

**FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES
COPY OF CREDENTIALS OF
BANGLADESH ENVOY**

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Thursday a copy of credentials of Mohammed Nazmul Islam, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A2**



**HM THE SULTAN CONGRATULATES
PRESIDENT OF MADAGASCAR**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Andry Rajoelina of the Republic of Madagascar on his country's Independence Day. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere greetings and wishes to the president and to his country's people. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 81 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

**Grow your business
with Bank Muscat
Najahi current account**

Scan the code
or Call 24790000

Bank Muscat. Better Everyday.

EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT OMAN ON MONDAY

The visit will explore various areas of joint interests and meet the aspirations of their people

MUSCAT: President Abdul Fattah el Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt will pay an official two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman on Monday.

This was stated in a statement issued by the Diwan of Royal Court reading as follows:

"In affirmation of the fraternal relations binding the Sultanate of Oman and the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Abdul Fattah el Sisi of Egypt will pay an official visit lasting two days to the Sultanate of Oman this Monday, 27 June 2022.

The visit stems from the keenness of the leaderships in the two



countries in supporting bilateral relations and means of enhancing them towards wider horizons.

The visit will explore various areas that serve the joint interests and meet aspirations of their people. It will also discuss a number of topics of concern to the two sides in light of the regional and international developments.

The Egyptian-Omani relations

are a well-established model, not only at the regional level, but also at the international level due to their historical, political, diplomatic, economic, cultural and social dimensions.

These relations are characterised by the historical link between the two great civilisations, and wrapped in the bonds of Arab brotherhood, friendship and love.

The trade exchange between the two countries dates back to the old era, when Omani frankincense was exported from Dhofar to Egypt. The evidence of Omani frankincense had been found in ancient Egyptian temples.

May the Almighty Allah grant the two leaders success to serve their countries, the Arab and Islamic nations!

Karwa bus factory a quantum jump for Oman's industry

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Karwa Automotive Factory in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm represents a quantum leap in Omani industry with its capability to produce state-of-the-art bus bodies and chassis that will serve not just the Omani market but markets in the entire Gulf region. With its factory going on steam, it has enhanced the value to the industrial sector in the Sultanate, and promises to establish other small and medium enterprises in its train that will serve the factory during the coming period, in addition to providing jobs to at least 300 Omani youth.

The factory aims to bring in bus manufacturing technology to the Sultanate, especially in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, and to localise the manufacture of various buses. The project, officially inaugurated last week,

came as part of the strategic investment partnership between the Sultanate, represented by the Oman Investment Authority, which owns 30 percent of the project, and the State of Qatar, represented by Mowasalat, which owns 70 percent stake.

The factory includes a group of technical workshops specialised in the bus industry, most notably cutting, welding, dyeing and assembly workshop. It also includes major multi-purpose warehouses for storing raw materials, components, dyes and chemicals used in the bus industry.

The implementation of the Karwa Automotive Project began in 2019 in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm on an area of 568,000 square metres with an investment of \$71 million, and despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project was able to produce the first bus in November 2021. **>A4**



IN AL DAKHLIYAH GOVERNORATE

Man risks life to save two children stuck in a wadi



HEROIC ACT: Ali bin Nasser Al-Wardi rescuing the kids. - supplied pictures



Times News Service

MUSCAT: A citizen from Al Dakhiliyah Governorate risked his life to save two children from a flash flood in Wadi Bahla on Friday.

Moments back Ali bin Nasser Al-Wardi had little inkling of the impending disaster when he was sitting along with his father in his house and talking about the rains. He even asked his father to go out in the rains and enjoy the beautiful scenery that Wadi Bahla presented at the very beginning of the khareef season.

On his persistence, the father-son duo went out and what they

saw only moments later was chilling. The two children were helplessly into the lap of the fast-flowing wadi and without his intervention, there was little chance of them coming out of this ordeal.

The two children were carrying with them rickety pieces of palm tree trunks in the hope, perhaps, that this would provide them a life chance. It was then that Al Wardi's roared above the waves, 'O Ali, tie a rope around your waist. Another citizen who was closely shouted: "I have a rope and I will bring it to you right away."

So I took off my dishdasha, and my father tied the rope around my waist, one end of which was tightly

held by my father."

Al Wardi said he was only thinking of saving the two children from the icy jaws of death and was fervently praying to God to help him save the two little children.

Force of the flow

Al Wardi continues: "I was resisting the force of the flow and shouting out to the children at the top of my voice asking them not to panic and look around them for anything stable: either a pillar or a tree to hold on to, but to no avail. I somehow reached them and as soon as I touched them, tears began rolling out of their eyes. I hugged them, I comforted them

asking them all the while not to worry. I will carry you out of the valley, but the younger child, perhaps unsure about my assurances blurted out: "I don't want to drown and die, please save me."

Mighty waves

While coming out, Al Wardi was a sight to behold. A frail-looking man in the backdrop of mighty waves, swimming against raging tides and holding on to his dear life in the form of two little children.

Ali's father and a group of citizens who had collected by then, pulled the rope until Ali reached the bank, holding dearly to his trophy—the two children. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN On track to achieve education goals

1 According to a United Nations report, the Sultanate is on the right track in achieving goals related to many aspects, including equality in education. **>A3**

MARKET 'Work at Port of Duqm ongoing at fast pace'

3 All the commercial and government berths, as well as liquid and bulk material facilities at the Port of Duqm in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), are progressing at a fast pace. **>B1**

WORLD Two killed, several injured in shooting

2 Two people were killed and several more wounded in a shooting at a nightclub in Oslo, Norway, on Saturday morning, media reported citing Norwegian authorities. **>A6**



theguideoman.com @guideoman

HOUSEBEAUTIFUL WEBSITE

Muscat in top 3 most beautiful cities

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The capital of the Sultanate of Oman, Muscat is the third most beautiful city in the world, according to the famous 'Housebeautiful' website.

There are many cities around the world, each of them is characterised by landmarks that make them more beautiful and charming for the eyes, and one does not know which cities in the world are more beautiful.

Each city remains tall with its landmarks that attract the onlookers to move between its flanks, contemplating the creativity of the Creator in its mountains, rivers, plains, beaches, mountains and sands, and the creativity of man in what his hands made in sculpting and building unique



landmarks. The city of Muscat is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and the famous 'Housebeautiful' website ranked it the third most beautiful city, ahead of Budapest, Paris, Edinburgh and other cities in the world.

The "u city guides" platform, the 'House Beautiful' platform,

and other sites specialised in tourism and travel mentioned several cities that ranked Muscat in third place after Venice in Italy and Lisbon in Portugal.

Distinctive

So what distinguishes the city of Muscat and what made it obtain the honour of this rank?

At first sight when you visit the city of Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate, you will see its organised streets adorned with wonderfully coordinated lighting poles and elaborate spaces.

You can see tall palm trees, roses, and greenery standing on both sides of the road, cheering its visitors, scattering its fragrant scents, the gentleness of its breath, and the beauty of its view to passersby. **>A5**



OMAN



SHOP NOW

rafeeq.om

PRAYER TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:15pm
Asr.....	3:32pm
Maghrib.....	7:02pm
Isha.....	8:25pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:55am



Escape to Alila Jabal Akhdar for an awesome staycation amid the rugged beauty and fresh air where it's #15DegreesCooler adventure on your doorstep.

Aquamarine blue skies, sun-kissed views, vast peaceful valleys of the Al Hajar mountains, and a plethora of activities to enjoy the season in its truest sense.

- Daily à la carte breakfast for two at Juniper Restaurant
- Sunrise yoga and meditation, based on a weekly schedule
- Play Alila and adventure activities, based on a weekly schedule

ملاذ مميز في أيللا الجبل الأخضر لقضاء إقامة رائعة وسط الجمال الخلاب والهواء النقي حيث تكون مقامة 10 درجة أبرد على غلبة داركم.

سواء زيارت صافية، مناظر مشمسة، وديان شائعة، وهدوء جبال الحجر الساكن، و العذيق. من الأنشطة الحصرية للاستمتاع بالموسم كما يجب.

- إلتفاز يومي من قائمة مختارة لشخصين في مطعم جونير
- يومنا الشروق والتأمل، بناء على جدول أسبوعي
- يوم أيللا وأنشطة المغامرة، بناء على جدول أسبوعي

alilahotel.com +968 2534 4200

@AlilaJabalAkhdar alilahotel.com/alilahakhdar



Foreign Minister receives copy of credentials of Bangladesh envoy

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, received on Thursday a copy of credentials of Mohammed Nazmul Islam, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh appointed to the Sultanate of Oman. Sayyid Badr welcomed the ambassador and wished him success in carrying out his duties. He also wished the bilateral relations between the two countries further progress and prosperity. -ONA



Oman to mark International Day for Drug Control today

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman on Sunday will participate with the countries around the world in celebrating the International Day for Drug Control. The day falls on 26 June each year with the slogan (Yes to a safe drug society) that aims to address the scourge of drugs as a shared responsibility between the authorities concerned and society. This year's celebration includes holding exhibitions and awareness lectures directed to the community, implemented by the awareness

team specialised in the General Administration of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Control and the geographical departments in the governorates. **Drug crimes** The General Department of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Control of the Royal Oman Police said that most countries suffer from the scourge of drug crimes and has social, economic, health and security dimensions. The international reports is-

sued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime indicate that there is a remarkable growth in drug crimes worldwide, whether through the emergence of new types of narcotic substances or the emergence of advanced methods of manufacturing, concealment and smuggling. Controlling this problem is a very difficult task, as authorities predict an increase in the volume of production of narcotic substances with newer methods of smuggling operations. -ONA



شركة تنمية طاقة عُمان

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT OMAN

WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE EDO AS HOST SPONSOR FOR THE SUMMIT



