

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY
WILAYAT OF AL AMERAT**

The wilayat of Al Amerat borders Muscat, Bausher, Muttrah and Quriyat. What was once just an empty expanse is now a developed place with villas and commercial buildings along with agricultural villages and other attractions. **>A4**



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**PREPARATIONS REVIEWED FOR
OMAN SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2022**

The main committee of the Oman Science Festival 2022 held its second meeting on Sunday. The meeting began with a welcoming speech from the Undersecretary for Education in which he praised the efforts made in preparation for the start of the festival's activities. **>A2**



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Formation of Board of Trustees of Royal Academy of Management approved

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Blessed by the honorary patronage of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Council of Ministers has approved the formation of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy of Management.

The decision comes as Royal Decree number 2/2022 is implemented, establishing the Royal Academy of Management, defining its competencies, and approving its organisational structure. It

stipulates, in article six, that the Academy should have a Board of Trustees under the chairmanship of the Minister of Diwan of Royal Court, and the appointment of members and the terms of their membership be subject to the authority of the Council of Ministers.

Members of the Board of Trustees have been appointed for the next three years under the chairman, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court. The members



are Dr. Said bin Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy as Vice Chairman, supported by the membership of Prof. Mahad bin Said bin Ali Baawain, Minister of Labour, and Sheikh Waleed bin Khamis Al Hashar, CEO of Bank Muscat, Ms. Khaula bint Hamoud Al Harthy, CEO of Injaz Oman and Dr. Hatem bin Bakhit Al-Shanfari, faculty member at the College of Economics and Political Science at Sultan Qaboos University.

Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court Chairman of the Royal Academy of Management, affirmed the vision of the Royal Academy of Management to be a beacon in executive leadership and management, inspired by the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and fulfilling Oman's vision for the future.

He said the Academy's plans and programmes are dedicated to implementing His Majesty's direc-

tives in investing in Omani human capital and equipping them with knowledge and the latest practices to overcome future challenges.

His Excellency also stressed that the Academy would effectively contribute to the formulation of many future visions and insights with the aim of further developing the government system and public-private partnerships, seizing economic opportunities, and developing local management systems.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**OCCI opens
doors for
elections**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: As part of preparations of polls for the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), the elections committee has opened the doors for candidates seeking membership of the boards of OCCI and its branches in the governorates.

The date for applications will be effective from Sunday, 25 September 2022 to Thursday 29 September via the website of OCCI ([www.omanchamber.om](#)).

This announcement came during a meeting held at the premises of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, chaired by Dr. Saleh bin Said bin Salim Masan, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion for commerce and industry and chairman of OCCI Elections Committee.

The committee reviewed the elections action plan for the term 2022/2026, the release of the primary list of voters following expiry of the term set for registration on 6 October 2022 as per the Notice No. (1). The committee will release the initial list of candidates following expiry of the term set for submission of candidacy applications on 29 September 2022 in accordance with Notice No. (2). **>A2**

**National Centre for Statistics
and Information**

**39,000 OMANIS
ENTERED WEDLOCK
WHILE 6,000 GOT
DIVORCED IN 2021**

**Musandam Governorate reported the
lowest number of divorce cases in 2021**

Times News Service

MUSCAT: 39,000 Omanis entered into wedlock while 6,000 got divorced in 2021, according to the statistics released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI). The total number of divorce cases by the end of last year reached 41,549.

Muscat topped the governorates in the Sultanate of Oman in the number of divorces with 853 cases, an increase of 22.2 percent followed by North Al Batinah Governorate which registered 723 certificates while Musandam Governorate had the lowest number of divorce cases with just 25 in 2021.

The statistics by the NCSI indicated that 39,000 Omanis got married during 2021, including 34,000 who got married for the first time. The total number of married Omanis amounted to 971,442 by the end of 2021 representing 56.4 percent of total Omanis (15 years +) of whom 49 percent were male and 51 percent females.

The average age of married Omanis is 42 years, according to the edition of 'Marital status in the Sultanate of Oman'.

On education-wise marital status up to 2021, the statistics showed that 25 percent of married Omanis hold higher education di-

plomas and above, 37.7 percent hold general education diploma certificate and 25.1 percent hold certificate below the general education diploma.

The statistics also showed that 73 percent of working Omanis (15-64 years) are married while the unmarried job-seekers amounted to 66 percent out of the total jobseekers.

The number of documents of marriage in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 3.6 percent in 2021 compared to 2020, when 19,294 marriage documents were registered at a rate of 53 marriage documents a day.

Meanwhile, the total certificates of divorce registered in the Sultanate in 2021 amounted to 3,837 certificates at a rate of ten divorce certificates a day, an increase of 12 percent against the certificates registered in 2020.

Muscat Governorate registered 3,980 marriage certificates in 2021, an increase of 18.6 percent against 2020, followed by North Al Batinah Governorate which registered 3,783 certificates, a decrease of 4 percent against 2020.

The marriage documents in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate decreased by 2.2 percent in 2021 compared to 2020.

DEMISE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Condolences pour in at UK embassy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Condolences continued to pour in on Sunday from all over the Sultanate of Oman following the death of UK's Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022.

Oman's Foreign Minister has offered his condolences on the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the British Embassy in Muscat.

"His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, offers his condolences on the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, at the British Embassy in Muscat," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, a large number of Omanis bid farewell to the Queen Elizabeth II and recalled her close relations with late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour and Sultan



Haitham bin Tarik during her visits to the Sultanate of Oman.

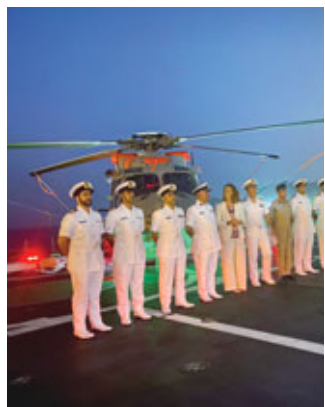
The departure of Queen Elizabeth II was a shock to all countries of the world, including Oman, especially in light of the strong ties that bind the two friendly countries and people for a long time.

Sayyid Badr Al Busaidi said: "Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth gave a lifetime's service to global peace and friendship between people and nations. I join the people of the United Kingdom in mourning and share deeply in their loss." **>A3**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

**OMAN
Italian Navy ship calls
on Port Sultan Qaboos**

1 The 'Thaon di Revel' vessel of the Italian Navy called on Port Sultan Qaboos in Muscat within the framework of EMASOH - the European-led maritime surveillance mission in the Strait of Hormuz. **>A3**



**WORLD
UN chief visits flood
affected Pakistan**

2 United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres toured some of the areas worst damaged by flooding in Pakistan. The UN chief also visited camps for displaced flood victims in Larkana in Sind. **>A6**

**MARKET
Islamic banks' profit
expected to improve**

3 Profitability of Islamic banks will improve, according to a new report. After declining in 2020 when the pandemic first struck, the return on average assets for most Islamic banking systems improved in 2021. **>B1**

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Dhuhr.....12:08pm
Asr.....3:35pm
Maghrib.....6:19pm
Isha.....7:30pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:37am

UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED SCIENCES

LOCAL ONLINE TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tenders shown in the following table:

Tender Number	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
29/2022	Supply and installation of (3) elevators for the building of the presidency of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences	Companies and establishments specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the Excellent, First, Second, Third and Fourth Grades	RO 25.000 (Twenty Five Omani Riyals only)	22/09/2022 at 14:30 pm	26/09/2022 at 10:00 am
30/2022	Providing (11) firewall licenses for the University of Technology and Applied Sciences		RO 25.000 (Twenty Five Omani Riyals only)	22/09/2022 at 14:30 pm	26/09/2022 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Monday 12/09/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences with the tender name and number only.
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee
University of Technology and Applied Sciences

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COMMENTARY

Navigating the academic boat

Saleh Al-Shaibany

WHEN I WAS conducting a lecture, a frightening thought crossed my mind. Here, thought, I was delivering wisdom to young men and women who would be the future leaders of the country. I had to be on my best behaviour, not only with regard to the contents of the lectures but with every phrase I use.

A teacher is a showcase and a reference to his students and I always remind myself of the awesome responsibility. I cannot help likening myself to a preacher delivering a sermon where every word - on and off the record - might be disastrously misinterpreted. Of course, it puts immense pressure on your shoulders since you feel you are in the spotlight and under constant intellectual scrutiny of your students. A slip of the tongue or a misplaced word is unthinkable - and a mistake that might

have serious repercussions, immediate or in the future. Lessons come from the textbooks and are carefully prepared. However, the vessel that delivers them has to be guided and navigated with great care as it sails through its destination. It is not ideal to leave such vessel at the mercy of the wind and hope that it would get there. Some phrases are in the habit of hanging in limbo and could never satisfy the objective. You might easily lose your focus and wander into the wilderness of words.

I did just that, only this week, and that's why I am writing this column.

It was a typical academic day and I put on the captain's hat and embarked on the teaching expedition. It was a complicated subject and I knew from their faces that I wasn't making much sense to them. I asked the students to take a break while I tackled the problem. I was in 'stormy waters', I told myself, 'and the vessel needs direction'. I put two practical questions before them that were synonymous to the subject, in the hope that the answers would give them guidance.

I now wish I had not done that. The answers misled them but the tragic thing was, I thought that the vessel had finally 'reached its destination'. I could not have been more wrong. Practically

speaking, they were still in that ship while I was home and dry - or so I thought! I learned a valuable lesson there that you can easily leave a lasting impression on someone who looks up to you.

That frightening thing is that I can still vividly recollect all my teachers who taught me over different stages of schooling. They were those about whom I still have some reservations, and those I still revered. I come across some of them now and my respect for them has never diminished. One or two of them have left lasting impressions on me, and I can attribute my writing of this column now to one of them.

It is frightening because I now wonder what kind of impression I would leave on my own students 20 years from now. There were times that I used to hang on to every word my teachers said, because a teacher is a guide to student's future life.

Do I weigh every word now before I let it escape my lips? It would be exaggerating to say I do that, and I would certainly be intimidated every time I stepped into a classroom. However, it would help if I choose my words, and especially the synonyms! Teaching is indeed fun and can be very enjoyable but only if you never let the 'wind take over the sailing of the ship'.

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SECOND MEETING

Preparations reviewed for Oman Science Festival 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The main committee of the Oman Science Festival 2022 held its second meeting on Sunday.

Dr. Abdullah bin Khamis Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Education, Chairman of the Main Committee of the Festival headed the meeting. A number of members of the Main Committee from the Ministry's General Diwan, government, private, and military institutions attended the meeting, which took place at the Ministry's General Diwan.

The meeting began with a welcoming speech from the Undersecretary for Education, in which he praised the efforts made in preparation for the start of the festival's activities.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed the latest updates and preparations for the implementation of the festival.

