

RIGHT MENTORING CAN SHAPE THOUGHTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Hundreds of young Omanis drop out of education or jobs every year because they do not get the right mentoring to get out of the depressive moods that block their visions to the future, according to experts. **>A3**



OMAN TAKES PART IN ARAB PARLIAMENTS SECRETARIES GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the State Council, is taking part in the 9th conference of the Arab Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments in Egypt. Oman's delegation in the conference is headed by Khalid Ahmed Al Sa'adi, Secretary General of the State Council. **>A5**



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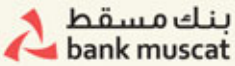
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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN OQ starts ammonia export from Dhofar

1OQ, the global integrated energy group, announced the start of production of the Ammonia Project in the Governorate of Dhofar. This Ammonia plant is one of the key strategic projects fully owned by OQ with an investment of \$463 million. It has a designed capacity of 1,000 metric tonnes per day (MTPD) of Ammonia. OQ Trading, the Group's trading arm also announced the export of the first shipment of the liquid Ammonia from the Plant through Salalah Port. **>A2**

WORLD Tata Sons ex-chief Cyrus Mistry dies

2Former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry was killed in a road accident near Mumbai on Sunday. According to Palghar Police, Mistry was travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai when his car hit the divider. There were four people in the car. Two died on the spot, including Mistry, while the other two were shifted to hospital. NCP MP Supriya Sule said, "Devastating news. My brother Cyrus Mistry passed away. Can't believe it. Rest in Peace Cyrus." **>A6**

SPORTS Oman Under-19 cricket gets a boost



3Youth are the future of any sports and Oman Cricket (OC) is a firm believer in grooming the youngsters in the country. With an aim to provide a strong foundation, Oman Cricket has roped in an energetic partner in Majees Technical Services (MTS). Oman is all set to host the prestigious ICCU-19 Men's Cricket World Cup (CWC) Division 2- Asia from September 29-October 7 and the partnership agreement between OC and MTS comes as a perfect boost for the national team. **>A8**



DRIVE CAREFULLY AS CHILDREN RETURN TO CLASSES



School girl run over on the first day of the new academic session

The ROP takes extra care and deploys force around schools for the safety of children

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Road safety experts have urged motorists to drive safely around schools as more than 720,000 students have returned to their classes to begin their new academic year for 2022/2023.

The advisory comes after a 16-year-old student was run over by a vehicle while crossing the road in Muscat Governorate on the first day of the school year in Oman.

The 10th grade student, Hoor bint Hatem Al-Sidiya, was run over by a vehicle leading to her death after she alighted from the school bus in front of her home

in Mabela. On its twitter account, Umm Waraqah Al-Ansari School, said: "The school administration and the faculty mourn student Hoor bint Hatem Al-Sidiya, who (was) enrolled in the tenth grade (and) passed away today and (the school) extends its deepest condolences and sympathy to the student's family."

Speaking exclusively to *Times of Oman*, Major Mudar Al Mazrouei of the Royal Oman Police (ROP) spoke about the measures taken by the ROP for the safety of school students in all governorates of the Sultanate.

He said: "The Royal Oman Police had maintained extra vigil on

prevent traffic accidents. This is a continuous campaign not only on the first day of school but throughout the school year, to ensure the safety of students."

He confirmed that the Royal Oman Police, represented by the Directorate General Traffic, oversees the safety of about 5,000 to 7,000 male and female students in the Governorate of Muscat alone and this the ROP does through the deployment of police cars in congested areas. The enormity of the task being carried out by the ROP can well be imagined by the fact that these efforts have to be extended to all governorate of the Sultanate.

He added: "There are 11 traffic institutes distributed over 11 governorates of the Sultanate. The ROP teaches all school bus drivers about driving skills, student pick-up and drop-off points. Besides, they are told to make sure that buses are empty after all students have dropped off and

stick to instructions while the bus is moving. This course lasts for two weeks."

Major Al Mazrouei said there is an extensive campaign carried out by the Royal Oman Police, represented by the Directorate General Traffic, to publish awareness messages on social media or in schools and traffic institutes, for the students, school bus drivers, road users and also students' families. He stressed that this awareness campaign will continue until the end of the school year 2022/2023.

Major Mudar also said that police patrols are spread out in several places, including in front of secondary schools and schools for students of the first cycle who were transferred from private schools for children under the age of 7 to government schools, as well as at road intersections, at roundabouts, bridges and crowded places, and the ROP is working on this in most governorates. **>A5**



Masirah Island

A4

APSR

Fees for water service restoration, disconnection slashed in Oman

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) has issued a decision to amend some provisions regulating potable water services.

According to the decision, APSR discounted the fees for water services disconnection and restoration to OMR7.5 from OMR30 charged earlier against

each service. The reduction of water fees was also discussed in the Shura Council where the Majlis Al Shura Office reviewed the reply of the Council of Ministers on imposing a fee for disconnection and reconnection of the water service.

The reply of the Council of Ministers stated that the issue

has been discussed in one of the meetings of the Council of Ministers which approved reducing the charges to OMR7.500 for each of them. The meeting was chaired by Khalid bin Hilal Al Mawali, Chairman of Majlis in the presence of Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Nadabi, Secretary General of Majlis Al Shura. **-ONA**

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Dhofar gears up to welcome tourists in spring

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A number of events and activities will be organised during the days ahead to welcome the spring and winter seasons in Dhofar Governorate.

According to officials, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in cooperation with all partners and government and private agencies concerned in Dhofar, will organise a number of quality events and programmes during the coming days to welcome the spring season, during which the governorate becomes a bustling tourist destination.

Tour of Salalah (cycling), Iron Man and Rub' Al Khali 'Empty Quarter' figure high on the agenda



of the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism towards the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023.

The Ministry is preparing to ring in 'Sarbi' season, as it is locally called, or the spring season that fol-



lows the monsoon, locally known as 'Khareef'. 'Sarbi' season begins in the last week of September and continues till the last week of December.

Khalid Abdullah Al Abri, Direc-

tor General of Heritage and Tourism in Dhofar Governorate, told ONA that, acting in cooperation with Dhofar Municipality and Oman Cycling Association, the ministry will organise the 'Tour of

Salalah and mountain hiking in mid-September.

This is in addition to the 'Iron Man' event from 22 to 24 September 2022, an international event in which more than 750 sportsmen from 78 countries will participate. The event includes swimming over a distance of 1.9 kilometres, a 90-km bike riding and a 21-km sprinting, Al Abri added.

He said that the ministry, as part of the significance it attaches to 'conference tourism', will organise a photography event in cooperation with specialised firms over the coming weeks. Next year, the Land of Frankincense Museum will have a new look after the execution of a restoration tender, he said. **>A2**



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OQ’s plant in Dhofar starts shipment of liquid ammonia

This Ammonia Plant is one of the key strategic projects fully owned by OQ with an investment of \$463 million

MUSCAT: OQ, the global integrated energy group, announced the start of production of the Ammonia Project in the Governorate of Dhofar.

This Ammonia Plant is one of the key strategic projects fully owned by OQ with an investment of \$463 million. It has a designed capacity of 1,000 metric tonnes per day (MTPD) of Ammonia.

OQ Trading, the Group’s trading arm also announced the export of the first shipment of the liquid Ammonia from the Plant through Salalah Port.

Commenting on the announcement, Hilal Ali Al Kharusi, CEO of



SHIPMENT: OQ Trading, the Group’s trading arm, also announced the export of the first shipment of the liquid Ammonia from the Plant through Salalah Port. -ONA

the Commercial and Downstream Unit at OQ said, “The Ammonia project comes within OQ’s efforts to enhance the added value of natural resources and support the Omani government’s economic diversification plans. The Plant will export its products to targeted global markets, especially in Asia, further contributing to the enhancement of the Omani exports”.

“The start of production operations in the plant is a key milestone that enhances the contribution of OQ Group. The demand for ammonia products in the global markets is witnessing constant growth leading to higher returns. This situation renders the project highly feasible,” he added.

“This plant is fully integrated with the existing 1 million tonnes



per year capacity Methanol plant which will enable OQ Group to rationalise the cost and optimise performance and production efficiency. The new Ammonia plant has been designed to retain the hydrogen-rich purge gas generated by the methanol plant as feedstock for the Ammonia plant,” Al Kharusi concluded.

Ammonia is used as a key ingre-

dient in the production of fertilizers and is an important intermediate chemical in the manufacturing of synthetic resins, detergents, coolants, synthetic fibers, and polyurethanes, among other applications. Ammonia is also used in the production of green hydrogen which is a key component of OQ Energy Transition agenda.

-ONA

CLASSICAL COLLECTION



Omani Music Magazine’s sixth issue released

MUSCAT: Oman Classical Music Centre, an offshoot of the Diwan of Royal Court’s Sultan Qaboos Higher Centre for Culture and Science, has released the 6th issue of the Omani Music Magazine.

The new issue comprises an interview with Khalfan Ahmed Al Barwani, a long-serving employee of the Centre, who spoke about the professional career of Prof. Yusuf Shawqi Mustafa and his contributions to the Omani classical music collection and archiving project.

In the interview, Al Barwani also touched on other issues of relevance to Arab musical traditions.

The edition covers other areas of interest to Omani and non-Omani musical heritage. -ONA

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FESTIVAL



< FROM
A1

Heritage Ministry to launch 2nd edition of Rub’ Al Khali Festival

In the winter season, the ministry will launch the second edition of the Rub’ Al Khali Festival towards the end of January 2023. Before that, the Frankincense Season activities will be organised in October 2022.

Al Abri explained that the new tourism projects will be carried out early next year, including ‘Tlalal-Hamrir’ ‘Ain Jarzeez’, ‘Iteen Gardens’ camping sites and Al Mughsail Beach facilities. The projects will be implemented by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, in co-operation with Dhofar Municipality and Omran Group.

Al Abri underscored the significance of the role of the tourism resorts’ sector, noting that the number of hotel establishments in Dhofar Governorate stands at 41, including four newly opened resorts. -ONA







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COMMENTARY

Mentoring can stop young people from committing crimes: Experts



Hundreds of young Omanis drop out of education or jobs every year because they do not get the right mentoring to get out of the depressive moods that block their visions to the future, according to experts.

There are no official statistics but experts say young people do not perform well in their education or see no fulfillment in their jobs because they do not see a way out from their problems.

