

DISRUPTION IN MAIN PIPELINE SUPPLYING WATER TO SUR CITY

Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Haya) has reported malfunctions in the main pipeline feeding Sur City and called for the rationalisation of water consumption. **>A2**



6 085010 120010

RAFO SHOWCASES OMANI HERITAGE AT BRITISH AIRSHOW

The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) concluded on Sunday its participation in the International Airshow, which is being held at Fairford Air Force Base in the United Kingdom. The airshow, started on the 15th of this month. **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 94 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

TIMESOFOMAN.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

TWITTER.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

YOUTUBE.COM/USER/TIMESOFOMANONLINE

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/WHATSAPP

TIMESOFOMAN.COM/RSS

LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/TIMES-OF-OMAN

INSTAGRAM.COM/TIMESOFOMAN

ECONOMY

Risks to financial stability subside in Oman, says CBO

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) has released the tenth issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR), which indicates that “the risks to financial stability have subsided in Oman”.

Moreover, the banking sector “retains the capacity to absorb a variety of shocks without adverse spillover effects on credit supply and the real economy”.

Fiscal and financial relief

While highlighting the fiscal and financial relief provided by the government and CBO, the report acknowledges the role of the financial sector in the provision of credit and financial services



throughout the pandemic that helped craft a swift post-pandemic recovery plan duly supported by favourable oil prices.

The FSR states that the ongoing geopolitical tensions in Europe fuel inflationary pres-

Inflation outlook

Nevertheless, the inflation outlook in Oman remains moderate, and “as an oil exporter, rising commodity prices are so far a net positive for Oman as the higher proceeds from hydrocarbons have provided ample fiscal space to the government to counterbalance any inflationary pressures with targeted interventions to complement the impact of monetary policy actions”. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

New devices used to detect meteorites

1 After installing detection devices in key areas around the Sultanate, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has been able to document a number of meteorites. **>A3**

WORLD

Wildfires rage in France and Spain

2 Firefighters struggled to contain wildfires raging out of control in France and Spain as Europe wilts under an extreme heat wave. **>A6**

MARKET

Oil price falls below \$100 per barrel

3 Crude oil witnessed consistent declines over the last two weeks as fears about demand recovery once again haunted the market. **>B1**

EMERGENCY SERVICES ON ALERT TO HANDLE TROPICAL DEPRESSION

Two shelters have been prepared in Al Khor, one in Ras Al Hadd, one in Masirah, one in Al Ashkarah and one in Jalan Bani Bu Ali

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Emergency services across Oman are prepared to handle any consequences that might arise from the upcoming rough weather due to the tropical conditions currently developing over parts of the country.

Two citizens drowned

On Sunday, two citizens drowned in the Wilayat of Rustaq. “The Authority’s Operations Enter received a report about the drowning of two citizens in Wadi Al-Himli in Rustaq. They were rescued by citizens, and taken to the hospital, but they died en route,” the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDAA), said



in a statement.

Hammoud bin Mohammed Al Mandhari, the coordinator of the Relief and Shelter Sector at the National Committee for Emergency Management (NCEM), told *Times of Oman* that emergency committees have been activated in all the governorates of Oman, with focus on four areas that may face the strongest impact of the rough weather.

“Along with regular follow ups on the tropical conditions, special attention has been accorded to the governorates of North and South Al Sharqiyah, Al Dhahirah, and Muscat,” he said. “In-

ternal preparations to deal with the tropical situation have been made, and there is no danger expected from the current weather situation, as it will only lead to rainfall over most of the governorates of Oman. Preparations have been made in case of any emergency situation, particularly in South Al Sharqiyah, which lies on the coast of Oman and will face the direct impact of the tropical conditions.”

Six shelters have been prepared in South Al Sharqiyah: Two in Al Khor, one in Ras Al Hadd, one in Masirah, one in Al Ashkarah and one in Jalan Bani Bu Ali. **>A5**

Bank Muscat CEO Waleed Al Hashar named among Top 100 CEOs in the region for second consecutive year by Forbes Middle East

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat’s Chief Executive Officer, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, has been ranked amongst the Top 100 CEOs in the region in 2022 by Forbes Middle East. This is the second consecutive time that the Bank’s CEO has been named in this prestigious list. The Top CEOs list represents 26 nationalities from a range of sectors including energy, aviation, banking and finance, logistics, real estate, construction, tourism etc. It was released by Forbes Middle East after a detailed study of stock market disclosures, industry reports, annual reports and financial statements of companies across the Middle East. The CEOs’ impact on the region, their country, and the markets that they serve; overall experience and time in their current role; size of their respective companies in terms of revenues, assets, and market cap; and achievements, innovations and initiatives of the respective CEOs were some of the main criteria on which the Top 100 CEOs were finally chosen.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, said: “It is a great privilege to be named in this prestigious list and I take this opportunity to thank Forbes Middle East for recognising Bank Muscat’s entire leadership team for



SHEIKH WALEED K. AL HASHAR, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat

their various achievements in the recent past, and its keen partnership in nation-building through increased community engagements; support for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs); focus on financial inclusion and its pioneering Corporate Social Responsibility programs (CSR) and Sustainability initiatives. Having enjoyed great success in the service of the nation over the last 40 years, the Bank will aim to constantly improve its products and services and financial growth in the coming years.”

Under Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar’s leadership, Bank Muscat improved its financial performance across different parameters during the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021 and recorded its highest

ever net profit in its 40 year history of RO 189.63 million in FY 2021. The vision for the Bank to be a leader in everything it does, based on the key pillars of Customer Centricity, Market Leadership, Efficiency & Productivity, and Agility & Innovation, has been successfully cascaded to all business lines and divisions.

Bank Muscat always endeavours to participate in the development of Oman’s banking sector. In particular, the Bank’s customer-centric vision is now reaping rich rewards in the form of rising Net Promoter Scores (NPS) and customer referrals. The Bank has also recently undergone a successful organisational restructuring by putting in place a vibrant and young Management Team in key positions, further motivating the leadership pipeline and positioning the Bank for its next stage of achievements and milestones. The prestigious list also took into account the expansion of the Bank’s CSR and sustainability programmes over the last 2 years despite COVID-19 related challenges.

Bank Muscat has been previously recognised by Forbes Middle East as one of the Top 100 Companies in the Middle East, and by Global Finance, Euromoney, EMEA Finance and Oman Economic Review as the Best Bank in Oman.



FANAR
HOTEL & RESIDENCES
HAWANA SALALAH-OMAN

A Staycation
LIKE NO OTHER



reservations.fanar@fanarhotel.com

+968 2327 6800



OMAN



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om



PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:18pm
Asr.....	3:39pm
Maghrib.....	7:01pm
Isha.....	8:21pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:06am

 SEND US YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS
www.facebook.com/timesofoman



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Labour announces the following tender:

Tender No.	Tender title	Last date for tender purchase online	Bid submission date
12/2022	Providing a control system for access to the Ministry's network	Thursday 04/08/2022 at 2:00 pm	Wednesday 24/08/2022 at 10 a.m.

- Specialized establishments may obtain the tender's documents online through the following link, starting from Sunday 17/07/2022 at 08:00 am: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Each bid shall enclose a bank guarantee for 1% of the total bid value issued by a local bank addressed to the Ministry of Labour and valid for 90 days from the date of bid submission.
- Bids shall be submitted online along with a copy of the bank guarantee. The original bank guarantee shall be submitted when requested by the Ministry.
- Bids shall be opened at 11:00 am on Wednesday 24/08/2022

(The Ministry shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid)

labour_OMAN  

Disruption in main pipeline supplying water to Sur City

MUSCAT: Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (Haya) has reported malfunctions in the main pipeline feeding Sur City and called for the rationalisation of water consumption.

The company pointed out that shortage in water supplies is expected to occur in the areas served by the pipeline (Sur Assahil, Al Aija, Al Murtafa, Al Shar'ya, Al Shaabiya and Bilad Sur).

Haya affirmed that operation and maintenance teams are embarked on repair works, despite adverse weather conditions. -ONA



RAFO showcases Omani heritage at British airshow

LONDON: The Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) concluded on Sunday its participation in the International Air Show, which is being held at Fairford Air Force Base in the United Kingdom. The airshow, started on the 15th of this month.

Participating through its pavilion in the private exhibition included the display of aircraft, in addition to holding of the accompanying exhibition, which included a number of different sections that embody aspects of development and modernisation of the Royal Air Force of Oman, and highlighted the Omani-British historical relations, and the various elements that the Sultanate of Oman enjoys, in addition to a model of an Omani tent that reflected an aspect of rich heritage and authentic history of Oman.

The participation of a group of the Royal Air Force Music ensemble presented a variety of musical performances to visitors.

One of the pilots of the Royal Air Force of Oman said: "It was an opportunity to exchange experiences and learn about every-



thing new in the field of aviation, especially since this international exhibition is attended by a large number of participating countries and different aircraft, and the participation of the Royal Air Force of Oman through its one of the aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Oman."

Another Royal Air Force of Oman officer explained that since the opening of the international airshow on the 15th of this month, it has witnessed a great turnout of visitors from different countries of the world, and the RAFO had a

large share of these visits.

Visitors were acquainted closely with the Sultanate of Oman and its ancient culture and history, in addition to the various tourism components and the military capabilities of the Royal Air Force of Oman, through the various sections contained in the exhibition.'

It is worth noting that the International Airshow is one of the largest military air exhibitions in the world, in terms of the number of aircraft and participating countries. -ONA

السوق الطازج FRESH MARKET

ملوفر في نيسو هايبرماركت
المدينة الواقعة في الكوير القديم المصنعة
فلج القبائل صحر الحبل الجنوبي، روي الصومحان بركاء
ساري من 18 يوليو إلى 20 يوليو 2022
Available at Nesto Hypermarket
Mabella, Al Wadi Al Kabir, Sohar, Mussanah,
Hail, Halban, Falaj Al Gaba'li, Al Hail South, Ruwi,
As Sawmhan Barka
Valid from 2022 July 18th to 20th



 الصل الهند لكل كيلو Onion India Per Kg 0.195	 بوسفي نونا افريقيا لكل كيلو Mandarin Nova South Africa Per Kg 0.690
 تفاح رويال جالا جنوب افريقيا لكل كيلو Apple Royal Gala South Africa Per Kg 0.690	 عنب اسود لبنان لكل كيلو Black Grapes Lebanon Per Kg 0.695
 بطاطس لكل كيلو Potato Per Kg 0.245	 سمك سلطان ابراهيم لكل كيلو Sultan Ibrahim Per Kg 1.290



HYPERMARKETS | SUPERMARKETS | DEPARTMENT STORES
www.nestogroup.com [instagram/nesto_hypermarket_oman](https://instagram.com/nesto_hypermarket_oman)

OMAN | SAUDI ARABIA | KUWAIT | UAE | INDIA
facebook.com/nestohyperoman

Electricity generation in Oman rises

MUSCAT: The electricity generation in the Sultanate of Oman increased by the end of April 2022 by 0.3 percent to 11,284.1 GW/Hour compared to 11,245.7 GW/hour during the same period in 2021.

The statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) showed that Dhofar Governorate has registered an increase of 7.3 percent in the total generation of electricity to reach 1.229.3 GW/Hour compared to 1.145.3 GW/Hour by end of April 2021. Al Wusta Gov-

ernorate registered a decrease in the total generation of electricity by 41.7 percent (126.7 GW/Hour compared to the same period in 2021 which saw a total generation of electricity of 217.4 GW/Hour.

The net electricity generation of the Sultanate up to end of April 2022, which included the purchases of Oman Power and Water Procurement Company and the purchases of Rural Areas Electricity Company, amounted to 10,927.2 GW/Hour compared to the same period in 2021 of which net production stood at

10,872.5 GW/Hour , an increase of 0.5 percent.

The bulk of the net generation of electricity was registered in the Governorates of North Al Batinah, South al Batinah and Al Dhahirah, where the net generation stood by end of April 2022 at 6,827.8 GW /Hour compared to the same period in 2021, which saw net generation of 6,691.2 GW /Hour, an increase of 2.0 percent.

North and South Al Sharqiyah Governorates came in the second place in terms of net generation. -ONA

Consumer Protection Authority unveils empowerment initiative

MUSCAT: The Consumer Protection Authority (CPA) has launched an initiative titled "Indicators of Consumer Empowerment in the Sultanate of Oman". The initiative, the first of its kind, aims to make consumers aware of their rights and obligations.

The initiative explores various aspects, like consumption practices, the measurement of consumer interaction, the extent to which consumers share experi-

ences, related problems and troubleshooting and the efforts of the CPA to upgrade the services it offers to society as per global standards. The initiative constitutes a cornerstone in investigating consumer opinion through CPA's co-operation with the National Centre of Statistics and Information (NCSI). The CPA is scheduled to conduct an opinion poll involving 2,500 citizens and residents, who will be interviewed over the

phone. The poll segment will be picked up randomly from the age group of 18 years and above, from all parts of Oman.

The initiative is expected to achieve a set of goals, namely to propel the march of economic development, eliminate negative market practices, promote entrepreneurship, refresh related administrative legislations and protect the rights of consumers and traders alike. -ONA



baladé farms

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR KIDS LUNCH BOX!

NEW FROM BALADE DELICIOUS FLAVORED MILK!



MADE WITH LOVE IN OMAN



Call Center Number
24 596 999



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

#MAISARAHWORLD



Titanium Credit Card

A World of Exclusive Benefits



2477 57 77

www.maisarah-oman.com

/MaisarahOman

@MaisarahIslamic

@Maisarah.Islamic

To know more





making life easy

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Ministry uses latest tech to detect meteorites

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After installing meteorite detection devices in key areas around the Sultanate of Oman, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has been able to document a number of meteorites over the first four months of the current year (2022).

This consummates the Ministry's efforts to inventory and protect meteorites that fall within the territory of the Sultanate.

Important national project

This important national project is one of the projects that the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is implementing within the digital transformation projects and using the latest technologies and digital solutions in this field.

The meteorites detection project was realised in cooperation with the Natural History Museum of Berne, Switzerland, and Curtin University of Australia.

Pioneering experiment

It documented specimens of the meteorites that entered the Sultanate of Oman's airspace and indicated their precise sites as they penetrated the sphere.

The success of the Omani experiment is considered one of the unique and pioneering experiments in the world that will enable the Sultanate of Oman to monitor meteors directly the moment they enter the atmosphere and determine the path of their fall.

BEACH TRAGEDY

One more body recovered from Al-Mughsail

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The body of a person, part of a family of eight who were washed away to sea at Al-Mughsail beach has been found.

Of the eight members, three were rescued immediately after the incident, while a search is ongoing for the remaining, three of whom have been found dead so far.

The Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority CDAA, said: "Search and rescue teams at the Civil Defence and Ambulance Department in the Governorate of Dhofar were able to find the body of one of the missing people at Al-Mughsail Beach, where the teams used the Royal Air Force of Oman aircraft for the search. Efforts are still ongoing to search for the rest of the missing persons."

Meanwhile, the identities of two of the three victims who were reported missing after strong waves swept them into the sea at Mughsail Beach have been established.

They have been identified as 42-year-old Shashikant Mahmane, and his six-year-old son, Shreyas, according to media reports in India. The search for the another person involved in the drowning – his nine-year-old daughter, Shruti – is still ongoing.

Trending

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

78,198 REACH



A story on the exchange rate between OMR and INR reached 78,198 people and had 7,470 link clicks on Facebook.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

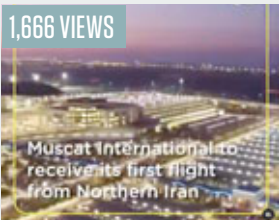
993 VIEWS



The Midday Update video had 993 views and reached 4,500 people on Facebook.

MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,666 VIEWS



A video on Muscat International Airport to receive its first flight from northern Iran had 1,666 views and 75 likes on Instagram.

Gulf Business Machines (Oman) Co. L.L.C. Announces Appointment of Mahmoud El Kordy as General Manager

Muscat, Oman – July 18, 2022 – Gulf Business Machines (Oman) has announced the appointment of Mr. Mahmoud El Kordy as General Manager succeeding Mr. Eddy Abboud. In his new role, El Kordy will continue leading GBM Oman's efforts in support of the Sultanate's Digital Strategy, which strives to transform Oman into a modern digital society.

El Kordy brings over 30 years of experience in the IT industry across multiple geographies, and joins GBM from IBM Middle East and Africa where he held several sales and leadership positions across Systems and Big Data & Analytics. Prior to that, El Kordy was in IBM Europe for several years leading Services Sales. As GBM's General Manager, he will work hand-in-hand with GBM's clients in the Sultanate, as they embark on their digital transformation journeys.

Commenting on his appointment, El Kordy said, "I am very excited to lead GBM's Oman operations to drive the company's strategy aimed at accelerating the Oman digital transformation and aligning with Oman vision 2040. Our focus will be around Hybrid Cloud,

AI and Security to meet The National Program for Digital Economy."

Mahmoud holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering and a master's degree from Maastricht School of Management in the Netherlands.

About Gulf Business Machines (GBM Oman)

GBM Oman is a 100% Omani-owned company with more than 30 years of experience. Today, the company consists of over 110 highly skilled professionals from 13 countries, of which 48% are Omanis.

GBM Oman nurtures partnerships with the world's leading technology companies while investing in a talented, skilled workforce with exceptional depth of experience in managing Enterprise & Mission Critical systems. Today, GBM Oman has more than 250 customers in public/private sectors across a range of verticals. As an end-to-end digital transformation partner, GBM offers as well industry-leading infrastructure, digital business solutions, security, services, and 24/7 support.

FOR THE
LOVE
OF IT



Call Center Number

24 596 999



KHAREEF



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om





MESMERISING DARBAT LAKE



Darbat Lake at the heart of Wadi Darbat is a favourite tourist spot especially during the Khareef season. During khareef season, the wadi's water descending from the mountains forms magnificent waterfalls cascading from a height of up to 30 metres (100 feet). There is a 30-metre waterfall that feeds the lake during monsoon season. Wadi Darbat is located only a few kilometres behind Taqa, a beach town in the Dhofar Region. It is located on the left side of the road to Tawi Attir. From Taqa, there are road signs to Wadi Darbat. Follow the tarmac road to the end of the valley, but be warned that you cannot drive freely through all of it.

According to Oman's Ministry of Tourism, "The place offers everything needed for a memorable family day. You can enjoy a boat ride or feed fish in the lake. There is also a safe zone which is exclusively for kids, as well as several restaurants and huts that sell food and other snacks."





YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

NEW

HELLO OMAN!

Presented By:





GO FRESH
GO TASTY

GO JUICY

only 100 baiza



MULTIPURPOSE HUB



STRATEGIC LOCATION: The Port of A'Suwaig serves as a vital passage for commodities exchange between regional markets in the Indian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa. — ONA

A'Suwaig Port emerges as a vital route for regional food supplies

A'SUWAIQ: The Port of A'Suwaig in the Governorate of North Al Batinah assumes great significance due to its strategic location between the Governorate of Muscat and the Port of Sohar, in addition to its vicinity to Khazaen Dry Port.

The Port of A'Suwaig serves as a vital passage for foodstuff and other commodities exchange between regional markets in the Indian Peninsula and the Horn of Africa.

It facilitates import, export and reexport of all goods, besides expediting the handling of general cargo, TEUs and refrigerated containers.

Eng. Said Salim Al Hinai, Manager of Marafi' Company at A'Suwaig Port, said that, over the first six months of 2022, the multipurpose hub received 290 commercial vessels, loaded with 400,000 tonnes of general commodities and 1,670 cool containers (of fruits and vegetables).

He added that the port targets foodstuffs, steel, cement, live-

The port facilitates import, export and re-export of all goods

stock and ceramics.

Active container traffic
During the past few years, the port saw active container traffic, thanks to efforts undertaken by ASYAD (Oman's global integrated logistics service provider) to improve the quality of services and training of operating personnel, said Al Hinai in a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA).

He explained that ASYAD group joined hands with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology to speed up the execution of the deep section of the Port of A'Suwaig. — ONA

Wadi Ka'a Dam-a big attraction for tourists

Wadi Ka'a Dam was built in 2019 and has a length of 45 metres with a height of eight metres

MIRBAT: Wadi Ka'a Dam in the Wilayat of Mirbat is one of the projects executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources for development and sustainability of water resources in Dhofar Governorate. It's a big attraction for tourists.

Ali bin Bakhit Bait Said, Director of Water Resources Department at the Directorate General of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Dhofar Governorate said that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources accords due attention and care to the surface water projects as to reduce the use of underground water by establishing 13 dams in different areas in Dhofar Governorate.

He said that Wadi Ka'a Dam, which is 45 metres in length and the height of eight metres was built in 2019 and is one of the dams for storage of surface water at the villages in mountainous areas in the Governorate.

The storage capacity of the dam is 2,016 cubic metre, he said, adding that the water is used for domestic purposes at the villages close to the dam.

It is worth mentioning that Wadi Ka'a in the Wilayat of Mirbat is one of four wadis associated with Wadi Al Ain Al Kabir and is located 25 kilometres from the centre of the Wilayat of Mirbat. — ONA



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

< FROM A1 Chances of rain with varying intensity in Oman

"The current weather conditions are, however, less dangerous than the ones we faced before and during the Eid Al Adha holiday," added Al Mandhari. "The amount of rain at that time was higher than compared to the current predictions."