The Undersecretary for Education stressed the importance of continuing the tireless work of the competent committees to reach an exceptional third edition of Oman Science Festival.

Scientific competitions

The committee also reviewed the corners of the festival, its activities, scientific competitions, and the accompanying discussion sessions.

OCCI

<FROM A1> OCCI elections committee approves poll mechanism

The committee discussed formation of panels of OCCI branches necessary for elections and supervision on the works of such committee and the mechanism for voting which shall be through electronic system.

The committee also discussed the date proposed for voting which shall be set following completion of all preparations necessary for elections.

According to the Notice No. (2), the candidate for the membership of the Board of OCCI and the Boards of the branches in the governorate for the term 2022/2026 shall be Omani national with an exception of the candidates of public joint stock companies listed with Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) and foreign investors with investors' residence. The candidate shall be a holder of bachelors' degree or with an experience in doing business in the private sector for not less than ten years and with membership of OCCI for not less than five years.

The candidate shall also be aged not less than thirty and with good conduct and reputation. The candidate shall not be an employee in any of the units of the administrative apparatus of the State and other public legal persons among other terms and conditions.

The elections shall be under the supervision of the elections committee of OCCI and the committees of the branches of OCCI in the governorates, provided that five members shall be selected from among those registered with the OCCI to represent Muscat Governorate, five members to represent each branch of OCCI registered with the branches of OCCI in the governorate and five members to represent the public joint stock companies to be elected from the public joint stock companies registered with Muscat Stock Exchange to represent the companies in the board of OCCI and one member to represent foreign investors to be elected from among the foreign investors having investment residence to represent them in the OCCI Board of Directors.

The committee urges all companies and establishments to update their details as to exercise their rights in election of the candidates for the Board of OCCI and the Boards of the branches of OCCI in the governorates.

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Italian Navy ship calls on Muscat

The visit comes as part of European-led Maritime Surveillance Mission in the Strait of Hormuz

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The “Thaon di Revel” vessel of the Italian Navy called on Port Sultan Qaboos in Muscat in the framework of EMASOH - the European-led Maritime Surveillance Mission in the Strait of Hormuz.

In the presence of Commodore Tariq Al Raisi, Acting Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman and Omani officials, the Ambassador of Italy, Federica Favi, the Operational Commander of EMASOH, Counter Admiral Emmanuel Slaars, and Rear Admiral Stefano Costantino, Commander of AGENOR, the maritime component of the mission, hosted a reception on board to highlight the international efforts to contribute to the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

The event was attended by the



RECEPTION: A reception was hosted on board to highlight the international efforts to contribute to the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

representatives of the countries of the area, as well as by of those joining the operation, with the aim of promoting an inclusive dialogue and cooperation between all the countries in a region which is key for world trade and energy supply.

From July to December, Italy is leading the maritime operation, providing state-of-the-art vessel

Thaon di Revel and its crew.

Since its inception in January 2020, EMASOH mission aims at ensuring free navigation and the free flow of global trade in the Strait of Hormuz, in full compliance with the international laws of the sea. By promoting a broad-based cooperation, the European countries involved

in this multinational mission - Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands and Portugal - contribute to the security and stability of the region, focusing on the prevention of accidents or possible crises that could determine significant repercussions at the trans-regional level, not



only economic, but also socio-political in the context of the articulated framework of international relations.

The operation comes as an effort to restore confidence after the incidents that took place around the Strait of Hormuz in the last few years, which had affected the freedom of navigation and the security of European and non-European vessels and crews in the area. In full accordance with international

law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the mission provides enhanced maritime awareness and surveillance through the deployment of additional maritime surveillance assets in the Gulf and Arabian Sea. At the same time, EMASOH's diplomatic track, embodied by the EMASOH Senior Civilian Representative, aims at identifying ways to contribute to de-escalation of tensions in the region.

CONDOLENCES

FROM A1 Oman-United Kingdom friendship remains strong

Omani national Omar Al Nabhani said the bonds of friendship between the United Kingdom and the Sultanate of Oman were and are still strong, and that is why His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik issued his orders to fly the Omani flag at half-mast at public and private establishments and in its embassies abroad from Friday, September 9, 2022, on the death

of the Queen.

Moath Al Saidi said: “Sincere condolences and sympathy to the royal family and the friendly British people on the death of Queen Elizabeth II. She was united by long friendship and close ties with the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the Sultanate of Oman. The great queen was a symbol of wisdom, tolerance, respect and appreciation for the world.”

Mohammed Al Nassri said: “Goodbye Queen Elizabeth, the friend of the Sultanate of Oman passed away. We loved her along with the Sultans, the late Sultan Qaboos and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik. Our deepest condolences to the Queen's family and the friendly British people.”

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

BOOK MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

29,927 REACH | Oman

When the night falls, Muscat wears a bright look with shimmering lights all around, with its cultural and knowledge centres waiting to receive visitors.



A story on winter warmth welcoming tourists to Muscat

A story on winter warmth welcoming tourists to Muscat reached 29,927 people and had 518 link clicks on Facebook.

VIDEO MOST VIEWED ON INSTAGRAM

414 VIEWS



The Midday Top Story video

The Midday Top Story video had 414 views and 22 likes on Instagram.

VIDEO MOST WATCHED ON FACEBOOK

1,500 VIEWS



Midday Minute news update video

The Midday Minute news update video had 1,500 views and reached 1,600 people on Facebook.

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FAMILY-FRIENDLY AL AMERAT



The wilayat of Al Amerat borders Muscat, Baushar, Muttrah and Quriyat. What was once just an empty expanse is now a developed place with villas and commercial buildings along with agricultural villages and other attractions. Al Hajer, Jahlout, Wadi Al Meeh, Wadi Al Sireen and Nahda are some of the important villages.

The wilayat of Al Amerat has several mosques and important landmarks with Wadi Sireen Nature Preserve, Jebel Saqif and the red ochre quarry being the significant ones. Al Khafaiji mosque, Al Midam, Al Harah and Ain Fuad are some of the famous mosques. Despite being 20 minutes over the



mountain from Bousher, spacious lands cloistered between towering mountains, make Al Amerat feel remote and tranquil. Al Amerat's affordability, accessibility, convenient hypermarkets, clinics, mosques, schools, and lovely parks have drawn families with children, giving it a wholesome, family-friendly feel.

The Muscat Municipality is

currently working on Al Nahdha walkway in the Wilayat of Al-Amerat in Muscat. The project comprises a walkway and a bicycle path, both 1,200 metres in length. The 5-metre wide walkway and the 3-metre wide bicycle path are separated by a 2-metre wide landscaping. The project also includes some sites designated for mobile vendors and paved parking lots. The place will be lit by 70 lighting poles. The project is an attempt to exploit public spaces with projects that promote sports and physical health, and to beautify the area in accordance with modern concepts in city management and planning, while taking into account the need to accommodate mobile vendors.



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NEW LOOK
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Students of Bangladesh School Muscat excel in International GCSE, IAL exams



Students of the school brought home 70 grade 9, 82 grade 8 and 80 grade 7 in the June 2022, International GCSE Examinations

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bangladesh School Muscat continues its success story in academics when students brought home 70 grade 9, 82 grade 8 and 80 grade 7 in the June 2022, International GCSE Examinations.

Nahian Faiaz who bagged 7 grade 9 and 1 grade 8 stood first on the merit board. He was closely followed by Md. Nabil Islam and Salma scoring 7 grade 9 each. Next in the merit roll comes Ayman Altounji, Nimrah, and Akida Khanam who have 5 grade 9 each to their credit.

A total of seventeen grade 9 and twelve grade 8 are bagged in Bangla, while thirteen grade 9 and fourteen grade 8 are scored in chemistry. Biology and phys-



Adnan



Akida



Ananiya



Ayman Altounji



Rukayat



Faisal



Nabil Islam



Nahian Faiaz



Nimra



Salma

ics departments secured ten grade 9 each.

Meanwhile, in the IAL June examination Joy Dhar who clinched 4 A* is adjudged as the top scorer. Md. Sahel Bin Hamed who scored 1 grade

Bangladesh School Muscat continues its success story in academics

the second place. Liza, Praga Barua, Ghafran Ahmed and Fakhrul Islam grabbed 2 A grades each.

In the June International AS level examination Md. Sayed bin Safi, Rabbi Alam and Victory Olo-

hize obtained 3 A grades each, while Sherifat Bakare and Shohaib secured 2 A grades each.

Principal Nasrin Sultana had lauded the hard work of the students and thanked the teachers on behalf of The Board of Direc-

tors and herself. Members of the Board too were elated with this result.

Engineer Kazi Emdad Hossain, the Chairman of the Board congratulated the students on their impressive performance.

7TH OF SEPTEMBER 2022

Indian School Al Ghubra holds investiture ceremony

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The investiture ceremony of Indian School Al Ghubra (ISG) was held on Wednesday, 7th of September 2022.

It marked the induction of its Prefectorial Body for the academic year 2022-2023. The event commenced with the singing of the School Song.

The Principal, Papri Ghosh accorded a warm welcome to the Chief Guest Dr. Ahmed Al Bulushi, Dean, College of Engineering- National University of Science and Technology. Sunil K. Convener, School Management Committee honoured the Chief Guest with a shawl and presented a memento.

The student leaders officially took charge as the Principal, Papri Ghosh administered the Oath of Office and received their badges from the Chief Guest and Sunil K. who were assisted by the Vice-Principals — G. Sreekumar and Pyarija Cidar.

From ISG, the head girl, Aarathi Sajeew and the head boy, Alan Saji were the first to be invested. The vice head girl, Sarah Ann Joseph, the vice head boy, Alwin K. Jose, the president of the Student Council, Harshini Anbazhagan, vice president of the Student Council, Zainab Hussain, the speaker of the Student Council, Joshua Reji, president of Round Square International Services, Anoushka Sanjeev Madavi were also inducted. Alisha Amjad and Janav Sridhar Gowda took charge as the sports captain for girls and boys respectively.

The prefects of ISG who were officially inducted were Abdul Basit, Aleena Anesh, Anandhitha



Shaji, Azhaan Pary, Azza Luqman, Devkarthik Joshi, Fida Ayisha Madathodiyal, Haya Shrivastava, Heba Khan, Kartik Sujan Valappil, Lakshmi Rajeev Menon, Manvi Shanker, Melina Natasha Goveas, Nakul Rejeesh, Neha Samson, Pallak Dhabalia, Parth Nitin Ranade, Rehan Shanavas, Tabitha Thomas, Tanisha Mishra, Thana Aysha Riyaz and Tharun Raj.

The house captains sworn in were Katherine Maria Jacob and Ammeswaran Soma Sekar, Muscat House; Nandana Vinod and Ziyen Ansar Solkar, Nizwa House; Aqsa Mubarak Sarang and Alen Varghese Soji, Sohar House and Ira Bharadwaj and Ruble James Mathew, Sur House.