GREEN HYDROGEN SUMMIT OMAN

DEC 5-7, 2022

MUSCAT, SULTANATE OF OMAN

GLOBAL SUMMIT & EXHIBITION

AT OMAN CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

TOWARDS A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY



greenhydrogensummitoman.com

Green-hydrogen-summit-oman

@ghs_oman

Shifa Hospital now empaneled by National Life Insurance & General Insurance Company SAOG



MUSCAT: Shifa Hospital is happy to announce that its CEO Dr Salim Al Ghanami and Mr. Gopinath Govindan, Chief Business Officer at National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG, joined hands to sign the MoU on 22nd June, 2022. Shifa Hospital, a multi-specialty private hospital in the heart of Muscat and a fully-fledged, tertiary care medical service with state-of-the-art infrastructure, has now been empaneled by National Life Insurance for Band A Category. National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG is the first and largest Omani insurance company providing a comprehensive range of innovative life and general insurance services. Shifa hospital is a purpose-built healthcare facility taking all the steps to deliver the best possible medical service and experience to its guests/patients with zone-wise concepts for infection control, separate entrances to each department for the patients' convenience, with a unique model of Centralisation Sterile Services Department (CSSD) and more; built on a foundation of skilled and dedicated professionals. Mr. Gopinath Govindan, Chief Business Officer at National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG, said: "Shifa hospital is a great facility for private healthcare in the Sultanate." The hospital has impressive state of the art facilities and a neat design. As a recently constructed hospital, its innovative infrastructure along with the latest features and facilities, make me certain that patients will be receiving the best private hospital services. National Life has always been at the forefront of providing life and general insurance to residents of the Sultanate, and I'm sure in the coming days and months our insured members will be visiting this Seeb facility. "I feel there are many good prospects for Shifa Hospital and I wish the very best to the entire team and Shifa Hospital knows that this empanelment with National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG will be helpful in providing exemplary service and ease of mind to its patients. It is yet another milestone in its mission to deliver the very best to patients, and it looks forward to continuing to achieve this with honour and excellence."

FOR THE LOVE OF IT



Call Center Number 24 596 999



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER
Download the app

OMAN

Interest rate up to **2.5%**

Get Higher Returns with **HIGH-YIELD SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

For more information

بنك ظفار
BankDhofar

the best bank for you

24791111 | www.bankdhofar.com

Oman right on track in achieving goals of sustainable education

Dr Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibaniya, Minister of Education, Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqia, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Innovation attended the opening session

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A two-day symposium on 'Learning Loss in the Light of the Corona Pandemic: Its Effects and Methods of Remediation' began under the auspices of HE Dr. Said bin Muhammad Al-Saqri, Minister of Economy on 24 June at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Dr Madiha bint Ahmed Al Shaibaniya, Minister of Education, Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqia, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Innovation attended the opening session with a number of honourees, their excellencies undersecretaries, chief executives, educational experts from international organisations (UNESCO, UNICEF, ESCWA) concerned with the education sector, academics, researchers and specialists from institutions of higher education and technical and vocational education, special-



ists in curriculum development, educational supervision, evaluation and teacher training and representatives of the Follow-up Unit for the Implementation of Oman Vision 2040, civil society institutions and the private sector, as well as representatives of the youth and people with disabilities.

The agenda of the symposium was finding a package of alternatives to mitigate the educational losses and address its effects according to educational plans in line with the global approach in standing up to the challenges faced due to the spread of the pandemic.

Early recovery
The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the education sector, has

taken the initiative to participate in many seminars and meetings in order to exchange experiences on the best practices followed by educational systems in the world for the early recovery to ensure the sustainability of education and building stronger and more flexible educational systems that have a greater ability to serve students.

The Symposium began with a speech by Dr Madiha Al Shaibaniya, Minister of Education, in which she said: "Due to the importance of conducting comprehensive educational assessments for the post-pandemic stage, the importance of good compensatory education for all learners, and to benefit from the success stories achieved in light of the spread of the pandemic, this

symposium aims at identifying the adverse impact of the pandemic on the educational sector and the remedies there of to correct the losses. This has enabled the education system to find a package of alternatives to mitigate the losses and address the anomalies according to educational plans that are in line with the global approach. The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the education sector, took the initiative to participate in many seminars and meetings in order to exchange experiences on the best practices followed by educational systems in the world for the early recovery in the post-pandemic phases to ensure the sustainability of education and building stronger and more flexible educational systems that have a greater ability to serve students."

The Minister pointed out: "Despite the low level of indicators of achieving sustainable development goals, especially the fourth goal related to education, the United Nations report ranked the Sultanate of Oman in the first place among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in achieving the goals of sustainable development of the United Nations for the year 2022. The report also indicated that the Sultanate of Oman is on

the right track in achieving goals related to many aspects, including equality in education, which reflects the pivotal importance of the sustainable development file within the national agenda."

Dr. Rahma Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, said: "This symposium is replete with many positive and progressive ideas, which will undoubtedly have a great impact in shedding light on the reality of education in the Sultanate of Oman and anticipating its future features in line with the strategic national plans based on the priorities of the Oman vision 2040 and in line with the objectives of the renewed renaissance and will be an essential tributary to achieve the goals for which it was held, including the sustainability and quality of education in its two parts (school education and higher education)."

Dr. Rahma Al Mahrouqi stated: "The higher education in the Sultanate of Oman has witnessed, over the past years, steady growth and significant positive transformations that came in line with the rapid global developments in various fields. In this direction, the Ministry has taken many steps to support and develop higher educa-

tion, including paying attention to the training system of professional development, increasing the dose of practical training in higher education institutions, diversifying its sources and linking it to the labor market, supporting the efforts aimed at these institutions to improve the quality of higher education and occupy advanced ranks in international classifications, establishing solid bases for scientific research, innovation and entrepreneurship in these institutions, and supporting the establishment of innovative start-ups through various programmes such as the "Upgrade" program to transform students' projects into start-ups and the "Manafa" programme that supports the creation of startup-based companies."

Vision of education
Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, gave a speech in which she said: "This symposium is indicative of the Sultanate of Oman's vision of education as a cornerstone for achieving a sustainable and more prosperous future, as is evident in Oman's 2040 vision. The Covid-19 was a clear call to start the transformation, as our societies have become increasingly more dependent on each other and more connected to each other and the digital revolution affects and increases the pace of change in all aspects of our lives. The climate change and biodiversity loss are also weakening our planet, while inequality is exacerbating the division in our societies. In order to address these issues, we must have discussions about the kind of education we need to have more sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and equitable future education, this is in fact the ambition of deciding to reimagine the future together."

Full story @ timesofoman.com/oman

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

24,000 REACH

Rain is expected to continue in parts of Oman for the third consecutive day.

Story on rainfall to continue in some parts of Oman

A story on rainfall to continue in some parts of Oman reached 24,000 people and had 2,065 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

2,000 VIEWS

TTV video on 8th International Day of Yoga at Indian School Muscat had 2,000 views and reached 11,100 people on Facebook.

📺 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,562 VIEWS

Maghrib Minute news wrap video had 1,562 views and 74 likes on Instagram.

شركة تأجير المركبات ش.م.م.
Vehicle Leasing Company (LLC)

Leaders in Leasing

Choose from a wide range of brand new Freezer & Dry body trucks, Buses, Pickups, SUVs, Sedans or PDO spec vehicle to lease.

Custom made solution for Corporates, Government & individual customers.

Branches:
Ghala : 95500295, Sohar : 95345334
Duqm: 95332895, Salalah: 97124671, Wattayah : 95421249

For more details, contact:
94394301 / 95692420



OMAN



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



HM the Sultan chairs meeting of Supreme Judicial Council

His Majesty the Sultan underlined the contents of the Royal Decree that come in line with the Basic Law of the State and goals of Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik chaired a meeting of the Supreme Judicial Council at Al Barakah Palace on Thursday.

The meeting comes in pursuance of His Majesty's attention to promote the judicial work after the issuance of Royal Decree No.



(35/2022) on governing the administration of judicial affairs.

During the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan underlined the

contents of this Royal Decree that come in line with the Basic Law of the State and goals of Oman Vision 2040. His Majesty also

stressed the importance enhancing integration between all judicial authorities on the one hand, and between them and other units

of the state's administrative apparatus in a manner that serves the public interest.

His Majesty instructed that all

necessary legal measures to be taken for the amendment of the laws and royal decrees related to the judicial work in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned decree.

His Majesty also underscored the importance of continue upgrading the judicial system and the governance of its procedures to cope with the government's approach towards digital transformation and meet Oman Visions 2040 in a bid to achieve the desired goals.

His Majesty the Sultan also instructed the Appeal Administrative Departments and the Primary Administrative Departments to continue considering the cases brought before them until the beginning of the next judicial year, provided that the consideration of cases shall resume in accordance with the aforementioned Royal Decree at the beginning of the judicial year.

May the almighty Allah protect His Majesty the Sultan as a source of pride for this dear homeland. May He perpetuate the blessings of prosperity and welfare on all citizens and residents! -**ONA**





شركة النجد للتنمية الزراعية

Al Najd Agriculture Development Company

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDERS

The Al Najd Agriculture Development Co (S.A.O.C) (invites following tender:

Tender No	Description	Tender Price	Grade	Date of Buying	Last Date of Submission
Al Najd-1/2022	Power Supply to to the Dowkah farm in Dhofar Governorate	(R.O) 85/=	“B” and Above	23/06/2022 until 05/07/2022	11/08/2022

The Conditions:

- Collection of Tender: Interested and Specialized Companies with Grade "B" and above which registered with Tanweer, Tender Board and Distribution Code Review Panel (DCRP) for Electrical Works for tender Al Najd-(1/2022) may obtain the Tender documents from company Muscat office Ghala Area at Wilayat Boshar against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of documents. The tender may be collected on any working day between 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- Bank Guarantee: The Tenderer should enclose a bank guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for an amount equivalent to (1%) of the tender value with a validity of (90) Days from the last date of submission and addressed to Al Najd Agriculture Development Co (S.A.O.C).
- Offers Submission: The offer for tender (Al Najd-1/2022) should be submitted in One sealed envelope with red wax addressed to the Chairman of Board, Al Najd Agriculture Development Co (S.A.O.C) marked with tender number and the subject. Other marks or any reference must not be printed outside the envelope. The exterior of the envelope containing the tender document must not reveal the identity of the Tenderer.
- Offers Submission: offers for tender (Al Najd-1/2022) should be submitted in Two sealed envelopes (Financial & Technical) with red wax addressed to the Chairman of Board, Al Najd Agriculture Development Co (S.A.O.C) marked with tender number and the subject. Other marks or any reference must not be printed outside the envelopes. The exterior of the envelopes containing the tender document must not reveal the identity of the Tenderer.
- Submission Location: The Completed Tender should be deposited in the Tender Box at the Al Najd Agriculture Development Co (S.A.O.C), Muscat office Ghala Area at Wilayat Boshar, before 12:00 PM on the last date of submission.
- Al Najd Agriculture Development Copmany (S.A.O.C) without mentioning the reason is not bound to accept the lowest or any other tender.