“Often we scold young people, criticise them and even call them failures when all they need is someone who can listen to them to what they are going through in their

lives and guide them. I believe almost all dropouts from schools or colleges need mentoring to put them back on the right track,” Joe Richards, a London-based Juvenile Mental Therapist, visiting Muscat, told *Times of Oman*.

He added that mentoring can also shape the thoughts of young people and stop them from self-harming or even harming others, whether physically or verbally.

Vulnerable people

“They see no point in learning or even stay at work when no one really cares about what they feel or think. These are vulnerable young people who would drive very fast and not caring whether they have an accident or not. Sometimes they commit petty crimes just to get noticed,” Richards added. Industry experts agree saying that lack of mentoring to young people can have a negative effect to young people in workplaces.

“The last thing young people need when they make mistakes in their offices is their bosses to scream at them or make them feel incompetent. The tragic is

that sometimes they get fired by doing mistakes instead of being mentored and they end up doing mischief like getting into drugs,” Omar Al Mahrooki, General Manager of Operations in the Ground Handling Services at Muscat Airport, said.

Mohammed Al Haremi, a 44-year old building construction company owner remembers when he was fired from his office when he was in his teens.

“I was only 19 and when I was fired because I was slow with my work deadlines. All I needed was someone senior to show me how to overcome my slowness. I thought I was a failure after being fired so I went into drugs,” Al Haremi told *Times of Oman*.

But a year later, Al Haremi was mentored by a retired policeman who put him back into the right track.

“The police officer was my probation officer and he was with me most of the time and mentored me. I owe to him to my success now for my construction company. This shows how important mentoring is for young people,” Al Haremi added.



IN AMMAN



Oman participates in book fair

AMMAN: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, is taking part in the activities of Amman International Book Fair in Jordan, which will run till 10 September 2022.

The participation comes within the framework of activating Oman's presence in international book fairs to promote Omani books, as well as highlighting various features of Oman's intellectual, historical and literary aspects.

The participation reflects the cooperation between Oman and Jordan.

It also aims to enhance areas related to writing and publishing books through communication among Omani and Jordanian publishing houses.

— ONA

INVITATION TO TENDER



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Tender Title	: GTC Global – Supply of Extra Surface Bags
Scope	: Suppliers shall supply GTC Extra Surface Bag Filters (star bags) able to withstand the pot gas composition and guarantee a minimum operational life.
Document Issue Date	: 12 September 2022
Last Date For Applying	: 11 September 2022

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NEW LOOK

NEW LOOK

IN EGYPT



Oman attends Arab Parliaments Secretaries General conference

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the State Council, is taking part in the 9th conference of the Arab Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (AASGP), held in Egypt.

Oman's delegation in the conference is headed by Khalid Ahmed Al Sa'adi, Secretary General of the State Council.

The conference discusses a spectrum of topics, namely the agenda of the 40th General Assembly meeting of Arab Parliaments Secretaries General and the report of the executive committee.

— OMA

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Training programme to manage sports events, tournaments held

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A training programme was organised in managing sports events and tournaments by the Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Administrative Affairs - Department of Training and Rehabilitation, in cooperation with the Omani School Sports Federation and the Ocean Institute.

The training programme kicked-off on Sunday morning, and will continue until Thursday at Al Amal Club.

The implementation of this training programme comes in light of the increase in the number of events organised annually



by the sports committees in the educational governorates, which reach nearly 100 sports events in all governorates and require organising by specialists in managing events.

The programme targets 34 employees of the Office of the Omani School Sports Federation and the educational governorates to provide them with effective management skills and accurate planning.

Participants in the programme will obtain the necessary qualification to work in the management of sports events, through several themes, including methods of organising, evaluating, and managing sports events, financial and accounting management of sports events.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Accidents

< FROM Major Mudar urged motorists to be careful while driving their vehicles, not to be distracted by phone calls, and to focus on driving, especially in residential areas and in front of schools.

Eng Ali Ahmed Al Barwani, former CEO of the Oman Road Safety Foundation, also spoke to *Times of Oman* about road safety, saying: "We received the news of the death of the female student, Hoor, who is in the tenth grade, with sadness and sorrow, and we are surprised by the reason for the recurrence of these traffic accidents annually. We cannot say that this is a decree of God, rather, we must study the causes and find out where the problem lies."

Al Barwani continued: "There are several factors that must be thoroughly gone into. The school bus driver, the vehicle driver, the students and the students' families — all must bear responsibility. The bus driver must study the points and places where the students can board or get off the buses, especially in residential areas. He must also assess the safety of the site, its proximity to the house, the absence of other problems at the site and others."

Al Barwani continued: "The driver of the vehicle must also ensure that the vehicle is empty after the students have finally disembarked."

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

SMEs

'Hubba' Programme

IBRI: The third edition of "Hubba" Programme for Development SMEs, Entrepreneurship Sector and projects based on innovation, AI and advance technology in Al Dhahirah kicked off under the patronage of Najib bin Ali Al Rawas, Al Dhahirah of Governor. -OMA



Sultanate of Oman

MINISTRY CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH, Muscat, hereby give notice of tenders for the following projects

TENDR. No.	PROJECT CATEGORY	LOCATION	FEES R.O	GRADE IN TENDER BOARD REGISTRATION
14/2022	CONSULTING OFFICE	CONSULTANCY SERVICE TO MAKE STRUCTURAL STUDY ON THE EXISTING BUILDING OF BAIT AL BARANDA AT MUTRAH	25/-	First
15/2022	CONSULTING OFFICE	CONSULTANCY SERVICES (DESIGN AND SUPERVISION) SUR EQUESTRIAN CLUB	25/-	First
16/2022	CONSULTING OFFICE	CONSULTANCY SERVICES (DESIGN AND SUPERVISION) TO AL BASHAYER CLUB	25/-	First
17/2022	CONSULTING OFFICE	TENDER DOCUMENTS FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES (DESIGN AND SUPERVISION) TO REHABILITATION WORK ALSALAM CLUB - SHINAS BRANCH	25/-	First
18/2022	Supply	CONSTRUCTION OF GRASSED FOOTBALL PITCH AT OF SAADAH SPORTS COMPLEX & SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FLOODLIGHT TO SPORTS CENTER AT DHOFAR GOVERNATE	25/-	Excellent & First
19/2022	Supply	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FENCING & FLOODLIGHT FOR FOOTBALL PITCH TO AHLY SIDAB CLUB AT	25/-	Excellent & First

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 17/10/2022

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.

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE, SPORTS and YOUTH

Any participants have doubt in adopting e-tendering can contact over the phone 24402200 or through email etenderhd@ita.gov.om



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NEAR MUMBAI

Tata Sons ex-chairman Cyrus Mistry dies in road accident

MUMBAI: Former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry was killed in a road accident near Mumbai on Sunday. According to Palghar Police, Mistry was travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai when his car hit the divider. There were four people in the car. Two died on the spot, including Mistry, while the other two were shifted to hospital. Taking Twitter, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MP Supriya



Sule said, "Devastating news. My brother Cyrus Mistry passed away. Can't believe it. Rest in Peace Cyrus." RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka also expressed grief over Mistry's demise. "So sad to hear of the shocking news of the passing away of Cyrus Mistry in an accident. He was a friend, a gentleman, a man of substance. He was instrumental

in creating the global construction giant Shapoorji Pallonji and ably led the Tata group," tweeted Goenka. Mistry, who was the sixth chairman of Tata Sons, was ousted from the position in October 2016. He had taken over as the chairman in December 2012 after Ratan Tata announced his retirement. N Chandrasekaran later took over as Executive Chairman of Tata Sons. **ANI**

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Relief operations continue, nearly 1,300 die in Pakistan floods

Large parts of the country remain submerged - particularly the provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's catastrophic floods resulted in the death of nearly 1,300 people in the country even as relief operations continue.

The death toll since June has reached 1,290 with 29 people dying in the last 24 hours, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Saturday, reported Geo News. Meanwhile, Pakistan government agencies and private NGOs continue with their relief operations described as a "humanitarian disaster of epic proportions".

Large parts of the country remain submerged - particularly the provinces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh in the south. At least 180 people have died in Sindh followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (138) and Balochistan (125), reported Geo News.

At least, 1,468,019 houses have been partially or totally damaged, while 736,459 livestock have been killed due to the floods.

Aid has flowed in from a number of countries, with the first humanitarian assistance flight from France landing on Saturday morning in Islamabad, reported Geo News. Initial estimates of the damage have been put at USD 10 billion, but surveys are still being conducted along with international organisations.

Federal Minister of Poverty alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Mari said so far 723,919

families have received the 25,000 cash relief (per family) and an amount of Rs 18.25 billion has been disbursed.

"Despite challenges, Benazir Income Support Programme rolled out its operations within no time after the announcement by Prime Minister (Shehbaz Sharif)," she wrote on Twitter.

Earlier, in a press conference at the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre alongside military officials, Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal called on the international community to support Pakistan and assured the nation that the government

-- supported by its functionaries -- would leave "no stone unturned" to bring normalcy back at the earliest possible time, reported Geo News. Due to internal displacement, more than 500,000 people are currently living in relief camps across Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab.

The floods that have inundated a third of the country -- affecting more than 33 million people -- were preceded by four heatwaves and multiple raging forest fires, the disaster management chief told the high-level meeting, highlighting the effects of climate change in the South Asian nation. **ANI**

MISSISSIPPI



US man charged over threat to crash plane into Walmart

WASHINGTON: A pilot who threatened to crash his small plane into a Walmart supermarket in the US state of Mississippi has safely landed the aircraft, according to authorities.

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves said on Twitter nearly six hours after the drama unfolded that the "situation has been resolved and that no one was injured."

What do we know so far? The plane, reported to be a 7-11 seater Beechcraft King Air C90A, circled erratically over the city of Tupelo in northern Mississippi and a nearby area for several hours from about 5 a.m. local time (1000 GMT/UTC).

The pilot had called a 911 emergency operator "threatening to intentionally crash into Walmart on West Main," according to a statement from the city's police department. The huge supermarket and a neighboring gas station were evacuated, and people were

warned to stay away.

Police also cautioned that "with the mobility of an airplane of that type, the danger zone is much larger."

The plane later appeared to leave the Tupelo area and fly to the northwest, according to the FlightAware tracking website.

