Muhammad Huzaifa Shahid

qualifications which are inspired by the best in educational thinking.

The following students at Beaconhouse School received High Achievement awards:

1. Muhammad Huzaifa Shahid in Islamiyat (IGCSE)
2. Muneeza Hashmi in Urdu



Muneeza Hashmi

(IGCSE)

3. Muhammad Usman in Computer Science (AS Level)
4. Muhaddisa Zehra in Accounting and Information Technology (A Level)

The Principal of Beaconhouse School, Zeba Masood, said that the



Muhammad Usman

awards recognised the talent, dedication and commitment of both learners and staff. These top performing students will receive their Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards at a school ceremony in the near future.

Beaconhouse Exams Officer

and Key Stage 4 and 5 coordinator said: ‘It is extremely gratifying to see the students achieve such high results after all the hard work and effort, and they deserved to be acknowledged. The teachers have also worked tirelessly to ensure that the students were properly prepared, and they share in the success of these students.

The results are a reflection of the enormous talent in Oman, not only amongst learners but also within the teaching profession.”

Learners from Beaconhouse School have a bright future ahead of them, and we wish them every success in their future.

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NAME CHANGE

I THEJAS (holder of Indian Passport No. P4284073, Date of issue: 22-08-2016, Place of issue : Bengaluru) son of Girish Naik having permanent residence in 2-215, Manthugudde House, Hirebandady post & village, Puttur, Dakshina Kannada. Pin 574241, Karnataka, India and presently residing in Al Qurum, Muscat, P.O Box - 2506, P.C 112, Sultanate of Oman intend to change my name from **THEJAS (old name) to THEJAS GIRISH NAIK (new name)** for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name change may please be communicated to Embassy of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.O Box No. 1727, Postal Code 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

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Contact: 77045881, email: aazam5181@gmail.com.

INDIAN male experienced in marketing and sales of industrial products. Manufacturing, retail, wholesale, chemicals, metals, agriculture etc is looking for a good break. Having DL and good knowledge of Muscat, Sohar, Dubai, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi markets. 78501743

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WHO IS PAYING FOR TWITTER?



STUART A THOMPSON

The writer is a reporter on the New York Times technology desk covering misinformation and disinformation.

When Elon Musk bought Twitter last month, he made Twitter Blue, an existing subscription service, the backbone of his strategy to increase revenue. The subscription gives users access to some extra features for \$8 per month, including a blue check mark that was previously reserved for notable people.

The plan had attracted about 140,000 users as of Nov 15, according to data from Travis Brown, a software developer in Berlin who has studied extremism on Twitter. But it also spurred spoof accounts, rattled advertisers and emboldened far-right influencers. Twitter has halted the programme over issues with impersonation. More than 300 accounts have been suspended after subscribing for Twitter Blue — many of them new accounts that signed up for Twitter after Musk announced his takeover plans — suggesting Twitter is still taking action against users that may violate its policies.

The far-right has also applauded Musk's takeover, believing he will welcome back barred users and create a more permissive environment for ideas that had violated the company's policies. Thousands of subscribers

either follow or are followed by far-right accounts, according to Brown's data.

The subscribers were connected to about 5,000 Twitter accounts that had been flagged by watchdogs and researchers for sharing far-right ideas, including a list by researchers at Cornell University that tracked Twitter users who pushed election fraud claims.

Many popular far-right influencers also bought subscriptions, frustrating Musk's critics who said the Twitter Blue check mark added legitimacy to controversial figures.

Some of those accounts, including Libs of TikTok and cattur2, two anonymous accounts popular among the far-right, appeared to revel in the attention that their check marks created.

Musk's own actions have spurred Twitter registrations, such as when his offer to buy the site was accepted in late April and when the deal closed in late October. Those moments have resulted in many new Twitter Blue subscriptions, too.

Expanding the check marks rattled advertisers after some verified parody accounts went viral, including a tweet from a spoof pharmaceutical account that claimed it would make insulin free. Some brands pulled their ads. Other spoof accounts were banned as Twitter sought to contain the damage.

Twitter Blue is one of several plans that Musk, who says advertising alone can't sustain Twitter, has suggested to increase revenue — like paying a fee to send a direct message to celebrities. But to generate enough revenue from Twitter Blue to pay just the \$1 billion in interest owed on Twitter's debt each year, Musk would need to add about 10 million more paying customers. — NYT

\$1 bn Sustainable City Yiti project to contribute to Oman's economy

LOCALISATION BENEFITS:
78.65 per cent of Omani-sourced material used in the one million-square metre project construction during the last two quarters alone

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 28

The Sustainable City-Yiti (TSCY), a development by Sustainable Development Investment Company (SDIC) — a partnership between Diamond Developers and Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) — has reaffirmed its commitment to the Sultanate of Oman.

The billion-dollar development aims to support the goals of the Oman Vision 2040, as well as the National Tourism Strategy, by creating a live-work-thrive city, that is green, energy efficient, and people-centric.