For more information, please call: 98048123 or 99773774

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN DUQM



< FROM A1 Karwa Bus Factory a strategic venture between Oman, Qatar

Jassim bin Saif Al-Sulaiti, Minister of Transport of the State of Qatar, stressed the strong relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and Qatar, thanks to the wise guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and their keenness to develop these relations in various fields.

The transport minister of Qatar told the Oman News Agency that Karwa Bus Factory, located in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm, represents one of the most important strategic projects between the two countries that are working to open investment horizons in many vital and promising sectors, thus enhancing their efforts towards achieving economic diversification through the development of a group of related industries. He added that the factory will contribute to supporting the Qatari market's needs of buses, especially since its production plans target the Qatari and Omani markets in particular, and the region's markets in general, in pursuit of global markets.

For his part, Dr. Saad bin Ahmed Al Mohannadi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Karwa Automotive Company, explained that the company's factory in the Special Economic Zone in Duqm is the only factory in the Gulf region in which the entire bus body is manufactured and part of the chassis is manufactured.

He said the company sought to transfer the bus industry to the Special Economic Zone in Duqm, enhance value to the industrial sector in the Sultanate of Oman, and establish small and medium enterprises that will serve the factory during the coming period, in addition to providing job opportunities for Omani youth.

He added that the company has a production line for electric buses and that the company's target markets at the moment are the Gulf and African markets.

Dr. Ibrahim bin Ali Al Balushi, CEO of Karwa Automotive Company, stressed that the Karwa Bus Factory is equipped to manufacture electric buses in the future, as the factory's facilities have been designed to go in line with this trend and the changes taking place in this sector, praising the company's capabilities, working human competencies, facilities, technical services, and the large areas through which it can manufacture electric buses.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Balushi stressed that the factory focuses on the process of quality control and high specifications so that it can produce buses with a high value that reflects its value in other markets, noting that 25 percent of the factory's products will be allocated to the local market and the rest to the Gulf and regional markets.

He explained that the local market is one of the target markets, as Karwa Company participated in several tenders in the Sultanate of Oman for semi-governmental bodies to supply buses and is currently working with several bodies to supply buses to them, as this type of industry needs internal support in the early stages of its sustainability and help it advance, and its results will be impressive. -**ONA**



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER

Download the app

OMAN

NEW

HELLO OMAN!

Presented By:





GO FRESH
GO TASTY

GO JUICY

only 100 baisa



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Sultanate’s Hajj delegation heads to the Holy Land

MUSCAT: The Omani Hajj Mission for 1443 AH left here on Saturday to the sacred lands, under the chairmanship of Sultan Said Al Hinai. The mission was seen off at Muscat International Airport by Dr. Mohammed Said Al Mamari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Abdullah bin Saud Al Anzi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accredited to the Sultanate of Oman and a number of officials at the Ministry.

Upon arrival at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah, the mission would proceed to Makkah Al Mukaramah (Makkah) and a team from the mission would proceed in three days to Al Madinah Al Munawarah (Medina).

During the stay, the mission would serve the Hajjis and supervises on performance of their rites.

The mission comprises the Ifta and religious guidance delegation, the administrative and financial delegation, the delegation supervising on Hajj companies, the medical delegation, SAI delegation, Royal Oman Police (ROP) delegation, the media delegation and the scouts’ delegation. It is worth mentioning that the number of Hajjis (pilgrims) of the Sultanate of Oman for the year amounted to 8,338 including 200 residents and the number of companies authorised to organise Hajj tours stood at 96 companies. — **ONA**



JOCKEYS PERFORM AT AL RAHBA HORSE RACECOURSE

A group of Omani horse riders performed Al Ardha Horse Show at Al Rahba racecourse in the Wilayat of Barka, South Al Batinah Governorate. The jockeys displayed their skills and performance. The UNESCO Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage listed in 2018 the horse and camel show in a separate dossier for the Sultanate of Oman within the list representing the intangible cultural heritage.

— **ONA**



CITY OF MUSCAT

< FROM A1 The sea and sand

HEROIC ACT

< FROM A1 ‘I thank the God’

The city where the sun sang for her on the beach of love in Qurum, and the mighty mountains applauded her in Al Amerat, Ruwi, and Aflaj Bausher, which originates from Ain Al Hamam in Bausher, which does justice to the highest temperature in the Sultanate of 65 degrees Celsius.

In the city of Muscat, the sea, sand and towering hills embrace each other and it is the first place where the sun rises in the Middle East. Muscat is the city that fascinated poets and writers, and they said in it the most beautiful poems. No wonder, the Omani capital, Muscat, is located below the rocky mountains, and it is one of the oldest and most charming and beautiful cities in the Middle East. Between its Corniche areas and its modern neighborhoods, there are Portuguese-style forts, blue-domed mosques, royal palaces and markets, all bearing the character and atmosphere of ancient Arab life.

When you visit the city of Muscat, you can visit the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, which was built in a purely religious architectural way, and the Royal Opera House, which has unparalleled architecture, with an impressive décor. And you can also visit its museum like Al Tifl museum, Bait Al Zubair Museum, Al Baranda Museum, Sultan’s Armed Forces Museum, and others.

Ahmed Jaaboub from Dhofar Governorate said: “Muscat, the Omani capital, transcends the barrier of beauty, dazzle, inspiration and organisation to become the global city across the continents of the world. This is Muscat, upon which the sun of the Middle East shines with its blessed light, to spread the splendor between the corridors of life and the mountains that embrace the sky.”

Moadh Al-Saidi, from Wilayat Al-Khaboura in North Al Batinah, said: “Muscat is the third best city in the world, and it is a wonderful news that makes us happy, and that enhances the position of Muscat in our hearts and on the global tourism and cultural map.”



MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Advertisement No. 18/2022

Muscat Municipality invites interested companies to the following tenders:

Tender No.	Tender Description	Documents Fee	Deadline for inquiries submission	Deadline for obtaining Tender Docs.	Deadline for Tender Submission
43/2022/MM/-PA-10	Supply of Tires	25/- OMR	12/07/2022	28/07/2022	01/08/2022
44/2022/MM/-PA-11	Supply of Lubricant Oils	25/- OMR	12/07/2022	28/07/2022	01/08/2022
45/2022/MM/-PA-12	Maintenance of Photocopiers, Faxes Machines & Central Printers	25/- OMR	12/07/2022	28/07/2022	01/08/2022
46/2022/MM/-PA-13	Supply of Public Health Tools and Pesticides	25/- OMR	12/07/2022	28/07/2022	01/08/2022
47/2022/MM/-PA-14	Supply of Garbage Bags (Specified for SMEs)	25/- OMR	12/07/2022	28/07/2022	01/08/2022

- Specialized Companies with a valid registration certificate from Tender Board can obtain tender documents from the website through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. Starting from the date of this announcement until the end of deadline mentioned above.
- Bidders shall submit their offers electronically through link mentioned above.
- Tender Bonds shall be E-Bond which is equivalent to (1%) of the total value of the tender to be submitted through E-Tendering system, addressed to Muscat Municipality and valid for (90) days starting from the deadline for submission.
- Tender not accompanied by a tender bond will be rejected.
- Clarifications and support:
 - For any inquiries regarding tenders, please contact us through e-tendering website: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
 - For technical support of e-tendering system, please send an email to etenderhd@mtc.gov.om or call (+96824402200).
 - For technical support of E-Bond through e-tendering system please send an email to esnad@gstb.gov.om or call (+96824402200/24402330).

Website: www.mm.gov.om

Suspected nightclub shooting kills two, injures 21 in Oslo

The suspect “has a long history of violence and threats” as well as mental illness

OSLO: Norway raised their terror alert level after a man killed two people outside a popular nightclub in Oslo on Saturday.

Police said that the alleged shooter was known to the police since 2015. The authorities are treating the incident as an “act of Islamist terrorism,” the officials said.

The suspect “has a long history of violence and threats” as well as mental illness, authorities said. Acting chief of Norway’s domestic intelligence service PST, Roger Berg, said the alleged shooter has been on the agency’s radar n suspicion of membership “in an Islamist extremist network.”

Previously, police confirmed two people were killed and more than a dozen injured in the shooting, which came just hours before Oslo’s annual parade.

The parade’s organisers, , said



police have advised them to cancel the event.

“Oslo therefore urges everyone who planned to participate or watch the parade to not show up. All events in connection with parade are cancelled,” organisers said on the official Facebook page of the event.

The incident happened near the London Pub in central Oslo, according to reports. Norwegian broadcaster TV2 showed footage of people running in the streets in panic as shots rang out in the background.

The Oslo police department said

in a tweet that two people were “confirmed dead.” Three people were seriously injured, and 19 received medical treatment, they added.

“I saw a man arrive with a bag, he picked up a gun and started to shoot,” said witness Olav Roenneberg, who works for the public broadcaster NRK. “First, I thought it was an air gun. Then the glass of the bar next door was shattered, and I understood I had to run for cover.”