The plane then landed around 10:30 am local time northwest of the city of Ripley, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) from Tupelo.

An image on Twitter from the Starkville Daily News showed a small plane in a field.

The pilot, who has not been identified, has been arrested and faces charges of grand larceny and terrorist threats.

Tupelo Police Chief John Quaka told a news conference that the man didn't have a pilot's license but had been given some flight instruction and was an employee of Tupelo Aviation.

Quaka said he could also face federal charges. No one was injured in the incident. **AP**

WILDFIRES

California wildfire destroys 100 homes

CALIFORNIA: Thousands of residents were forced to evacuate their homes in northern California on Friday as a rapidly spreading wildfire continued to burn across more than 4,000 acres (around 1,620 hectares). According to local fire authorities, the so-called Mill Fire has destroyed more than 100 homes in Siskiyou County, nearly 230 miles (370 km) north of Sacramento. The blaze led officials to issue mandatory evacuation orders for the towns of Weed, Lake Shastina and Edgewood.

"Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access," the evacuation order said.

Local emergency declared California Governor Gavin News-



om proclaimed a state of emergency for Siskiyou County, which will help residents access federal aid and unlock state resources.

Two people were injured, officials said, and were taken to the hospital -- one of them was transferred to another facility that has a burn unit.

Weed council woman Sue Talvalero said the Mill Fire began at a lumber mill north of the town and rapidly burned through homes in nearby Lincoln Heights, prompting the evacuation measures.

"I don't know how many. I'm positive several homes have been lost," she said. **AP**

RECOVERED FROM KARACHI

Luxury 'Bentley Mulsanne' car stolen from London recovered in Karachi

KARACHI : A luxury vehicle 'Bentley Mulsanne' stolen from London, United Kingdom was recovered from Karachi during a raid on Saturday, local media reported. The Collectorate of Customs Enforcement (CCE), Karachi, confirmed that the UK's intelligence agency tipped off Pakistani authorities that the stolen vehicle is parked in a house in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) area. The News International reported. "A credible information was received from a national agency of a friendly country that a grey Bentley Mulsanne, V8 Automatic, VIN Number SCBBA63Y7FC001375, Engine Number CKB304693 was



stolen from London and their intelligence agency indicated that the said vehicle is supposed to be parked at 15-B, South 10th Street, DHA, Karachi," Federal Board of Revenue's (FBR) Collectorate of Customs said in a statement.

A customs official said that the car was found in the parking lot of apartments in Karachi's DHA.

The two accused, Jameel Shafi and Naveed Bilwani were taken into custody. "The arrested persons were identified as Jameel Shafi, son of Shafi Ahmed, a resident of 10th South Street, House No 15-B, Phase II Extension, and Naveed Bilwani, son of Rafique, a resident of House No159, Khayaban-e-Roomi, DHA," said the official. "Another accused Navaid Yamin, a resident of KDA Officers Society, facilitator at Motor Registration Authority, Excise & Taxation Department, Karachi is missing while other financiers, abettors and associates to be ascertained during the investigation are yet to be arrested," the official further said. **ANI**

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CUT EMISSIONS

Formula 2 and Formula 3 partner with Aramco to pioneer low-carbon fuels from 2023

DHAHRAN: Formula Motor-sport Limited (FML) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Formula 1 Global Partner, Aramco, to introduce the use of sustainable fuels in both championships from 2023. It demonstrates how the FIA Formula 2 and Formula 3 Championships are pioneers in this important area of development, while continuing to bring the FIA Formula One World Champions of the future through the single-seater pyramid.

The agreement is subject to FIA World Motor Sport Council approval. It will form part of the wider sustainability strategy announced by the FIA and Formula 1, which will see the sport become net zero carbon by 2030.

By 2026, all FIA Championships will be required, by regulation, to power their cars with 100% sustainable fuels. A key milestone in the journey will be the introduction of a 100% sustainable fuel from the 2026 F1 season, alongside the next generation hybrid power units. Motor sport continues through these innovations not only to promote, but also to be at the forefront of the creation of the multiple technologies that will play a critical role in the future of the entire transportation industry.

Aramco is working on the development of sustainable fuels as a “drop-in” technology, meaning they could be rolled out to the world’s existing automotive fleet — helping to reduce global transport emissions.

Mohammed Ben Sulayem, FIA

President, said: “Sustainability is at the top of the global motor sport agenda, and it is vital to see this work not only going on in Formula 1, but also in Formula 2, Formula 3 and throughout the entire ecosystem. Our sport is developing and evolving rapidly and it will continue to lead the way, pioneering the technologies, including sustainable fuels, that will be crucial to tackle climate change. We are a key part of the solution to the problems we are facing worldwide.”

Stefano Domenicali, President and CEO, Formula 1, said: “Aramco is a leader in this space and, subject to the approval of the FIA World Motor Sport Council, will deliver our sustainable fuel ambitions, working closely with our colleagues in F2 and F3, who not only bring through the drivers of the future but offer a superb testing ground for the latest engineering in motorsport. In 2026, F1 will move to zero-emission sustainable fuel that offers a game-changing solution for the automotive sector and beyond. With the support of Aramco and all our manufacturers, we can accelerate the sector’s move to net zero.”

Ahmad Al Sa’adi, Senior Vice President of Technical Services, Aramco, said: “Aramco’s ambition is to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions across our wholly-owned operated assets by 2050. Moreover, we recognise the need to work closely with our suppliers and customers to reduce emissions along the entire value chain of our products.”



SECOND PHASE

Prince Mohammed bin Salman Project preserves safety of Al-Jouf mosques

RIYADH: The Prince Mohammed bin Salman Project for Developing Historical Mosques, in its second phase, seeks to preserve the safety of Al-Jouf mosques and protect them from damages and deteriorations through a mixture of art, design and IT values and a well-considered control of surrounding circumstances and potential dangers.

One of the landmarks

Al-Saidan Mosque, which is under development in Al-Ruhaibin neighbourhood, is one of the most important mosques that the scheme is targeting for its old historical values and being one of the landmarks of Dumah Al-Jandal City whose establishment dates back to 620 Hijri, which makes it the oldest mosque in the city after Omar bin Al-Khattab Mosque, in addition to its being a headquarters to hold Friday and group

prayers and a house for judiciary in Al-Jouf Region.

The mosque is characterized by its being close to an old well known as Aba Al-Jibal Well, where the mosque is characterised among others for having the only mutawada (ablution space).

The area of the mosque before renovation stands at around 179 square meters and will increase to 202.39 square metres, where its capacity is expected to go up to 68 worshippers after it ceased to welcome worshippers during the past period.

Al-Fweihi Mosque in Sakaka City is also one of the development targets of the project, where it is under renovation according to a set of architectural interventions that will make it unique and restore it to the nearest shape of its original status that was formed upon its construction in 1380 Hijri. -SPA

SIX AMBASSADORS VISIT SAUDI FALCONS AND HUNTING EXHIBITION



The ambassadors toured the exhibition including more than 25 pavilions

DHAHRAN: Six ambassadors of the friendly and brotherly countries to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia visited Saudi International Falcons and Hunting Exhibition being organised by Saudi Falcons Club at its headquarters in Mullah, north of Riyadh.

The ambassadors included Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Kingdom Sheikh Nahyan bin Saif Al Nahyan; Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Kingdom Bandar bin



Mohammed Al-Attayah; Ambassador of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria to the Kingdom Dr. Mohammed Ali Boghazi; Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Kingdom Akram Karimi; Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Jorge Hevia and

Ambassador of South Africa to the Kingdom Mogobo David Magabe.

The ambassadors toured the exhibition including more than 25 pavilions, and were briefed on the club’s efforts in gathering everything related to the heritage of falconry, trips and hunting in one place, with the aim of preserving

the Saudi cultural heritage and raising awareness, environmental sustainability, identity and hobby.

40 leading farms

The ambassadors were also briefed on the area designated for falcon production farms, where the international auction of falcon production farms will be held in conjunction with the exhibition, with the participation of more than 40 leading farms from more than 17 countries, and will continue until September 3.

They were introduced to the arms pavilion, which includes 7 Saudi companies representing more than 55 international brands, as well as Shaleel Digital Museum, the Falconer Pavilion, the pavilions of road trip tools and modified cars, the local market, and many interesting events, in addition to exhibition competitions in photography, wild cooking and plastic arts. -SPA

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Bahrain Holding Company ‘Mumtalakat’ supports portfolio with Cloud Migration

MANAMA: Bahrain Holding Company “Mumtalakat supported the successful migration of a number of its local portfolio companies to the cloud as part of the company’s push towards digital transformation.

In line with Mumtalakat’s new strategy and active management approach, this move supports the sustainable growth of its portfolio assets, promotes resource optimization, improves digital operations efficiency, and enhances information security within the portfolio.

Mumtalakat’s IT team provided direct support to several local portfolio companies during their cloud migration process.

These include Mazad, Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones “Danat” and Edamah, the real estate arm of Mumtalakat.

Mumtalakat was amongst the first entities in Bahrain to adopt cloud computing back in May 2018, following the Government of Bahrain’s Cloud First Policy, allowing Mumtalakat to enhance its resource optimization, in addition to providing higher levels of information security and improving digital operational efficiency.

This ongoing effort is to support its local portfolio companies, which are considered an integral contributor to the local economy by providing more than 12,000 specialized jobs locally and contributing up to 18% of the Kingdom’s GDP.

“Our digital infrastructure mi-



gration to the cloud has contributed to enhancing our information security and improved the efficiency of our digital systems and processes by 50%, in addition to achieving resource optimization with an estimated operational cost reduction of 43% within the Information Technology department,” Mumtalakat Managing Director, Corporate Services and Board Secretary Rasha Sabkar.

“This is one of the outcomes of our new strategy that follows an active ownership model through supporting the sustainable growth of Mumtalakat’s portfolio companies to enhance their contribution to the development of the national economy.”