From ISG-International, the head girl, Meethi Sharma and the head boy, Suurya Krisno Ganti were the first to be invested.

The prefects from ISG-I comprised Ishita Sajeet Shetty, Student Council; Chitrangada Sidharth Chaturvedi, Funds and Contributions; Simran Kawatra, Cultural Activities and Nithin Krishnan Muthukrishnan-Sports and Games.

The house captains sworn in from ISG-I were Abhinav Ganesh

Kumar, Saturn House; Madhav Sunil Vishnu, Uranus House; Ashutosh Naik, Neptune House and Vaibhavi Shetty, Jupiter House.

The members of the Student Council from classes 6 to 12 also took the oath of office.

The Chief Guest Dr. Ahmed Al Bulushi in his address expressed his gratitude to the principal and the management of the school for inviting him to exhort the leaders. He highlighted the significance of the key traits of honesty and integrity, good communication skills, confidence, knowledge, commitment and passion, courage, kindness and emotional intelligence to fulfill the duties of a leader.

Recalling the leadership of late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour, Dr. Ahmed Al Bulushi spoke of the role played by His Majesty's visionary leadership in transforming Oman into a progressive and prosperous nation.

This was followed by the rendition of the song — 'We shall Overcome' and a prayer for the leaders by the Principal, Papri Ghosh. The event concluded with the recession of the prefectorial body.



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إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tenders Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tender:

TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
MTCTIT/HQ-28/127/2022	ROAD MARKING & REPAIR SIGN BOARDS WORKS AT (BID BID, NIZWA, HASN AL-SHIMOKH & AL-JABAL AL-AKHDER) ROADS IN AL-DAKHILYA GOVERNORATE	11/9/2022	14/9/2022	21/09/2022	EXPERIENCED COMPANIES AND REGISTERED WITH THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF TENDER BOARD (First Classe)	50 FIFTY OMANI RIAL NON-REFUNDABLE

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Queen Elizabeth II coffin’s journey to Edinburgh begins, crowds line up to pay tribute

The state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II will take place at Westminster Abbey on September 19

LONDON: The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II began a six-hour journey from her home in the Scottish Highlands to Edinburgh, as crowds lined the roads to pay tribute to the monarch, media reports said.

The state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II will take place at Westminster Abbey on September 19, a statement by the UK Royal Family said. “The State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19th September at 1100 hrs BST. Prior to the State Funeral, The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects,” it read. Prior to the funeral, The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall for four days, to allow the public to pay their respects.

The coffin that began its journey will arrive at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, where it will rest in the Throne Room until the afternoon of Monday. On the afternoon of Monday, a Procession will be formed on the forecourt of the Palace of Holyroodhouse to convey the Coffin to St Giles’ Cathedral, Edinburgh. The King and Members of the Royal Family will take part in the Procession and attend



a Service in St Giles’ Cathedral to receive the coffin.

Queen Elizabeth’s coffin will then lie at rest in St Giles’ Cathedral, guarded by Vigils from The Royal Company of Archers, to allow the people of Scotland to pay their respects.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Queen’s Coffin will travel from Scotland by Royal Air Force aircraft from Edinburgh Airport, arriving at RAF Northolt later that evening. The coffin will be accompanied on the journey by Princess Royal.

The Queen’s coffin will then be conveyed to Buckingham Palace by road, to rest in the Bow Room. On the afternoon of Wednesday, the Coffin will be borne in Procession on a Gun Carriage of The

King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery from Buckingham Palace to the Palace of Westminster, where The Queen will Lie-in-State in Westminster Hall until the morning of the State Funeral.

The Procession will travel via Queen’s Gardens, The Mall, Horse Guards and Horse Guards Arch, Whitehall, Parliament Street, Parliament Square and New Palace Yard. After the coffin arrives at Westminster Hall, The Archbishop of Canterbury will conduct a short service assisted by The Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, and attended by The King and Members of the Royal Family, after which the Lying-in-State will begin.

During the Lying-in-State,

members of the public will have the opportunity to visit Westminster Hall to pay their respects to The Queen. On the morning of Monday 19th September, the Lying-in-State will end and the Coffin will be taken in procession from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey, where the State Funeral Service will take place.

Following the state funeral, the coffin will travel in procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch. From Wellington Arch, the coffin will travel to Windsor and once there, the State Hearse will travel in procession to St George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle via the Long Walk. A Committal Service will then take place in St George’s Chapel. **ANI**



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TERROR ATTACKS

21 years on, 9/11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed still awaits trial

NEW YORK: Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the September 11 terror attacks on the United States continues to await trial even after two decades that left 2,977 people dead.

19 terrorists of Al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial planes and carried out attacks in different locations in the USA. The hijackers crashed the first two planes into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and the third plane into the Pentagon (the headquarters of the American military) in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth plane was intended to hit a federal government building in Washington, DC, but crashed in a field. Shaikh Mohammed was one of the most high-profile terrorists before he was captured from his hideout in Rawalpindi, Pakistan in March 2003 and later sent to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to await trial, according to New York Post.

The terrorist has remained in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba ever

since. Condemning the US government’s continued failure to avail justice to families of victims of the 9/11 attacks, a former US attorney in New York, David Kelley said, “It is an awful tragedy for the families of the victims,” as he described the situation as a dent on country’s history.

Notably, David Kelly co-chaired the Justice Department’s nationwide investigation into the attacks, New York Post reported, adding that several victims’ families say they just want closure.

George Haberman, the father of 25-year-old Andrea who got killed after one of the hijacked aeroplanes crashed into the World Trade Center just one floor above her office, said that it is the need of the hour to unmask the truth about the incident and how it was done.

The FBI and its partners quickly learned that the 9/11 attacks were carried out by Osama bin Laden’s terrorist organization. **ANI**

DEVASTATING FLOODS

UN chief Antonio Guterres denounces ‘climate carnage’ in Pakistan’s hard-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday toured some of the areas worst damaged by flooding in Pakistan.

Guterres, on his second day of a two-day visit to the country, visited Sukkur district in southern Sindh province and Osta Mohammad in southwestern Baluchistan province.

The UN chief also visited camps for displaced flood victims in Larkana district in Sindh as well.

What did Guterres say on the visit?

Guterres said he had seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but had never “seen climate carnage on this scale.”

“I have simply no words to describe what I have seen today,” Guterres told reporters in Karachi, Pakistan’s largest city and the capital of Sindh.

He said Pakistan needed “massive financial support to overcome this crisis,” adding that it was not a matter of “generosity, this is a matter of justice.” Guterres appealed for massive international support



for the country shortly after arrival Friday, saying that he was in the South Asian nation to express his support with the Pakistani people and that initial estimates suggested losses of around \$30 billion (€29.5 billion). Guterres has previously repeatedly called attention to the effects of climate change and on Saturday said it was important to “stop the madness which we played with nature.”

He said the UN would use its

limited resources to help and request that “those who have the capacity to support Pakistan, do it now and do it massively.”

Guterres’ comments came after he was briefed by the chief minister of Sindh province, Murad Ali Shah, on the destruction and challenges of the area. Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and some of his Cabinet members also accompanied the UN’s top official during his visit. **aw**

THREE KILLED

Taliban crashes US-made Black Hawk chopper in Kabul

KABUL: Taliban crashed a Blackhawk chopper in Afghanistan’s Kabul on Saturday afternoon during a training exercise, leaving three people dead, said the Taliban’s Ministry of Defence in a statement.

The Blackhawk chopper reportedly crashed inside a military training base in Kabul, which not only caused casualties but also injured two, Khaama Press reported. The Taliban also took control of some US-made aircraft after they seized the country last year in August.

The incident was later confirmed by the Taliban’s Ministry of Defence as the outfit gave it a name of technical error.

As per Khaama Press, the press release published by the Ministry of Defence confirmed the death of 3 people including 2 pilots and the injury of another 2 individuals.

This comes as several Afghanistan National Security Defense Forces (ANSDF) choppers remained in the hands of the Taliban while most of them were flown to neighbouring countries like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan last year as the Taliban took control of Afghanistan.

Moreover, the Taliban also took



control of some US-made aircraft after they seized the country last year in August.

On August 15th 2021, Afghanistan’s republic administration collapsed after the former president of the country Mohammad Ashraf Ghani fled to the UAE.

Notably, Washington stopped flying in hard currency, paralyzing Afghanistan’s banking system and froze USD 7 billion in Afghan assets in the US Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Earlier, in the month of June, the Taliban official Amir Khan Muttaqi, along with his delega-

tion, left for Qatar to discuss with the US officials the release of withheld Afghan assets.

After the Taliban seized the nation by force last year, the US froze Afghan reserves. The militants-turned-politicians are currently working to restore the nation’s economy which has been ravaged by sanctions imposed and isolation.

US President Joe Biden decided to split USD 7 billion of the frozen Afghan assets to fund humanitarian relief in Afghanistan and compensate victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks. **ANI**

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UAE CABINET MEETING REVIEWS COMPETITIVE, GROWTH INDICATORS

The Cabinet also reviewed the UAE’s significant growth in economic and trade indicators

ABU DHABI: His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, chaired the UAE Cabinet meeting held at Qasr Al Watan Abu Dhabi.

The meeting was attended by H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance; H.H. Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior; and H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Court.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: “I chaired the Cabinet meeting at Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi. We reviewed the UAE’s competitive and development indicators. Our commercial and development sectors surpassed the pre-pandemic growth.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid noted: “Under the leadership of my brother Mohamed bin Zayed, the UAE has managed to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Our country has become globally prominent for its significant economic growth and



development.” His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum added: “The number of global indices topped by the UAE rose from 121 to 156 indicators. We ranked among top 10 in 432 global indicators, compared to 314 pre-pandemic. We are the first in the world in terms of security and safety, infrastructure, flexibility of regulations, and more.”

His Highness said: “The UAE’s foreign trade exceeded AED 1 trillion, compared to AED 840 billion pre-pandemic and this year’s economic growth exceeded 22%.”

His Highness added: “Our tourism sector’s revenues surpassed AED 19 billion in the first half of 2022. The total number of hotel guests reached 12 million, achieving 42% growth, and we expect a strong tourism performance in this winter season.”

His Highness noted: “During the Cabinet meeting, we approved a new law enhancing partnership between government and private

sectors... Also, we approved the licensing of the first electric cargo aircraft in the region fully powered with clean energy.”

The Cabinet meeting reviewed the achievements of the country at the global level, where the UAE ranked first in 156 global indicators for the year 2022, compared to 121 indicators in 2020. Also, the UAE has ranked among the top five in 288 global indicators this year, compared to 189 in 2020. The UAE has been among the world’s top 10 list in 432 indicators, compared to 314 in 2020.