“The shooting outside London Pub in Oslo tonight was a cruel and deeply shocking attack on innocent people,” Prime Minister Jonas

Gahr Stoere said in a Facebook post.

He added that the shooting had caused fear and grief. “We all stand by you,” Stoere wrote.

Police said they detained a 42-year-old Norwegian citizen of Iranian origin minutes after he began shooting. He was apprehended with the help of citizens, police added.

The suspect is believed to have acted alone, according to the police. They said they retrieved two weapons, including a fully automatic gun, from the crime scene.

-DW



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



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

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

AFTERSHOCK

5 killed, 11 injured in Afghanistan’s quake aftershock

KABUL: At least five people were killed and 11 others were injured after an aftershock hit a district of the quake-hit Afghanistan’s Paktika on Friday.

“Unfortunately, once again an earthquake hit Gayan district of Paktika province roughly at 10 am local time Friday (0530 GMT) based on the initial information, five people were killed and 11 others injured,” the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, cited by Xinhua News Agency.

On early Wednesday, a 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted parts of Afghanistan including the capital city Kabul. At present, over 1,000 people are estimated to have been killed across Barmal and Giyan districts in Paktika province, and Spera district in Khost province. In addition, at least 1,455 people have been injured across

three of the six most affected districts of Barmal, Giyan, and Spera - many of them seriously.

Meanwhile, India on Thursday delivered the second consignment of relief assistance on Friday to support the people of Afghanistan badly affected by the earthquake.

The relief batch that reached Kabul is the second one in two days, being given in the wake of a devastating earthquake that claimed more than 1,000 lives.

“Second consignment of India’s earthquake relief assistance for the people of Afghanistan reaches Kabul,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet. The relief assistance consists of essential items including family ridge tents, sleeping bags, blankets, sleeping mats, etc. **ANI**

ECONOMIC CRISIS

Humanitarian consignment from India reaches Sri Lanka

COLOMBO: India provided a humanitarian consignment worth more than SLR 3 billion to Sri Lanka, which is facing the worst economic crisis since its independence.

According to the High Commission of India in Colombo, the consignment comprises rice, milk powder and essential medicines.

“From the people of #India to the people of #SriLanka!!! High Commissioner, Hon’ble Ministers @Keheliya_R, Nalin Fernando, MPs, various dignitaries and officials welcomed a large humanitarian consignment worth more than SLR 3 billion from #Tuticorn today. The 15,000 MT consignment consists of rice, milk powder and essential medicines,” the High Commission said in a tweet.

India was among the first few countries to extend its aid to Sri Lanka to mitigate the unprecedented economic crisis. New Delhi has provided a concessional loan of USD 1 billion to Sri Lanka for the supply of food, fuel, medicines, and other essential items.

In May, the food inflation in Sri Lanka stood at 574 per cent, while shortages of key food items, as well as fuel for cooking, transport, and industry, remain widespread, with ongoing daily power outages.

The economy is bracing for a sharp contraction due to the



unavailability of basic inputs for production, an 80 per cent depreciation of the currency (since March 2022), coupled with a lack of foreign reserves and the country’s failure to meet its international debt obligations.

The high-level Indian delegation led by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra visited Sri Lanka recently and underscored that the recent economic, financial and humanitarian assistance of over USD 3.5 billion to the island country was guided by New Delhi’s “Neighbourhood First” Policy.

The delegation comprising Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor and Kartik Pande, Joint Secretary, Indian Ocean Region, Ministry of External Affairs was in Colombo on Thursday.

The delegation had meetings with Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe during the visit. **ANI**

WE HAVE OUR OWN STATE-OF-THE-ART MOTOR GARAGE

SCAN TO REACH OUR GARAGE IN MUSCAT 24 503685

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

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

Make Your Own Juicy Chicken Burgers at Home!

1 No. 1 CHOICE OF OMAN

الصفا A'SAFFA

A name you can trust اسم يمكنك الوثوق به

in f t w i a s a f f a . c o m



YOU ORDER
WE DELIVER
Download the app

US officials outline Donald Trump’s ‘brazen’ takeover bid, pressure campaign

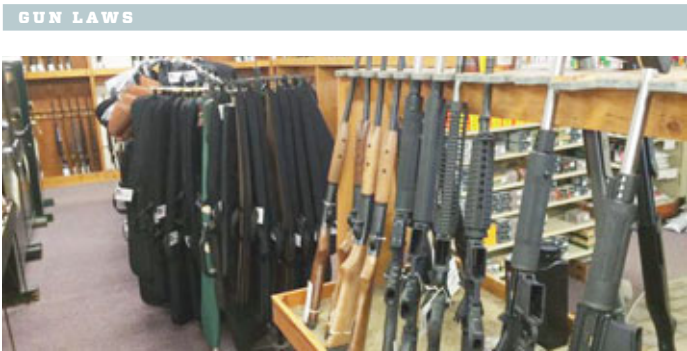
The House of Representatives panel described Trump’s pressure on officials to augment his false claims that his presidency had been stolen

WASHINGTON: US lawmakers probing the Capitol attacks of January 2021 on Thursday focused on how former President Donald Trump, in his final weeks in the Oval Office, tried to install a loyalist atop the Justice Department in an illegal attempt to stay in power. At this month’s fifth public hearing, the House of Representatives panel investigating the causes of the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 described Trump’s pressure on officials to augment his false claims that his presidency had been stolen by widespread voter fraud. “Donald Trump didn’t just want the Justice Department to investigate. He wanted the Justice Department to help legitimize his lies, to baselessly call the election corrupt,” committee chairman Bennie Thompson said. Trump sought to replace Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen with Jeffrey Clark, a Justice Department environmental lawyer and strong supporter of the ex-president’s debunked voter fraud theories.



“It was a brazen attempt to use the Justice Department to advance the president’s personal political agenda,” Thompson said. The committee heard from three Trump-era Justice Department officials, including Rosen, who recounted persistent pressure from the president. They recollected getting directives to chase down baseless allegations that the election won by Democrat Joe Biden had been stolen. The officials said they ignored each demand from Trump because there was no evidence of widespread fraud, then came together when the president mulled whether to replace the department’s top lawyer with a little-known, mid-level official willing to help undo the election’s results. Highlighting the magnitude of Trump’s pressure on the department, Rosen said that in late December 2020 and early January 2021, the former president contacted him almost daily. “At one point, he had raised the question of having a special counsel for election fraud.... he raised whether the Justice Department would file a lawsuit in the Supreme Court,” Rosen said. “At a couple of junctures, there were questions about making public statements or about holding a press conference,” he added. Meanwhile, nearly an hour before the hearing began on Thursday, it was revealed that federal agents had searched Clark’s Virginia home the previous day. It was, however, not immediately apparent what agents were seeking. **Trump allies sought preemptive pardons** On Thursday, witnesses also told the House committee that at least five congressional Republican allies of Donald Trump sought

White House pardons after backing his attempts to overturn his 2020 election blow. The panel screened video testimony from Trump White House aides that showed that Republican Representatives Andy Biggs, Mo Brooks, Matt Gaetz, Louie Gohmert and Scott Perry sought pardons from Trump that could have protected them against prosecution for any activities they may have been involved in before or during the January 6 riots. Brooks said in a statement that he was seeking the pardon because of “a concern Democrats would abuse the judicial system by prosecuting and jailing Republicans.” Meanwhile, Representative Adam Kinzinger, a Republican on the Democrat-led committee, remarked: “The only reason I know to ask for a pardon is because you think you’ve committed a crime.” **mw**



Joe Biden signs bipartisan gun safety bill into law

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed the first major federal gun reform in three decades, hailing the new legislation as “monumental” in view of the huge political divisions over gun control that prevail in the country. His signing of the gun safety bill comes just days after the Supreme Court ruled that the US Constitution protected the right to carry handguns in public for self-defense. It also comes a month after a mass shooting at an elementary school in Texas claimed the lives of 19 children and two teachers. any continuing intimate relationships. Under current law a person is only barred from purchasing a gun if they are convicted of domestic violence while married to, living with or having a child with the victim. However, the law does not ban sales of assault-style rifles or high-capacity magazines, which Biden called for earlier this month. The mandatory background checks on all gun purchases wanted by Biden and Democrats are also lacking.

‘I’m never going to give up’ At the signing, Biden said, “While this bill doesn’t do everything I want, it does include actions I’ve long called for that are going to save lives.” “When it seems impossible to get anything done in Washington, we are doing something consequential,” he added. “I know there’s much more work to do and I’m never going to give up.” The United States has the highest rates of gun ownership and mass shootings among wealthy nations. The US Supreme Court on Thursday rejected as unconstitutional New York state’s limits, introduced in 1913, on carrying concealed handguns in public. It is expected that the judges’ 6-3 decision could ultimately allow more people to legally carry guns on the streets of New York and other large cities such as Los Angeles and Boston. **mw**

COUP ATTEMPT

Ecuador President Guillermo Lasso accuses Indigenous protesters of attempted coup



QUITO: Ecuador’s president has accused Indigenous protesters of trying to overthrow his government. The protests, often turning violent, have entered their 13th day in the South American country straddling the equator. “The real intention of these violent people is to stage a coup,” President Guillermo Lasso said in a televised address. “We call on the international community to warn of this attempt to destabilize democracy in Ecuador.” He was referring to the protests called by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities (CONAIE) demanding a cut in already subsidized but rising fuel prices. Protesters have also called for more jobs, food price controls and more public spending on health care and education. **Rallies turn violent** Lasso again offered dialogue to end the demonstrations, but shortly after his speech thousands of protesters clashed with police near the congress building in the capital, Quito. Police fired tear gas following a volley of rocks, fireworks and Molotov cocktails thrown by protesters. While about 14,000 people

have joined the protests in Ecuador, the bulk of the action is in Quito, where some 10,000 people, mostly from other parts of the country, took to the streets. Clashes between protesters and security forces have left six people dead and dozens injured, resulting in six of the country’s 24 provinces being placed under a state of emergency while a nighttime curfew was imposed in the capital. The Health Ministry said two people died in ambulances delayed by road blockades. Interior Minister Patricio Carrillo said criminals armed with firearms have infiltrated the marches. In Quito, protesters blocking roads caused food and fuel shortages in the city. Groups of protesters also attacked vehicles and civilians and forced the closure of businesses, some of which were looted. Human Rights International said four of its staff members were physically attacked and robbed on Thursday in Quito. **Attempt to remove the president** Lawmakers from the Union por la Esperanza (UNES) caucus, linked to former leftist President Rafael