It is also playing an integral role in contributing to in-country value for the Sultanate of Oman, with 78.65 per cent of Omani-sourced goods & materials being sourced in the past six months alone.

More than 58 SMEs in Oman have also benefited from the works undertaken at TSCY in the last two quarters. Scheduled to complete in 2025, the development has supported



THE BILLION-DOLLAR DEVELOPMENT AIMS TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE OMAN VISION 2040, AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL TOURISM STRATEGY, BY CREATING A LIVE-WORK-THRIVE CITY, THAT IS GREEN, ENERGY EFFICIENT, AND PEOPLE-CENTRIC.

more than 1,800 jobs during construction, both direct and indirect, generating over 961,000-man hours to date.

Eng Ammar bin Sulaiman al Kharusi, Head of development at Omran Group said: "We are delighted to play our part in strengthening the economy of Oman, from the tourism sector

to SMEs and the huge number of employment opportunities through this exciting project.

Ours is a truly sustainable development in every sense of the word and by driving in-country value across the board, we are further contributing to the growth and prosperity of the Sultanate of Oman."

TSCY will consist of 300 villas, 1,225 apartments and 132 luxury serviced apartments. The community also includes indoor and vertical farms, a central plaza with a mall, a school, a nursery, two hotels, a sports complex, medical clinics, an autism centre, and an institute.

Home to 10,000 residents and visitors once complete, The

Sustainable City — Yiti will be the largest operational sustainable community in the world, with ambitions to be the first Net Zero Carbon community in Oman by 2040.

The city is designed to deliver measurable outcomes across all three pillars of sustainability: social, environmental, and economic, bringing forward the UN emission reduction targets for 2050.

The city follows the blueprint for low-carbon living that was pioneered by the first 'The Sustainable City', which opened in Dubai in 2016. The model ensures a reduction in carbon footprint, from design to operation, using disruptive innovation to achieve transformational societal change.

Oil prices fell to near their lowest levels this year

NEW YORK: Oil prices fell to near their lowest levels this year on Monday as street protests against strict Covid-19 curbs in China, the world's biggest crude importer, stoked concern about the outlook for fuel demand. Brent crude dropped \$2.66, or 3.1 per cent, to trade at \$80.97 a barrel at 1000 GMT, after diving more than 3 per cent to \$80.61 earlier in the session — its lowest since January 4.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude slid \$2.39, or 3.1 per cent, to \$73.89 a barrel. It fell as far as \$73.60 earlier, its lowest since December 22, 2021. Both benchmarks, which hit 10-month lows last week, have posted three consecutive



A worker is seen near pumpjacks at a CNPC oil field in Bayingol, Xinjiang Region, China. — Reuters

weekly declines. Markets appeared volatile ahead of an Opec+ meeting this weekend and a looming G7 price cap on Russian oil.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and its allies including Russia, known as Opec+, will meet on December 4. In October, Opec+ agreed to reduce its output target by 2 million barrels per day through 2023.

Meanwhile, G7 and EU diplomats have been discussing a price cap on Russian oil of between \$65 and \$70 a barrel, with the aim of limiting revenue to fund Moscow's military offensive in Ukraine without disrupting global oil markets.

But EU governments were split on the level at which to cap Russian oil prices, with the impact being potentially muted.

— Reuters

Commodities torn between recession and tight supply focus



OLE S HANSEN

Commodity markets maintain a commanding lead over asset classes, such as bonds and stocks, as we head towards the final few weeks of trading in 2022.

A year that, despite several headwinds, has yielded strong returns — with the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return index trading up close to 20 per cent on the year.

Following on from a strong finish to 2021 — driven by a post-Covid surge in demand for goods fuelled by a wall of fiscal stimulus

and coordinated monetary support — the year started on tear. With demand rising strongly at a time of under-investments, the attention abruptly turned to supply worries following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Sanctions against Russia and risk to supply of key food commodities from Ukraine led to price spikes across all commodity markets, not least energy, grains and metals.

As a result of this, the Bloomberg Commodity Total Return index spiked by more than 25 per cent during the first quarter before spending the following months slowly deflating.

However, despite numerous headwinds, such as the strongest dollar rally in years, rolling Covid related lockdowns in China and central banks hiking rates in order to kill inflation at the expense of growth, the commodity sector

has performed very well, as demonstrated by the near 20 per cent year-to-date return.

Heading into 2023, four major themes will help determine the direction of the market:

1. The depth of an incoming recession currently being priced in by the market through the most inverted US yield curve since the early 1980s

2. A recession forcing the US Federal Reserve to change its focus from rate hikes to economic support, potentially before inflation has reached a satisfactory low level, thereby supporting a reversal of the dollar and Treasury yields.

3. A reopening in China leading to a stimulus fuelled recovery in demand for industrial metals and energy.

4. The duration of the war in Ukraine and its potential impact on supply of key commodities

from crude oil and gas to wheat and key industrial metals.