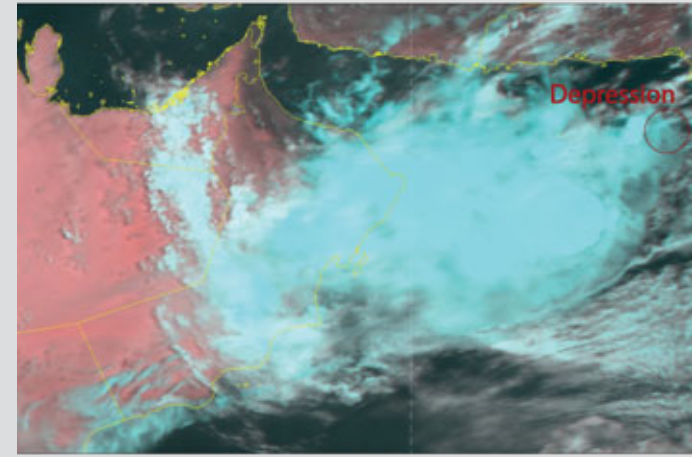
Oman's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said on Sunday that cloud cover over most of the country means there would be chances of rain with varying intensity over North and South Al Sharqiyah, Muscat and Al Wusta, which in turn could lead to the filling up of some wadis. The rainfall (expected to be between 10 and 40mm) is likely to be accompanied by winds ranging between 10 and 30 knots, along with a probable decrease in visibility. The seas are also expected to be rough along the coasts of the Arabian Sea.

On Monday and Tuesday, the cloud cover is expected to spread to more parts of Oman, leading to significant rainfall between 10 and 30mm over South Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta, while scattered showers are expected over Muscat, North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah, Ad Dhahirah and the Buraimi governorates.

As a result of the weather, seawater is expected to invade some low-lying areas in the country, with the heights of waves reaching up to four meters on the open sea. Winds ranging from 20 to 40 knots are also expected.

On Sunday morning, the sub-committees tasked for managing emergency situations met in their

Sunday July, 17 Latest updates about tropical system



Expected impacts

Monday: The impact will start gradually extending to governorates of South Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta with varying rainfall between 30-80mm and cloud cover over Sultanate of Oman and isolated rain over parts of Muscat, North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dhakliyah, South Al Batinah, North Al Batinah, Al Dhahira, Al Buraimi governorates between 10-30mm

Tuesday: Cloud over Sultanate of Oman and isolated rain over parts of South Al Sharqiyah, Muscat, North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dhakliyah, Al Wusta, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Al Dhahira, Al Buraimi and Dhofar governorates between 10-30mm

respective governorates to assess the potential impact of the tropical depression, the Royal Oman Police said in a statement.

"The committees were briefed on the latest predictions related to the tropical situation and its

potential impact, while the readiness and preparedness of all sectors was reviewed and the state of alertness was raised to mitigate the expected damage," said ROP.

The Civil Aviation Authority also advised people to take the

necessary precautions during the rains, to avoid going near wadis, and to check the state of the sea before going sailing or going near coastal areas. Regular weather bulletins will be issued.

The Directorate General of Ag-

ricultural, Fisheries and Water Resources in Musandam Governorate also called on farmers, livestock breeders, beekeepers and fishermen to take the necessary precautions to ensure their safety and the safety of their properties.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Omani banks continue to hold large capital buffers: CBO

< FROM A1 On the soundness of the banking sector, the report says that banks continued to hold large capital buffers which are supported by improvement in their profitability indicators "as the economy embarked on the growth trajectory" and "the asset quality remained well contained with a low NPL ratio and adequate provision coverage".

Loan moratorium
The loan moratorium ended in December 2021, however, "the exit from this regulatory relaxation was timed to coincide strong recovery and a provision to restructure the loans if necessary without affecting the risk classification. Therefore, projections of credit risk from deferred loans remain low".

The report concludes that "overall short-term risks to financial stability have significantly declined compared to the previous year", and that "an amicable resolution of the ongoing European conflict will help restore confidence and relieve some pressures, while any further escalation or a delay in the peace process will elevate downside risks for recovery and financial stability." — ONA





SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



SPAN OF 48 HOURS

Three emergency landings of international airlines in India

NEW DELHI: Three aircraft of international airlines made emergency landings at various airports in the country in the last 48 hours, making it a day of technical emergencies for various airlines.

A senior official in the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) informed that these landings were made in Calicut, Chennai and Kolkata on Friday and Saturday. All emergency

landings happened because of various technical issues.

The Air Arabia aircraft while operating flight G9-426 from Sharjah to Cochin was involved in a Hydraulic failure. The aircraft landed safely on the runway. The aircraft has been towed to the bay.

In another incident, on July 16, an aircraft of Ethiopian Airlines from Addis Ababa to Bangkok made an emergency landing at

Kolkata airport due to a pressurisation issue.

In a third similar incident, on July 15, an aircraft of Srilankan airlines made an emergency landing at Chennai airport due to a Hydraulic issue.

“We had two emergency landings of foreign operators on Saturday. Air Arabia at Cochin due to hydraulic issues and Ethiopian at Kolkata due to pressurisa-

tion issue,” said an official.

He added that on Friday, we also had Srilankan Airlines emergency landing in Chennai due to Hydraulic issues.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has ordered a detailed probe into all of the incidents. Meanwhile, a Hyderabad-bound IndiGo airliner from Sharjah was diverted to Pakistan’s Karachi early in the morning. **ANI**



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



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

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

POSITIVE FUTURE

Elon Musk sends warning text to Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal: Reports

WASHINGTON: The dispute between Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Twitter is taking many twists and turns.

As per new reports, Musk recently, but before pulling out of the deal, sent a text to Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal on June 28, informing him that the company’s lawyers were trying to “cause trouble” after they sought information on the financial details that Musk was planning to complete the acquisition of Twitter. “Your lawyers are using these conversations to cause trouble. That needs to stop,” Musk’s text reportedly read. Musk sent the particular message after Twitter asked Musk how he would finance the Twitter deal.

A few days ago, Twitter sued Musk after he decided to back out of the USD 44 billion takeover deal.

As per The Verge, the lawsuit was filed in Delaware’s Court of Chancery on Tuesday, accusing Musk of “hypocrisy.” Twitter brings this action to enjoin Musk



from further breaches to compel Musk to fulfil his legal obligations and to compel consummation of the merger upon satisfaction of the few outstanding conditions,” Twitter wrote in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit marks the beginning of what could be a protracted legal battle as Twitter seeks to hold Musk to his deal to pay USD 54.20 per share for the company. Twitter, which is being repped by M&A powerhouse law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, alleged that Musk looked for an escape from the deal, which required a “material adverse effect” or breach of contract.

“Musk had to try to conjure one of those,” the lawsuit stated. Musk announced the termination of a USD 44 billion Twitter purchase deal in a letter sent by Musk’s team

WILDFIRES

Wildfires continue to rage out of control in France and Spain

PARIS: Firefighters struggled on Sunday to contain wildfires raging out of control in France and Spain as Europe wilts under an unusually extreme heat wave that authorities link to a rise in excess mortality.

Two huge blazes have burned their way through pine forests for six days just south of the city of Bordeaux in southwestern France. The fires have forced the evacuation of some 14,000 people, including many who were on holiday in the area.

Firefighters in Spain were supported by the armed forces’ emergency brigades in trying to extinguish more than 30 fires consuming forests across the country.

The devastating forest fires are triggered by a summer heat wave in Europe. Parts of the continent are bracing for new temperature records early next week.

Meteo France forecast temperatures of up to 41 degrees Celsius (105 degrees Fahrenheit) in parts of southern France on Sunday, as well as up to 35 in the northwest, with new heat records expected on Monday.

The fire season has hit after an unusually dry, hot spring that left the soil parched and which authorities attribute to climate change.

What is happening in France?

Some 3,000 firefighters backed by water-dumping planes are battling the blazes in southern France, the president said, and Greece sent firefighting equipment to help.

Elsewhere in the country, a fire near the Atlantic coastal resort of Arcachon was contained overnight. More than one-third of France’s administrative departments and subregions faced an “orange” alert, with residents asked to be vigilant. France’s heat wave is expected to hit its high temperature of 40 degrees Centigrade (104 degrees Fahrenheit) on Monday.

What is happening in Spain?

Across Spain, firefighters are also battling several wildfires after days of soaring temperatures hit as high as 45.7 Celsius. The Carlos III Health Institute said 360 heat-related deaths have occurred during the recent heat wave.

In a tweet early Saturday, Malaga province emergency authorities said 3,000 people had to be evacuated from their homes, the result of a blaze near the town of Mijas, a town popular with northern European tourists. **BW**

PLANE CRASH

Plane transporting ‘dangerous material’ crashes in Greece

ATHENS: A cargo aircraft crashed near Palaiochori Kavalas in northern Greece late Saturday, killing all eight people on board.

The plane operated by Ukraine-based airline Meridian was traveling from Nis in Serbia and on to Bangladesh, via Jordan.

The pilot had reportedly requested clearance to make an emergency landing at nearby Kavala airport due to an engine

problem but did not manage to reach it. Communication with the plane ceased almost immediately afterward. The aircraft was already in flames before it crashed, people close to the crash site told local media.

The mayor of the affected community of Pangeo, Filippos Anastasiadis, said that the plane had been carrying “dangerous material,” likely ammunition. **BW**



Pure. Crispy. Delicious.
The No. 1 Choice of Oman.







A name you can trust اسم يمكنك الوثوق به

in f t w i a | asaffa.com



Jeddah: The joint statement following the Summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the United States of America is issued as follows:

1“At the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states and the United States met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The leaders noted the previous U.S.-GCC Summits held on May 14, 2015 in Camp David, and on April 21, 2016 and May 21, 2017 in Riyadh. The leaders reaffirmed the strategic importance of the historic ties between

their countries, and their shared commitment to build upon the achievements of previous summits to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and consultation in all fields.

2The leaders affirmed their commitment to joint cooperation to bolster global economic recovery efforts, address the economic repercussions caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, ensure the resiliency of supply chains and the security of food and energy supplies, develop clean energy sources and technologies, and assist countries in need by helping address their humanitarian and relief needs.

3In this context, the United States welcomed the decision by the Arab Coordination Group (ACG), which includes ten Arab and national specialised financial developmental institutions, to provide a minimum of \$10 billion USD in response to food security challenges regionally and internationally, in line with the objectives of the U.S.-led Roadmap for

Global Food Security -- Call to Action. The leaders also welcomed the United States' announcement of \$1 billion in new acute humanitarian and near to long term food security assistance for the Middle East and North Africa region.