Correa, began a legislative process seeking Lasso’s removal on Friday. “The country can’t take it anymore,” said UNES lawmaker Fausto Jarrin. “Dialogue is being broken by all sides, with violence.” This move was rejected by other parties, including Lasso’s, who said they support dialogue between the government and Indigenous groups. It would take the votes of at least 92 lawmakers of the assembly’s 137 lawmakers to remove Lasso, while Union has only 47 seats. CONAIE leader Leonidas Iza said he supports attempts to remove Lasso. **‘Progressive use of force’** Lasso has announced subsidized fertilizers, bank debt forgiveness and budget increases for health and education, but at the same time warned he will use all legal tools to contain the violence unleashed by the demonstrations. “The real intention of Mr. Iza is the overthrow of the government,” Lasso said. “The national police and the armed forces will act with necessary measures to defend under the law, using progressive use of force.” **mw**

FOR COST EFFECTIVE PALETTE FURNITURE SOLUTIONS

Call us on **99614066**

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

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





SHOP NOW

rafeeq.com



Iga Swiatek to face Jana Fett in Wimbledon opener

Swiatek, the freshly crowned French Open champion, will look to extend her 35-match winning streak

LONDON: Iga Swiatek, the world No.1, last year's runner-up Karolina Pliskova, and seven-time champion Serena Williams are all in the top half of the draw for the Wimbledon women's singles.

Swiatek, the freshly crowned French Open champion, will look to extend her 35-match winning streak when she takes on qualifier Jana Fett after Friday's draw at the All England Club. The 21-year-old Pole could face former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu, American No.8 seed Jessica Pegula or 2017 winner Garbine Muguruza in the quarter-finals.

Lying in wait for Swiatek as



potential semi-final opponents are Pliskova, Williams, No.4 seed Paula Badosa, and two-time champion Petra Kvitova.

Also in the loaded top half is No.16 seed Simona Halep, who faces a daunting task in her first match at Wimbledon since clinching the title in 2019. The Romanian faces crafty Czech and two-time quarter-finalist Karolina Muchova. Williams, who hasn't

played a singles match since last year's Wimbledon, received a wild card into the main draw and opens her quest for a record 24th Grand Slam title against French world No.113 Harmony Tan.

The 40-year-old could face Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo, the No.32 seed, in the second round and possibly Pliskova, the No.6 seed, in the third round.

American teenager Coco Gauff,

who reached the Roland-Garros final, is a potential fourth-round opponent for Williams and begins her campaign against Elena-Gabriela Ruse of Romania.

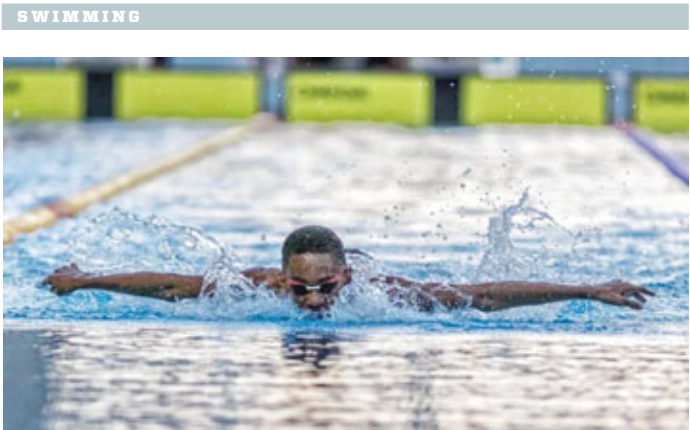
The bottom half of the draw features recent Berlin champion and No.3 seed Ons Jabeur, home favourite and No.10 seed Emma Raducanu, Greek No.5 seed Maria Sakkari, and in-form pair Belinda Bencic and Beatriz Haddad Maia.

Raducanu is projected to meet the Australian Open runner-up and No.9 seed Danielle Collins in the fourth round, with Jabeur or former champion Angelique Kerber looming ahead as potential quarter-final opponents.

Sakkari faces Australian qualifier Zoe Hives in the first round and could face Estonian No.2 seed Anett Kontaveit in the quarter-finals.

There are some exciting possible match-ups in the third round: Muguruza possibly facing Andreescu, Badosa projected to take on Kvitova, Amanda Anisimova standing in Gauff's path and Bencic slated to meet Haddad Maia.

A decision on who will open Centre Court play on Tuesday, in the absence of last year's champion Ashleigh Barty has been deferred. **ANI**



National team under-16 swimmer to take part in Budapest championship

MUSCAT: National Swimming Team under-16 swimmer Nasser Saif al Kindi will participate in the world swimming championship scheduled in Budapest, Hungary from 18 June to 3 July.

The championship is one of the toughest world competitions organised by the International Swimming Federation every four years. Over 2,500 swimmers representing over 180 countries are taking part in the championship.

Nasser Al Kindi has participated in four different GCC championship. He has participated in the 10-year category in the 25th in the water games championship in Doha, Qatar in 2015, the 13-14

year category in the 17th Open Waters Swimming Championship for the GCC States, organised in Kuwait in 2019 and in the 13-14 year-category in the 15 th Short Course (25 metre) Swimming Championship held in Kuwait in 2019.

In 2021, Nasser Al Kindi participated in the 15-17 year -category of the 28th Water Games Championship of the GCC States, organised in Qatar. "This is one of the important championships at the world level, as it enables the participating swimmers compete with other swimmers with good experience in the field," said Nasser Al Kindi. **ONA**

ROYAL CAVALRY

Royal Cavalry wins big in France

PARIS: The Royal Cavalry at the Royal Court Affairs secured the first place and the second place in the competitions of the first round held at the French Race-course of Dax. The first round was allocated for thorough-bred Arabian horses for 1,400 metres.

Horse Safwa for the Royal Cavalry (horse rider Jarry Sinshaz and Trainer Elizabeth Bernard) secured the first place while Horse Fatinah for the Royal Cavalry (Horse rider Michael Forest) secured the second place. **ONA**



CRICKET

Ben Stokes becomes first Test player to hit century of sixes and bag 100 wickets

LEEDS: England all-rounder and Test captain Ben Stokes is now the first Test cricketer to have hit 100 sixes and have taken 100 wickets.

The star English all-rounder achieved this landmark during the third and final Test at Headingley in Leeds. In the first innings, Stokes played a short knock of 18 in 13 balls, consisting of two fours and a six. The six helped him reach a century of sixes in the longest format of the game.

In 81 Tests, Stokes has already taken 177 wickets at an average of 32.67 and economy rate of 3.29.

Coming to the match, England currently trails by 65 runs in the Test match.

After bundling out New Zealand for 329, England batsman had absolutely no idea what was about to hit them. They were left defenceless as pacer Trent Boult destroyed its top order, dismissing Alex Lees (4), Zak Crawley (6) and Ollie Pope

(5) within the first seven overs. It reduced England to 17/3.

Star batter Joe Root (5) could not do much either. Bairstow and captain Ben Stokes tried to rebuild the innings for England, but Stokes fell for 18 to pacer Neil Wagner, followed by wicketkeeper Ben Foakes for a duck three balls later. England had sunk to 55/6. After that, Bairstow and Wagner took control of England's innings. **ANI**



IVMS TRACKING

tawasol

Features
Working Hours' Report
Trip Report | Geo Zones
Average Speed (km/h)

Basic tracking rates

1-10 vehicles	2.75 OMR
11-25 vehicles	2.60 OMR
26-50 vehicles	2.45 OMR
51-100 vehicles	2.30 OMR
100+ vehicles	contact us

* Terms and conditions apply
* Prices per device per month

For more information
info@tawasoltechnologies.com

9590 1025



Panasonic

CONQUER SUMMER

JETSTREAM

- JETSTREAM 25m Powerful Airflow
- Powerful Cooling
- Fast and effective compressor
- Long piping length

 **Best-selling Air Conditioners in Oman**



Oman Marketing and Services Company L.L.C.
Partner to the Best Brands
P.O. Box: 2734; P.C.: 112; Ruwi, Tel.: 24665762, Fax: 24565841
www.omasco.com

 Panasonic Oman  @OmascoLLC  Panasenicom  OmascoRetail.Feedback@alfuttaim.com  Service WhatsApp # 24582188

*Features available in V and PV series only

Available across all Omasco retail outlets. Also available in leading Hypermarkets & Dealers.

VODAFONE SIGNS PACT

Vodafone recently entered into an agreement with Goal One soccer centres, with Ahmed Al Shuali, Chief Financial Officer signing on behalf of Vodafone and Ahmed Al Mahrazi, Chief Financial Officer, representing Goal One.

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



100 INSPIRE CEO FORUM

The 100 Inspire CEO Forum will begin next Wednesday at Rozna Restaurant and it will be attended by 100 chief executive officers from the various sectors in Oman. The forum will be organised jointly by Oman Arab Bank and Alizz Islamic Bank under the direct supervision of Ominvest.

New cranes to raise handling capacity of Port of Duqm: CEO

The company is also working in cooperation with Asyad Group to enter into joint ventures

MUSCAT: All the commercial and government berths, as well as liquid and bulk material facilities at the Port of Duqm in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), are progressing at a fast pace.