Other key Mumtalakat local portfolio companies also prioritized digital transformation, including Alba, National Bank of Bahrain, Batelo, and Bahrain Airport Company. -BNA



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FOURTH UAE AID AIRCRAFT ARRIVES IN SUDAN

The fourth aircraft of the UAE’s relief air bridge to Sudan has arrived at Khartoum Airport carrying 30 tonnes of shelter materials and other essentials, to assist people affected by the floods that swept the country. The Emirati aid aircraft was received by Dr. Ahmed Ali Qalam, Representative of the Ministry of Social Development of Sudan, along with members of the UAE Embassy in Khartoum and the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) team. These relief aid shipments are part of the UAE’s efforts to lend a helping hand to Sudan and support its efforts to contain the fallout of the floods that drowned vast stretches in Sudan. -WAM

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KUWAIT PARLIAMENT ELECTION CANDIDACY OPENS

Kuwaiti parliamentary candidates will be able to apply for the candidacy of the National Assembly from Monday to Wednesday. Conditions include being a naturalized Kuwaiti national by law, having been enlisted for voting by no less than 30 years of age, proficiency in the Arabic language, and not having been convicted of a felony or a crime. The elections are also forbidden to anybody who has been convicted by a final ruling for the crime of insulting the divine, holy prophets, and the Amir of the country, KUNA reported. -BNA

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Back-to-School campaign promotes healthy lifestyle habits in children

SHARJAH: The Back-to-School campaign organised by the Sharjah Child Friendly Office (SCFO), a subsidiary of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA), to mark the start of the new academic year, has concluded after raising awareness of and promoting healthy lifestyle habits to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of children and youth.

Launched on SCFO’s social media platforms in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Community Protection and the Sharjah Children - Al Qarayan Sharjah, the campaign gave children and parents an opportunity to benefit from the guidance and tips offered by a host of experts on children’s health, who also laid emphasis on making time for play and exercise.

Through various sessions held as part of the campaign, parents were educated on global studies that highlight the importance of physical activities and the need for children to exercise for a minimum of 60 minutes daily.

Through the activities designed for children and their families, the SCFO campaign shone a light on the physical and psychological benefits of play in strengthening a host of values and skills in children such as self-confidence, mental growth, collaboration, tolerance, and the nurturing of imagination and creativity.

In line with the campaign’s objectives of educating families and empowering them with the skills needed at the start of the new academic year, SCFO met with par-



ents at the Sharjah Children - Al Qarayan and underscored the importance of a balanced healthy diet that provides the necessary calories, energy and nutrients. SCFO

also raised awareness of the dangers of consuming junk food that are low in nutritional value and contain high levels of fat and sugar. SCFO drew attention to several other healthy behaviours such as drinking sufficient amounts of water and engaging in physical exercise that have a positive impact on a child’s academic performance.

Dr. Hussain Abdul Rahman Al Rand, Assistant Under-Secretary for the Public Health Sector at the Ministry of Health and Prevention, underscored the importance of the campaign in elevating healthy lifestyles and contributing to the enhanced health of children and young adults alike.

Dr. Al Rand remarked that the ministry prioritises the good health and quality of life of future generations through its awareness campaigns and initiatives that focus on healthy lifestyles and practices.

The Assistant Under-Secretary

further underlined the importance of SCFO’s campaign in driving awareness on the importance of adopting healthy dietary and physical activity, and shedding light on the importance of exercise, balanced sleeping hours, and moderate screen time, among others.

He lauded SCFO’s campaign and its targeted goal of ensuring that children and youth enjoy the highest levels of health and safety at schools and in their homes.

Dr. Hessa Khalfan Al Ghazal, Executive Director of SCFO, said that the back-to-school drive provided a perfect opportunity to reconnect with families, noting that the activities organised as part of the campaign shed light on essential health habits that will ensure the wellbeing of children. -WAM



SPORTS

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Oman U-19 cricket set to get a major boost

With an aim to provide a strong foundation, Oman Cricket has roped in an energetic partner in Majees Technical Services (MTS)



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Youth are the future of any sports and Oman Cricket (OC) is a firm believer in grooming the youngsters in the country.

With an aim to provide a strong foundation, Oman Cricket has roped in an energetic partner in Majees Technical Services (MTS). Oman is all set to host the prestigious ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup (CWC) Division 2 - Asia from September 29-October 7 and the partnership agreement between OC and MTS comes as a perfect boost for the national team.

Speaking at the signing ceremony held at the OC headquarters on Thursday, Ishrath Habibulla, MTS managing director, said, "It is a matter of great pride to join the Oman Cricket family. We are a young company and have been

in service for past 15 years. So our focus and aim is to associate ourselves with a similar age-group bracket. The U19 cricket development perfectly matches our ambitions and we are happy to join the journey with Oman Cricket."

Habibulla, who himself has been an active cricketer in domestic league during his young days, said 'the remarkable growth of Oman Cricket has made all cricket fans proud'.

"We have also fielded team in the Oman Cricket Premier Division last season and had a decent outing. Our love for the game is now further strengthened by our association with U19 cricket," he said.

The MTS top official said that 'the journey with Oman Cricket' and supporting the youth (U19) is the way forward for his company. Oman Cricket Chairman Pan-

kaj Khimji termed the partnership 'a positive development for the youth cricket'.

After signing the agreement in the presence of the OC board treasurer Alkesh Joshi, OC board member Kiran Asher and OC chief development officer Duleep Mendis, Khimji said, "U19 cricket is a very important stage in the development of the game and for the future of our national team. We have witnessed the talent of our U19 players who have grown into our national team stars. The likes of Jatinder Singh, Aqib Ilyas, Sufiyan Mahmood and Wasim Ali have proved their credentials."

"The support we will get for the U19 team from Majees will help us nurture more players in the future. We thank them for their partnership as our boys prepare for the ICC U19 Men's CWC-

Division 2 tournament in Oman later this month."

Pankaj Khimji said, "Oman cricket's rise at the global stage is evident and in cricket parlance, we are now a recognised commodity. This has been a result of the success in hosting successfully the ICC Men's T20 World Cup last year and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier earlier this year. Our national team's success at international level has got the corporates notice the value of supporting the game. We hope to give our partners the value in investing with us."

On this occasion, Mendis said, "The U19 squad acts a feeder for the national team. To get a partner for the young team is an encouraging development that will go a long way in giving a boost to the youth cricket structure in the country."

Xavi turns his new Barcelona into lethal goal-scoring machine

BARCELONA: Barcelona just needed four games to demonstrate their ability to be deadly in their opponents' penalty area. They don't show mercy and they have a lot of firepower.

The Catalans have scored plenty of goals in the last three games, after they drew 0-0 with Rayo Vallecano in the opening game. They have now scored 11 goals in the first four games.

The Blaugrana showed they are a goalscoring machine after initially struggling.

Along with Real Madrid, Xavi Hernandez's team have the most goals in Spanish LaLiga Santander thus far, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported.

At this point, going goalless in the competition's opening game seems out of place in this 2022/23 season. Barcelona scored four goals against Real Sociedad in the second game, matching their performance at the Camp Nou against Valladolid. And in Seville, the Catalans scored three goals despite having opportunities to return home with an even larger margin.

When talking about this new-look Barcelona side, Robert Lewandowski is the one name that leaps out. The goal for the Pole when he arrived in Barcelona was to score. And the striker is performing splendidly.

Goals are a part of his DNA. In the past three games, he has five goals, including two braces. In Seville, he continued his streak. He



only celebrated one goal, but he had opportunities to score more.

The goal is always just around the corner whenever Lewandowski touches the ball. He is now equal with Iago Aspas in the Pichichi race, thanks his goal against Seville. Despite the fact that it is just the beginning, this statistic is quite important.

Seven different players have already scored for Barcelona, despite the fact that Lewandowski has the most goals.

Along with the Pole, Ansu Fati, Pedri, Ousmane Dembele, and Sergi Roberto also scored goals in the first three games.

Raphinha and Eric Garcia contributed with goals in Seville. Those were the first goals for both players in a Barcelona jersey.

While the Brazilian scored the game's first goal, Eric Garcia's goal was special for him as, in his career, he had never previously found the net.

After four games last season, the Catalan team, then led by Ronald Koeman, had eight goals. **ANI**

ASIA CUP

Pakistan defeat India by five wickets in a nail-biting finish

DUBAI: A superb fifty by Mohammed Rizwan and cameo by Mohammad Nawaz powered Pakistan to a five-wicket win in a last-ball thriller Super Four clash against Pakistan at the ongoing Asia Cup 2022 on Sunday.

It was an exciting day of cricketing action for the fans as they got their money's worth. Rizwan's brilliant 71 off 51 balls proved to be the difference between both sides. Chasing 182, Pakistan openers Babar Azam and Mohammed Rizwan tried to give their side a solid start,

mixed with some occasional big hits and consistent strike rotation. However, in the fourth over, spinner Ravi Bishnoi struck for India, sending back Babar Azam for 14 off 10 balls while the batter was trying to hit it over the midwicket region. At this point, Pakistan was 22/1.

At the end of ten overs, Pakistan was at 76/2, with Nawaz (11*) and Rizwan (35*) at the crease.

The duo displayed some attacking intent while batting, Nawaz in particular. Rizwan also kept things steady from the other end. Rizwan

brought up his half-century in 37 balls with four boundaries and two sixes and also helped his side touch 100-run mark in 12.2 overs.

The duo brought up their fifty-run stand in just 29 balls, keeping Pakistan in contention. In the final six overs, Pakistan needed 63 runs.

Two boundaries in the first two balls of the next over gave Pakistan an edge. This over bowled by Chahal gave away 16 runs and at the end of it, Pakistan needed 47 runs off 30 balls.

It was Bhuvneshwar Kumar that

gave Team India a much-needed breakthrough, sending off Nawaz back for 42 off 20 balls and breaking the 73-run stand between the duo. It was Deepak Hooda who took a catch at long-off.

Khushdil Shah was next up on the crease. With final four overs to go Pakistan needed 43 runs.

Rizwan kept the scoreboard ticking in the next over. Hardik Pandya was under pressure but delivered big wicket of Rizwan on the fifth ball of his over, sending him back for 71 off 51 balls after he was caught by

Suryakumar Yadav. Pakistan had lost their 4th wicket at 147 runs and Pandya had revived India's chances in the game after catching the big fish. In the final three overs, Pakistan needed 34 runs. Asif Ali had joined Khushdil on the crease.

Ravi Bishnoi came to deliver the next over. Asif Ali was dropped by Arshdeep Singh. Bishnoi delivered some wides in his over as well. In the final two overs, Pakistan needed 25 runs.