While the energy sector has struggled amid a seasonal slowdown in demand that was increased by the developments in China, other markets, especially precious metals, have found support from the drop in long-end yields and a dollar which has softened by almost five per cent this month.

Driven by a lower-than-expected US CPI print earlier this month, emerging weakness in US economic data and the publishing of the minutes from the recent Federal Reserve meeting which discussed moderating the pace of future rate hikes.

Crude oil trades lower for a third consecutive week as demand fears, especially from an increasingly locked down China, weigh on sentiment. A G7-sponsored price-cap plan on

Russian oil looks dead in the water as EU countries struggle to agree on a level — the result being either no cap or a level so high that it will not have any meaningful impact on supply, led alone Russia's response.

The 12-month futures spread in WTI and Brent have both weakened to the lowest backwardation since last December, reflecting a market concerned about recession and a seasonal slowdown in demand hurting the front month contracts.

In addition, the fact that the market is not pricing in a premium for oil ahead of the December 5 EU embargo on Russian seaborne crude exports highlights the impact of a sharp slowdown in China — the world's biggest importer of crude oil.

Middle East producers have seen spot premiums for key

Arabian Gulf graded oil, decline sharply after commanding elevated premiums since the invasion of Ukraine when many buyers started to look elsewhere than Russia, thereby lifting demand for Mideast crude.

The slowdown in demand from China will be temporary but having unsuccessfully fought Covid outbreaks with lockdowns for months, the prospect for an improvement looks month away.

This is unless Chinese officials start following the 20-point plan to ease Covid Zero policies that were issued earlier this month by the health authorities. Brent trades near the lower end of its established range, but with multiple uncertainties related to demand and supply, the prospect of a downside extension seems limited in our opinion.

(The writer is Head of Commodity Strategy, Saxo Bank)



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CASEMIRO STRIKE TAKES BRAZIL INTO LAST 16

DOHA: A Brazil side lacking spark without the injured Neymar needed a late strike from Casemiro to edge out Switzerland 1-0 on Monday as the five-time winners secured their place in the World Cup last 16 with one game to spare.

The Brazilians had been frustrated by an obdurate Swiss side at Doha's Stadium 974 and it looked as if they would have to settle for a point after a Vinicius Junior strike in the second half was disallowed for offside following a VAR check.

But then, with seven minutes remaining, Bruno Guimaraes flicked the ball on to Casemiro just inside the box and the Manchester United midfielder's volley flew into the net with the help of a slight but significant deflection off Manuel Akanji.

Tite's side are just the second team to qualify for the last 16 after France and the only side apart from the holders to have won both group matches so far in Qatar.

With six points they will be tempted to rest players for their final Group G game against Cameroon on Friday, when a draw will secure them top spot.

Switzerland, meanwhile, failed to muster a shot on target but remain on course to qualify too, with the 3-3 draw between Serbia and Cameroon earlier meaning a win against the Serbians will take Murat Yakin's side through and a draw may also suffice.

They have made a habit of making at least the first knockout round at major tournaments, while Brazil are in Qatar to win a sixth World Cup and nothing less will

The 21-year-old was involved when Brazil thought they had taken the lead just after the hour mark, helping gain possession in midfield before Casemiro released Vinicius to run through and beat Sommer

do. The Selecao were always going to miss Neymar, although coach Tite has said he is confident the Paris Saint-Germain superstar will recover from his ankle injury to play a part again at the finals.

After the class of Richarlison made the difference in their opening win over Serbia, this was a reminder for the Brazilians of the strength in depth in the European game. Four years ago, before being dumped out by Belgium in the quarterfinals, they were also held by Switzerland in the group stage.

FRED IN FOR NEYMAR

Yakin's side therefore had no reason to fear Brazil, who introduced Manchester United midfielder Fred into their line-up in place of Neymar.

As a result they were set up

in a 4-3-3 formation, with Fred and Lucas Paqueta either side of Casemiro, while Eder Militao — habitually a centre-back for Real Madrid -- stood in for the injured Danilo at right-back.

There were only flashes of what Brazil could do in a frustrating first half, with the loudest cheers from the masses of supporters in yellow and green in the stands coming when the big screen showed two-time World Cup-winning striker Ronaldo in the stands.

Vinicius had the best chance of the opening period when he connected with a Raphinha cross at the back post in the 27th minute, but Yann Sommer tipped the Real Madrid winger's effort behind.

Switzerland were without one of their main creative sparks in Xherdan Shaqiri, who was missing

due to an apparent thigh problem and replaced by Fabian Rieder.

That Tite was not satisfied with Brazil's first-half showing was clear when he hooked Paqueta at half-time and sent on Rodrygo.

The 21-year-old was involved when Brazil thought they had taken the lead just after the hour mark, helping gain possession in midfield before Casemiro released Vinicius to run through and beat Sommer. But the celebrations were cut short as the goal was disallowed by VAR for an offside against Richarlison.