“The company is relentlessly working with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) on the installation of new cranes which would make a difference in the handling of containers at the port,” Reggy Vermeulen, Chief Executive Officer of Port of Duqm Company, said.

The company is expecting to receive a number of gantry cranes and heavy bridge cranes at the beginning of next year to bring the total handling of heavy equipment to seven mobile cranes and 12 bridge cranes, he further added.

He reaffirmed that the develop-



ment operations at the port are smoothly progressing as the company is working in cooperation with Asyad Group to enter into joint ventures with the group.

He said that Port of Duqm Company has sought to involve the largest number of Omanis in logistics operations through partnership with Asyad.

“Duqm port witnesses increasing activities in fish products as the company is cooperating with Oman Fisheries Company which increased its fleet and is well pre-

pared for exporting through the port which also witnesses increasing activities related to the sectors of oil, gas and refineries,” he further added.

The Omanisation percentage in Port of Duqm Company has reached 90 per cent and said that this percentage would increase in the upcoming stages. - **ONA**

COST OMR4.5MN

Madayn inaugurates Facility Building and Masar Service Centre in Samail

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In pursuance of Madayn Vision 2040 which aims at creating world-class business cities to contribute to Oman's economic growth, the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) inaugurated the Facility Building and Masar Service Centre in Samail Industrial City under the auspices of Hilal bin Hamad Al Hasani, CEO of Madayn, and in the presence of CEOs and officials representing public and private bodies in Oman.

Developed at a cost of nearly OMR4.5 million and featuring more than 16,000 sqm of total area, the Facility Building in Samail Industrial City consists of 8 floors (ground + 7 floors) with a rental area exceeding 12,000 sqm. The building will offer space dedicated to public and private bodies, commercial stores, banks, cafes and restaurants, food courts, and telecom companies, among other services.

Masar Service Centre

Besides, Masar Service Centre was inaugurated on the ground floor of the Facility Building in Samail Industrial City to enhance the level of services offered to investors by accelerating and simplifying procedures, reinforcing ties with partners to provide integrated services to investors, as well as strengthening relations with the investors to ensure a safe and ideal business environment. Masar features an integrated platform to obtain approvals, permits and licenses necessary for investment projects under one umbrella and within a



specific timeframe.

Cooperation agreement

A cooperation agreement was signed on the sidelines of the Facility Building opening ceremony between Madayn represented by Samail Industrial City, Shumookh Investment and Services, and Industrial Innovation Academy. Designed for dedicated space in the facility building to incubate, support and empower Small and Medium Enterprises, the agreement was signed by Eng. Dawood bin Salim Al Hadabi, Director General of Samail Industrial City, Eng. Musallam bin Juma'a Al Hudaifi, CEO of Shumookh Investment and Services, and Dr Ayman bin Abdullah Al Fudhaili, CEO of Industrial Innovation Academy.

The agreement also points to

the participation of these SMEs in workshops and events to enable the owners to run their projects efficiently and successfully, as well as organising promotional campaigns for the incubators through various marketing platforms. This cooperation agreement comes along the lines of Madayn's efforts to support and develop the SMEs in the Sultanate's various governorates and demonstrates the academy's keenness to support and empower the growth of SMEs throughout their various development phases.

Projects in progress

Meanwhile, Madayn is implementing several key projects in Samail Industrial City including the medical fitness examination project, which is expected to be

opened in December this year, in addition to the Medical Clinic. Madayn is also implementing the infrastructure complementary project in Samail Industrial City. This includes a dual-lane road linking Samail Industrial City with the expressway, where the completion rate of this project has touched 89 per cent.

This year, Samail Industrial City has received 10 industrial, service and commercial investment applications, of which seven got localised. These investments will support the creation of new job opportunities for the nationals. It should be noted that the currently total area of Samail Industrial City touches 7.8 million sqm and the leaseable land area reaches 5.6 million sqm, of which 2.1 million sqm have been leased.

STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK



Opaz awards first phase of construction work of National Road No. 32

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Complementing the implementation of the strategic roads network within the master plan of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad), the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) has awarded the first phase of construction work of the National Road No. 32, located with the industrial zone.

The road length is about 16 km and the first phase will start from the road in front of Duqm Refinery northwards and to the entrance of Duqm centre southwards.

Eng. Yahya bin Khamis Al-Zad-jali, In Charge of managing the operations of Sezad, explained that the project to develop the first phase of the National Road No. 32 is an important traffic artery within the road network proposed for the comprehensive road development plan in Sezad, as it connects those coming from the north of the zone to the centre, the commercial district. It will serve the growing movement of people and cargo between strategic projects in the zone, especially the Duqm Refinery project.

Eng. Yahya added that the works of the first phase of the road include the construction of six traffic lanes, three lanes in each direction, with a width of 120 metres, separated by a hard-

The first phase of the National Road No. 32 is an important traffic artery within the road network proposed for the comprehensive road development plan in Sezad

scaped Centre Median, between the two directions with road shoulders on both sides for each direction, in addition to service roads on both sides with a total length of about 23 km and a width of about 7.3 m.

The works also include the construction of 4 signalised intersections, one roundabout, and the installation of smart lighting poles (LED) and road signs. The road was designed with high specifications to avoid the accumulation of surface water and flooding, through the construction of 3 major concrete bridges for the wadis in Say, Jurf, and Dangert.

TRANSACTION

Oman Insurance completes sale of its insurance operations in Turkey

MUSCAT: Oman Insurance Company announced that it has completed the sale of its insurance operations in Turkey to VHV Reasürans, Istanbul, Turkey, a company of VHV Group, Hannover, Germany.

This transaction represents a continuation of Oman Insurance's transformation and sim-

plification strategy to focus the company's resources on specific markets and segments.

Jean-Louis Laurent Josi, CEO of Oman Insurance Company commented on the occasion, “With this transaction, we have reinforced our focus and commitment to serving our core markets. Since 2012, we have supported Dubai Sigorta by

building strong underwriting and service capabilities, benefitting from Oman Insurance's extensive product and brand depth.

“VHV Group being one of the most important insurers and the leader in the construction sector in Germany, I am also thrilled that, following this transaction, both our firms will cooperate in the future

to insure specific risks together, both in Turkey and in the UAE. I also would like to congratulate all the employees of Dubai Sigorta for what they have achieved and thank them for their hard work and dedication over the years.”

Following this transaction, Oman Insurance Company does not own any shares in Dubai Sigorta.



MARKET



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



CEO Forum to focus on strategy that promotes economic diversification

The 100 Inspire CEO Forum will feature several working papers which will try to draw up a roadmap for a more effective private sector contribution to developing the economy, organisations, community and individuals

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 100 Inspire CEO Forum will begin next Wednesday at Rozna Restaurant and it will be attended by 100 chief executive officers from the various sectors in the Sultanate of Oman. The forum will be organised jointly by Oman Arab Bank and Al-izz Islamic Bank under the direct supervision of Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest). The three organising entities are focused on devising and implementing a common strategy that promotes economic diversification in Oman and targets the economic sectors that can potentially create a sustainable value in light of the recent economic rebounds and ease of

the restrictive COVID pandemic measures by the government. The forum will feature several working papers which will try to draw up a roadmap for a more effective private sector contribution to developing the economy, organisations, community and individuals. Within the current scenarios, the role of the private sector is hugely indispensable to stand hand in hand with the government in its efforts to materialise the visions and focus on the initiative with the long-term benefit. Nowadays, CEOs are expected to go beyond their respective organisations and adopt shared visions, ideas and opportunities to promote business growth during the upcoming years against the backdrop of the global challenges.



This approach can only be attained through innovative insights and by charting new ways that create an added value to the local communities and the economic landscape as a whole. Commenting on the Inspiring

CEOs Forum, Suleiman bin Hamad Al Harthi, CEO-Alizz Islamic Bank said, "Full economic recovery is going to take time. However, there is a growing sense of optimism and persistent efforts are being made toward continuous im-

provements at the macroeconomic level. We expect the demand for credit to remain high coupled with the stability of liquidity during the current year. When we decided to organize this forum in partnership with Oman Arab Bank under the direct oversight of Oman International Development and Investment Company, this was preceded by a comprehensive assessment of the roles to be undertaken by the private sector in promoting economic growth as seen in some international experiences, in addition to assessing the role of CEOs in this regard." "By the beginning of 2022, markets started to regain consumers' trust and the external source of income became the main driver of growth due to the soaring oil and gas prices. Thankfully, the Sultanate is poised to witness an increase in investments. Following the increase in oil prices, Oman Vision 2040 investments are likely to increase by the double which will put the onus on the private sector leading establishments to become a genuine partners to formulate responsive and innovative solutions including, among other things, establishing new economic entities, create employment opportunities, diversify partnerships, enhance cash flows and create sustainable PPPs. Rather than sitting and waiting for the initiatives to come

to our doorsteps, we must be proactive and innovate our solutions." Al Harthi further elaborated, "The growth witnessed by the Sultanate under the visionary leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik in tandem with Oman Vision 2040 will certainly open new windows for growth, enhance the delivery of high-quality services and facilitate the adoption of cutting-edge technologies. This will make for bold government financial remedies and swift economic reforms. Moreover, the government economic reform program "Fiscal Balance Plan" started to bear fruits and raise hopes for economic recovery and growth during this year." He concluded, "The three entities – Alizz Islamic Bank, Oman Arab Bank and Ominvest are working tirelessly to support Oman Vision 2040 by aligning our shared strategic areas of interest including growth, customer service, digital transformation, operations and personnel. This will ultimately lead to augmenting the roles and deliverables of the various economic sectors. We are confident that this forum will enable us to think out of the box and take bold decisions in favour of organisational and personal development, or to be prepared for the future at all economic levels and business activities."