4The leaders recognised ongoing efforts of OPEC+ towards stabilising the global oil market in the interests of consumers, producers, and supporting economic growth. They welcomed the recent announcement by OPEC+ members to increase supply over the course of July and August, and commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's leading role in achieving consensus between the members of OPEC+.

5President Biden welcomed the announcement that some GCC partners plan to invest a total of \$3 billion in projects that align with U.S. Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) goals to invest in critical infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries, including through investing in

projects that advance climate and energy security and digital connectivity, and that strengthen and diversify global supply chains.

6President Biden expressed appreciation for the GCC countries' pledge to provide \$100 million for the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, which provides life-saving healthcare to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem.

7The leaders affirmed their joint commitment to preserve regional security and stability, support diplomacy with the aim of regional de-escalation, deepen their region-wide defense, security, and intelligence cooperation, and ensure the freedom and security of waterways. In this context, the leaders of the GCC member states welcomed President Biden's affirmation of the United States' commitment to its strategic partnership with GCC member states, and that it stands ready to work jointly with its partners in the GCC to

deter and confront all external threats to their security, as well as against threats to vital waterways, especially the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab Al-Mandab.

8The leaders affirmed their support for ensuring that the Arab Gulf region is free from all weapons of mass destruction, underscoring the centrality of diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and for confronting terrorism and all activities that threatens security and stability.

9The leaders commended the ongoing cooperation between the GCC member states and the United States to promote the security and stability of the region and its waterways. They affirmed their commitment to cooperate and coordinate between their countries to enhance their defense and joint deterrence capabilities against the increasing threat posed by the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems and cruise missiles, as well as against the arming of terrorist militias

and armed groups, including in violation of UN Security Council Resolutions.

10The leaders discussed various ways to enhance their joint cooperation aimed at strengthening deterrence and the defense capabilities of GCC member states, as well as enhanced integration and interoperability in their air and missile defenses and maritime security capabilities, and early warning systems and information sharing.

11The leaders welcomed the establishment of Combined Task Force 153 and Task Force 59, which will enhance joint defence coordination between the GCC member states and the U.S. Central Command to better monitor maritime threats and improve naval defenses by utilising the latest technologies and systems.

12The leaders affirmed their keenness to continue to hold the U.S.-GCC Summit annually.”-SPA

SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Time has come to end all chronic conflicts: Egyptian President

JEDDAH: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi stressed that the time has come for concerted efforts to end all chronic conflicts and long-running civil wars and that moving toward the future depends on how to deal with past crises, noting that joint efforts to solve the region's crises will not succeed without reaching a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian issue.



In a speech at Jeddah Security and Development Summit, he said that the region suffers from grave political, development, and security challenges, including the dangers of the spread of terrorism in a way that affects the stability of our peoples and also, threatens the rights of future generations.

President El-Sisi expressed his appreciation to the countries participating in the summit, which bears a clear political significance by renewing the determination to develop a partnership between the Arab countries and the US, be it at the bilateral level or in the broader regional framework, in a way that enables them to move towards broader horizons of cooperation to meet the aspirations of and the interests of nations to achieve mutual benefits and maintain the security and stability of the entire region.

President Sisi said, “The worsening global and regional crises have continued and intensified, such as the Corona pandemic, climate change, food security, and the spread of international and regional armed conflicts, which have cast a shadow over the entire humanity, including our Arab region, which suffers

from serious political, development and security challenges, including risks of the spread of terrorism in a way that affects the stability of our peoples and threatens the rights of future generations as well”.

President El-Sisi presented a comprehensive action plan to move on priority issues during the next stage to serve the desired goals towards a more stable and prosperous region: Moving towards the future depends on how to deal with the extending crises of the past. The joint efforts to solve the region's crises, whether those that were resolved during the past decade or those that are still ongoing, can only be successful by reaching a just, comprehensive, and final settlement of the first Arab issue, which is the Palestinian cause, based on a two-state solution based on the relevant references of international legitimacy in a way that guarantees the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the borders of June 4, 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, to ensure the Palestinian rights and lives in peace side by side with Israel and brings a new status that provides peace for the people living in the region. -SPA



Read online
timesofoman.com

KING HAMAD MEETS QATAR EMIR ON SIDELINES OF JEDDAH SUMMIT FOR SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT



JEDDAH: His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa met with His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, on the sidelines of the Jeddah Summit for Security and Development. »

KUWAIT AIR FORCE TAKES PART IN UK AIRSHOW



LONDON: Members of the Kuwait air force reflected their professionalism and dedication while participating in the Royal International Air Tattoo at the RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire, England on July 15-17, said a Kuwaiti official on Sunday. »

GLOBAL DRIVE



UAE will remain the trusted partner in global drive to achieve stability and prosperity: Sheikh Mohamed

JEDDAH: President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has asserted that the UAE is keen on bolstering cooperation between countries in the region and coordination with partners to achieve peace and further stability in the region and the world, as well as tackle global challenges.

The UAE President explained that the UAE's foreign policy is founded on a balanced approach and efforts to broaden the base of interests it shares with other countries to further contribute to realising national development goals, as well as global peace and stability.

We are all aware of the size of challenges that the region and the world are facing, and from that arises a need to align and enhance global efforts to achieve our peoples' aspirations of further progress and prosperity, President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed said on the occasion of his participation in the Jeddah Security and Development Summit, which saw the attendance of Their Majesties and Their Highnesses leaders of the GCC countries, US President

Joe Biden, King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein of Jordan, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Dr. Mustafa Al Kadhimi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq.

The UAE President went on to highlight the UAE's belief that peace, dialogue and coexistence are the way to secure the future of generations to come, adding that the path towards achieving a renaissance in the region and restoring its active role on the global arena is clear, as achieving these two objectives requires further solidarity and cooperation and enhancing education opportunities, while maintaining the wellbeing of humans as the main goal.

Historical events have proven that the only way to end conflicts and tensions is utilising wisdom, abiding by international law and using diplomatic means and solutions to resolve problems, thus protecting the interests of everyone involved and preventing further war- and conflict-induced human suffering, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed continued. -WAM

Babar Azam becomes fastest Asian batter to reach 10,000 runs

In Pakistan's first innings on Day 2, Azam reached the landmark, taking 228 innings to do so

GALLE: Pakistani batter and captain Babar Azam on Sunday surpassed Indian counterpart Virat Kohli to become the fastest Asian batter in terms of innings to surpass a total of 10,000 runs across all international cricket formats. Azam attained the record in the first Test against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium. In Pakistan's first innings on Day 2, Azam reached the landmark, taking 228 innings to do and surpassing Virat Kohli's record of 232 innings. Besides this, he is also the fastest Pakistani batter to reach 10,000 runs in international



cricket, overtaking the record of legendary Javed Miandad, who took 248 innings to reach the landmark. Some other notable Pakistani batters with 10,000 in-

ternational runs are Saeed Anwar (255), Mohammed Yusuf (261) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (281). A total of 11 batters from Pakistan have reached this landmark.

He is the fifth fastest overall to reach 10,000 international runs. At the top is West Indies legend Vivian Richards, who reached the landmark in just 206 innings. He

is followed by Hashim Amla (217), Brian Lara (220), Joe Root (222) and Azam (228). Coming to the match, Sri Lanka's second innings is in progress and have the lead currently. Earlier, Pakistan was bundled out for just 218. Skipper Azam fought a lone battle for his side, scoring 119 runs. Other players in the side could not cross the 20-run mark and were dominated by Lankan bowlers. They were trailing in the game by four runs after such a poor show with the bat. Prabath Jayasuriya continued his amazing run with the ball, taking 5/82. Spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Ramesh Mendis also got two wickets. Kasun Rajitha got one wicket. Earlier, opting to bat first, Sri Lanka put a total of 222 runs on the board. While Oshada Fernando (35) and Maheesh Theekshana (38) delivered solid contributions, it was the gritty knock by Dinesh Chandimal (76) which dragged Lankans to a respectable score. Pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi was the standout bowler for Pakistan, taking 4/58. Hasan Ali and Yasir Shah took two wickets each while Naseem Shah and Mohammed Nawaz could get only one. **ANI**

Barcelona target Kounde

MADRID: At this point in mid-July, Barcelona's summer has been one of the main storylines of the transfer window, the Spanish MARCA said. The Catalan club aren't finished yet, as the signing of Jules Kounde is now a top priority. Following the Catalan club's agreement to sign Robert Lewandowski, they have now turned their attention to the Sevilla defender. It should not be forgotten that reinforcing their defence is one of the main priorities at the Camp Nou. The back line was one of the areas that gave manager Xavi headaches last season and, despite the arrival of Andreas Christensen, the coach needs more players in the centre of defence, with Kounde the priority. However, negotiations won't be easy for two reasons. First, because of Sevilla's demands. Second, because there are other clubs interested in the Frenchman. Teams such as Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea also have him in their sights. Manchester City, for the moment, are not in contention for the player's signature, although they are keeping an eye on the defender. Sevilla are aware that they can make a profitable sale, with the club asking for a minimum of 60 million euros for Kounde. **ONA**

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL TEAM

Martinez to become one of costliest transfers in history

MADRID: Manchester United are about to complete the signing of Lisandro Martinez for a figure that will be one of the highest in this summer's transfer market. The 24-year-old centre-back will move for 54 million euros fixed plus 10m euros in variables. In total, it'll be around 64m euros for this Argentine, who'll sign with Manchester until 2027, the Spanish MARCA reported. The allure of Erik Ten Hag, the player's former coach at Ajax, proved to be the difference and at Old Trafford they will have a solid player to improve their defence, or even their midfield, with Lisandro having shown his versatility for Ajax. At 1.75 meters, Martinez isn't as tall as you might expect. In fact, he was transferred from Newell's Old

Boys for that very reason. Martinez only played one game for that Argentine club, before he was dismissed for being too short. "Juan Manuel Llop arrived as coach and, from the beginning, I felt that he didn't like the way I played," Martinez reflected. "He wanted something else from a centre-back. And for me it was the height issue, but I wasn't the one to tell him what to do. "You have to respect his tastes and decisions and I don't hold grudges at all." After leaving Newell's, he then had to go on loan to Defensa y Justicia, the Argentine club who then bought him and sold him to Ajax in 2019 for 7m euros. Interestingly, Newell's, despite discarding him at the time, will

receive around 1.3m euros through FIFA's compensation mechanism for training clubs. Martinez has been in Manchester since Friday with his long-time agent, Christian Bragarnik, who is also Elche's top shareholder. Martinez arrives after winning four titles in three seasons with Ajax: two Eredivisie, a Dutch Cup and a Dutch Super Cup. He played 118 official matches and scored six goals, never being sent off. He has made seven official appearances for Argentina and Lionel Scaloni has him among his regulars for the Qatar 2022 World Cup, although, for now, he will likely be on the bench, with 'Cuti' Romero and Nicolas Otamendi as first-choice centre-backs. **-ONA**