The Cabinet also reviewed the UAE’s significant growth in economic and trade indicators, as the Constant Price GDP growth rate for the first quarter of 2022 reached 8.4%, with a total of AED 399 billion, compared to AED 368 billion in the same period of 2021. The UAE’s foreign trade recorded a leapfrog of more than 50%, with a total of AED 1.060 trillion during the first half of this year, compared to AED 702 billion in the

same period of 2020. The Cabinet reviewed the achievements of the tourism sector in the country in the first half of the year 2022. The results showed an increase in tourism’s contribution to the national economy by 12%. The number of hotel guests establishments increased by 42% with a total of 12 million guests, compared to 6.2% before COVID-19 pandemic. The total revenues of the sector amounted to AED 19 billion, during the first half of 2022.

New opportunities of partnership with the private sector

The Cabinet approved the issuance of a federal law regulating the partnership between the federal authorities and the private sector in the UAE. The law aims at organizing partnership between both sectors, encouraging the private sector to participate in development and strategic projects, increasing investment in projects of economic and social values, and enhancing the competitiveness of projects in the local, regional and global markets.

The banking sector supporting financing programs

The Cabinet approved a suggested federal law decree to amend the Federal Law No 14 of 2018 regarding the Central Bank and Organization of Financial Institutions and Activities, aiming to achieve a balance between rights and duties in the banking sector.

The amendment on the federal law also aims at ensuring compliance with the directives and decisions of the Central Bank, and limiting the phenomenon of financial stumbling. -WAM

His Majesty King Hamad issues Royal Decree



MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on Sunday issued Royal Decree (50) of 2022, restructuring the Office of the Prime Minister, as follows:

The Prime Minister shall be responsible for:

First: Director-General of Policies and Coordination.

Second: Director-General of the Office of the Prime Minister, who shall be responsible for:

- 1- Directorate of Legal Affairs.
- 2- Directorate of Internal Central Control.
- 3- Two coordination posts.
- 4- Assistant Undersecretary for Resources and Services, who shall be responsible for:

- 1- Directorate of Human Resources.
- 2- Directorate of Financial Resources.
- 3- Directorate of Services and Informational Systems.
- 4- Assistant Undersecretary for Media and Communication, who will be in charge of:

- 1- Directorate of Media.
- 2- Directorate of Communication.
- 3- Undersecretary of Research

and Projects, who will be in charge of:

Assistant Undersecretary for Research and Projects, who shall oversee:

- 1- The Directorate of Research.
- 2- The Directorate of Studies.
- 3- The Directorate of Policies.

Assistant Undersecretary for Project, who shall be in charge of:

- 1- Four directorates of projects
- 2- Directorate of Operations.

Assistant Undersecretary for Developing Government Performance, who will be responsible for:

- 1- The Directorate of Government Cadres’ Development.
- 2- The Directorate of Government Service Quality.
- 3- The Directorate of Evaluation and Analysis.
- 4- The Directorate of Coordination and Follow-up.

Any text that conflicts with the provisions of this decree shall be abrogated.

The Prime Minister shall implement the provisions of this decree, which takes immediate effect and will be published in the Official Gazette. -BNA

NATIONAL COMPETENCIES

Labour Minister calls for employing Bahrainis in private medicare

MANAMA: Labour Minister, Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, has called for integrating job seekers in the private medical sector, by rehabilitatating and training them in collaboration with the relevant entities, as well as by taking advantage of the existing detailed and integrated database.

He stressed the importance of integrating national competencies in the labour market, in light of the Economic Recovery Plan, launched by the government in many promising sectors.

He said that several initiatives aimed at integrating job seekers in the Bahrain’s private medical sec-

tor are being implemented, as part of the joint efforts to implement the provisions of Law (1) of 2019, amending Article (14) of Decree-Law (21) of 2015 with Respect to Private Health Institutions, which gives priority to hiring Bahrainis in private medical institutions.

Minister of Health, Dr Jalila

bint Al Sayed Jawad Al Sayed Hassan, indicated that the private medical sector in the kingdom is growing rapidly with the increasing number of institutions that provide many rewarding employment opportunities.

She expressed hope that the ongoing joint efforts will lead to

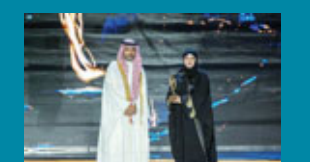
increasing the number of Bahraini staff in this promising sector, highlighting the growing positive cooperation with the private sector in hiring Bahrainis, taking advantage of the incentives provided, including wage subsidies, and the provision of the necessary free training, in coordination with the Labour

Fund (Tamkeen). It is to be noted that several meetings between officials in the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health have been held over the past period to discuss a set of qualitative initiatives to qualify and employ job seekers in the health and medical professions. -BNA

DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

UN recognises progress in Saudi education

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UNDER HRH CROWN PRINCE PATRONAGE, WINNERS OF NATIONAL CULTURAL AWARDS HONOURED

RIYADH: Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, the Ministry of Culture honoured the winners of the “National Cultural Awards” initiative. -SPA



UAE LAUNCHES THIRD GENERATION PASSPORT

ABU DHABI: UAE Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Port Security (ICP) announced the launch of the third generation Passport and the trial run of the new Advanced Visa System. The new generation of services was developed in line with the highest security and technology standards. -BNA

AN ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION

Saudi Arabia highlights importance of global cooperation at G20 meet



RIYADH: Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to gain global recognition. The Kingdom advances five positions in the latest Human Development Index (HDI).

The HDI, a report released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), ranked Saudi Arabia 35th out of 191 countries for 2022. In the previous version of the report, Saudi Arabia was ranked in 40th place. In addition, the Kingdom ranked 10th among the G20 countries and made the most progress between 2019 and 2021.

In the axis of knowledge acquisition, the Kingdom has made significant progress by advancing 18 places in the Mean Years of Schooling Index. Saudi Arabia ranked 56th place compared to 74th place in the previous edition. This reflects the continuation of efforts to improve learning outcomes and the strengthening of the Kingdom’s education capacity in global competition.

The progress on the knowl-

edge acquisition scale demonstrates the education system’s commitment to developing human capabilities, which enhances the Kingdom’s global competitiveness and contributes to its international ranking.

As it takes many years to achieve this level of progress, Saudi Arabia’s education system was able to reach these goals, outlined in the Kingdom Vision 2030, in a shorter time frame. The success is due in part to the investments in education and unceasing support made by the wise Saudi leadership.

The UNDP 2022 report is based on three fundamental dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and an adequate standard of living. To that end, the Ministry of Education has been enacting policies and initiatives from early childhood education to lifelong learning in an effort to transform Saudi Arabia into a model knowledge society. -SPA

RIYADH: Minister of Economy and Planning Faisal bin Fadhil Al-Abraham has underlined the Kingdom’s steadfast commitment to renewing global cooperation and achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Alibrahim said the G20 Development Ministers’ Meeting was an opportunity to work more

closely together and put forward concrete actions to support developing countries and foster inclusive, resilient, socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable recovery efforts and, as the world’s fastest-growing economy, the Kingdom is proud to renew and reaffirm its commitment towards achieving

these goals.

“International cooperation is a key priority for the Kingdom, and we remain more committed than ever to work closely with our international partners to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs,” he said. “To do this, we must restore faith in the multilateral framework.” -SPA



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Re- tender 14/2020	Services	RENOVATION OF GRASSED FOOTBALL PITCH WITH NEW AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION FOR ITTIFAQ SPORTS CLUB – IBRA Br.	25/-	First & Third
20/2022	Construction and Maintenance	MAINTENANCE WORKS AT SAHAM SPORT CLUB	25/-	Third

Companies, which are registered with the Tender Board and engaged in same category with experience in and same Grade as noted above, can obtain the Tender Documents at the Tender Board E-tendering digital portal link (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) until 17/09/ 2022.

The last date of tender submission on above E-tendering site at 09:00am 03/10/ 2022

A Tender Bond equivalent to 1% of the tender sum issued from a registered bank, in the prescribed form, in Sultanate of Oman and valid for 90 days should enclosed with the tender.

Any tender without the bond will be reject and the tender committee is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender received.

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Sri Lanka lift Asia Cup

Sri Lanka will be extremely ecstatic with their performances

DUBAI: A brilliant half-century from Bhanuka Rajapaksa and fiery spells from spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and pacer Pramod Madushan helped Sri Lanka lift its sixth Asia Cup title, defeating Pakistan by 23 runs in the final in Dubai on Sunday.

Sri Lanka will be extremely ecstatic with their performances. They pulled off a remarkable comeback from a poor position in powerplay while batting, with help of Rajapaksa (71*) and Hasaranga (36) to reach 170/6 in 20 overs. While bowling, it was spells of Wanindu Hasaranga (3/27) and Pramod Madushan (4/34) that helped Lanka seal the victory by 24 runs, despite a threatening stand of 61-runs between Mohammad



Rizwan (55) and Iftikhar Ahmed (32). Chasing 171, Pakistan got some free runs as pacer Dilshan Madushanka gave away nine extras due to wides and no balls. However, the pacer made a comeback, giving only three more runs in his over.

Sri Lanka kept Pakistani willows silent for next two overs and struck gold with the wicket of star

batter Babar Azam for 5. Pramod Madushan took his wicket after the batter was caught by Madhushanka at short fine leg, with the latter making up for his expensive first over. Pakistan was 1/22.

Madushan dismissed left-hander Fakhar Zaman for a golden duck, taking two wickets in two balls. After a terrible first over, Sri Lanka were favourites again, hav-

ing reduced Pakistan to 2/22.

From then on, Rizwan and Iftikhar Ahmed tried to steady the ship for Pakistan. Sri Lanka however continued bowling brilliant lines and lengths, keeping their opponents largely on backfoot. Men in Green could score only 15 in 15 balls after Madushan's double blow and at powerplay end in six overs, Pakistan was at 37/2, with

Rizwan (16*) and Iftikhar (6*).

The duo helped run come for Pakistan and 50-run mark was touched in 7.3 overs.

At the end of 10 overs, Pakistan was at 68/3, with Rizwan (36*) and Iftikhar (17*) at the crease.

A 50-run stand between the duo was up in 44 balls. In the start of second half, Iftikhar seemed to turn things in his side's favour with a four and six. Wanindu Hasaranga's 12th over gave away 14 runs.

Things seemed to swing in favour of Sri Lanka when Madushan bagged his third wicket of the match in 14th over. He ended the 71-run stand between Rizwan and Iftikhar after the latter was caught for 32 off 31 balls at backward square leg by KNA Bandara.

Mohammad Nawaz was next on the crease. At the end of 15 overs, Pakistan was at 101/3, with Rizwan (47*) and Nawaz (6*). A solid 15th over by Dhananija de Silva built pressure on Pakistan by giving away just four runs. Pakistan needed 70 runs in final five overs.

Pressure piled up on Pakistan and evidence was Nawaz giving away his wicket for just four runs to Chamika Karurathne while at-

tempting to pull, but was caught by Madushan at backward deep square. Pakistan was reduced to 102/4.