SUPPORTING LOCAL SMES

Vodafone signs pact with Goal One soccer centres

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Vodafone recently entered into an agreement with Goal One soccer centres, with Ahmed Al Shuaili, Chief Financial Officer signing on behalf of Vodafone and Ahmed Al Mahrazi, Chief Financial Officer, representing Goal One. The agreement will see the presence of branding and a Vodafone kiosk set up within the Goal One premises. Commenting on the signing, Ahmed Al Shuaili, Chief Financial Officer of Vodafone said, "Our collaboration with Goal One stems from our commitment to enriching In-Country Value by supporting local SMEs and enabling them to attain brand exposure. Moreover, we will be able to conduct sports activities and events at any of their 10 football pitches, alongside boosting our presence with branding elements at their facilities together with an e-kiosk." From his side, Ahmed Al Mahrazi from Goal One stated, "We are

pleased to be a part of Vodafone's efforts in partnering with local SMEs. Our main goal is to bring the community together through sport. Vodafone's support will not only be beneficial for enriching the services we provide but also align ourselves with the objectives of Vodafone, which hosts a global-scale reputation, to enhance the local economy." Goal One is located in Al Azai-ba, Muscat and hosts multiple FA-recommended 5-a-side pitch sizes and Fifa-approved astroturf. Pitches have dedicated rubber cushioning to provide a safe and healthy experience for all ages. Bookings are done through the Goal One Soccer Centres mobile application where players can pay online, split payments, create teams and manage tournaments. Vodafone is available across the Sultanate through the My Vodafone App on Google Play Store, Huawei AppGallery and the App Store and in more than 3,500 outlets across Oman.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES

India's forex reserves dip by \$5.9bn to \$590.59bn

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves slumped by \$5.87 billion to \$590.588 billion for the week ended June 17 as foreign portfolio investors pulled money out of the Indian equities amid mounting concerns of global recession, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. The country's forex reserves had dropped for the third consecutive week. It has slumped by \$10,785 billion in the past three weeks under review. The forex reserves had declined by \$4.59 billion in the week ended June 10, 2022. According to the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement, India's foreign currency assets, which are the biggest component of the forex reserves, slumped by \$5,362 billion to \$526.882 billion during the week ended June 17. The foreign currency assets had dipped by \$4.53 billion in the previous week.

Expressed in US dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-dollar currencies like the Euro, UK's Pound Sterling and Japanese Yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. All components of the country's foreign exchange reserves declined during the week under review. The value of gold reserves fell by \$258 million to \$40,584 billion during the week ended June 17. The value of India's Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund fell by \$233 million to \$18,155 billion during the week under review, the RBI data showed. India's reserve position in the International Monetary Fund dropped by \$17 million to \$4,968 billion during the week ended June 17, as per the RBI Weekly Statistical Supplement. **ANI**



oman OASIS
BRUNNEN®

Eid Offer

40 REFILL COUPONS

RO 50 ONLY

- Hot & Cold Dispenser
- 2 Full Bottles

15 REFILL COUPONS

RO 20 ONLY

- White Tap Dispenser/ Tap Dispenser/ Manual Water Pump/ Cradle with Tap
- 2 Full Bottles

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

OASIS WATER COMPANY SAOC
P.O.Box: 87, Rusayl 124, Sultanate of Oman.

Offer valid from 1st April to 30th June 2022



TWO-DAY SUMMIT

EU seeks urgent solution to Russian gas war

BRUSSELS: Leaders of the European Union's 27 member states on Friday called for an urgent plan to secure energy supplies at affordable prices. The plan, to be laid out by the European Commission in the coming months, is necessary "in the face of the weaponisation of gas by Russia," the conclusion of the two-day summit in Brussels read. The first day of the summit in Brussels ended with the leaders agreeing to grant Ukraine and Moldova official status as candidates for EU membership – a move hailed by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as "historic." But the display of support for Kyiv comes amid wider economic consequences of Russia's war on Ukraine. A spike in inflation and lagging economic growth across the world has been blamed on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The West also accuses Moscow of "weaponising" grain supplies and natural gas deliveries. **Diversifying energy sources** The squeeze on Russian energy is pressuring the EU to find alternatives to prevent a wider energy crisis. European Commission President Von der Leyen said the EU must work on "diversifying supplies with partners," not only through finding different exporters, but also by moving toward more environmentally friendly energy sources. "There will be no return to



cheap fossil fuel," she said. "We must get rid of our dependence on fossil fuel." Von der Leyen said gas supply cuts from Russia affected a dozen EU countries. Germany, which is heavily reliant on Russian gas, triggered the second phase of an emergency gas plan. Germany running into gas supply issues is likely to have EU-wide repercussions, Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander De Croo warned ahead of Friday's meeting. "If Germany gets into trouble, it will also have an enormous impact on all other European countries, including our own," he said. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said later on Friday that Berlin and the EU are prepared for a possible interruption of Russian gas supplies, adding that actions have been taken to find alternative sources for energy imports. "This is an effort that must

now be accelerated again," Scholz added. "But we will support each other [in doing so]." **Inflation high on agenda** Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), joined the EU leaders on Friday to address growing inflation and soaring prices. According to the EU stats agency Eurostat, inflation in the 19-country eurozone is at a record high of 8.1 per cent. The ECB has pledged to raise interest rates in July – for the first time in more than a decade – in a bid to curb inflation. The European Commission also cut its economic growth forecast for this year from 4 per cent, which had been expected before the war in Ukraine, to 2.7 per cent.

EU leaders back Croatia joining eurozone During Friday's summit, EU lead-

ers also decided that Croatia is allowed to use the bloc's common currency starting next year. The process will be completed with the adoption of three legal acts following talks with EU lawmakers and the ECB. "The euro is the monetary expression of our shared destiny and has been part of our European dream. Now the dream comes true for Croatia," European Council President Charles Michel wrote on Twitter. Croatia is set to join the eurozone, nearly 10 years after it joined the EU. Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic said the EU's support is "an excellent signal" for his country's economy. "Seventy per cent of the tourists that come to Croatia also come from the countries of the eurozone," Plenkovic said while adding the positive impact it would have on "our trade exchange." **AW**



TRAVEL-THERAPY CAN PROVIDE REAL MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING BENEFITS



Tourism is not just about travelling and having fun; we need to rethink the role tourism plays in modern society.— Dr Wen

A new cross-disciplinary paper from Edith Cowan University (ECU) proposes we change the way we view tourism, seeing it not just as a recreational experience but as an industry that can provide real health benefits.

The collaboration between ECU's Centre for Precision Health and School of Business and Law found many aspects of going on holiday could have a positive impact on those with mental health issues or conditions. Lead researcher Dr Jun Wen said the diverse team of tourism, public health and marketing experts investigated how tourism could benefit those living with dementia.

"Medical experts can recommend dementia treatments such as music therapy, exercise, cognitive stimulation, reminiscence therapy, sensory stimulation and adaptations to a patient's mealtimes and environment," Dr Wen said.

"These are all also often found when on holidays.

This research is among the first to conceptually discuss how these tourism experiences could potentially work as dementia-interventions."

Holiday fun... or treatment?

Dr Wen said the varied nature of tourism meant there were many opportunities to incorporate treatments for conditions such as dementia.

For example, being in new environments and having new experiences could provide cognitive and sensory stimulation.

"Exercise has been linked to mental wellbeing and travelling often involves enhanced physical activity, such as more walking," Dr Wen said.

"Mealtimes are often different on holiday: they're usually more social affairs with multiple people and family-style meals have been found to positively influence dementia patients' eating behaviour.

"And then there's the basics like fresh air and sunshine increasing vitamin D and serotonin levels.

"Everything that comes together to represent a holistic tourism experience, makes it easy to see how patients with dementia may benefit from tourism as an intervention."

A shift in thinking

Dr Wen said COVID-19's impact on travel in recent years had raised questions about tourism's value beyond lifestyle and economic factors.

"Tourism has been found to boost physical and psychological well being," he said.

So, after COVID, it's a good time to identify tourism's place in public health -- and not just for healthy tourists, but vulnerable groups."

Dr Wen said he hoped a new line of collaborative research could begin to examine how tourism can enhance the lives of people with various conditions.

"We're trying to do something new in bridging tourism and health science," he said.

"There will have to be more empirical research and evidence to see if tourism can become one of the medical interventions for different diseases like dementia or depression.

"So, tourism is not just about travelling and having fun; we need to rethink the role tourism plays in modern society." -ANI





IN-PICTURES



SHOP NOW
 rafeeq.om





China looks set to build space solar power station
 Picture shows the Zhuri's ground verification facility on the south campus of Xidian University in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. *Xinhua*



Moscow Fashion Week kicks off
 Models wait to present creations during the Moscow Fashion Week in Moscow, Russia. The Moscow Fashion Week will last until June 26. *Xinhua*



Craftsman's passion to pass on ancient shipbuilding technology
 Zhang Guohui, an inheritor of the watertight-bulkhead technology of Chinese junks, makes a model boat at a workshop in Chongwu Town,



The cast of the film 'JugJugg Jeeyo' during its promotion
 Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor and actress Neetu Kapoor at the promotion of their film JugJugg Jeeyo, at a hotel, in Jaipur.



Tokyo Olympic organising committee to be dissolved on June 30
 President of the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) Hashimoto Seiko (centre) speaks during the last Tokyo 2020 Executive Board meeting. The Tokyo Olympic organising committee will be dissolved on June 30 after having the last board meeting on Tuesday. *Xinhua*



View of ancient town in Tianchang Township
 Aerial picture shows the scenery of an ancient town in Tianchang Township of Jingxing County, north China's Hebei Province. Historical sites have been renovated and infrastructure has been improved in the ancient town of Tianchang Township for better preserving the cultural heritage and attracting more tourists. *Xinhua*



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST MONKEYPOX VIRUS



The World Health Organization is in emergency talks because of rising monkeypox infections. That doesn't mean that there's another pandemic — but some people will need additional protection.

MONKEYPOX infections have been registered in more than 40 countries, including the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain.

In response, the World Health Organization (WHO) summoned an emergency meeting on June 23, where experts will decide whether the disease threatens public health on a larger scale.