Oman's swimming team to take part in Oran championship

ALGIERS: The National Swimming team of the Sultanate of Oman will participate in the 5th Arab Swimming Championship, scheduled in Oran, Algeria from 20 to 24 July. The national swimming team is represented by Isa Samir Al Adawi, Ayman Talib Al Qasbi, Mohannad Yonus Awlad Thani and Nasser Saif Al Kindi. **Competitions** Isa Al Adawi will participate in the 100-metre freestyle, 400 metre-freestyle and 200 metre-breaststroke event. Mohannad Awlad Thani will participate in the 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, and 200m backstroke. Ayman Al Qasbi will participate in the 800m freestyle, and



1500m-freestyle, while Nasser Al Kindi will participate in the 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke, 50m butterfly and 100m butterfly. **Open water swimming** Ayman al Qasbi and Nasser

Al Kindi will participate in the 5km open water swimming competitions. The championship will see the participation of over 200 swimmers from 15 Arab countries. **-ONA**

BADMINTON

PV Sindhu captures Singapore Open women's singles title



SINGAPORE: Indian ace shuttler and Olympic medalist PV Sindhu clinched the Singapore Open 2022 title after defeating China's Wang Zhiyi in the final of the women's singles category on Sunday. Playing on court 1, Sindhu won the summit clash by 21-9, 11-21, 21-15. She was off to a great start, winning the first game by a thumping margin. Zhiyi made a comeback in a similar fashion in the next game, winning it by 11-21. In the decider game, the top Indian shuttler maintained her composure to win it 21-15 and win the title. PV Sindhu advanced to the summit clash of the women's singles category of the Singapore Open 2022 by defeating Japan's Saena Kawakami in the semifinals here in Singapore on Saturday. Sindhu was at her most domi-

nant in the game, as she warded off the Japanese challenge within two straight games 15-21, 7-21. The match lasted for 58 minutes. This is Sindhu's third title of 2022. In January this year, Sindhu won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International tournament. At the Babu Banarasi Indoor Stadium, top-seed Sindhu defeated Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash that lasted for 35 minutes. Then later in March, India's ace shuttler claimed the Swiss Open 2022 women's singles crown at St. Jakobshalle arena in Basel. Battling it out at court 1, the double Olympic medallist Indian Sindhu defeated Busanan Ongbamrunphan of Thailand by 21-16, 21-8 in 49 minutes. **ANI**

RETIREMENT

Bangladesh player Tamim Iqbal announces retirement from T20Is

GEORGETOWN: After successfully leading Bangladesh to a 3-0 win over West Indies in the ODI series, skipper Tamim Iqbal announced his retirement from the T20I format. Tamim was adjudged as the Player of the Series after Bangladesh defeated West Indies in the third and final ODI by four wickets on Saturday. "Consider me retired from T20 internationals from today. Thanks everyone," wrote Tamim Iqbal on his Facebook. Earlier in January, Tamim had announced that he would be taking a break for six months from playing in the shortest format. "My full focus will be on Tests and ODIs. We are preparing for the World Test Championship and qualification for the 2023 World

Cup. I will not be thinking about T20Is in the next six months. I hope that those playing will do so well, that the team won't need me in T20Is. But if God forbid the team or cricket board needs me, and I am ready, I will possibly think about it," Tamim had said. Tamim last played a T20I in March 2020 when he made 41 off 33 balls against Zimbabwe. He also voluntarily pulled out of contention from the T20 World Cup in the UAE and gave Soumya Sarkar and Mohammad Naim an extended run as openers. Tamim was a regular in the Bangladesh T20I side from 2007 to 2018, having played 75 out of 84 possible games for the side. He remains the only batter with a century for Bangladesh. **ANI**



ECONOMIC CRISIS

Lanka Premier League 2022 postponed due to current economic crisis in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: The Lanka Premier League 2022 has been postponed immediately citing the current 'economic situation,' in the country, as not conducive to hosting the tournament, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced on Sunday. The Lanka Premier League 2022 was originally scheduled to begin from August 1 to 22 this year. In the official statement by SLC, "Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) wishes to announce that the Lanka Premier League 2022, which was scheduled to be held from August 1 to 21 will be postponed,

with immediate effect." "This decision was taken by the SLC, following a request made by the Innovative Production Group FZE (IPG), the Rights Holder of the tournament, which cited the current 'economic situation,' in the country, as not conducive to hosting the tournament," the statement further added. Despite facing the crisis, Sri Lanka had recently hosted Australia for a multi-format series. The series was highly competitive and saw good cricket from both sides. Australia won the T20I series 2-1, the ODI series was

won by Sri Lanka 3-2, while the Warne-Murli Trophy in Tests was shared after the two-match series ended in a 1-1 draw. Sri Lanka is facing a severe shortage of fuel and other essential supplies and is in the throes of its worst economic crisis with soaring inflation. The oil supply shortage has forced schools and government offices to close until further notice. Reduced domestic agricultural production, a lack of foreign exchange reserves, and local currency depreciation have fuelled

the shortages. Sri Lanka's multiple crises have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which saw the collapse of the crucial tourism industry, which provides foreign currency for imported fuel and medical supplies, and rocked by the supply chain crisis precipitated by the Ukraine war. The economic crisis will push families into hunger and poverty - some for the first time - adding to the half a million people who the World Bank estimates have fallen below the poverty line because of the pandemic. **ANI**



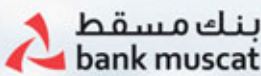
MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,142.77 points, up by 0.04 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.36 per cent at 455.81 points. OIFC, up 6.35 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Chromite, down 8.57 per cent, was the top loser.



Get your Bank Muscat
FIFA World Cup™ Visa Prepaid Card,
Courtesy of Visa.
Apply through mBanking App
or Internet Banking.



Worldwide Partner



Apply now

Terms and conditions apply.

Oil price falls below \$100 per barrel on demand worries

The decline in July oil prices came despite a limited increase in supplies from the Opec as well as from the US resulting in tighter markets, while sanctions on Russia continued to restrict oil flows from the region

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Crude oil witnessed consistent declines over the last two weeks as fears about demand recovery once again haunted the market. Brent crude oil futures closed below the \$100 per barrel mark for the first time in three months on July 12, 2022, according to a new report.

“The drop was led by a stronger USD as well as fresh COVID-19-related curbs in China,” the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest, said in

its July oil market monthly report.

The USD reached parity with the Euro for the first time in two decades, while the USD index also reached the highest level in 20 years against a basket of currencies, the report said.

“Moreover, the decline in oil prices came despite a limited increase in supplies from the Opec as well as from the US resulting in tighter markets, while sanctions on Russia continued to restrict oil flows from the region,” the report added.

An expected slowdown in global



REPORT: The drop was led by a stronger USD as well as fresh COVID-19-related curbs in China, the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest, said in its July oil market monthly report. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

economic growth also influenced the direction of the oil market. Fears of a recession have forced hedge fund managers to sell oil-related derivatives to the tune of 201 million barrels over the last

four weeks, according to position records published by ICE Futures and US CFTC.

However, derivatives of refined products saw strong support due to limited refinery capacity as well

as low inventory levels.

In its latest short-term energy outlook, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) lowered the gasoline demand forecast for July-2022 to 9.07 million bar-

rels per day reflecting the impact of higher fuel prices on driving habits.

On the supply side, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) monthly report showed a monthly increase of 234 thousand barrels per day during June-2022 to average at 28.7 million barrels per day. The increase came mainly on the back of higher production in Saudi Arabia which was partially offset by a steep fall in production in Libya.

Moreover, oil watchers were sceptical of a further increase in production from the Opec and doubted the slimming spare capacity with the group that stood at 4.8 million barrels per day at the end of June-2022, according to Bloomberg.

The Opec also published its first forecast for 2023 with the production of a non-Opec liquid growth expectation of 1.7 million barrels per day. The growth is expected to mainly come from the US with an expected increase of 1.1 million barrels per day.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

Saudi Exchange launches TASI Islamic Index

RIYADH: The Saudi Exchange introduced the TASI Islamic Index, its first Sharia-compliant index, to track the performance of the Sharia-compliant companies listed on the Saudi Exchange under the supervision of an independent Sharia Advisory Committee which has been announced earlier.

The index will act as a tool for investors and wider market participants to guide and inform decisions into Sharia-compliant investments, while allowing asset managers to benchmark the performance of their Sharia-compliant investment portfolios. In addition, the index can serve as a base for financial products including Derivatives and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs). -SPA

'FANAR VIEWS'

Muriya's new residential project promises to boost investments in real estate sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Muriya, Oman's most diversified real estate developer, has announced the launch of 'Fanar Views', a new first-of-its-kind residential project primely located in Hawana Salalah.

Just a five-minute walk to the Fanar Hotel & Residences Beach, the marina and the destination's world-class amenities, Fanar Views offers luxurious waterfront living and a unique investment opportunity with high potential returns within a lucrative year-round rental market.

“With the Governorate of Dhofar continuing to gain standing as a sought-after tourist destination and growing real estate market, Fa-



nar Views is a great choice for living as well as a robust investment opportunity. As the first such development in the area, 'Fanar Views' offers an ideal base from which to experience the beauty of the gover-

norate, complete with access to all of what Hawana Salalah as well as the key offerings that Fanar Hotel & Residences have to offer,” said Seif Elkhoully, Chief Development Officer, Muriya. “As our latest prestig-

ious neighbourhood, Fanar Views is designed with luxury living in mind, and whether for couples, families or as a lucrative rental with a high return on investment potential in Oman's rapidly-expanding subtropical city, the new neighbourhood unlocks the exceptional.”

The project boasts a limited selection of townhouses, a twin- and standalone villas, fully serviced and furnished, with private pools overlooking the lagoons. Properties in Fanar Views are available with one-, two- and three bedrooms, offering resort-style living in a developed community. Buyers of all nationalities can also enjoy lifetime family residency, complementary use of the Fanar Hotel & Residences' swimming pool,

beaches, sports facilities, gym, business centre and exclusive discounts at the hotel's restaurants.

At the heart of the Governorate of Dhofar sits Hawana Salalah, where resort living becomes a lifestyle. The destination offers plenty of opportunities to live and invest throughout a growing range of freehold properties. Meanwhile, across its 13.6 million sqm Land Area, it offers 1,100 hotel rooms, 7km white sandy beaches, a 170 berth Marina, an Aqua Park, and a variety of bustling restaurants and cafes. Drawing residents and tourists from near and far, Muriya's flagship destination is brimming with life, offering open space, natural surroundings, and a place to be enjoyed for generations to come.