Khushdil Shah was the next batter on the crease. Rizwan brought up his third half-century of the tournament with a pressure relieving six.

However, Hasaranga's final over changed the game in favour of Sri Lanka once again, as he picked up wickets of Rizwan (55), Asif Ali (0) and Khushdil (2) in a span of five balls. Pakistan sunk to 112/7 after this over.

Miseries did not seem to end for Pakistan as Theekshana dismissed Shadab Khan for just 8 runs after he was caught by Gunathilaka. Naseem Shah, Pakistan's hero in match against Afghanistan was also sent packing by Madushan, who got his fourth wicket of the match after Karunaratne caught him at long-on.

Pakistan finished the match at 147 all out after Haris Rauf was bowled by Karunaratne for 13. Sri Lanka clinched its sixth Asia Cup 2022 title.

Madushan (4/34) and Hasaranga (3/27) were the heroes for Sri Lanka with the ball. **ANI**

US OPEN

Sky is the limit, says Swiatek after clinching US Open crown

NEW YORK: After clinching her maiden US Open title on Saturday, Iga Swiatek said that she was a little "surprised" by the win and added that the "sky is the limit" for her.

The World No.1 clinched her third career Grand Slam at the US Open on Saturday after defeating Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6(5) in the final. "At the beginning of the season, I realized that maybe I can have some good [hard-court] results on WTA events. I also made it to the semifinal of the Australian Open. But I wasn't sure if I was on the level yet to win actually a Grand Slam, especially US Open where the surface is so fast," she said in the post-match presser.

Against Jabeur, it came down to a tight second-set tiebreak -- Swiatek's first in a final. Down 5-4, Swiatek fired a forehand winner that hit the line. When Jabeur's forehand sailed long two points later, she had closed another deal.

"It's something that I wasn't expecting for sure. It's also like a confirmation for me that sky is the limit. I'm proud, also surprised a little bit. Just happy that I was able to do that," she added.

"I met so many great people here, like Lindsay Vonn. Seal. I



mean, actually, after I met Seal, I was like, Even if I'm gonna lose right now I already won this tournament because I got a photo with him. Yeah, it was great. It's something that it's only going to happen probably in New York because it's New York," Swiatek said.

Comparing her two major wins this season at Roland Garros and US Open, she said, "I don't know if it's more than the second win on

Roland Garros because I feel like back then the pressure was really on and everybody was kind of expecting me to win."

"Here I managed to go ahead my expectations lower, and also I feel like people were not expecting a lot from me on hard court. So mentally I think Roland Garros was a little bit tougher. But tennis-wise and physically here for sure it was tougher," she added. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

Barcelona move to top with a 4-0 win over Cadiz in La Liga

CADIZ: Spanish club Barcelona moved to the top of the La Liga after securing a dominating win over Cadiz on September 10.

Barcelona had won three, drew one of their first four games, and finished second in the table. Robert Lewandowski has been on fire for them this season, scoring eight goals across all competitions, including five in La Liga. Xavi Hernandez was eager to lead his club to victory, moving them into first place ahead of Real Madrid's encounter on Sunday. Cadiz entered this game having lost all four of their first four, allowing ten goals and failing to score. Sergio Gonzalez, the team's head coach, was keen to end their goal-scoring drought.

Both teams got out to a strong start, playing positive football and not being hesitant to attack. Barcelona enjoyed 75% possession in the first half as they attempted to break down a tenacious Cadiz defence. Frenkie de Jong and Sergio Busquets dominated the midfield with their swift and precise passing. They scarcely let the ball return to their opponent, moving it from side to side in an attempt to create an opportunity.

Raphinha had a dramatic first half, as he was booked for an un-



necessary foul. He also attempted a powerful shot with his weaker left foot, which hit the right post and rebounded out.

Despite the fact that the game was knotted at 0-0 at halftime, Barcelona appeared to be the sharper of the two teams.

The second half began similarly to the first. Cadiz played freely, passing the ball around and trying to get in behind Barcelona's defence.

Ten minutes after the restart, Frenkie de Jong gave the visitors the lead. Gavi did brilliantly to wiggle past the crowd before assisting de Jong to score. Xavi performed a triple-change shortly

after the goal, sensing that the momentum had shifted.

In the 65th minute, substitute Robert Lewandowski scored to increase Barcelona's lead. The ball was played and then left in the centre of the box untouched. As he slid in, Lewandowski beat Luis Hernandez to the ball and scored to make it 2-0.

There was a significant pause in play beginning around the 80-minute mark because a spectator from the home crowd required immediate medical attention. Cadiz goalkeeper Jeremias Ledesma dashed into the crowd to hand out defibrillators to the doctors. **ANI**

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ACROPOLIS RALLY

Rashid Al Balushi to be safety delegate in Acropolis rally in Greece



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Rashid Al Balushi has been given a chance by the FIA to be safety delegate (trainee) in Acropolis rally in Greece the 10th round of world rally championship to be held between 9 to 11 September 2022.

This appointment is a kind of appreciation to talented people from Oman, where they proved previously their skills in organising big events as technical managers and safety delegations adding to that the ability to work under pressure and in different atmospheres.

Rashid Al Balushi has been appointed by FIA previously as safety delegate since 2019 in Oman International Rally as one of the rounds of Middle East Rally championship and also been safety delegate in Qatar International Rally, Jordan.



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,519.71 points, up by 0.15 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.02 per cent at 483.09 points. Dhofar Generating, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 4.83 per cent, was the top loser.

Profitability of Islamic banks will recover to pre-pandemic levels

The retail heavy portfolios of Islamic banks will drive higher financing yields and therefore stronger margins than conventional banks

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The profitability of Islamic banks will improve as provisioning needs decline and net profit margins widen, according to a new report.

“After declining in 2020 when the pandemic first struck, the return on average assets for most Islamic banking systems improved in 2021, partly because of lower provisioning needs as economies recovered,” Moody’s Investors Service said in its latest report.

“We expect provisions to drop back to pre-pandemic levels in 2022-23, further boosting profits. At the same time, rising policy rates will drive up net profit margins. The expansion in net profit margin will be larger in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states where the central banks follow aggressive monetary policy tighten-



REPORT: Islamic banks will have ample capital and liquidity to expand further strong capital and liquidity buffers will allow Islamic banks to capitalise on strong demand for Sharia-compliant financial services. - Photo used for illustrative purpose only

ing given that they peg their currencies to the US dollar. Net profit margins are either bottoming or already recovering in 2022,” the report added.

The retail heavy portfolios of Islamic banks will drive higher financing yields and therefore stronger margins than conventional banks, particularly given that current and savings deposits, which are insensitive to interest rates, will continue to make up a large portion of their deposit bases and present little to no pressure on the cost of funds.

With retail lending representing 47.7 per cent of total lending (around 60 per cent of total financing for Islamic banks) and low-cost current and demand deposits at 62.3 per cent of total deposits as of June 2022, Saudi Islamic banks

are set to benefit the most from US policy rate hikes, the report said.

Their cost-to-income ratios will remain stable as efficiency gains as a result of digitalisation and shrinking branch networks offset increases in digital spending. Like their conventional peers, Islamic banks will accelerate digitalisation to meet customer preferences for online services and to compete with new digital banks.

Ample capital and liquidity

Islamic banks will have ample capital and liquidity to expand further strong capital and liquidity buffers will allow Islamic banks to capitalise on strong demand for Sharia-compliant financial services.

The strong capitalisation of Islamic banks will be supported by profitability improvements.

While organic growth capacity remains ample for Islamic banks, the inorganic expansion will remain a recurring credit theme, particularly in the GCC where bank consolidation continues. Also, Islamic banks have ample liquidity to support their expansion thanks to strong inflows of deposits.

Moody’s Investors Service in the report said that high commodity prices and the easing of pandemic restrictions will support strong economic recovery across major Islamic finance markets over the next 12 to 18 months, boosting the financial performance of Islamic banks. The Gulf states, Malaysia (A3 stable) and Indonesia (Baa2 stable) are benefitting from a price surge in key exports like hydrocarbons and palm oil.

The economic rebound will keep

cautionary provisioning. Their profitability will also be driven up by the rise in interest rates, particularly in the Gulf states where domestic currencies are pegged to the US dollar. Their cost-income ratios will remain stable, with increases in technology spending offsetting efficiency gains from digitalisation.

Islamic banks will have ample capital and liquidity to grow further. They will continue to maintain strong capital and liquidity buffers, enabling them to capitalise on the demand for Sharia-compliant financial services.

High commodity prices and the easing of pandemic restrictions will support economic growth across Islamic banking markets.

Economic growth across member states of the GCC, Malaysia and Indonesia will remain strong over the next 12 to 18 months, supported by the elevated prices of oil and other commodities and by the relaxation of pandemic-related restrictions.

Robust commodity exports from these countries will also boost public finances and provide governments with the fiscal firepower to ease inflationary pressure.

Global economic growth will slow as a result of rising inflation and the tightening of global financial conditions. China’s zero-COVID policy and the cuts in Russian gas supply to Europe will add to the growing risks.

The Russia-Ukraine military conflict has disrupted commodity supply chains, driving up consumer prices and fuelling inflation worldwide.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

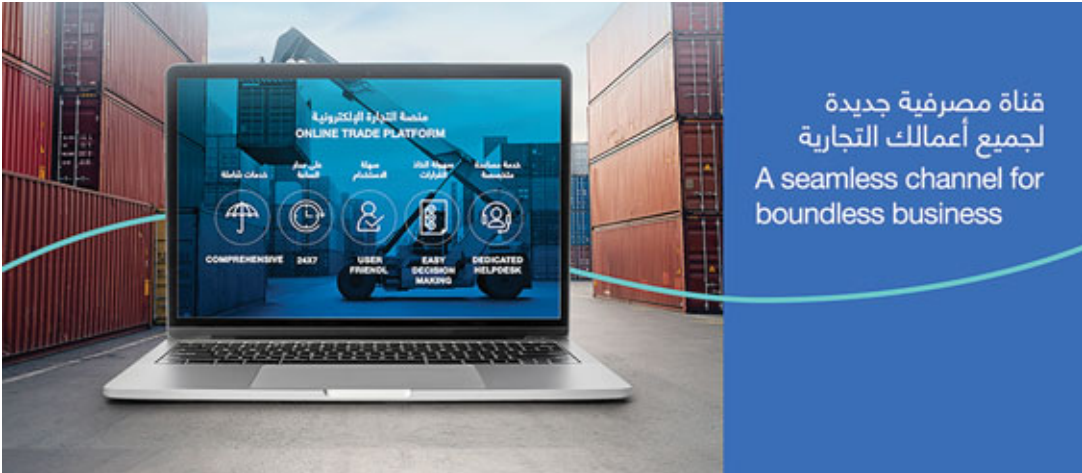
NBO launches fully-automated online trade portal

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Continuing to enhance the digital landscape for its corporate customers, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has launched its fully-automated online trade portal.