Bhuvneshwar came to deliver the 19th over. Asif Ali hit a six on

his second delivery, bringing down the equation to 18 runs in 10 balls. Kumar delivered two wides as well. Khushdil hit a four to bring down the equation to 12 off 8 balls. With a four on the final ball, Pakistan needed seven in the final over.

Arshdeep came to deliver the final over. He took the wicket of Asif Ali to keep Team India's hopes alive, with two runs needed in two deliveries. Ali was out for 16 off seven balls. Iftikhar Ahmed was the next batter. His side won the match with one ball to go by 5 wickets. **ANI**

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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,584.61 points, down by 0.44 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.28 per cent at 492.98 points. SMN Power Holding, up 20 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser.

MSX continued its gaining streak for third consecutive month in August

Oman's benchmark MSX30 index gained 1.2 per cent during the month to close at 4,585.3 points

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's stock exchange continued its gaining streak for the third consecutive month in August 2022, according to a new report.

"The MSX30 index gained 1.2 per cent during the month to close at 4,585.3 points," the Kuwait-based Kamco Invest, an investment strategy & research firm said in its latest report.

The MSX Sharia index, on the other hand, showed a relatively stronger monthly gain of 5.03 per cent during August. Consistent gains over the last three months pushed the MSX 30 Index to the number three position in the GCC in terms of year-to-date 2022 returns that reached double digits at



11.0 per cent at the end of August.

In terms of sectoral performance, all three reported segments closed in the green during August-2022. The Industrial index topped the month's performance with a gain of 14.2 per cent followed by financial and services indices with gains of 1.05 per cent and 1.03 per cent, respectively, the Kamco Invest report said.

In terms of year-to-date (YTD)

2022 performance, the financial index topped with a gain of 11.8 per cent followed by industrial and service indices with gains of 7.3 per cent and 3.3 per cent, respectively.

The trading activity showed a strong recovery during August-2022 with gains for the second consecutive month. The monthly value of shares traded reached a four-month high level of OMR77.7 million during

August-2022 as compared to OMR53.0 million during July-2022, a gain of 46.6 per cent.

The monthly volume of shares traded also reached a 4-month high at 314.3 million shares during August-2022 as compared to 219.9 million shares during July-2022.

In terms of investor participation, the share of Omanis in the total value of buy trades dropped slightly from 87.2 per cent in July

2022 to 85.3 per cent in August 2022. The share of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) investors doubled from 4.8 per cent of the total value of buy trades in July-2022 to 9.65 per cent in August-2022.

In economic news, the Omani government announced a budget surplus of \$2 billion at the end of the first half of 2022. Omanis' government recorded an increase of \$8.3 billion in oil revenues during the first half of 2022 buoyed by rising global oil prices.

GCC markets remain flat

GCC aggregate index showed flat-tish performance with a marginal gain of 0.3 per cent during August-2022 after initial gains during the first half of the month were almost fully offset by consecutive declines during the second half.

Most markets in the region remained range-bound during the month and ended with mostly positive performance. In terms of YTD-2022 performance, the MSCI GCC index showed one of the best returns when compared to other global markets with a return of 7.7 per cent.

Dubai was the best performing market in the GCC with a return of 3.2 per cent followed by Abu Dhabi at 2.2 per cent. In terms of YTD-

2022 performance, Abu Dhabi continued to lead with a world-leading performance of 16.3 per cent closely followed by Qatar's 15.5 per cent. Trading activity in the region also showed significant improvement compared to last month with aggregate value traded reaching \$60.4 billion as compared to \$38.4 billion during July-2022. Volume traded was also at a four-month high during August-2022 at 23.8 billion traded shares as compared to 13.2 billion traded shares during July-2022.

The sector performance chart for the month was slightly skewed towards gainers compared to losers. However, large-cap sectors like energy and banks declined during the month by 3.5 per cent (the biggest monthly decline) and 0.3 per cent, respectively, which was offset by a healthy gain of 9.7 per cent for the consumer durable and apparel index followed by 6.3 per cent and 5.5 per cent gains in the food and drug retailing and materials sectors, respectively. In terms of YTD-2022 performance, the healthcare index topped with a gain of 21.8 per cent followed by utilities and capital goods indices while pharma and consumer durables were top decliners, the Kamco Invest report said

'MUSTADEEM'

Nafath Renewable Energy partners with bp Oman to launch social investment programme



MUSCAT: Nafath Renewable Energy launched the fourth cycle of the 'Mustadeem' programme ('Mustadeem 4') in partnership with bp Oman, and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Recourses.

The programme will provide 50 independent 10kW solar energy systems for greenhouses and farms in areas affected by Cyclone Shaheen.

The programme will focus on Al Suwaiq and Al Khabourah regions and will include training sessions for farmers and jobseekers on how

to use those solar energy systems. This will help reduce electricity costs and enable farmers to have reliable power sources during power grid outages.

In-country value

In addition, the programme will offer courses to 150 university and college students, training opportunities for job seekers, and will allow SMEs to participate in implementing the programme in line with the national priorities of increasing in-country value.



Shamsa Al-Rawahi, bp Oman Social Investment Manager commented, "This collaboration is a great example of how we can empower communities by investing in renewable energy sources. Not only will it help increase higher farming production rates, but it will reduce approximately 640 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions. This collaboration delivers on our aim at bp of achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and reimagining energy for our people and planet.

Abdullah AlSaidi, Chief Executive Officer at Nafath Renewable Energy said, "We are excited to partner with bp Oman to deliver the programme's objectives of delivering solar power energy to affected farms. Diversifying the way we produce energy in Oman, particularly in agriculture will contribute to Oman's food security and self-sufficiency, which is a key priority in Oman's vision of 2040. We look forward to the outcomes of the programme and the impact it will generate."

SAUDI ARABIA

PIF launches National Real Estate Registration Services Company

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced the launch of the National Real Estate Registration Services Company (RER), which aims to contribute to the digitisation and development of the local real estate sector through a comprehensive digital platform, in cooperation with the Real Estate General Authority and other government entities.

RER aims to develop a digital platform to build a comprehensive real estate registration database covering all data of units of property in Saudi Arabia. The company will also provide property registration services according to best-in-field practices.

The National Real Estate Registration Services Company also aims to improve the quality of services and access for beneficiaries by developing procedures and mechanisms for registration. The company will adopt digital solutions to create a real estate registration database that includes public, commercial, residential and agricultural units and

their geolocation data. This move will contribute to the sustainable development of the sector and promote transparency in real estate services and transactions.

Co-Head of Mena Direct Investments at PIF Raid Ismail said: "We are delighted to launch the National Real Estate Registration Services Company. The new company's use of advanced digital solutions in its operations, enabling it to link its platform to all relevant government entities, will enhance reliability and transparency in real estate services and data in Saudi Arabia. This in turn will increase the attractiveness of the investment ecosystem, and grow the value of national real estate assets."

The establishment of the company is in line with PIF's strategy, which focuses on enabling and unlocking the capabilities of key sectors in Saudi Arabia, including real estate. The move is also part of the Fund's initiative to employ advanced technology to support the national economy in accomplishing Vision 2030 objectives. -SPA

EXPORTS

Merchandise exports jump 17% to \$192 billion in India

NEW DELHI: India's merchandise exports rose by 17.1 per cent year-on-year to \$192 billion in the first five months of the current financial year, Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Subrahmanyam said, "services exports have done very well. April to July services export are \$95 billion and they are on track to break all records this year."

"We are being buffeted by strong winds globally. We have disruptions that are happening because of Ukraine and Russia. We are very aware of the high inflation rates. We are aware of the actions being taken by various central banks across the world," he said.

The Commerce Secretary said India's exports are expected to surpass \$750 billion in the current financial year. -ANI

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MSX index ends lower

SMN Power Holding, up 20 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,584.61 points, down by 0.44 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.28 per cent at 492.98 points. SMN Power Holding, up 20 per cent, was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Oman Fisheries were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 529 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.18 million, with more than 7.4 million shares changing hands.

Out of 28 traded securities, 10 advanced, 8 declined, and 10 remained unchanged.

At the session close, foreign investors were net buyers for OMR796,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR724,000, followed by domestic investors for OMR72,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,326.74 points, down 0.46 per

cent. There were no gainers for the day. Prices of Global Financial Investments, Oman United Insurance and Bank Muscat were down by 2.94 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 0.33 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,527.81 points, up 0.44 per cent. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Gulf Mushroom Products, Raysut Cement, Galfar Engineering and Oman Fisheries were up by 3.64 per cent, 2.92 per cent, 2.61 per cent, 2.48 per cent and 0.86 per cent respectively. Jazeera Steel Products was the only loser for the day down by 2 per cent.

Services Index was down by 0.23 per cent before closing at 1,680.59 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Oman National Engineering, Al Jazeera Services and OIFC were up by 20 per cent, 3.64 per cent, 1.77 per cent and 0.78 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Al Maha Marketing, National Gas and Oman Telecom were down by 7.69 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 1.41 per cent and 0.43 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,608.22	4,584.61	4,602.00	4,604.72	-2.72	-0.06
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,364.88	7,326.74	7,354.64	7,360.49	-5.85	-0.08
Industry Index	6,536.16	6,501.85	6,527.80	6,499.06	28.75	0.44
Services Index	1,692.23	1,676.18	1,680.59	1,684.39	-3.81	-0.23
MSX Shariah Index	493.62	491.58	492.98	491.58	1.39	0.28
MSX TR INDEX	5,812.03	5,782.26	5,804.20	5,807.63	-3.43	-0.06
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,706.52	7,666.61	7,695.81	7,701.93	-6.12	-0.08
SERVICES TR IDX	1,757.23	1,740.56	1,745.13	1,749.08	-3.95	-0.23
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,783.43	6,747.83	6,774.76	6,744.93	29.83	0.44

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,408,546	2,183,196	529	23,411,570,063	10	8	10	28