DATA

China's used car sales log robust growth of 19% in June

BEIJING: China's second-hand car sector registered strong expansion in June, with its sales volume surging 19.2 per cent month on month, data from the China Automobile Dealers Association shows.

Approximately 1.42 million used cars changed hands last month, with a total transaction value of 95.94 billion yuan (about \$14.21 billion), according to the association.

The market logged a much-improved performance in June as the overall COVID-19 control situation improved and restrictions on used car relocation were further eased, the association said. Favourable tax policies for new car consumption also increased demand for car replacement. In the first half of the year, about 7.59 million second-hand cars were traded, down 10.07 per cent year on year. -Xinhua



Drive towards happiness with the exciting SUZUKI Eid offer!



Offer includes:

-  **VAT** Charges
-  **Insurance (Oman & UAE) + Registration**
-  **2 Years / 40,000 Kms Service**
-  **5 Years Unlimited Mileage Warranty**
-  **Quality Window Tinting**



Scan the QR Code to check out the SUZUKI RANGE

The offer will be valid from 19.06.22 until 18.08.22 on all models. Insurance (Oman & UAE) & Registration is for the 1st year (Private yellow plate), Service is for 2 years or 40,000 Kms, whichever is earlier, 5 years/Unlimited mileage warranty is through AAA in accordance with their terms & conditions. Sales to Government institutions & Ministries, Rent-A-Car companies, Taxi and Driving schools are excluded from the scheme. Vehicles shown are for illustrative purposes only.



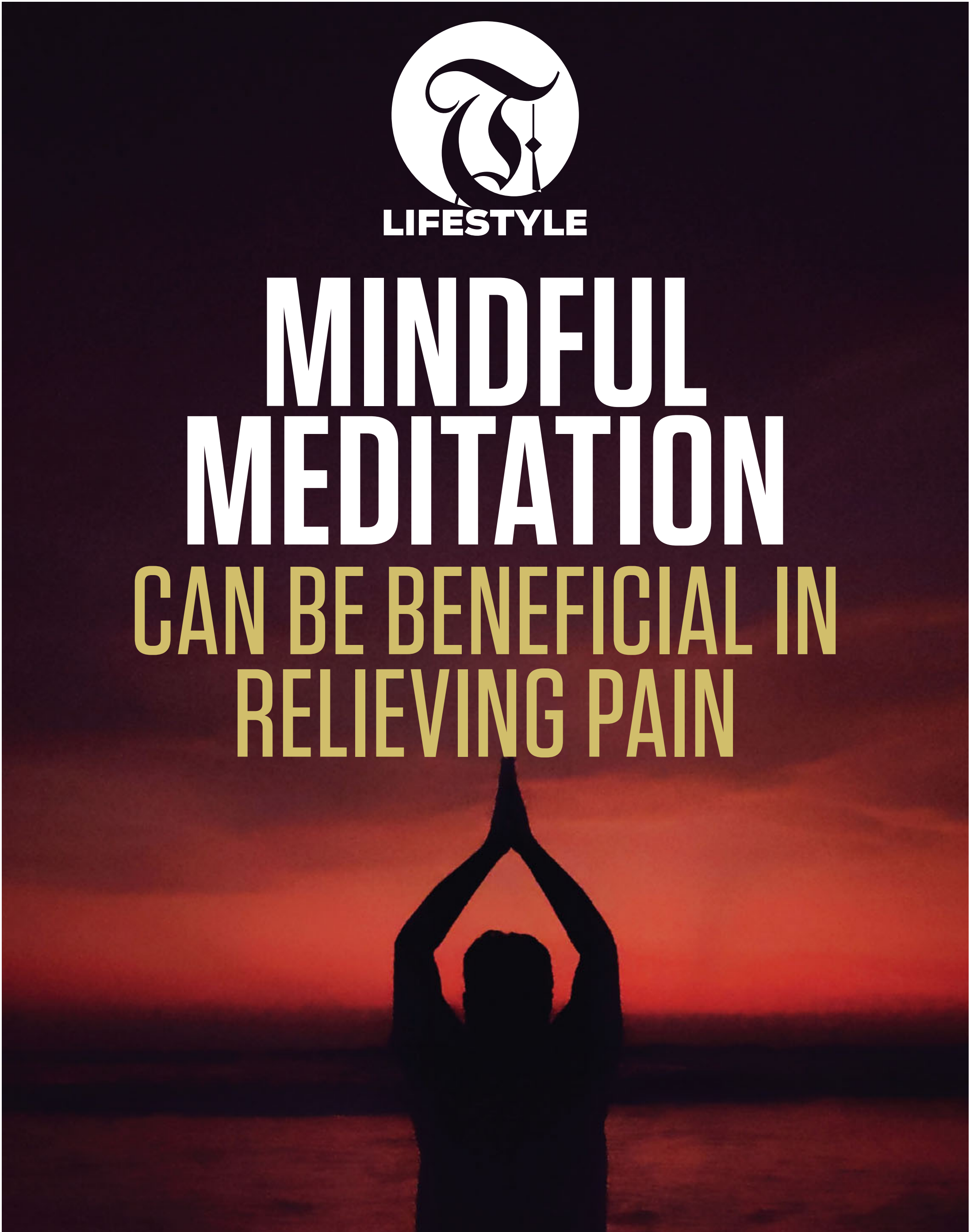
MOOSA ABDUL RAHMAN HASSAN & Co. LLC

94760010
Wattayah

94106970: For branches at
Salalah | Sohar | Nizwa | Sur | Ibri

800 76 200

 suzuki.moosagroup.com  suzuki.oman
 suzukioman  Suzuki Global



MINDFUL MEDITATION CAN BE BENEFICIAL IN RELIEVING PAIN

In a recent study, scientists at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine examined how mindfulness affected both brain activity and perception of pain. This research has been published in a journal called 'PAIN'.

The study, which was released on July 7 this year in PAIN, demonstrated that mindfulness meditation cut off the flow of information between brain regions responsible for pain perception and those that generate a feeling of self. In the suggested process, pain signals still travel from the body to the brain, but because the person has less control over those painful feelings, they experience less pain and suffering.

The notion that you are not your experiences is one of the fundamental foundations of mindfulness, according to senior author Fadel Zeidan, PhD, associate professor of anesthesiology at the UC San Diego School of Medicine. We're now able to observe how this works in the brain during the experience of intense pain. "You train yourself to perceive ideas and sensations without attaching your ego or sense of self to them."

40 study volunteers underwent excruciating leg heat-

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION MAY OFFER A NEW APPROACH TO TREATING PAIN BY LETTING GO OF THE SELF-REFERENTIAL APPRAISAL OF PAIN. ADDITIONALLY COST-FREE, MINDFULNESS MEDITATION CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE. TRAINING MAY BE INTEGRATED INTO COMMON OUTPATIENT PROCEDURES AND MADE EVEN MORE ACCESSIBLE

ing while having their brains scanned on the first day of the experiment. Participants were required to rate their average pain levels throughout the experiment after being exposed to a series of these heat stimuli.

After that, participants were divided into two groups. The group's participants went through four distinct 20-minute mindfulness training sessions. They were told to pay attention to their breathing during these sessions in order to lessen self-referential processing by first noting their thoughts, feelings, and sensations before letting them go without analysing or reacting to them. The four sessions in the control group were spent listening to an audiobook.

The individuals in the mindfulness group were now directed to meditate amid the excruciating heat, whereas those in the control group were instructed to relax with their eyes closed on the study's last day. Both groups had their brain activity examined again.

Researchers discovered that those who were actively meditating experienced pain that was 32 per cent less intense and 33 per cent less unpleasant.

We were thrilled to establish that these analgesic benefits may be felt by everyone, not just experienced meditators, said Zeidan. For the millions of individuals looking for a quick, non-drug way to relieve pain, this is a truly significant discovery.

The team discovered that mindfulness-induced pain relief was linked to decreased synchronisation between the thalamus (a brain region that relays incoming sensory information to the rest of the brain) and parts of the default mode network when they examined participants' brain activity during the task (a collection of brain areas most active while a person is mind-wandering or processing their own thoughts and feelings as opposed to the outside world).

The precuneus, a brain region involved in basic aspects of self-awareness and one of the first regions to go offline when a person loses consciousness, is one of these default mode regions. The ventromedial prefrontal cortex is a different one; it has a number of subregions that cooperate to process how you relate to or value your experiences. The subject reported feeling higher pain relief as these sections were disconnected or deactivated.

According to Zeidan, the emotional anguish and frustration that accompany chronic pain frequently have a greater negative impact on many people than the actual pain itself. Their suffering intensifies because it becomes a part of who they are as people, something they can't escape.

Mindfulness meditation may offer a new approach to treating pain by letting go of the self-referential appraisal of pain. Additionally cost-free, mindfulness meditation can be done anywhere. Zeidan expressed his desire that training may be integrated into common outpatient procedures and made even more accessible.

We believe we are close to identifying a unique non-opioid pain mechanism in which the default mode network is crucial in generating analgesia. We are eager to investigate mindfulness's neuroscience and possible therapeutic applications for a range of diseases.

Gabriel Riegner, Valeria Oliva, and William Mobley from UC San Diego are co-authors, as are Grace Posey from Tulane University, Youngkyoo Jung from the University of California Davis, and Youngkyoo Posey from Tulane. **-ANI**

IN-PICTURES



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om





Afghanistan's central bank to auction \$12mn to keep national currency stable
Dealers count cash at a money exchange market in Kabul, Afghanistan, on July 17, 2022. Afghanistan's central bank Da Afghanistan Bank announced that it would put on auction \$12 million as part of the efforts to keep the national currency stable, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported. *Xinhua*



Jackie Shroff, Sunil Gavaskar and Subhash Ghai at the silver jubilee celebration of movie '36 Farmhouse'
Bollywood actor Jackie Shroff with former Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar and filmmaker Subhash Ghai attend the silver jubilee celebration of OTT's debut Indian Hindi-language movie '36 Farmhouse' on completing its 25 weeks, in Mumbai. *ANI Photo*



Highlights of fashion show in Algiers, Algeria
A model presents a creation during a fashion show in Algiers, Algeria. *Xinhua*



Brazilian children receive COVID-19 vaccines
Children leave after receiving doses of CoronaVac vaccine developed by Chinese laboratory Sinovac at a vaccination site in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. *Xinhua*



Junior parade of 2022 Toronto Caribbean Carnival in Canada
A dressed-up girl poses for photos with her float during the junior parade of the 2022 Toronto Caribbean Carnival in Toronto, Canada. The annual event was held with about 2,000 young people displaying their elaborate costumes. *Xinhua*



Scenery of Qidong in China's Jiangsu
Aerial picture shows a water park in Qidong, east China's Jiangsu Province. *Xinhua*



People cool themselves off in pool during a hot day in southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah
People cool themselves off in a pool during a hot day in the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah. *xinhua*



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

FEATURE

RECORD-BREAKING HEAT WAVES SHOW WE NEED TO ADAPT TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS NOW

High temperatures have caused deaths in eastern China. In Europe, a scorching heat wave has sparked wildfires. As extreme heat becomes more frequent around the world, how can affected areas adapt to remain livable?