Accessible through NBO’s Corporate Internet Banking, the portal empowers customers to conduct transactions for a suite of trade products such as Letters of Credit, Guarantees, Loan Against Trust Receipts (LTRs), Bill Discounting and documentary collection with Straight Through Processing. The system also provides clients with real-time updates on their transactions, whether it be transaction status, advice, swift messages, outstanding utilisation or statements.

Mohammed Yahya Al Jabri, Assistant General Manager, Head of Global Transaction Banking at NBO, said, “NBO is committed to advancing Oman’s business sector and enhancing its customers’ experience with innovative products



and services, and the introduction of our comprehensive online trade portal puts the power to manage all business transactions firmly in the hands of our customers. With round-the-clock easy access to all essential functions, the dashboard provides a complete overview of the business for complete control.

The portal has been designed to meet the challenges of modern business and ensure companies can efficiently manage their trade working capital.”

The new online trade portal allows customers to conduct all trade transactions digitally, instead of visiting branches, making

the process smooth and efficient, leaving more time for running their business. Customers can view all of their reports in one place for smarter decision-making, and the service is supported by a dedicated helpdesk to assist corporate customers with any queries they may have.

INDIAN EQUITY OUTLOOK

Indian stocks gain on positive global cues, cooling crude prices

NEW DELHI: Despite sharp volatility in financial markets globally this week, the Indian stocks managed to close the weekly trade with some gains.

During the week that ended on Friday, the Indian benchmark indices rose over 1 per cent on a cumulative basis.

Brokerage firm HDFC Securities attributed the gains to positive global cues, cooling crude oil prices and consistent foreign fund inflows. IT index gained the most by 3.5 per cent followed by PSU at 2.6 per cent and bank and metal up 2.4 per cent each.

As per provisional figures, foreign institutional investors were net buyers of Rs 6,137 crore in the equity markets over the week and domestic institutional investors

were net sellers of Rs 352 crore.

“US stocks finished higher in the final session of the week, putting an end to the three-week losing streak. The markets showed resiliency in the face of solidified expectations that the Fed will remain aggressive despite a slowdown in economic growth and following a historic rate hike by the European Central Bank. After three weeks of a temper tantrum, the market has finally come to terms with the expected 75-basis-point increase from the US Federal Reserve this month,” HDFC Securities said.

Back in India the last couple of weeks, the domestic markets maintained their sturdy structure, whereas the US bourses were continuing with their declining trend. **ANI**

CAPITAL INTELLIGENCE RATINGS

Oman’s sovereign ratings and stable outlook affirmed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Capital Intelligence Ratings (CI) announced that it has affirmed Oman’s long-term Foreign Currency Rating (LT FCR) and long-term Local Currency Rating (LT LCR) at ‘BB’.

At the same time, CI Ratings has affirmed Oman’s short-term Foreign Currency Rating (ST FCR) and short-term Local Currency Rating (ST LCR) at ‘B’. The Outlook for the ratings remains Stable.

Rating rationale

The ratings reflect the decline in central government debt in addition to the improvement in fiscal and external strength due to high hydrocarbon revenues and exports, CI said in a statement.

“The ratings are supported by the country’s relatively sound banking system, as well as CI’s expectation that financial support would be forthcoming from other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the event of need,” the statement further added.

Fiscal strength is deemed moderate, with the central government budget position returning to surplus thanks to high international hydrocarbon prices.

During the first six months of 2022, the central government budget posted a surplus of 1.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), compared to a deficit of 3.4 per cent during the same period of 2021, and is on course to reach 5.6 per cent in 2022 – its highest surplus since 2008, the CI statement said.

CI’s baseline scenario assumes that hydrocarbon prices will remain high throughout 2023-24, averaging \$80/barrel – exceeding the budget’s average fiscal breakeven oil price of \$68/barrel. “Based on the above, CI expects the central budget surplus to average 5.9 per cent in the next two years,” the statement said.

Notwithstanding the positive developments, risks to the fiscal outlook could stem from higher than projected social spending, possible Opec+ oil production cuts, and the adverse impact of the war in Ukraine



and the economic slowdown in China on demand for hydrocarbons.

The Omani government has implemented numerous reforms aimed at increasing revenue mobilisation and reducing expenditure rigidity. Reflecting improving debt dynamics and the \$700 million debt buyback of previously issued high-interest sovereign debt, central gov-

ernment debt is expected to decline to 44 per cent of GDP in 2022, compared to 65.3 per cent in 2021.

External strength remains moderate, with Oman’s current account position expected to return to surplus in 2022, reaching 5.9 per cent of GDP compared to a deficit of 3.7 per cent in 2021.

This trend is expected to contin-

ue going forward, with the current account forecast to post surpluses averaging 4.6 per cent of GDP in 2023-24. Official foreign currency reserves at the central bank (which do not include the assets of the Oman Investment Authority, OIA) are expected to increase to \$26.1 billion in 2022 (from \$19.7 billion in 2021). Reserve adequacy is good, with official reserves providing approximately 280 per cent coverage of external debt falling due in 2022 and 47.3 per cent of broad money (M2).

Economic growth is expected to continue to recover, supported by high hydrocarbon production. Real GDP is forecast to expand by 5.6 per cent in 2022 and is projected to increase by an average of 2.6 per cent in 2023-24. Oman’s current growth outlook benefits from recovering external demand for crude and condensate oil and key manufacturing goods (e.g. plastics, chemicals, base metals). Domestic demand is expected to remain subdued over the next two years due to sluggish private

sector credit growth.

The relatively sound financial condition of the Omani banking sector benefits from good capital buffers and the current moderate stock of non-performing loans.

Rating outlook

The Stable Outlook indicates that Oman’s sovereign ratings are likely to remain unchanged in the next 12 months, and balances the improvement in the fiscal and external positions against the continued dependence on hydrocarbon revenues and limited reforms to strengthen the public finances, the CI statement said.

“The Outlook could be revised to Positive if hydrocarbon prices exceed our forecasts, contributing to higher primary surpluses and a faster than a projected decline in debt. The ratings could be upgraded should the government embark on a broad range of reforms which address the structural weaknesses of the economy and the public finances,” the statement further added.

MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Generating, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 4.83 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,519.71 points, up by 0.15 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.02 per cent at 483.09 points. Dhofar Generating, up 9.09 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 4.83 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 417 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.11 million, with more than 10.74 million shares changing hands.

Out of 45 traded securities, 14 advanced, 22 declined, and 9 remained unchanged.

At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR81,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR67,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR15,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,226.83 points, up 0.31 per cent. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Global Financial Investments, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful and Bank Nizwa were up by 3.85 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.24 per cent, 1.14 per cent and 1.04 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Sharqia Investment, Muscat Finance, Taageer Finance, Sohar International Bank and Bank Muscat were down by 4.71 per cent, 1.49 per cent, 1.08 per cent, 0.97 per cent and 0.34 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,369.1 points, down 0.97 per cent. Prices of Muscat Thread Mill, Voltamp Energy, Al Maha Ceramics and Oman Cement were up by 6.67 per cent, 1.71 per cent, 1.4 per cent and 0.67 per cent respectively.

Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Raysut Cement, Al Anwar Ceramics, Oman Fisheries and National Aluminium were down by 4.83 per cent, 4.55 per cent, 3.38 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 1.16 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.31 per cent before closing at 1,644.65 points. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Phoenix Power, OIFC and Ooredoo were up by 9.09 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 1.58 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Power, Al Suwadi Power, National Gas, Sembcorp Salalah and SMN Power Holding were down by 4.76 per cent, 4.65 per cent, 3.55 per cent, 2.9 per cent and 2.86 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,533.05	4,493.89	4,519.71	4,512.78	6.94	0.15
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,229.47	7,162.40	7,226.82	7,204.42	22.41	0.31
Industry Index	6,437.88	6,369.10	6,369.10	6,431.47	-62.38	-0.97
Services Index	1,656.25	1,633.20	1,644.65	1,649.84	-5.19	-0.31
MSX Shariah Index	485.43	483.09	483.09	483.19	-0.10	-0.02
MSX TR INDEX	5,717.23	5,667.85	5,700.41	5,691.66	8.75	0.15
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,564.83	7,494.65	7,562.06	7,538.62	23.44	0.31
SERVICES TR IDX	1,719.86	1,695.93	1,707.82	1,713.21	-5.39	-0.31
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,681.44	6,610.05	6,610.05	6,674.79	-64.74	-0.97