Tite turned to his bench and sent on more fresh attackers in Gabriel Jesus and Antony, but the goal finally arrived from one of the least likely sources in Casemiro and Brazil saw out a deserved victory. — AFP



Ghana's
**MOHAMMED
KUDUS**
celebrates scoring
their third goal.
— Reuters

Ghana survived a furious late siege of their goal to revive their World Cup chances in a dramatic Group H clash on Monday, holding off South Korea to secure a 3-2 victory that was greeted with as much relief as it was celebration.

The African side earned their first points of the tournament and can still reach the second round on the back of two goals from Mohammed Kudus and desperate defending in a roller-coaster match at the Education City Stadium.

Mohammed Salisu scored the opener and Kudus headed home as Ghana took a 2-0 halftime lead, only to allow South Korea to fight back with two goals in three minutes from Cho Gue-sung, who epitomised his side's fighting spirit by attacking the ball to head home twice in quick succession.

Ghana snatched back the lead within seven minutes, however, taking advantage of their one chance in the second half for Kudus to deliver the winner.

**GHANA
COLLECT
FIRST POINTS
IN GROUP H**

**SOUTH KOREA
LAY SIEGE
TO GHANA
GOAL IN
SECOND HALF**

**"WE WERE
LUCKY",
ADMITS
WINNING
COACH**

**MIXED
EMOTIONS**

Ten minutes of stoppage time only served to heighten the drama, culminating in a contrast of emotions at the final whistle as an exhausted Ghana celebrated and the Koreans were left in tears.

They had fought back in spectacular style, making only one second-half error which ultimately proved costly.

Ghana's first-half lead was down to two perfect crosses from the left delivered by the right-footed Jordan Ayew - both perfectly weighted and with the requisite pace to catch out the Korean defence.

The first in the 24th minute caused chaos and Salisu snapped up the loose ball to score and the second 10 minutes later found Kudus who glanced a header into the net. Korean changes at halftime put them right back in the match, even if talisman Son Heung-min, again playing with a black face mask to protect his facial fractures, proved surprisingly ineffectual. — Reuters

GHANA

HOLD OFF BATTLING SOUTH KOREA

Iran, US clash in winner-takes-all contest



US coach Gregg Berhalter, whose exuberant side drew 1-1 with Wales in their group opener, described the match as his team's "first knockout game" of the World Cup and was wary of the threat posed by Iran after their second-half assault against Wales.

Standings



Group B

GROUP STAGE

 England
  Iran

 United States
  Wales

Standings	Pts	P	W	D	L	f	a	D
1 England	4	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
2 Iran	3	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2
3 U.S.	2	2	0	2	0	1	1	0
4 Wales	1	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2

Matches: Played - Won - Draw - Lost
 Goal for - against - Difference

Monday, November 21

 England
 6 2
  Iran

 United States
 1 1
  Wales

Friday, November 25

 Wales
 0 2
  Iran

 England
 0 0
  US

Tuesday, November 29

 Iran
 - -
  US

 Wales
 - -
  England

Source: FIFA





Iran's forward Mehdi Taremi attends a training session with his team-mates at Al Rayyan SC in the Al Rayyan district in Doha. — AFP

DOHA: The United States and Iran, diplomatic rivals for more than 40 years, clash on the soccer pitch on Tuesday, their places at the World Cup on the line in a fitting finale for the most politically charged group at this year's tournament.

The national team coaches sidestepped the icy bilateral relations, saying they were focused on the tournament and its ability to bring people together.

"I envision the game being hotly contested for the fact that both teams want to advance to the next round, not because of politics or because of relations between our countries," said US coach Gregg Berhalter.

Berhalter.

"The thing about soccer is you meet so many different people from all around the world, and you're united by a common love of the sport. We're soccer players and we're going to compete and they're going to compete and that's it."

Iran's dramatic 2-0 win over Wales and the US team's tense goalless stalemate against England on Friday set up a tantalising final round of Group B matches.

England, sitting top with four points, face bottom side Wales, meaning the Iran-United States contest will decide which team goes through to the round of 16.



The eagerly awaited meeting is a rematch of the 1998 World Cup group stage contest, dubbed the "mother of all games", which Iran won 2-1. In a symbolic moment before that match at Lyon's Stade Gerland, the Iranian players gave white roses, a symbol of peace in the country, to their American opponents.

Iran rallied late against Wales to rescue a World Cup campaign that seemed to have flatlined following their 6-2 thrashing by England.

Berhalter, whose exuberant side drew 1-1 with Wales in their group opener, described the match as his team's "first knockout game" of

the World Cup and was wary of the threat posed by Iran after their second-half assault against Wales.

"Now we need to be sure that we are good enough to go to the second round," Iran coach Carlos Queiroz said after his team kept alive their hopes of a first ever trip to the knockout stage.

"The US is a brilliant team as well, as we saw them against Wales.

"Our preparation starts with a good rest, refresh the minds and put all the complementary and garbage things outside of our minds and focus on our goal, because what we want to do is to give this gift to Iranian fans."