FLOODING and extremely high temperatures have caused multiple deaths in eastern China, where record-high temperatures of above 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) were recorded. Firefighters across Portugal and western Spain battled wildfires amid a heat wave that pushed temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius.

Earlier this spring, the effects of India's heat wave, one of dozens just this year, were all-encompassing. Temperatures topping 40 degrees Celsius across the country put millions at risk for heat-related illnesses, decimated wheat crops, intensified a power crisis and interrupted schooling. India is not alone. Neighbouring Pakistan was also battling scorching

temperatures before summer has even begun. And earlier this year, central South America was the hottest place on the planet before Western Australia claimed the title. As the climate crisis exacerbates heat waves around the world and temperatures increasingly soar unseasonably early, countries are faced with the question of how to remain livable.

It comes down to wealth and preparedness

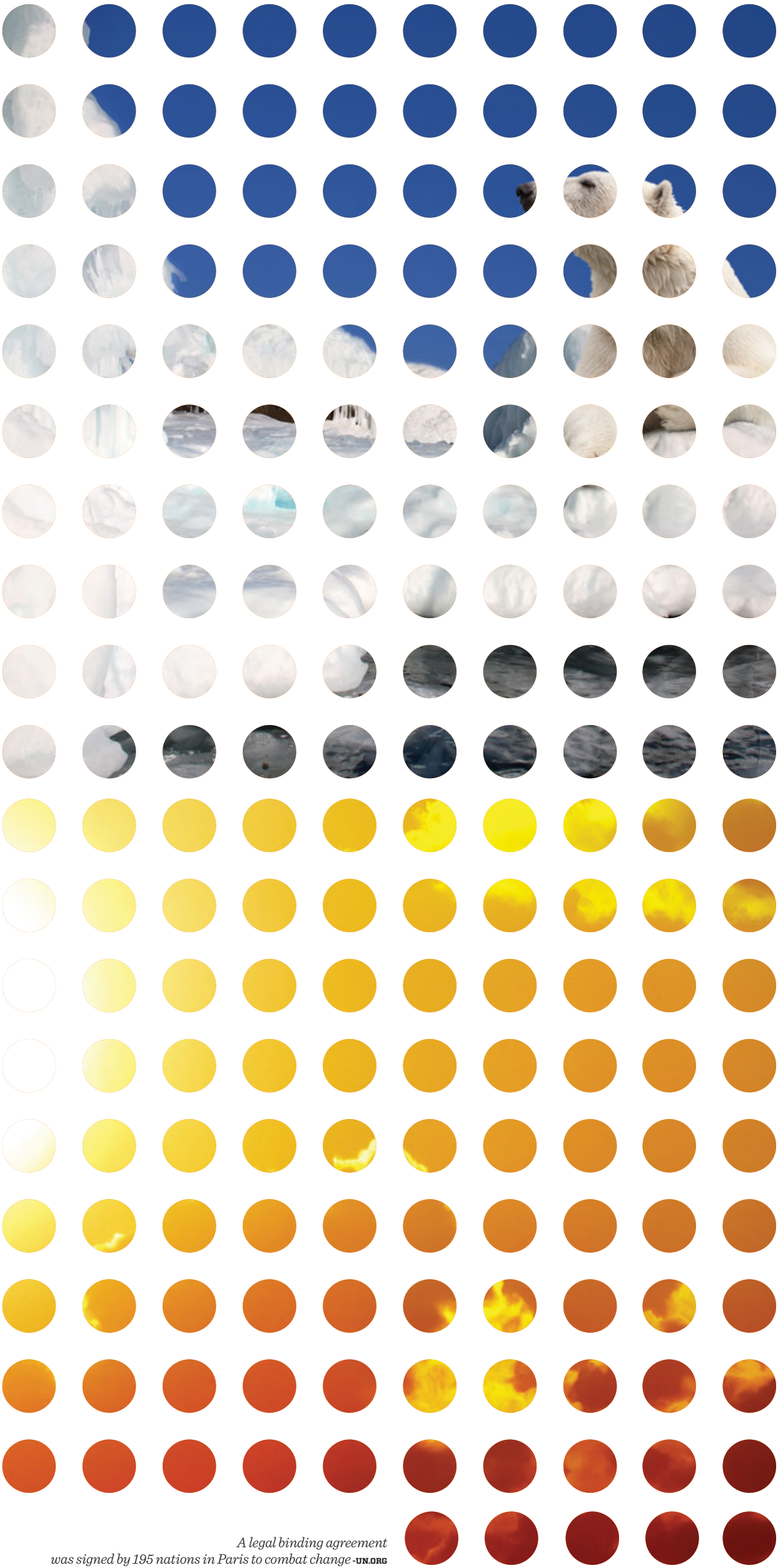
Ramping up electricity bills with air conditioning, cooling down with fans, working indoors — these options are only available to a privileged few.

“The story of climate change is one of high inequality and we’re seeing that playing out already in the poorest and hottest regions of the world,” said Tamma Carleton, assistant professor of economics at UC Santa Barbara’s Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. Carleton co-authored a 2022 study that distilled a city’s ability to minimise deaths during extreme temperatures to two main factors: affluence and the number of hot days it experiences. Money decides which technologies a city can afford to shield its most vulnerable. And when these adaptation costs aren’t covered by the state, the burden falls on individuals to finance their own protection, says Carleton. A situation that leaves the poorest high and dry. But even wealthy cities can suffer if they are caught off guard without an action plan. That happened in the Pacific Northwest of the US, a wealthy region known for its temperate climate, where more than 100 people were killed in last year’s heat wave.

“We tend to see in our projections of climate change into the future that poorer places are going to be facing a really large increase in death risk and wealthier places are going to see an increase in adaptation costs,” said Carleton.

Cool pavements and green passages

Ideas like these are budding around the world. The Japanese capital Tokyo has introduced cool pavements, which work with thermal-barrier coating, for example. Medellin in Colombia has planted “green corridors,” vegetated passages that offer more shade in public spaces, while the city of Toronto, Canada, offers grants for people to install green or cool roofs. Some cities have introduced heat officers, whose task it is to coordinate the response to rising temperatures. Eugenia Kargbo became Africa’s first heat officer when she took the post in Freetown, Sierra Leone. A goal of hers is to provide reflective market shade covers that protect women selling produce outdoors. To make the capital more livable, she has also introduced a tree planting program, in which planters can collect micro-payments on an app. “This is the future I envision for my children and all the children in Freetown: A safe environment not limited by the risk of extreme heat,” she told DW’s EcoAfrica.



Spurring into heat action

Just how high this death risk is in developing countries became clear when Ahmedabad, a city in western India’s Gujarat state, lost more than 1,344 people as thermometers hit 47 Celsius in 2010.

The toll spurred the city into action. In 2013, it rolled out a plan that has prevented about 1,100 heat induced deaths each year since, according to a study.

The first heat action plan in South Asia, it includes an early warning system, community outreach to vulnerable populations and education for health staff about possible signs of heat exposure. It also organises cooling centers in buildings such as temples and malls as well as reduced or staggered working times for outdoor laborers, among other things.

As India’s temperatures consistently surpass the baseline in spring and summer months, the Ahmedabad heat plan has since served as a template for similar models in 23 of the country’s 28 states.

But as high temperatures persist, these models undergo regular updates, according to Polash Mukherjee, who heads Air Pollution and Climate Resilience at the Natural Resources Defence Council’s India programme. The non-profit helped develop Ahmedabad’s heat action plan.

“The focus has shifted significantly in the last couple of years from merely protecting human health and mortality against extreme heat to more proactive measures,” said Mukherjee. “These include changing building by-laws so that new constructions are better insulated, and the cool roofs programme.”

A low-cost solution to reduce indoor temperatures, the cool roofs programme primarily targets badly insulated houses in slums where informal workers and other vulnerable groups reside. When a roof is coated with materials like lime-based whitewash or white tarp, it becomes more reflective and absorbs less heat.

As India’s temperatures consistently surpass the baseline in spring and summer months, the Ahmedabad heat plan has since served as a template for similar models in 23 of the country’s 28 states.

Focus on the climate crisis

Even as some regions find ways to alleviate some of the effects of scorching heat waves, many scientists emphasise that governments shouldn’t forget the root cause of the rising temperatures: the climate crisis.

Aditi Mukherji, who co-authored the water chapter in the IPCC’s assessment on “Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability,” says the onus to come up with solutions shouldn’t be on the most affected, who historically have emitted the least amount of CO2.

“I feel that when it comes to these kinds of heat extremes, the only solution is that the high emitting countries stop emissions immediately and stop burning fossil fuels,” she said. - dw

A legal binding agreement was signed by 195 nations in Paris to combat change -UN.ORG



ROUND-UP



Toyota unveils exciting summer thrills campaign

In Oman, customers can choose from a wide range of thrilling vehicles, including SUVs, sedans, hatchbacks, hybrids and pick-ups



MUSCAT: Toyota enthusiasts can now own their favourite Toyota and enjoy exclusive benefits. Toyota Oman has unveiled an exciting summer thrills campaign.

Service from 1 year/10,000 km up to 4 years / 40,000 km (whichever is earlier) and insurance 1 year or cash gift instead of insurance OMR 125 to OMR 450. The campaign is valid until 15 September. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.)

In Oman, customers can choose from a wide range of thrilling vehicles including SUVs, sedans, hatchbacks, hybrids and pick-ups.

The SUV range includes the C-HR. The C-HR represents a leap forward in design, manufacturing and engineering for Toyota. The C-HR offers impressive fuel economy with 23.9 Kms/L as per GSO Conformity Certificate and carries a Hybrid battery warranty of 8 Years/160,000 Kms.

The Toyota Raize reflects Toyota's commitment to developing diverse mobility solutions and offers the space, practicality, and comfort demanded by today's active lifestyle. Raize is equipped with a 1-litre turbocharged engine producing 96.5 hp and 14.28 Kg.m. of torque. It is paired with Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT), which simulates a seven-speed sequential shift transmission.

The sporty and stylish RAV4 offers extraordinary moments. The RAV4 includes features like 19" Alloy Wheels, LED Headlamps

& DRL, Power Back Door, Wide Moonroof, 8" Navigation System, Wireless Charger (Qi Enabled) and more.

The Fortuner is equipped with a 4.0L, V6 Engine, 18" Alloy Wheels, LED Projector Headlamps with DRL, Navigation System, Power & Ventilated Driver & Front Passenger Seats, Power Back Door and more.