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,744,825	3,112,045	417	23,294,015,021	14	22	9	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST RD	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING	1,021	61	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.055	0.005	9.091	0.060	0.052	0.060	0.100	13,334,400
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST & FIN.	763,800	98,013	5	0.129	0.129	0.127	0.129	0.127	0.002	1.575	0.129	0.123	0.129	0.100	30,573,000
OM0000003125 GLOBAL INV. H.	64,379	3,992	5	0.062	0.065	0.062	0.065	0.064	0.001	1.563	0.065	0.060	0.065	0.100	13,000,000
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	118,850	51,676	10	0.430	0.440	0.430	0.436	0.430	0.006	1.395	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.100	23,980,000
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	364,100	109,402	11	0.288	0.302	0.286	0.302	0.300	0.002	0.667	0.302	0.296	0.302	0.100	99,923,558
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	1,160,398	456,928	19	0.386	0.388	0.382	0.382	0.380	0.002	0.513	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.100	255,170,138
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OMAN	78,450	20,384	7	0.260	0.260	0.255	0.260	0.260	0.000	0.260	0.260	0.255	0.260	0.100	422,746,053
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	405,917	54,028	13	0.133	0.135	0.132	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.100	263,203,758
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	15,500	4,325	3	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.000	0.000	0.279	0.272	0.286	0.100	17,075,992
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	1,786,464	1,050,284	56	0.592	0.592	0.586	0.590	0.592	-0.002	-0.338	0.590	0.584	0.592	0.100	274,387,133
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.	390,500	188,733	17	0.500	0.500	0.468	0.488	0.490	-0.002	-0.408	0.488	0.470	0.498	0.100	115,385,080
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	52	48	1	0.924	0.924	0.924	0.924	0.928	-0.004	-0.431	0.924	0.892	0.924	0.100	693,000,000
OM0000003398 SOHAR INT. BANK	522,822	54,651	10	0.105	0.105	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.100	0.104	0.100	468,186,354
OM0000003281 TAAGEER FINANCE	4,537	417	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.093	-0.001	-1.075	0.092	0.092	0.096	0.100	23,796,886
OM0000001152 OMAN NAT. ENG.	11,829	12,286	10	0.111	0.111	0.109	0.109	0.111	-0.002	-1.802	0.109	0.108	0.113	0.100	15,280,000
OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	1,462,900	585,160	13	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.414	-0.014	-3.382	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	88,000,000
OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV.	70,225	5,733	7	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.081	0.085	-0.004	-4.706	0.081	0.080	0.088	0.100	7,290,000
OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	349,169	97,437	35	0.280	0.280	0.276	0.276	0.290	-0.014	-4.828	0.276	0.276	0.276	0.100	34,471,837
Total	18	2,793,555	224												
Parallel Market															
OM0000002341 OMAN CHLORINE	10,000	3,000	1	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.290	0.010	3.448	0.300	0.300	0.318	0.100	20,431,088
OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA	836,888	75,636	40	0.088	0.091	0.088	0.090	0.089	0.001	1.124	0.090	0.090	0.091	0.100	135,000,000
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	31,754	12,067	8	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.000	0.000	0.380	0.362	0.380	0.100	76,000,000
OM0000001483 NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN	333,696	59,130	10	0.180	0.180	0.177	0.177	0.177	0.000	0.000	0.177	0.177	0.180	0.100	287,792,505
OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN	875	104	1	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.119	0.120	0.100	238,037,222
OM0000001889 SALALAH MILLS	418	306	1	0.732	0.732	0.732	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.000	0.732	0.732	0.748	0.100	37,372,372
OM0000001897 MAJAN COLLEGE	4,500	855	2	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.201	0.201	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.188	0.196	0.100	18,090,000
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	900	128	1	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.146	0.146	0.000	0.000	0.142	0.140	0.150	0.100	218,458,041
OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER	507,751	50,780	5	0.101	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.102	0.100	146,260,146
OM0000007084 MUSCAT CITY DESALINATION	5,000	645	1	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.117	0.129	0.100	20,066,002
OM0000007407 DHOFAR GENERATING COMPANY	5,000	1,085	1	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.000	0.217	0.200	0.217	0.100	48,226,080
OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR	35,421	5,715	2	0.161	0.162	0.161	0.161	0.162	-0.001	-0.617	0.162	0.162	0.165	0.100	450,852,880
OM0000004693 AL SUWADI POWER	72,897	7,262	7	0.100	0.101	0.100	0.100	0.101	-0.001	-0.990	0.100	0.098	0.100	0.100	71,440,634
OM0000004925 AL BATINAH POWER	157,585	15,552	5	0.100	0.100	0.098	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.098	0.098	0.100	0.100	66,813,856
OM0000003400 OMAN FLOUR MILLS	6,500	4,316	5	0.664	0.664	0.664	0.664	0.672	-0.008	-1.190	0.664	0.660	0.664	0.100	104,580,000
OM0000003521 GALFAR ENGINEERING AND CON.	72,350	5,795	28	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.081	-0.001	-1.235	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	23,198,451
OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES	152,536	9,163	10	0.060	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.678	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100	7,500,000
OM0000002820 GULF INVEST SERVICES HOLDING	51,100	3,588	6	0.071	0.071	0.070	0.070	0.072	-0.002	-2.739	0.070	0.069	0.070	0.100	4,119,025
OM0000003141 ACWA POWER BARKA	58,000	40,600	1	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.720	-0.020	-2.778	0.700	0.700	0.700	0.100	112,000,000
OM0000003711 SOHAR POWER	5,000	655	4	0.110	0.114	0.110	0.110	0.115	-0.005	-4.348	0.110	0.110	0.115	0.100	24,311,100
OM0000001962 AL MADINA INVESTMENT	340,596	11,986	13	0.037	0.037	0.035	0.035	0.037	-0.002	-5.405	0.036	0.036	0.037	0.100	7,250,298
Total	21	2,688,507	308,267	152											

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Indonesia to host World Tourism Day celebration

MADRID: The countdown to World Tourism Day 2022 is now underway, with every part of the sector invited to be an active part of the annual celebrations.

The official World Tourism Day celebration will be held in Bali, Indonesia, on September 27, highlighting the shift towards tourism being recognised as a crucial pillar of development.

With the theme of 'Rethinking Tourism', the International Day of Observance will this year focus on re-imagining the sector's growth, both in terms of size and relevance. The Republic of Indonesia will host the official day (27 September), though all UNWTO Member States, as well as non-members and stakeholders from across the private sector, are being invited to host their own celebrations as well as to promote the day and its central theme.

The theme "Rethinking Tourism" aims to inspire the debate around rethinking tourism for development, including through education and jobs, and tourism's



impact on the planet and opportunities to grow more sustainably.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili says: "The potential of tourism is enormous, and we have a shared responsibility to make sure it is fully realised. On World Tourism Day 2022, UNWTO calls on everyone, from tourism workers to tourists them-

selves, as well as small businesses, large corporations and governments to reflect and rethink what we do and how we do it."

Tourism's International Observance Day will put people at the centre of key discussions. Where is tourism going? Where do we want to go? And how do we get there? The one-day celebration will bring

together stakeholders from every part of tourism's uniquely broad value chain - from political and private sector leaders to community representatives, and youth and indigenous ambassadors.

World Tourism Day 2022 will: Provide a platform for inclusive dialogue to identify solutions to realize tourism's potential as a vehicle for recovery and transformation.

Amplify the message of tourism as an inspirational and transformational force, and the role of UNWTO and the whole of the sector in fulfilling this potential.

Mobilise political will and cooperation to ensure tourism is a central part of policymaking.

Ask big questions and identify solutions to realign tourism for the future.

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EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

ECB governors see rising risk of rate hitting 2% to curb inflation

PRAGUE: European Central Bank (ECB) policymakers see a rising risk that they will have to raise their key interest rate to 2 per cent or more to curb record-high inflation in the euro zone despite a likely recession, sources told Reuters.

With inflation hitting 9.1 per cent in August and seen above the ECB's 2 per cent target for two years to come, the central bank has been raising its interest rates at record speed and urging governments to help bring down energy bills that have ballooned since the Russia-Ukraine war.

The ECB raised its deposit rate from zero to 0.75 per cent on Thursday and President Christine Lagarde guided for another two or three hikes, saying rates were still far away from a level that will bring inflation back to 2 per cent.

Five sources close to the matter said many policymakers saw a growing probability that they will need to take the rate into "restrictive territory", jargon for a level of rates that causes the economy to slow, at 2 per cent or above, Reuters reports.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because policy deliberations are private, said this would most likely happen if the ECB's first inflation projection for 2025, due to be published in December, is still above 2 per cent. An ECB spokesman declined to comment.

The ECB currently sees inflation at 2.3 per cent in 2024, though one source said an internal forecast which was presented at Thursday's meeting put it closer to 2 per cent after taking into account the latest gas prices.

Dutch central bank governor Klaas Knot and Belgium's Pierre Wunsch were the first to openly talk about going into restrictive territory late last month, at a time when most of their colleagues felt interest rates just needed to go back to between 1 per cent and 2 per cent.

The sources said policymakers were bracing for a recession this winter and weaker economic growth next year than the ECB's



STUDY EXPLORES BEST WAY TO INTEGRATE SPORTS AND SCHOOL

Though some youth excel at a sport, having a backup plan is always a smart move because no matter how good one is, their athletic career will probably end.

"We looked at how ambitious young Norwegian footballers experience the pros and cons of combining school and sports," says Stig Arve Saether, an associate professor of sports science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology's (NTNU) Department of Sociology and Political Science. The findings were published in the International Journal of Sports Science. Regardless of the option, you pay a price. The school you choose if you want to do school and sports makes a difference and finding one that is positively inclined toward combining them is key.

"Elite sports schools and other schools that enable students to combine education with sports offer a balance. The programmes are intended to provide success both in the sport of choice and in academic work, although some prioritize the former over the latter," says Saether.

EASIER TO INTEGRATE ELITE SPORTS AT SPECIAL SCHOOLS

The researchers from NTNU and the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH) spoke with eight

football players and five coaches from two schools with elite sports programmes and two regular secondary schools with a sports focus.

They then analysed the student-athletes' responses to find out how the programmes at the elite sports schools and at public sports schools compared.

THEY FOUND SOME DIFFERENCES

"The elite sports programmes closely integrate school and sports clubs and enable the coaches and athletes to plan and manage the total workload more easily. This arrangement can lead to better development in both areas," says Saether.

Students who attend elite sports schools seem to have an easier schedule than those who go to public sport schools. But attending a sports-friendly regular school does not only have disadvantages.

MORE INDEPENDENCE OUTSIDE THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS

"Athletes who attend the less structured, but still sports-friendly regular secondary programmes are more concerned about the total workload of this option. But they also have more responsibility for their own decision-making," says Saether.

The different environments offer different ad-

vantages, risks and development opportunities for students who want to combine studies and sports at a high level.

The increased responsibility offers more self-determination for those who want it. At the same time, the risk of injury due to overtraining increases.

"Our results show how the different environments offer different advantages, risks and development opportunities for those who want to combine studies with sports at a high level," says Saether.

ADMISSION LINKED TO EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

The basis for admission to elite sport programmes is often linked to sporting achievements and club affiliation. The athletes' achievements at a relatively young age can thus affect the degree of support they receive in upper secondary school.

However, research shows that strong performance at a young age is not necessarily a good indicator of achievement at the senior level.

"This situation can quickly become an additional challenge. Certain athletes may receive less support than others, even though their difference in skill level, and the basis for programme admission, is not necessarily that great," says Saether. -ANI

IN-PICTURES



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People take part in Moscow City Day celebrations in Russia
Picture shows a cruise ship parade during Moscow City Day celebrations in Moscow, Russia. A series of events were held to celebrate Moscow City Day, marking the city's 875th founding anniversary. **Xinhua**



Thailand attracts visitors with shadow puppet festival
An exhibitor puts his shadow puppet works in place during a shadow puppet show in Phetchaburi Province, Thailand. Hundreds of performers and visitors gathered at a shadow puppet show in central Thailand, although it was intermittent due to heavy rain. **Xinhua**



Greek tourism revenues to hit new records this year
Tourists visit the Roman Agora in Athens, Greece. Tourism in Greece, a vital pillar of the country's economy, is on track to yield record high revenues this year, exceeding pre-pandemic levels, according to local officials, industry experts and analysts. **Xinhua**



Highlights of China Fashion Week
A model presents a creation by designer Hui Wenlong during the 'HBEH' fashion show of China Fashion Week S/S 2023 in Beijing, capital of China. **Xinhua**



Promotion of Brahmastra: Part One-Shiva in Delhi
Bollywood actors Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and director Ayan Mukherji during a press conference for the promotion of their upcoming movie Brahmastra: Part One-Shiva, in New Delhi. **ANI Photo**

Back in trendy style, Mid-Autumn celebrations embellish Australia's 'cultural capital'
Performers reenact the moon-praising rituals, a tradition to mark the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in Melbourne, Australia. **Xinhua**



Strong earthquake jolts western Indonesia, no casualty reported
Cellphone picture provided by Indonesia's National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) shows people gathering outside a public health building after an earthquake hit the province of West Sumatra, Indonesia. A powerful earthquake struck off Indonesia's western province of West Sumatra on Sunday, but did not leave casualties, officials and an agency said. **Xinhua**



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FEATURE



RESEARCH TRANSFORMING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF DEMENTIA WINS SCIENCE PRIZE

YOU and I might not look twice at nematodes, but for Anthony Hyman, winner of this year's Körber European Science Prize, the obscure worms hold the answers to understanding how our cells work.