— Reuters

Match program

GROUP STAGE

Tuesday, November 29

A

Al Bayt Stadium, 02:00 pm

Netherlands   Qatar

A

Khalifa Stadium, 05:00 pm

Ecuador   Senegal

B

Stade Al Thumama, 08:00 pm

Iran   US

B

Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, 11:00 pm

Wales   England

Source: FIFA

AFP



Ecuador, Senegal aim last 16 spot

DOHA: Ecuador's young team are tantalisingly close to a record-equalling last 16 place in the World Cup if they can beat or draw with African champions Senegal in their Group A showdown on Tuesday at the Khalifa International Stadium.

The South Americans have had a superb start to the tournament, easily beating hosts Qatar 2-0 before outplaying the Netherlands and being unfortunate not to win in a 1-1 draw that made a mockery of the gulf in their world rankings.

The job is not done, however, as defeat by African champions Senegal could send them home rather than enable them to reach the knockout round for the second time in Ecuador's history.

"We have a bigger battle coming," coach Gustavo Alvaro quickly warned after the euphoria of the performance against the Dutch, whom he had craftily acknowledged in advance were a superior side.

So far, Ecuador have been reliant on their veteran striker Enner Valencia, who has scored all their goals to add to his three at the 2014 World Cup.

But he is only the spearhead with a wealth of exuberant talent behind him, not least flourishing young midfielder Moises Caicedo, 21, who is at the heart of everything good that Ecuador do, both shielding his defence and releasing the strikers.

Standings



Group A

GROUP STAGE

 Qatar

 Ecuador

 Senegal

 Netherlands

Standings

Pts

P

W

D

L

F

A

D

1 Netherlands 4 2 1 1 0 3 1 2

2 Ecuador 4 2 1 1 0 3 1 2

3 Senegal 3 2 1 0 1 3 3 0

4 Qatar 0 2 0 0 2 1 5 -4

Matches : Played - Wins - Draws - Losses

Goals for - against - difference

Sunday, November 20

 Qatar

0 2

 Ecuador

Monday, November 21

 Senegal

0 2

 Netherlands

Friday, November 25

 Qatar

1 3

Senegal

 Netherlands

1 1

Ecuador



Tuesday, November 29

 Netherlands

- -

Qatar

 Ecuador

- -

Senegal



Source: FIFA

AFP



Again, Ecuador are sweating on Valencia's fitness after he was stretchered off late on in the Netherlands game with a recurrence of a knee strain suffered against Qatar

"He's the only one with World Cup experience," said Alvaro, who led a generational change in the national side that enabled them to punch their way out of arguably the world's toughest qualifiers in South America. "The rest are kids."

Senegal are less intimidating opposition without the injured Sadio Mane and know they have to improve to beat Ecuador after

losing 2-0 to the Dutch but beating Qatar 3-1 to sit in third place in Group A on three points.

"Our concentration must be better," said Senegal coach Aliou Cisse. "We need to win to have a chance to qualify for the last 16."

One of only three African nations to have reached the quarterfinals of a World Cup, Senegal know that victory over Ecuador would help atone for a miserable last tournament in Russia where they were eliminated on disciplinary points.

Senegal could theoretically still go through if they draw, as could Ecuador if they lose, but both those scenarios would require a win by Qatar over the Netherlands sufficient to push the Dutch into third place on goal difference. — Reuters

FAN



A young Ecuador fan is pictured with a mask. – Reuters



Switzerland fans during the match against Brazil. – AFP



Brazil fans pose for a picture outside the stadium. – Reuters



South Korea fans react after the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group H match against Ghana at the Education City Stadium in Al Rayyan. – AFP

Z O N E



Brazil supporters kiss a replica of the World Cup trophy as they wait for the start of the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group G match between Brazil and Switzerland at Stadium 974 in Doha. – AFP



South Korea fans with a cut out with South Korea's Son Heung-min's face are seen outside the stadium. – Reuters



South Korea fans in the stands. – Reuters



Ghana fans inside the stadium. – Reuters



Brazil fans are pictured outside the stadium. –Reuters



Brazil fans wear giant heads inside the stadium before the match. – Reuters



Brazil fans are pictured with hats outside the stadium. – Reuters



Brazil fans hold a giant t-shirt before the start of the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group G match between Brazil and Switzerland at Stadium 974 in Doha. – AFP



Ecuador fans are pictured with banners and flags. – Reuters

Germany's forward
#09 NICLAS FULLKRUG
celebrates after scoring
his team's first goal
during the Qatar 2022
World Cup Group E
match between Spain
and Germany at the Al
Bayt Stadium in
Al Khor. — AFP

A WILDCARD selection in Germany's World Cup squad, journeyman striker Niclas Fuellkrug — nicknamed 'Gap' due to a missing front tooth — may have plugged coach Hansi Flick's biggest hole in Qatar. Stalked by misfortune in an injury-hit career, Fuellkrug's late equaliser against Spain on Sunday revived Germany's spluttering World Cup campaign and offered a lesson in perseverance.