The powerful and capable Prado includes 4.0L, V6 Engine, LED Headlamps & Fog Lamp, 9" Navigation System, Ventilated Front Seats, Moonroof, Airbags: Driver + Front Passenger + Curtain + Side (Front) + Knee (Driver) and more.

The pride of the land – the Land Cruiser is a symbol of strength, durability and reliability. Rugged yet luxurious, the Land Cruiser delivers high-end performance and advanced off-roading capabilities and safety features.

The iconic Hilux is available in

two versions – The rugged Hilux with J-Deck and the sporty 4.0 Litre V6 Hilux Adventure with the A Deck. The 4.0 Litre V6 Toyota Hilux Adventure is a truly exciting mean machine that's been developed by Toyota to get your pulse racing. Check out the Hilux Adventure and Unleash the Power.

The sedan range includes the popular Yaris. The Yaris delivers a dynamic driving experience. The Yaris sedan and Yaris Hatchback are equipped with a 1.5L engine. The 1.5-Litre four-cylinder engine can churn out a maximum output of 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of torque and is mated to the CVT transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency.

The Toyota Corolla – the popular choice of people around the world has been developed from a driver and passenger's point of view first. The Corolla is also available in a Hybrid option.

The sleek and stylish Toyota Camry has been one of the best-sellers. Equipped with a range of exciting features, technology and more, the Camry is also available in 2.5L, 3.5L and Hybrid options.

The Toyota Avalon is a statement of luxury. It is equipped with a 3.5L V6 Engine, LED Headlamps with Adaptive Cornering Lamps, Premium Leather Seat Material, 9" Navigation System with 14 JBL Speakers, Head Up Display, Toyota Safety Sense and more.

FULLY INTEGRATED RESORT VILLAGE



Muscat Bay is now closer to opening of new downtown showroom at Shatti Waterfront

MUSCAT: Muscat Bay, Oman's only fully integrated resort village recently announced the opening of its new showroom in the heart of Muscat city for easy access to impress even the most discerning buyer. The new location, at the Shatti Waterfront, boasts a new show space and office with luxurious meeting space to present various new promotions on offer to clients and partners. Within its varied offerings, Muscat Bay Waterfront office will also showcase several deals on the global luxury hospitality brand, Jumeirah Muscat Bay Hotel – the Village Resort's latest addition.

On this occasion, the Muscat Bay team hosted the Brokers Privilege Club event for its growing sales partnership network to celebrate Muscat Bay's new hotel launch and the village resort's growing sales momentum. The Club is an added advantage provided to brokers and aims at developing & strengthening ties between Muscat Bay and the sales partners. It enables sales partners to explore and enjoy the benefits of the exceptional amenities & experiences on offer at the prestigious, international resort community. In addition to its headquarters at Muscat Bay Experience Centre, the new office space is already attracting new leads and new awareness among buyers and sales partners.

Jawad Sajid, Vice President of Sales at Muscat Bay noted, "We are proud to host our partners at our newest addition and focus on a continued sales growth curve.

The decision to expand and open a second office at the Waterfront is a logical step in our business growth strategy. It is critical that we meet clients where their needs can be served most effectively. As part of the strategy to have the best offerings in a constantly evolving marketplace, Muscat Bay has created a more diversified sales & marketing resource base to service the different facets of an Integrated Tourism Complex: individual luxury properties, investor-aligned properties, and mixed-use assets. For example, we now have a dedicated Business Development Executive purely serving the needs of our sales partners, locally, regionally and internationally."

Muscat Bay's new luxury waterfront office destination will soon be signing a new luxury transfer service to further enhance its friction-less resort sales offering for interested clients and sales partners.

Muscat Bay's select residential range includes The Wajd Senses Grand Villa Collection, regal 5-bedroom palatial dwellings located on the hilltop overlooking the bay below; Nameer's opulent Island Villa Collection, Zaha's cool Clubhouse Waterfront & Parkland Villas, the Sky Garden Penthouses, as well as a selection of luxury 2 and 1-bed lifestyle residences that provide fantastic investor returns.

Only a few residences from the low density, 260-luxury portfolio remain unsold given the harmonious setting and resort services on offer, only 20 minutes from downtown Muscat.

AWARD

Al Daud Restaurants recognised for achieving high standards of 'safety and inclusion'

MUSCAT: Al Daud Restaurants (Developmental Licensee of McDonald's in Oman) received a prestigious award from McDonald's International. The award recognises Al Daud Restaurants for achieving the highest standards for 'safety and inclusion' where employees feel protected and where violence, harassment and discrimination are not tolerated.

Speaking at the occasion, Ali K Daud (Owner and developmental Licensee of McDonald's Oman - Al Daud Restaurants) congratulated and thanked the team for this great

honour. "We at Al Daud Restaurants strive hard to instil a culture of inclusion and safety. This recognition is a testament to the effort put in by the management and team of McDonald's Oman."

Al Daud Restaurants is a 100% Omani company and employs more than 450 young Omani men and women in its workforce. Al Daud Restaurant is the sole licensee of the McDonald's brand in The Sultanate of Oman, which started its operations on 30 March 1994 and currently operates 31 McDonald's restaurants across the country.



FORBES MIDDLE EAST

Bank Muscat CEO named among Top 100 CEOs in region

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat's Chief Executive Officer, Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, has been ranked amongst the Top 100 CEOs in the region in 2022 by Forbes Middle East. This is the second consecutive time that the bank's CEO has been named on this prestigious list.

The Top CEOs list represents 26 nationalities from a range of sectors including energy, aviation, banking and finance, logistics, real estate, construction, tourism etc. It was released by Forbes Middle East after a detailed study of stock market disclosures, industry reports, annual reports and financial statements of companies across the Middle East. The CEOs' impact on the region, their country, and the markets that they serve; overall experience and time in their current role; the size of their respective companies in terms of revenues, assets, and market cap; and achievements, innovations and initiatives of the respective CEOs were some of the main cri-



teria on which the Top 100 CEOs were finally chosen.

Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat, said: "It is a great privilege to be named in this prestigious list and I take this opportunity to thank Forbes Middle East for recognising Bank Muscat's entire leadership team for their various achievements in the recent past, and its keen partnership in nation-building through increased community engagements; support

for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs); focus on financial inclusion and its pioneering Corporate Social Responsibility programs (CSR) and Sustainability initiatives. Having enjoyed great success in the service of the nation over the last 40 years, the Bank will aim to constantly improve its products and services and financial growth in the coming years."

Under Sheikh Waleed K. Al Hashar's leadership, Bank Muscat improved its financial performance across different parameters during the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021 and recorded its highest ever net profit in its 40-year history of OMR189.63 million in FY 2021. The vision for the Bank to be a leader in everything it does, based on the key pillars of Customer Centricity, Market Leadership, Efficiency & Productivity, and Agility & Innovation, has been successfully cascaded to all business lines and divisions.

ULTIMATE LUXURY

New Mercedes-Benz C-Class: Dynamic, progressive and refined

MUSCAT: As the first classic model series from Mercedes-Benz, the launch of the C-Class in 1993 revolutionised the concept of luxury sedans in the market. The perfect blend of luxury, comfort and performance, it was packed in a compacted body and equipped with features way ahead of its time.

The new Mercedes-Benz C-Class is known for providing ultimate comfort, agility and luxury, but the 2022 series takes innovation to whole new levels.

Electrified throughout thanks to the plug-in hybrids and mild hybrids with 48-volt technology and integrated starter-generator, this design is an expression of sportiness and combines progressiveness with luxury.

The onboard high-efficiency battery system achieves an electric range of about 100 kilometres as a plug-in hybrid, which is unprecedented in this category to date.



It also sets new standards in sustainability, and because the new C-Class is one of the company's highest-volume model series, this systematic electrification also makes it one of the most environmentally friendly in the range. Other technical refinements include Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive systems such as digital light and Active Stop-and-Go Assist available as optional extras.

The ultra-modern technical advances and safety features such

as the suspension and rear-axle steering offer a more agile drive and an increased peace of mind.

With a length of 4751 mm and a width of 1820 mm, the new C-Class is considerably larger than its predecessor, providing its passengers with the utmost comfort. The preceding model was already a great step forward in terms of a high-value appeal in the interior, but the new Mercedes-Benz C-Class goes even further with respect to modern luxury.



Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing



Toll-free **800 71 222** or
9275 5522





**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
PALETTE
FURNITURE
SOLUTIONS**

Call us on

99614066



**HAVE A
DESIGN
IN MIND?
WE CAN
MAKE IT
FOR YOU!**

**Contact us on 99614066 to make
customized pallet furniture**



TOYOTA Summer THRILLS



SERVICE*

FROM **1 YEAR / 10,000 KMS**
(whichever is earlier)

UP TO **4 YEARS / 40,000 KMS**
(whichever is earlier)

INSURANCE*

1 YEAR
Or Cash Gift in Lieu of Insurance
From RO 125 Up to RO 450



*Conditions Apply

CLICK



Saud Bahwan Automotive LLC
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED C.R NO:1703412



ALL-NEW 2023 MY
CS35 PLUS
INTERACTIVE AND SOCIAL SUV



EMI Starting from OMR
105^{*#}
for eight years

BLUE CORE
Fuel Efficient Engine



1.4L Turbo Engine,
156 hp



7-Speed DCT



Excellent
Fuel Economy
17.3km/l*



20 million units
sold worldwide[#]



Presence in
65+ countries[#]



World-class
R&D capability[#]



11 Service
Locations in Oman[^]

KNOW MORE

*AS PER GSO.

For company inquiries, call **96579086**

QX50

CELEBRATE THE LUXURY OF CHOICE THIS SUMMER

2 YEARS / 30,000 KMS SERVICE[#]

REGISTRATION[^]

3 YEARS / 100,000 KMS MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY^{**}

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS ON PURCHASE OF
2ND INFINITI VEHICLE IN THE FAMILY^{*@}

AAA ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE[@]



2.0L VC-TURBO ENGINE, 268 HP

LEARN MORE



INFINITI

Offer valid from 21st June to 20th August, 2022 on applicable models purchased for personal use. Offer not available for vehicles purchased for Commercial use, Rent-a-car, Taxi, Government and Driving School. [#]Whichever is earlier. Periodic Maintenance Service only. [^]For 1st year only. ^{**}Whichever is earlier. ^{*@} Loyalty Bonus on trade-in price of INFINITI vehicle, Special In-House Finance rate, Special Accessories Package. Second car purchase should be either in the name of existing INFINITI owner or his/her immediate family member (wife/husband/son/daughter/brother/sister) to avail additional benefits under the scheme. Conditions apply. [@] For 1st year only. As supported by AAA Oman & UAE only.