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PREV VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	975,083	111,206	61	0.110	0.116	0.110	0.114	0.110	0.004	3.636	0.114	0.105	0.116	0.100	15,960,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	256,280	72,323	11	0.283	0.287	0.282	0.287	0.282	0.005	1.773	0.287	0.287	0.290	0.100	17,565,626
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	750,000	97,200	37	0.128	0.132	0.128	0.129	0.128	0.001	0.781	0.129	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,573,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	100,110	27,030	14	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.250	0.270	0.100	439,005,516
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	492,415	196,961	20	0.400	0.402	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.390	0.420	0.100	260,377,692
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	624,533	373,691	44	0.600	0.600	0.598	0.598	0.600	-0.002	-0.333	0.598	0.596	0.598	0.100	2,244,412,722
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	889,926	842,169	55	0.936	0.940	0.928	0.932	0.936	-0.004	-0.427	0.932	0.904	0.932	0.100	699,000,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	10,560	2,981	4	0.282	0.283	0.282	0.282	0.285	-0.003	-1.053	0.282	0.283	0.302	0.100	28,200,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	196,066	579,929	29	0.302	0.302	0.294	0.294	0.300	-0.006	-2.000	0.294	0.270	0.294	0.100	36,720,000
OM0000003000	AL MAHA MARKTING	1,000	820	1	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.820	0.840	-0.020	-2.381	0.820	0.824	0.836	0.100	56,580,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	60,000	3,960	4	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.068	-0.002	-2.941	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.100	13,200,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	60,000	3,600	2	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.065	-0.005	-7.692	0.060	0.059	0.060	0.100	13,334,400
Total	12	4,425,973	1,789,890	282												
Parallel Market																
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	485,200	17,827	15	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.030	0.006	20.000	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.100	7,186,882
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	5,000	570	1	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.110	0.004	3.636	0.114	0.112	0.114	0.100	9,279,914
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	196,250	54,309	34	0.283	0.283	0.272	0.282	0.274	0.008	2.920	0.283	0.283	0.283	0.100	11,732,686
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	260,206	61,343	32	0.236	0.239	0.232	0.236	0.230	0.006	2.609	0.236	0.234	0.236	0.100	47,200,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	27,000	4,395	5	0.162	0.165	0.162	0.165	0.161	0.004	2.484	0.165	0.160	0.165	0.100	33,492,764
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	1,375,216	162,097	89	0.116	0.120	0.116	0.117	0.116	0.001	0.862	0.117	0.117	0.118	0.100	21,303,173
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	199,000	60,866	28	0.310	0.310	0.300	0.302	0.300	0.002	0.667	0.302	0.302	0.308	0.100	36,240,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	145,070	9,959	13	0.069	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.069	0.000	0.000	0.069	0.068	0.069	0.100	21,193,096
OM0000002812	SAHARA HOSPITALITY	600	1,500	1	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	2.500	0.000	0.000	2.500	2.500	2.500	1.000	19,808,250
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	107,000	10,536	5	0.099	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.097	0.100	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000004735	SEMBOCORP SALALAH	20,150	1,411	3	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.000	0.000	0.070	0.065	0.070	0.100	66,820,037
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	20,000	1,820	3	0.090	0.092	0.090	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.090	0.094	0.100	16,100,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	36,481	1,567	8	0.041	0.043	0.041	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	29,020,159
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	84,600	3,644	6	0.043	0.044	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	30,719,473
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	10,300	1,451	3	0.144	0.144	0.140	0.140	0.142	-0.002	-1.408	0.140	0.140	0.142	0.100	11,900,000
Total	15	2,982,073	393,295	246												

CONFERENCE

Tech Zilla 2022 roadshow showcases cybersecurity technological evolution

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Simpra Advanced Technology, a renowned Cybersecurity and Information Communication Technology (ICT) company in Oman, has concluded a first-of-its-kind conference and roadshow, Tech Zilla 2022.

Auspicated by Dr Hamed Al Rawahi, the event aimed at gathering experts from the industry as well as providing key insights and predictions for the future. Held in collaboration with Authlogics, PicusSecurity, CrowdStrike and HivePro, who are major industry players, the conference witnessed a great attendance at Crowne Plaza, Muscat.

Commenting on the event, Nitin Awasthi, General Manager at Simpra Advanced Technology said, "We are very proud as this event was a huge success for Simpra. Our objective was to provide a central hub for cybersecurity profession-



als and industry thought leaders to collaborate and address challenges, particularly rendering ways in which we can meet the needs of people and businesses alike affordably. As this industry works to deliver customisable solutions, Tech Zilla will continue to play a key role by facilitating knowledge-sharing, learning and discussions around the latest technologies."

During the event, Kamber Devjanie, Global Head of Sales, Authlogics, delivered a presentation on MFA, Password Less and Single Sign on Security. Picus Security's M. Burak Koyuncu, Regional Sales Manager, Middle East spoke about the Complete Security Control Validation Platform (BAS Tool). Jean Saad, the Regional Sales Engineer at CrowdStrike shed light

on EDR, XDR, Threat Intelligence and Identity Protection. Lastly, Sarfaraz Kazi, CTO of HivePro, shared his knowledge of Vulnerability Prioritizations and Threat Exposure Management Solutions.

With over a decade of experience, Simpra, the leading cybersecurity and ICT solutions provider in Oman, empowers companies with custom-made information security services. The company caters to several industries including telecom, automobile, finance, technology, retail, E-Commerce, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas as well as many government institutions. Delivering expertise across the globe, Simpra Oman is a part of Simpra International, which has a major presence in several countries. With a diverse clientele, the company has a direct presence in Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and India and a partner network in Hong Kong, Switzerland, Italy, the UK, and the USA.

LARGEST EVER SUPPLY IN GCC

Ashok Leyland bags mega order for 1,400 school buses

DUBAI: Ashok Leyland, the flagship brand of the Hinduja Group, the fourth largest bus manufacturer in the world and a transnational transportation and mobility solutions leader, announced bagging orders from major fleets for 1,400 school buses in the UAE - the company's largest ever supply of school buses in GCC.

The 55-seater Falcon bus and 32-seater Oyster bus - will be supplied from Ashok Leyland's US\$ 50 million state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, which is the only certified local bus-making facility in the entire GCC.

The total fleet deal for the GCC-made buses has been bagged by Ashok Leyland's UAE distribution partners, Swaidan Trading - Al Naboodah Group. Most of the supplies will be made to Emirates Transport and STS Group, a statement from the company said.

Dheeraj Hinduja, Executive Chairman, Ashok Leyland said, "We are very happy to receive these orders, and this is a historic moment for Ashok Leyland in GCC. This is a testament to the reliability, durability and robustness of our buses and reaffirms the faith that our customers have in our buses being the safest for transporting school students.

These products are made in the UAE assembly plant. The product concepts originate in the GCC, the designs are done by our engi-



The buses will be supplied from Ashok Leyland's manufacturing facility in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE, the only certified local bus-making facility in GCC

neers and are assembled in a factory in a GCC country. More than 55% of parts are sourced from the GCC. It is a Made in GCC, Made for GCC products."

Our new Electric vehicle company, Switch Mobility, based out of the UK, will help us fulfil our aspiration of zero carbon emission transportation. We see huge opportunities for growth through Switch's expansion in UAE and the GCC and look forward to launching our electric vehicles in these markets soon."

Amandeep Singh, Head of International Operations said, "Ashok Leyland is one of the fastest growing brands in the Middle East. Our lowest total cost of ownership and strong after-sales support differentiates us and has helped us win these orders. We

ENERGY IMPORT COST

Italy's costs to import energy will double to 100bn euros

CERNOBBIO: Italy's net energy import costs are set to more than double this year to nearly 100 billion euros (\$99.5 billion), the economy minister said, warning Rome could not spend indefinitely to cushion the blow on the economy.

Italy relies on imports for three-quarters of its power consumption, increasing its vulnerability to Europe's current energy crisis.

Addressing the annual Ambrosetti business forum on Saturday, Economy Minister Daniele Franco said Italy's high debt reduced its room for maneuver going forward.

Measures to help firms and consumers cope with high energy bills will be approved next week, following six aid packages so far worth in total 52 billion euros, Franco said, Reuters reported.

"To keep offsetting, at least in part, rising energy prices through public finances is very costly and we could never do enough," he said.

Franco said it was key to address the functioning of Europe's energy market, where soaring gas prices amid shrinking Russian exports have driven power prices higher. -BNA



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12.25%

of included students had repeated a grade and 30.32% of students reported having experienced bullying at least a few times a month during the previous year.

Students who had repeated a grade were more likely to have been the victim of bullying compared to their peers.

The association was observed for students in 46 different countries/economies, and in students of both sexes. Compared to boys, however, girls who repeated a grade had higher risks of being made fun of, being threatened, having possessions taken away, and being pushed around.



STUDENTS WHO REPEAT A GRADE EXPERIENCE MORE BULLYING

Students who have repeated a grade have higher risks of being victims of bullying in countries around the world, according to a recent study of nearly half a million students. Addressing and preventing school violence, including bullying, is a specific target of the United National Sustainable Development Goals. Few studies involving large samples have examined the association between grade repetition and bullying victimization. In the study, researchers used data from the Program for International Student Assessment (PIA) 2018, which included information on 465,146 students aged 15 and 16 from 74 countries/economies.

Overall, 12.25% of included students had repeated a grade and 30.32% of students reported having experienced bullying at least a few times a month during the previous year. Students who had repeated a grade were more likely to have been the victim of bullying compared to their peers. The association was observed for students in 46 different countries/economies, and in students of both sexes. Compared to boys, however, girls who repeated a grade had higher risks of being made fun of, being threatened, having possessions taken away, and being pushed around. The authors note that while the findings support a relationship between the

experiences of repeating a grade and bullying victimisation, the cross-sectional study cannot determine if such a relationship is causal, or the direction of the relationship. The study was also limited to adolescents who were attending school at the time the survey was administered, and the measures of bullying experiences and grade repetition were self-reported. "These results are of great concern for parents, teachers, principals, and policymakers at different levels, especially in countries where grade repetition is particularly prevalent," the authors say. "Grade repetition is associated with bullying victimization in both boys and girls." -ANI

IN PICTURES



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Kartik Naach Festival celebrated in Lalitpur, Nepal

Dancers perform in the street during the Kartik Naach Festival in Lalitpur. Kartik Naach is an annual dance and drama festival held in the Hindu lunar calendar month of Kartik.

—Xinhua



Indonesia Umbrella Festival

People take selfies during the Indonesia Umbrella Festival at Pura Mangkunegaran in Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia.

—Xinhua



XINHUA NEWS

Pakistan receives 30 flights of humanitarian aid for flood victims

Picture taken from a helicopter shows the aerial view of flood-hit Jafarabad district in Pakistan's southwest Balochistan province. The devastating floods in the country have killed 1,265 people, injured over 12,000 and left thousands homeless since mid-June, according to the latest figures released by the National Disaster Management Authority.