Nothing has come easy for the 29-year-old Fuellkrug, who 12 months ago was toiling away in the second division, far from the national team radar after four major knee operations. It was around that time Fuellkrug hit a rich vein of form which propelled Werder Bremen back into the top flight. A return to the elite has not slowed Fuellkrug, who is the top German scorer in the Bundesliga this season with 10 goals in 14 matches.

GAP-TOOTHED ASSASSIN FUELLKRUG DIGS GERMANY OUT OF HOLE

With Germany in danger of a second successive World Cup group-stage exit, Flick turned to Fuellkrug to come off the bench against Spain and the striker delivered what could prove a turning point for the four-time world champions. Speaking after the 1-1 draw at the Al Bayt Stadium, Flick summed up Fuellkrug's value to the team, saying "he showed us how to score goals". While Flick's statement may have been made partly in jest, it does strike at the heart of a problem German football has had since the retirement of all-time top scorer Miroslav Klose after their World Cup win in 2014. Germany scored 18 goals on their way to the 2014 title, seven of which came in the semifinal demolition of Brazil. In 2010, the Germans scored 16 on their way to a third-place finish. When they crashed out in the first round in 2018, their earliest World Cup elimination in 80 years, they found the net only twice. After losing 2-1 to Japan in their opening game in Qatar, Germany were again teetering on the precipice. Enter Fuellkrug, whose last Germany appearance before he made his senior debut in a pre-tournament friendly against Oman had come for the Under-20 side eight years ago. He became Germany's oldest outfield debutant for 20 years as he scored against Oman hours before arriving in Qatar and his well-timed purple patch has thrust him onto the big stage.

A GOOD LAD
With goal difference potentially crucial in Group E, where each team can still qualify with one game to play, the inclusion of a sure-fire goalscorer in the starting XI may seem logical, particularly for a team without one. Flick would not be drawn on Sunday whether his striker's heroics have earned him a starting spot against Costa Rica. "It is too early after the game to make a statement, but we are very happy - he showed his determination. "He gives a lot to the team not just his goals, but he's also a good lad. He has his heart in the right place and we are very happy to have him." It was a sentiment shared by the unheralded striker's more illustrious teammates, including Thomas Mueller who was subbed off for Fuellkrug and may have the most to lose by his inclusion. "It was outstanding the way Fuellkrug nailed it in like that. It's a great story." Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan said "you can see from Niclas' goal the quality that he has. It was a brutally important goal", while Leon Goretzka praised his teammate's "pure determination" to score. Fuellkrug himself tried his best to make sure his teammates did not get too carried away. "We really wanted to pull (this game) back. That was really important for the atmosphere," Fuellkrug told ZDF. "But we shouldn't lose our heads. We still have room for improvement." — AFP

SULTAN, AHMED CLINCH TOP HONOURS AT RS VENTURE CONNECT WORLD SAILING

Omani pair takes overall gold



MUSCAT: Oman's Sultan al Wahaibi and Ahmed al Balushi sealed the gold medal at the 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championships with an excellent display of sailing in the Grand Final.

The top ten teams overall – six from the para category and four from the open category – took to the waters in perfect conditions at the Barcelo Musannah Resort. Each team sailed two races.

Sultan al Wahaibi and Ahmed al Balushi continued their excellent form from the open category fleet races to sweep to victory in the Grand Final, claiming gold for the host nation. Jens Kroker and Sabine Kroker-Hohmann of Germany won the silver medal and Australia's Genevieve Wickham and Grant Alderson claim bronze in third. Fellow Australians Christopher Symonds and Manuela Klinger of Australia narrowly miss out on a podium position in fourth.

Piotr Cichoki and Olga Gornas-Grudzien of Poland

finished first place in the Para category and took the gold medal ahead of Vasilis Christoforou and Theodoros Alexas of Greece in second. Guilherme Teixeira and Pedro Cancio Reis of Portugal finished third after an intense final race.

The winners received their prizes from Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, at the closing ceremony.

Dr Khamis al Jabri, CEO of Oman Sail, said, "the 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championships, which is the first international event of this scale held in the Sultanate of Oman for persons with disabilities. We have been delighted to see this edition attract the highest number of participants in the history of the championship - 39 teams from 19 countries competed in Omani waters this week and we are incredibly proud to welcome you all."

"It is our hope that the success of this championship serves to

promote para sailing throughout the region and across Asia, and that more events can be held on our shores as we support World Sailing in its bid to reinstate Para Sailing for the LA28 Paralympic Games and beyond."

Eng Yousuf al Ojaili, bp Oman President, commented, "we are honoured to be the main sponsor of the region's first RS Venture Connect World Championships. Watching Oman's first para sailing team excel in their competition with international teams, has shown us that we have achieved our targets at bp – which is to provide inclusive opportunities to Omanis with disabilities."

The 2022 RS Venture Connect World Championships were the first exclusively para sailing event to be held in Oman and helps position the nation as a regional hub for growing the sport across the Middle East, Asia and across the world.