"No one really cares about C. Elegans, but our research on them ended up impacting almost all biomedical research," Hyman told DW.

The prize, worth €1 million (\$1 million), will be awarded to Hyman.

Hyman won the prize for his discovery that proteins can accumulate inside the cell as tiny drops in very high concentrations, changing cell activity. The findings were first presented in a 2009 paper in the journal Science.

Normally, proteins are like liquids flowing inside the cell, but during studies on single-cell embryos of C. Elegans, a roundworm often used to study human diseases, Hyman found that proteins can very quickly cluster together in condensates resembling tiny drops.

During the process, called "phase separation," each drop is a frantic hive of chemical reactions. But once those reactions end — often in a matter of seconds — the drop disappears.

"Phase separation is like a flash mob — someone turns on the music and the proteins all come together. Turn the music off and they go away again," he said.

It's a difficult and abstract concept to grasp. If phase separation is like a flash mob, what is the music driving the reaction, and who are the dancers?

Hyman explained that the discovery of phase separation applies to almost all aspects of biomolecular events. For one, the research is helping scientists to better understand degenerative diseases like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Alzheimer's disease.

Experts have known for decades that ALS and Alzheimer's are caused by the buildup of protein aggregates in cells. Hyman said pathologists find "protein aggregates", or stable arrays of non-moving proteins, in the brains of people who have died from these diseases.

In patients with Alzheimer's, for example, condensates of proteins called Tau proteins gather in neurons and become aggregates.

By losing their dynamic properties, they become toxic, causing neurons to die in the brain. Over time, this leads to symptoms like dementia.

In this example, the dancers that Hyman alluded to would be the Tau proteins. They are gathering into aggregates in the cell, but something has gone wrong, causing them to get stuck in that formation. Hyman's discovery tells us how that might happen.

What the music is in this situation is a little less clear. What causes Tau proteins to aggregate in the first place? What causes neurodegenerative diseases? The hope is that Hyman's discovery will help us to eventually know more about the causes of diseases like Alzheimer's — and how to treat them.

Blue-sky science

The impact of Hyman's discovery goes far beyond neurodegenerative disease research. It's now understood that phase separation is a fundamental property of how all cells function.

Hyman explained that the goal of biological sciences is to cure diseases, but to get to that point you need to fund 'blue sky' science.

He explained that funding obscure research is like planting little acorns — you never know which one will grow into a big oak.

"The only way we can make better healthcare decisions and develop new treatments is by understanding what the exact problems are in disease. If a mechanic doesn't know how a car works, it's almost impossible to fix it. Scientists have a harder job — we're trying to understand a system that we didn't design or build ourselves," he said.

Hyman's research helps us to understand the basis of how cells work — not just the nuts and bolts, but also the physics of how they operate.

"Every cell in your body has about 5 billion proteins in it — almost the number of people on Earth. This is an incredibly complicated system that evolved over 3 billion years. The implications are that we can go out and eat a huge bowl of spaghetti and later cope with the sugar increase. Complex molecular arrangements in cells make that happen, and that's what I plan to use the prize money to find out," Hyman said. -nw

Hyman's research helps us to understand the basis of how cells work — not just the nuts and bolts, but also the physics of how they operate



ROUND-UP



OAB brings you chance to watch World Cup live

Customers can enter the draw by simply using an OAB VISA Credit Card to make purchases

MUSCAT: In a recent announcement, Oman Arab Bank (OAB) announced a special offer for all football enthusiasts among its customers. Three lucky customers will win a trip for two to attend one of the Fifa World Cup 2022 matches in person in Qatar. For football fans, this is the chance of a lifetime.

Customers can enter the draw by simply using an OAB VISA Credit Card to make purchases. Every OMR 10 spent will qualify customers for an entry into the raffle draw where the grand prize is an all-expenses-paid trip for two to the Fifa World Cup, which includes air tickets, accommodation, and stadium transport.

Commenting on the promotion, Rashad Al Sheikh, the Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB said, “We are delighted to share the excitement of Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022 with our customers and are always looking to bring the best offers, world-class privileges and rewards to our loyal customers. Our latest card promotion in partnership with Visa offers our Visa Credit Card holders an opportunity



to witness this once-in-a-lifetime and unforgettable event in person, courtesy of Oman Arab Bank.”

Under the promotion, customers are eligible for one raffle entry for every OMR 10 they spend on an OAB Visa Card within the Sultanate of Oman and two entries for every OMR 10 spent abroad. Therefore, the more a customer spends

using their OAB Visa Credit Cards, the greater their chances of winning. There are three sets of tickets to be won in total. The promotion runs until September 20, with the draw taking place on October 29.

OAB has a rich and proud history as one of the first financial institutions to be established in the Sultanate. Today, OAB operates a

nationwide network of 48 conventional branches and 142 conventional ATMs across the Sultanate. OAB provides a complete range of financial products and services through its OAB Online App. Customers can now digitally benefit from several other services, directly from the convenience of their mobile phones.

MHD ITICS joins hands with Freshworks to showcase cutting-edge technology at Future Tech Expo & Summit

MUSCAT: MHD ITICS, the Infrastructure, Technology, Industrial and Consumer Solutions cluster of the renowned Mohsin Haider Darwish Group, will be showcasing its competencies in cutting-edge technology at the Future Tech Expo and Summit 2022, which was inaugurated today in Muscat.

MHD ITICS has collaborated with Freshworks, a leading provider of modern SaaS (Software as a Service) solutions for enterprises, which will be on display at the 2-day event.

The summit is being held at the Oman Exhibition and Convention Centre on September 12 and 13, under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology. Dubbed as Oman's foremost B2B and B2G technology expo and summit, the much-anticipated event will facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue with power-packed networking opportunities for industry experts, decision and policymakers and government officials.

MHD ITICS and Freshworks together will display competencies in digital solutions at its dedicated booth – BC 1 and 2, presenting the company's service portfolio and tech capabilities, alongside its squad of robots. As a leading digital transformation facilitator in the country, the MHD ITICS booth will focus, primarily, on enterprise applications, the Internet of Things and Robotics, in addition to the telecom infrastructure and ELV services. With

its partnership with Freshworks, MHD ITICS is uniquely positioned to offer cloud-based customer relationship management and IT service management tools.

Commenting on the significance of the event for the local stakeholders, Lujaina Mohsin Haider Darwish, Chairperson of MHD ITICS said, “Specialised events like the Future Tech Expo and Summit provide unique opportunities for participants to embark on and accelerate their digital transformation journeys. With our unflinching focus on the technology and communications landscape, we offer a wide variety of solutions that contribute to the government's ambitious initiatives to realise Vision 2040.”

“Our Technology and Communications Division provides a comprehensive suite of Digital Business offerings in SaaS and IoT (Internet of Things). A striking feature of our booth will be the robots and drones on display, providing insight for customers on a variety of use cases for which they can be deployed. Together with Freshworks, we will present an exciting opportunity for interested parties to meet our domain experts from the Technology and Communications Division,” said Jayaprakash Menon, CEO of MHD-ITICS.

The Technology and Communications Division of MHD-ITICS specialises in telecom systems integration, network products, infrastructure projects, ELV, software applications, IoT, robotics and drones.

SUPPORT

Saud Bahwan Charitable Foundation organised fully sponsored Umrah trip for 100 national pilgrims



RESPONSIBLE ROLE: Saud Bahwan Charitable Foundation organised a fully sponsored Umrah trip for 100 national pilgrims. - Supplied picture

MUSCAT: Saud Bahwan Charitable Foundation (SBCF) recently organised and fully sponsored a specially designed Umrah trip for 100 pilgrims at Al Noor Foundation. Through this initiative, SBCF aims to play a responsible role in fulfilling the wishes of these needy pilgrims.

Al Noor Association is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that works towards improving the living standards, of the blind in Oman.

Saud Bahwan Charitable Foundation regularly supports various charitable activities with financial and non-financial assistance. The foundation has continually focused all efforts on a number of social causes that make a lasting difference in the lives of the economically hard-pressed.

The foundation's activities are apparent in various spheres across the nation.

While most of the projects are directly handled by Saud Bahwan

Charitable Foundation, it also undertakes projects jointly with Ministries and Institutions.

Saud Bahwan Charitable Foundation has facilitated the holy journey for the pilgrims at Al Noor Association through National Travel & Tourism (NTT). National Travel & Tourism's NTT Holidays has specially arranged Umrah packages that take care of every detail, ensuring pilgrims make the most of every moment, fulfilling their wishes.

'USE LESS PLASTIC' CAMPAIGN



National Finance strives for better tomorrow with less plastic initiative

MUSCAT: As a company strongly committed to its social responsibilities, National Finance reaffirmed its dedication to reducing plastic waste by successfully carrying out the 'Use Less Plastic' campaign that was launched in August.

The initiative was organised in response to 'Plastic Free July', which is a global movement that empowers individuals to be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

Going beyond spreading awareness about the repercussions of using plastic, the company focused on encouraging its employees to discard the plastic items used during their day-to-day work in a designated area for recycling.

The company collaborated with well-known artists; Abdulkareem Al-Rawahi who is a sculptor skilled in recycling plas-

tic materials and transforming them into stunning works of art and Yousuf Al-Rawahi, who specialises in sculptures, a member of the Fine Arts Society and Youth Studio since 1999.

The artists were able to create the sculpture entitled “Tree of Life” at Oman Avenues Mall during the weekend. The tree symbolises the renewal and continuity of life towards a better future. Whereas the branches of the tree reflect the reach of the National Finance company across the Sultanate. Lastly, the marble base represents the stability and credibility of the finance company in the non-banking financial sector.

“The “Use Less Plastic” campaign has been successful in making our employees more aware of the importance of using less plastic in their day-to-day life.

We have witnessed during this period that changing habits, ways of thinking, and attitudes can be achieved through ongoing awareness campaigns.

“This is just a start, we will continue to explore different initiatives to help impact our environment,” said Lina Al Abdulsalaam, Head of Corporate Communications and Marketing at National Finance.

National Finance's 'Use Less Plastic' initiative has been able to raise awareness among its employees whilst influencing them to work on finding alternative solutions that would reduce the risk of single plastic use. National Finance always strives to cooperate with various parties seeking to raise society's awareness of aspects that achieve sustainable development.



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