—Xinhua



Torrential rain hits Dakar, Senegal

A woman waits for customers after torrential rain in Dakar, Senegal.

—Xinhua

Bangladesh holds garment, textile expo after two-year break

Picture shows the venue of Textech Bangladesh International Expo 2022 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

—Xinhua



Upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival celebrated in Macao

Illumination installations are seen in front of the Ruins of the St. Paul's in Macao. Landmarks including the Ruins of the St. Paul's and the Largo Do Senado in Macao are decorated with illuminations to celebrate the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival.

—Xinhua

Jeetendra at a lunch party hosted by Ekta Kapoor
Bollywood actor Jeetendra poses for a photo upon arriving for a lunch party hosted by Bollywood film maker Ekta Kapoor as part of Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, at Ekta's residence, in Mumbai.

— ANI Photo



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ROUND-UP

Finance your car from Alizz Islamic Bank at a rate of 4.75%

Auto Finance starts at a profit rate of just 4.75% with the possibility of completing the process in 10 minutes in some dealerships that have the IFIN Instant Financing service in place

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank is now offering an enhanced experience for its customers looking to finance their new car at any approved car dealership in the Sultanate. Auto Finance starts at a profit

rate of just 4.75% with the possibility of completing the process in 10 minutes in some dealerships that have the IFIN Instant Financing service in place, which is becoming more popular due to its ease



and flexibility and its compliance with Sharia principles. Customers that are interested in getting instant finance for their new cars in just 10 minutes can do

so at the local dealerships of Nissan, Infiniti, Toyota, and Mazda. The car dealership uses a flexible fintech solution that will fetch all the customer's details, verify their

eligibility for finance, and then initiate the process immediately. Alizz Islamic Bank Auto Finance is based on the Sharia principle of Murabaha. Auto Murabaha is available for both Omanis and residents and the financing is up to 80% of the car value with competitive profit rates and a repayment period of up to 84 months. Additionally, Auto finance is available to everyone, including employees and private business owners, as it requires only simple documentation and approvals. Alizz Islamic Bank has set a minimum salary of 300 OMR for government sector employees and 350 OMR for private sector employees. To apply, a customer will obtain a quote issued by the dealership and addressed to Alizz Islamic Bank and then he/she will undertake to purchase the car from the bank. The bank accordingly buys and collects the car from the seller, then sells the car to the customer under Murabaha with deferred instalments. Alizz Islamic Bank takes pride in helping customers by incorporating ease and flexibility across all its carefully tailored products and finance offers. The bank is always on a mission to better understand customer needs and priorities to continually improve its current offerings and innovate new ones. Alizz Islamic Bank continuously introduces a variety of finance offers, whether for personal, home, or commercial purposes, all of which are in line with the provisions of Sharia.

DRINKING WATER BRAND

Oman Oasis launches mobile app with new offers



MUSCAT: Oman Oasis, the leading drinking water brand that is produced and distributed by Oasis Water Company, has announced a festive promotion accompanying the launch of the Oman Oasis mobile app. Quick, easy and convenient to use, it allows customers to order and get delivery of 5-gallon Oman Oasis and SIFR water bottles. Ensuring customer convenience, the Oman Oasis mobile app offers exclusive deals to customers who download the app and order during the promotion period from September 1 to December 31, 2022. Customers who download

and order through the app will receive 2kg of Punjab Gate Basmati rice for free and will qualify to enter a raffle draw and win amazing prizes. Divided over four draws, there are a total of 350 prizes to be awarded to the winners. Speaking on the launch of the app and the offers, NSS Subramanian, Chief Operating Officer said, "Because customer satisfaction is always our priority, that's why 'Oman Oasis' mobile app was launched and is available for all Android and iPhone users. You can place an order and enjoy the delivery service to your doorstep through the app," he said, adding: "I would like to thank the loyal customers of Oman Oasis for their confidence and trust in our products and I invite them to participate and be part of our new special offers." Oman Oasis is always keen on the quality of its products by adhering to the highest standards, maintaining international specifications and best production practices, which has earned them many regional and international awards and certificates. It is this constant commitment to the highest quality standards that has earned it the title of Oman's most trusted brand.



DESIGNED FOR ADVENTURE

Customers prefer Nissan X-Terra for its comfy interior, advanced technologies

MUSCAT: Nissan X-Terra, the vehicle especially designed for adventure and the outdoors has received a terrific response from customers in Oman. The model, which empowers owners to go anywhere has impressed customers with its robust yet sophisticated look. They have defined the vehicle as an ideal partner for customers seeking exciting outdoor adventures. Powering the all-new X-Terra is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine with a seven-speed automatic transmission. The petrol engines deliver 124kW /165 hp and 241Nm of torque which ensures an exciting drive of speed and acceleration.

Created for adventures, with a roomy interior and advanced technologies Nissan X-Terra ensures safety and comfort. Nissan Intelligent Mobility features add to its attraction. A spokesperson for Suhail-Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) said, "The seven-seater, spacious, comfortable X-Terra is a catalyst for new experiences, allowing owners to connect with the people in their lives, and to confidently 'Go Anywhere' together. It addresses a variety of needs and all types of terrains as it is both, good for city use and great for an adventure with family and friends. Developed in line with the "unbreakable" frame vehicles design philosophy, it combines masculine solidity with sleek and modern execution."

The all-new X-Terra delivers a robust four-wheel drive system, including a four-wheel lock, brake limited slip differential and electronic locking rear differential - while leading the class in interior room and comfort. Built on 70 years of unmatched Nissan SUV expertise, the all-new Nissan X-Terra 2021 reflects the evolution of four-wheel adventure travel and a growing consumer desire for connection. It effortlessly combines impressive strength with bold new design and built-for-comfort roominess. Underlining this is breakthrough engineering and a suite of cutting-edge Nissan Intelligent Mobility (NIM) technologies to offer a superior driving experience and adventure-ready confidence for drivers to explore new places. The SUV's rugged frame facilitates its durability and practicality, while the future-forward aesthetics are exhibited in the quad LED projector lamps and a bold new V-motion grille. The revised rear and new LED taillights add to the all-new X-Terra's athletic look, reflecting the Nissan Design team's dynamic and modern philosophy. The styling of the all-new X-Terra was developed at the Global Design studio in Japan. At 4.9m in length, 1.9m in height and just over 2.1m in width - with a ground clearance of 243 mm - the X-Terra looks right at home next to its bigger sibling, the Patrol, and borrows some design elements. The front face resembles the Patrol with the powerful new V-motion grill, with its thick frame contrasting with the refined horizontal chrome bars within. The proportions of the all-new X-Terra are strong and bold.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

Efficient and dynamic Renault Dokker preferred for its wide-ranging elements

MUSCAT: A practical commercial vehicle, Renault Dokker combines the best features of space, comfort, and dynamic performance. Its functional utility vehicle and great design has found Renault Dokker many a fan in Oman. Created to be exceedingly functional Renault Dokker is a harmonious and dynamic utility vehicle with great design. Offering easy loading, quick access to objects, side door, on-board multimedia system, and more Renault Dokker combines the best features of space, comfort, and dynamic performance. Pragmatic and spacious, functional utility vehicle Renault Dokker has found many fans in Oman. Renault Dokkervan has everything to make owner's work easier. Its 1.6 MPI 85 hp engine is efficient both in consumption and cost of usage. The engine allows for a very dynamic driving at a cost that is amongst the most frugal, 4 x 20 W radio, audio streaming and Bluetooth hands-free calling. A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles said, "Renault Dokker is a very efficient and dynamic vehicle. This is the reason why it loved so much." Abdulla Jabri says, "Renault Dokkervan proficiently rises to the task of meeting his day-to-day needs. Its 750 kg payload is invaluable for a businessman like me." Ghadeer Al Adi likes the easy



loading feature of the Dokker Van. He says, "I find it functional because it comes with one or two sliding side doors and the loading width stands at 703 mm. The asymmetrical rear doors, meanwhile, open to a width of 1.08 m which is especially useful. Its lashing rings on the floor holds fragile items perfectly in place." Ahmed Al Awaisi is captivated by its generous loading space and comfort. He says, "The 'Easy Seat' is foldable and removable; the passenger seat shows its full inventiveness when the backrest folds down to form a temporary desk.

When fully removed, it frees up extra space, increasing the loading volume to 3.9 m3." Rizwan Abbas says the "best part of Renault Dokker is that it acclimates to all circumstances. Its features including ABS & BA, ESP, TPMS, dual airbags make it a top range car." He also adds, "The 1.6L 85hp Euro 4 engine that powers Dokker shows consumption levels among the lowest in its class, without having to resort to expensive and complex technologies or sacrificing performance." Renault offers you a vehicle up to 3.9 m3, equipped as a saloon car,

as robust as a utility vehicle and as practical as a Dokker van. Accessibility, loading volume and driving comfort - the Renault Dokker Van is packed with benefits and nice surprises. Renault Dokker Van has everything to make owner's work easier: cruise control with speed limiter, rear parking sensors, practical storage areas, 4 x 20 W radio, audio streaming and Bluetooth® hands-free calling. Available, open and spacious, the Renault Dokker aims to please, with an innate sense of practicality and versatility. It can take all kinds of loads, assisted by XL sliding side doors (more than 70 cm wide) and two asymmetrical rear doors. Meeting the challenges of transport and delivery with ingenuity and panache, the Renault Dokker Van moves with the times: its economical engine, low CO2 emissions and respect for both the environment and budget make it a truly model employee. Exceed expectations, Dokker's loading area is equipped with eight lashing rings on the floor, ensuring that your most fragile items are firmly held in place. For added security, owners can choose between three types of partition: tubular, full glazed or pivoting wire-mesh (associated with Easy Seat). The side and rear doors can be either panelled or glazed. And for even greater efficiency, the Dokker Van is available with side panels and a robust, stylish boot carpet.