The RS Venture Connect World Championships is proudly supported by title sponsor bp

Oman, along with the Oman Paralympic Committee, Oman Maritime Sports Committee, Oman Air, the Barcelo Musannah Resort, Tanuf, the International Maritime College Oman (IMCO), RS Sailing, and environmental partners Clean Seas and Environment Society of Oman (ESO).

FINAL STANDINGS

- PARA**
1. Piotr Cichoki and Olga Gornas-Grudzien (POL)
 2. Vasilis Christoforou and Theodoros Alexas (GRE)
 3. Guilherme Teixeira and Pedro Cancio Reis (POR)
 4. John McRoberts and Scott Lutes (CAN)
 5. Ange Margaron and Olivier Ducruix (FRA)
 6. Fia Fjell Dahl and Patric Rosenberg (SWE)
- OPEN**
1. Sultan al Balushi and Ahmed al Balushi (OMA)
 2. Jens Kroker and Sabine Kroker-Hohmann (GER)
 3. Genevieve Wickham and Grant Alderson (AUS)
 4. Christopher Symonds and Manuela Klinger (AUS)



OFC team attends fencing congress in Lausanne

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, NOV 28

The Oman Fencing Committee (OFC) delegation took part recently in the 2022 Annual General Congress of Fencing International Federation in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The Sultanate of Oman's delegation comprised for first time of Omani women represented by Sameera al Shukaili, Secretary General of OFC and Rumaitha al Busaidy, Board member of OFC.

During the meeting, topics related to development of fencing sport globally was discussed and the members reviewed the agenda of fencing events for the forthcoming years. Also, the members of FIE, the world governing body of the Olympic sport of fencing, voted for Saudi Arabia to host Fencing Youth World Championships in 2024.

The OFC, which was established in January 2019, had received the approval to be

a member in the International Fencing Federation during the Annual General Assembly (Congress) which was held in November 2019. Besides that, OFC had Asian and Arab membership as well.

The Oman national fencing team had impressed in their different regional and international participations during the past few years. During the last two months, Omani fencers had clinched 19 medals in the West Asian Fencing Championship in Jordan including nine gold medals.

After their top performance in several events, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth recently announced support package to the potential young athletes including two players from fencing team: Israa al Syiabi and Al Harith al Harthy. The support of the ministry will allow both fencers to have a proper preparation programme to shape them for the top international competitions.

India's Gaikwad hits seven sixes in one over

NEW DELHI: India batsman Ruturaj Gaikwad on Monday smashed an unprecedented seven successive sixes in one over of a 50-overs domestic match – courtesy of a no-ball.

Gaikwad, who has played one ODI and nine Twenty20 matches for India, hammered 42 runs for Maharashtra in a seven-delivery over against Uttar Pradesh.

The quarterfinal of the Vijay Hazare Trophy – India's inter-state 50-over competition – took place at the world's biggest cricket stadium, in Ahmedabad.

Gaikwad is the first player to hit seven sixes in one over in a List A category match.

But Lee Germon of New Zealand holds the all-time List A record with eight sixes in a bizarre 77-run over of multiple deliberate wides and no-balls in a 1990 Shell Trophy match, when Wellington intentionally gave away runs to try to tempt



Canterbury into recklessness.

Gaikwad, 25, finished unbeaten on 220 as his team made 330-5. Left-arm spinner Shiva Singh was on the receiving end of his six-hitting blitz in the 49th over.

It is the second record by an Indian batsman in as many weeks, after Tamil Nadu's N Jagadeesan smashed 277 against Arunachal Pradesh, the highest ever score in the 50-over format, surpassing the 268 of England's Alistair Brown against Glamorgan in 2002. — **AFP**

‘Golden Girl’ PT Usha to be named India's sports chief

NEW DELHI: Former track and field star PT Usha will take over as the first woman president of the Indian Olympic Association, becoming the first former international athlete to head the organisation in more than 60 years.

The 58-year-old multiple Asian Games gold medallist – now a member of parliament – was the only candidate to file a nomination for the post by the deadline.

Former sports and current law minister Kiren Rijiju congratulated her on Twitter on Sunday, calling her a "legendary Golden Girl".



Cricket-obsessed India regularly struggles to win Olympic medals despite its 1.4

billion population, with a total of only 35 since 1900.

Usha missed out on a bronze in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Games by just 1/100th of a second but still became a national sports icon.

Nicknamed the 'Payyoli Express' – after the town of her birth in the southern state Kerala – she dominated Indian athletics for close to two decades, winning 11 Asian Games medals including four golds in Seoul in 1986, before retiring in 2000.

Her election – which is formally due on December 10 – represents a step change in the organisation of Indian sports,

which have largely been run by administrators for decades.

The Maharaja of Patiala, Yadavindra Singh, who played in one 1934 cricket Test, was head of the IOA from 1938 to 1960.

A succession of bureaucrats and state-level cricketers followed, with veteran administrator Narinder Batra resigning as IOA president earlier this year after a Delhi court ordered him to step down from the post he took over in December 2017.

An interim chief took over before India's top court ordered fresh elections. — **AFP**

Felix, Shapovalov fulfill dream as Canada win first Davis Cup

MALAGA, Spain: Felix Auger-Aliassime and Denis Shapovalov fulfilled a childhood dream on Sunday as they sealed tennis history for Canada with a first Davis Cup title by beating Australia 2-0 in Malaga.

World number six Auger-Aliassime eased past Alex De Minaur 6-3, 6-4 to give Canada the trophy in Sunday's final at the expense of 28-time winners Australia.

Earlier Shapovalov had given Canada, beaten finalists in 2019 to Spain, the first point with a 6-2,

6-4 win over Thanasi Kokkinakis.

"The emotions are tough to describe," said 22-year-old Auger-Aliassime.

"Denis and I grew up together dreaming of these types of stage, dreaming of winning the Davis Cup. It's a great moment for myself and for the country."

De Minaur, ranked 24, paid for failing to convert any of his eight break points, hitting just five winners as Australia played their first Davis Cup final since 2003.

Auger-Aliassime relied on his consistent serve with six aces and



solid baseline play.

Shapovalov meanwhile was fuelled by his desire for a first singles win this week.

"Two tough losses this week and I'm very happy with the way I played today to get the win," said the 23-year-old.

"It helped me being in the final before. Last time it was all kind of new, we were relieved just to be there but today we're very much going for the trophy."

"Tremendous chemistry"

The 18th-ranked Canadian had been out of sorts in a semifinal

defeat to Italy on Saturday but hit back against Kokkinakis with 23 winners to the Australian's five.

Shapovalov raced to a 4-0 lead after quarter of an hour in Malaga, sealing the first set with his ninth winner after half an hour.

The Canadian staved off three break points in the fourth game of the second set. Kokkinakis dug in to convert his first break point of four when Shapovalov was serving for the match and held serve but the Canadian was not to be denied sealing victory on his second match point. — **AFP**

CAMEROON FIGHT BACK TO DRAW THRILLER WITH SERBIA

CAMEROON kept their hopes of making the last 16 of the World Cup alive on Monday after fighting back from two goals down to draw a thrilling Group G encounter with Serbia 3-3.

Rigobert Song's team looked almost dead and buried after goals from Strahinja Pavlovic, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Aleksandar Mitrovic gave Serbia a 3-1 lead early in the second half.

But substitute Vincent Aboubakar and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting snatched a draw with two quick-fire strikes just after the hour mark to leave both Cameroon and Serbia on a single point, two behind group leaders Brazil and Switzerland.

Had they lost, Cameroon would have been relying on the Swiss beating Brazil in order to not be eliminated with a game to spare, but instead the west Africans still have a chance of getting out of the group stage for the first time since 1990.

Cameroon have a tough task ahead as they play Brazil in their final match, which they will reportedly play without first-choice goalkeeper Andre Onana who was dropped from the matchday squad just hours before kick-off following an unspecified disciplinary issue.

Media reports suggest that Onana has been sent home from the World Cup after a disagreement with Song, but that pre-match turmoil didn't stop Cameroon putting in a fighting display against a Serbia team who probably deserved to win on the balance of play. Asked whether he would start Cameroon's final match, Onana's replacement Devis Epassy said "you'll have to ask the coach" and insisted there was no problem in the camp.

Serbia meanwhile have to hope Brazil beat the Swiss, otherwise qualification will be taken out of their hands in the final round of Group G fixtures.

"We wanted all three points, we wanted to start this tournament with a win so it's hard to take," said substitute Marko Grujic.

"We need to take this point and watch the Brazil game tonight, hope that they win and then we hope to win against Switzerland."

Mitrovic was almost invisible in Serbia's defeat to Brazil but here he was involved from kick-off, the Fulham forward unlucky not to give Serbia the lead in the 11th minute when he crashed a shot off the post from a tight angle following a neat exchange of passes with Dusan Tadic.

CAMEROON COMEBACK

And Jean-Charles Castelletto punished the Serbs for Mitrovic's miss in the 29th minute with the simplest of finishes after ghosting in at the back post to meet Nicolas Nkoulou's flick-on at a corner.

Pierre Kunde then passed up a golden opportunity to double Cameroon's lead in the 43rd minute and it was Cameroon's turn to be undone at a set-piece when Pavlovic brilliantly headed home Tadic's floated free-kick. Serbia's tails were up and Milinkovic-Savic flipped the match on its head two minutes later with a superb left-footed finish after Andre-Frank Zambo Anguissa sloppily gave the ball away just outside his own penalty area.

Mitrovic finally had the goal his strong display deserved seven minutes after the break, tapping in Andrija Zivkovic's pass unopposed at the end of a nice move by Milinkovic-Savic and Tadic. — AFP



Cameroon's midfielder
● #05 GAELO ONDOUA
fights for the ball with Serbia's
midfielder

● #26 MARKO GRUJIC
during the Qatar 2022 World
Cup Group G match between
Cameroon and Serbia. — AFP