OFFERS ELEVATED EXPERIENCES

Experience distinctive luxury in Lincoln Aviator Presidential

MUSCAT: The Lincoln Aviator Presidential is designed to offer exceptionally elevated experiences for customers. From its range of features to its thoughtful detailing, the Aviator Presidential is an experience that you can make the most of on every journey. In Oman, the Lincoln Aviator Presidential is available as a Destination Theme. The Destination theme is so thoughtfully curated, you'll feel as though you've arrived no matter where your journey takes you. Details such as French seams, laser-etched diamond perforations and rich textures make the travel just as elegant as the arrival. Beautiful mahogany red Venetian leather outfits the interior while Diamond-Wave perforations add a further point of distinction. Center

console and doors refined with warm Khaya mahogany appliques gives it a thoughtful touch. The Lincoln Aviator is equipped with a standard twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine that is paired with a 10-speed SelectShift® automatic transmission. The Aviator delivers an impressive 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque for effortless acceleration. The three-row luxury SUV is equipped with all-wheel drive capability. Making every drive fascinating is the Lincoln Drive Modes' five signature settings - Normal, Conserve, Excite, Slippery and Deep Conditions. This feature allows owners to further customise their driving experience, while a 10.1-inch standard configura-



ble LCD instrument cluster confirms their choices with beautiful, easy-to-read dynamic graphics and prompts. Putting on a show right from the start, the Air Glide Suspension with Dynamic Lower Entry automatically lowers the ve-

hicle to "greet" the driver, adding a new level of sophistication to Lincoln's signature welcome lighting embrace. The convenience of this feature makes loading cargo easier as well. For better driving experiences,

the Aviator is also equipped with a technology that enables Aviator to "see" most potholes or uneven pavement and immediately make suspension adjustments to keep the ride as smooth as possible. Adaptive Suspension with Road Preview uses an advanced forward camera to constantly scan the road, seamlessly adjusting the suspension as needed. All Lincoln vehicles come standard with a suite of driver-assist features known as Lincoln Co-Pilot360™. Traffic Jam Assist helps guide the vehicle using adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go, lane centering and traffic sign recognition, adjusting speed based on the information obtained. Evasive Steer Assist offers assistance to the driver to help avoid a collision

with a slower or stopped vehicle; it provides additional steering support when a collision cannot be avoided by braking alone. Reverse Brake Assist can help stop the vehicle while backing up if Aviator's integrated rear sensors and camera detect an obstacle at the rear. Active Park Assist 2.0 removes the stress from parking by taking over steering, shifting, braking and acceleration functions with the touch of a button to navigate parallel and perpendicular parking spaces with ease. The boundless allure of flight has long inspired automotive design, and the all-new Lincoln Aviator takes that inspiration to the next level. In Oman, Lincoln vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.



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Tribute to importance and role of Bank Muscat in supporting Omani youth

Green Sports plays important role in developing the Sultanate's sporting talent

MUSCAT: A number of sports club leaders from teams across the Sultanate have appreciated and praised Bank Muscat for its very important role in supporting the youth and local communities across the Sultanate of Oman.

In particular, they hailed the bank's pioneering role in enhancing sports, social and community bonding and youth empowerment in Oman. The leaders were reacting to the recent announcement of 20 winners for the 2022 edition of Green Sports whereby Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, continues to develop new Green Sports Fields.

The scope of Green Sports support for sports teams include the greening of football fields with natural or synthetic turf as well as the installation of floodlights and water desalination equipment in areas facing problems of water salinity. Bank Muscat's long-running CSR programme continues to benefit many sports teams across the Sultanate even as the annual programme brings together different generations on the popular platform of sports. This year's results were announced at the end of a thorough evaluation process, which saw large numbers of teams from across the Sultanate of Oman submitting their applications for the prestigious programme. With the announcement of the 2022 winners, the total number of Green Sports beneficiaries has now reached 163 sports teams covering more than 50,000 team members since its inception in 2012.



Pioneering community initiative

Speaking after the bank announced the winners for 2022, Sulaiman bin Abdullah Al Kharousi, head of the main committee supervising the Green Sports project of the Al Ittihad Sports Team from the Wilayat of Bahla, expressed his heartfelt joy and happiness on receiving the news that the team had emerged a winner in this year's programme. Speaking on behalf of the committee and the team members, he expressed great appreciation and sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors of Bank Muscat and its employees for this excellent CSR initiative, which has had a positive impact on tens of thousands of youth and families across Oman. He added that the bank's efforts in this direction were a clear indicator of the interest and commitment of the bank's management to support various social and sporting activities in the Sultanate.

Sulaiman Al Kharousi added

that the Al Ittihad team would be implementing a lighting system thanks to the support from the bank. He added that Bank Muscat, which has been setting benchmarks in providing the best banking services in the Sultanate, is also well known for its pioneering CSR initiatives and programmes. He wished the bank all success and also thanked all the personnel involved in the project that is making a world of difference to Omani youth.

Developing the talent of Omani youth

On his part, Khalifa bin Hamad AlHassani, deputy head of the Azaiba Cultural and Sports Team from the Wilayat of Bousher, said, "We are thrilled to be selected as a winner in Bank Muscat's Green Sports Programme for 2022. Our team will implement a new lighting system on the field thanks to this support. On behalf of the entire management and members of the Azaiba Cultural and Sports

Team, I would like to sincerely thank Bank Muscat on this great occasion. There is no doubt that the bank is leading the way in supporting youth teams and promoting sports in the country. We wish the bank great success in all its projects and all the very best for the future.

Khalifa Al Hasani described Green Sports as one of the most important programmes which are empowering Omani youth as well as strengthening sports infrastructure across the Sultanate of Oman. Thanks to the new lighting system which will be provided by the bank, the Azaiba Cultural and Sports Team expects to significantly boost the team's performance in the coming years and also organise many more events and activities during evenings. He concluded by thanking Bank Muscat once again for its various efforts to serve the nation and local communities across different governorates and for organising such a unique programme.

An important addition to local communities

Speaking on the occasion of the announcement of the 2022 winners, Yousef bin Saeed Al Maskari, head of the Al Yahmadi Sports and Cultural Team from the Wilayat of Ibra, expressed the happiness of the management and members of the team for being chosen as a winner by the Green Sports 2022 programme. He thanked Bank Muscat on behalf of the entire team for the support which will help implement an artificial grass project for the team's sports field. He noted that the achievement constitutes an important pillar of support to the team and the residents of Al Yahmadi village as well as other neighbouring villages. He stressed that the project would serve the community as a whole, thus achieving Bank Muscat's goal to support different communities across the Sultanate of Oman and develop the infrastructure of Omani sports to world-class standards. The new development will con-



tribute in the long run to further developing the capabilities and talents of Omani footballers in both local and international competitions as more and more talent emerges through many such projects at the grassroots level. Yousef Al Maskari also expressed his thanks to the people of Al Yahmadi village and the team members for working together to win the bank's support for their sports project. Al Maskari added that as a successful and pioneering step by Bank Muscat in the field of corporate social responsibility, Green Sports would contribute majorly to developing talented sportspeople in the Sultanate of Oman.

ONAM CELEBRATIONS



Oman to witness new cookery contest

MUSCAT: Just as the expatriate Indian population, primarily Malayalis are celebrating 'Onam', a festival of colours and a commemoration of the victory of good over bad, the capital city will witness a unique contest of cookery on September 9.

The open to all competition is all about making a delicious pudding ('payasam' as they call it) and showcasing it at the Lulu Ruwi outlet and letting the passerby try them out.

Organised by the Wasel Exchange, the contest will see nearly 25 men and women vying for a position in payasam making.

Payasam is a sweetened pudding made with either milk or coconut milk on special occasions and with 'Onam', payasam must accompany

the delicious feast on a plantain leaf. The first three winners will be given first positions while all participants will have their share of the prize after the event.

A panel of three acclaimed chefs will adjudicate the event. The public will be served with the variety of payasam that competed, according to the organisers.

A show of talents by upcoming dancers and artists will add colours to the event, the organisers hoped.

Saji C Thomas, GM, Al Wasel Exchange, Jasil Kovakkal, Manager-Operations, Vimal AG, Compliance Officer, Mohammed Niyas, Marketing Manager, Priya Devan and Mohammed Iqbal attended the announcement.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Khedmah concludes first round of 'Growth Programme' with 15 graduates

MUSCAT: The Oman Investment and Finance Company (OIFC) Khedmah, the pioneer in the collection of public utility bills in the Sultanate, has concluded its skill development initiative, 'Growth Programme'.

The programme equipped 15 employees with the needed knowledge, skills and capabilities required to thrive in a competitive market. A graduation ceremony was held at the Modern College of Commerce and Science, which has been running the programme for two years. Several representatives attended the event from the college and OIFC Khedmah.

Furthermore, it aimed to instil a 'culture of continuous learning' as it is one of the most important fundamentals of the work environment. In addition, it focused on encouraging employees to augment their experiences, diversifying their tasks and training them to transform challenges into inspiring opportunities.

Shamsa Al Hatali, one of the programme graduates, said, "I extend my sincere gratitude to Khedmah for providing my colleagues and me this great opportunity to participate in the 'Growth Programme'. I am proud to be one of



the first batches to graduate from this talent development initiative. It has helped me think critically and has encouraged me to strive for the best. Despite the challenges of commuting from the place of my residence to the programme venue, I was keen on completing the task, which yielded favourable results. The knowledge and skills

I gained positively influenced my career and personal life."

Disrupted by the pandemic, the course was prolonged for two years but this did not deter the participants' motivation. They were able to turn the challenges into opportunities as they switched from physical to online classes, embraced E-learning and leveraged

the various new tools and technologies to enhance their skills.

Through such impactful, sustainable and value-driven initiatives, Khedmah has reinstated its position as an organisation that contributes to raising a knowledge-based economy whilst empowering its citizens to lead transformation in the sector.



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Masirah Island



Masirah Island in the Governorate of South A'Sharqiyah is a popular tourist destination. Known for kite-surfing, bird-watching, the uninhabited beaches, the magnificent sea views and rugged terrains, Masirah draws visitors throughout the year. The beaches are home to sea turtles. The tourists are attracted mostly by the turtles scattered along the beaches of Masirah. Masirah hosts the world's largest population of Loggerhead sea turtles and Green turtles. One can also go off-roads to explore the rocky terrains and jagged mountains. On the east side of Barr Al Hikman, the island is hilly and Jabal Madrub mountain is in the north end of the island. The beaches are ideal for camping.

One of the famous tourist landmarks on the island is the Marsis Old Fort, which is a witness to the history of the wilayat since olden times. The fort is located in the village of Marsis, and it is one of the most important forts on the island. An important monument on the island is the Islamic cemetery, which is located in the village of Safaij.