The WHO may declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, but a decision could take several days.

If the WHO declares an emergency, all that means for now is that doctors should increase their attention and inform their patients about the disease.

Experts say it is highly unlikely that monkeypox will develop into a pandemic. Unlike SARS-CoV-2, the monkeypox virus is only transmitted by close contact with an infected person.

But some groups of people, such as health care workers who treat people with monkeypox, or friends and family of infected people, should take additional precautions.

How does monkeypox spread to humans?

Despite its name, monkeys are not natural hosts of the virus. Researchers believe the main hosts, or “reservoirs” as they are known, are species of African rodents, such as Gambian pouched rats, dormice and African squirrels.

It is thought that the virus first spread to humans in the 1970s through handling of bushmeat or from bites or scratches from infected animals. Researchers say that monkeypox outbreaks are a cost of our increasingly frequent contact with wild animals due to deforestation and poaching.

One major route of monkeypox transmission to non-African nations was via animal transportation around the world. For example, experts traced a small outbreak in 2003 in the US to rodents transported from Ghana to a US pet store.

Human-to-human transmission

In the current outbreak, it appears that most of the infection clusters have no direct travel links to countries in Africa where the virus is endemic among wild animals. That suggests that monkeypox is being transmitted primarily human-to-human.

The exact mechanism of transmission remains unknown, but the virus is thought to enter the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract, or the eyes, nose or mouth.

Transmission between humans occurs primarily through close contact with an infected person.

The WHO says the virus can spread through any group of people in close contact.

How to prevent transmission

Anyone who has had contact with infected people — for example, medical and health care workers or people who have confirmed cases of monkeypox among their friends or relatives — should take protective measures.

The WHO says these are the most important steps to prevent transmission:

- Avoid skin contact with people who may be infected
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into the crook of your arm

How smallpox vaccination protects against monkeypox

Many people older than 50 were vaccinated against smallpox (also known as variola virus) as children. Smallpox has similar symptoms to monkeypox but is now considered eradicated due to the vaccine.

Doctors say the smallpox vaccination may protect against monkeypox with an efficacy of about 85%. Even if it doesn't prevent infection, they say immunized people are better protected against a severe infection.

The smallpox vaccine Imvanex is approved as protection against monkeypox in many countries. However, it is currently not recommended as a prevention against monkeypox for the general population, but only for certain risk groups.

The German Standing Commission on Vaccination (STIKO) recommends vaccination in these cases:

- For people who have had close contact with an infected person
- For people who are at increased risk of monkeypox, such as men who frequently change partners, or laboratory personnel who examine monkeypox specimens

The vaccination consists of two doses. Medical professionals administer them at least 28 days apart. For at-risk individuals who were vaccinated against smallpox as a child, one dose is sufficient to improve the existing immune response.

Anyone who develops symptoms such as rash, fever, or head and joint pain may have monkeypox. Those affected should call their doctor and local health authority immediately.

Infected individuals must isolate themselves from other people until the rash clears. This can take up to four weeks. In most cases, the disease has a mild course. - dw



ROUND-UP



SHOP NOW
rafeeq.om



MG Motor inaugurates its 12th showroom

MG Motor inaugurated its new showroom with a mission to escalate its vehicles to an unprecedented level, spread its business identification, generate a buzz, and reach every spot in Oman

MUSCAT: Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE cut the ribbon on MG Motor's 12th showroom in Jalan Bani Bu Ali.



MG Motor inaugurated its new showroom with a mission to escalate its vehicles to an unprecedented level, spread its business identification, generate a buzz, and reach every spot in Oman.

Al Bahrani expressed his gratitude, "The launch of MG Motor's new showroom in Jalan Bani Bu Ali is obvious evidence of our

tremendous success. Our goal is to reach every car lover and provide him with unmatched service. Choosing Jaalan Bin Bu Ali illustrates our dedication to expanding business recognition across Oman. But we are happy to say that the current line of cars, which are well-equipped and affordable, appeals to people of all

ages and lifestyles."

MG Motor has an extensive selection of models, starting from the SUV array, which includes the 7-seater MG RX8 Black Edition, MG RX8, MG HS, MG RX5, and MG ZST; moving to the sedan array, which is made up of MG GT, MG 6, and MG 5; and ending with the pickup array that consists of the adventurous MG T60.

The 12th showroom in Jalan Bani Bu Ali came as a result of the immense success of the other showrooms located in different cities across Oman. MG Motor has many physical showrooms, but it also owns an e-commerce platform designed to enhance its customers' online purchasing experience. Customers can use the site <https://mg-om.com/buy-online/> to choose their favourite car from the stock, reserve it, pay for it online, and have it delivered to their home. In addition to that, customers have the advantage of scheduling test drives and contacting the MG Motor customer support team to assist them with any questions or concerns.

OUTLET PERFUME STORE

Al Hajis Perfumes with its presence across the GCC for over 29 years with 16 branches opens its first OUTLET perfume store at Muscat Grand Mall in Muscat.



CONTEST

Oman Oasis picks 'World Art Day' competition winners

MUSCAT: Committed to fostering opportunities for the budding talents within the nation, Oman Oasis recently concluded an art competition that celebrated World Art Day.

The contest was well received with over 120 digital arts, drawings and sketches on various social media platforms from children across age groups, which were divided into two categories 6 to 12 years and 13 to 18 years. The competition, based on World Art Day, allowed participants to create artworks based on their imagination. A total of seven participants emerged victorious, five were selected from the first category and two were picked from the second. The winners were felicitated with various gifts & participation certificates.

Speaking on the competition, NSS Subramaniam, COO said, "Oman Oasis has always been at the forefront of engaging and encouraging the evolving young community within the country. We are particularly excited to be able to support the promising young minds in this way and to celebrate a world occasion with elan and pomp. The competition was also a space for children to express themselves artistically, to flourish and be recognised."

Oman Oasis celebrated the winners by also showcasing their art



work on its social media platforms. The company plans to create more opportunities for the youth and the children in the Sultanate with various other competitions and fun activities. Oman Oasis has been voted as 'Oman's Most

Trusted Brand' for 5 consecutive years. With an utmost commitment to providing customers with the highest quality standards in their range of products, Oman Oasis works diligently to satisfy their customers every time.

COMMON RAIL FUEL INJECTION SERVICE CENTER

Denso Dubai partners with Danat Al Misfaha Trading

MUSCAT: Driven by Oman market needs and Denso network expansion mission in Oman, Denso Dubai announced the partnership with Danat Al Misfaha Trading to be Denso's authorised Common Rail Fuel Injection Service Center in Oman to distribute Denso genuine diesel components aligned with a high-quality service performed by Denso trained technicians.

The First Denso Common Rail Fuel Injection Service Center was inaugurated by Naoyuki Okuya, Managing Director Denso Middle East and North Africa & Hameed S, Managing Director Danat al Misfaha. Ali Quran, Service Senior Assistant Manager, Denso, Saurav Lamsal, Executive sales and marketing Denso, Mohammed Jadallah, Service Engineer Denso were present at the inaugural ceremony. Danat al Misfaha Trading office is situated in Misfaha, Muscat.

Denso Corporation was born in Japan, spun off from Toyota Motor Corporation in 1949. We are a global manufacturer of automotive components offering advanced automotive technologies, systems and products. We fulfil our corporate social responsibility by providing the world's top products and technologies with 170,000 employees in 200 global subsidiaries. Denso Dubai (Of-



ficial name: Denso Sales Middle East & North Africa FZE) has been dedicated to after-sales and service in the automotive domain since 2010 and continues to expand the

service network and provide technical training to the Middle East & Africa region to contribute to customers satisfaction as one of its important company missions.

BANK MUSCAT

Woqar banking package continues to improve financial inclusion of retirees



MUSCAT: Financial inclusion or the process of ensuring easy access to financial services to all sections of society is a crucial enabler of strong economic growth and development. As the Sultanate's leading financial services provider, Bank Muscat attaches great importance to social responsibility initiatives aimed at improving financial inclusion as a means of strengthening the country's progress and development.

The bank launched the Woqar Banking Package in 2020 after studying in great detail and understanding the needs of retirees who

were working in both government and private institutions.

Earlier, the pensioner segment was not served by any bank in Oman for flexible-term finance or credit cards based on their pension, and Bank Muscat was the first bank to extend a financing solution for retirees in Oman.

With attractive rates of interest starting at just 3.25 per cent and maximum loan tenure up to 10 years for personal loans and 25 years for home loans, the Woqar package, which also includes credit cards, allows retirees to live their lives with dignity and

at their terms. Meanwhile, Bank Muscat continues to launch new financial products and services targeting different sections of society in step with the changing needs of its customers and the development of Oman.

Innovative banking service

Speaking on the occasion, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashani, General Manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said: "Easy access to various financial products and services like digital transactions, savings, credit and insurance, is very important for strengthening the Sultanate's

economy. This is all the more important in the case of groups that have traditionally fallen short of the financial inclusion net. By launching the 'first of its kind' Woqar banking package in 2020, Bank Muscat has reiterated its commitment to provide innovative banking services to all members of society in a sustainable manner. We are delighted with the response to Woqar and thank our customers for their strong confidence and feedback, which reinforces other supportive actions undertaken by the bank to improve financial inclusion in the Sultanate."

Bank Muscat is continuously debuting new financial products and services targeting different sections of society in line with the changing needs of its customers and the nation's progress and development. With its large network of 146 branches and over 800 e-channel devices spread across all governorates as well as Omnichannel mBanking and Internet Banking, a state-of-the-art Contact Centre and an e-payment gateway, the bank reaches out to the maximum members of society in its ongoing efforts to serve the nation better, every day.



Alkaline Ionized Drinking Water



HYDRATE SMARTLY

- ✓ Ultra-hydrating
- ✓ Revitalizing
- ✓ Energizing



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





**FOR COST
EFFECTIVE
PALETTE
FURNITURE
SOLUTIONS**

Call us on

99614066

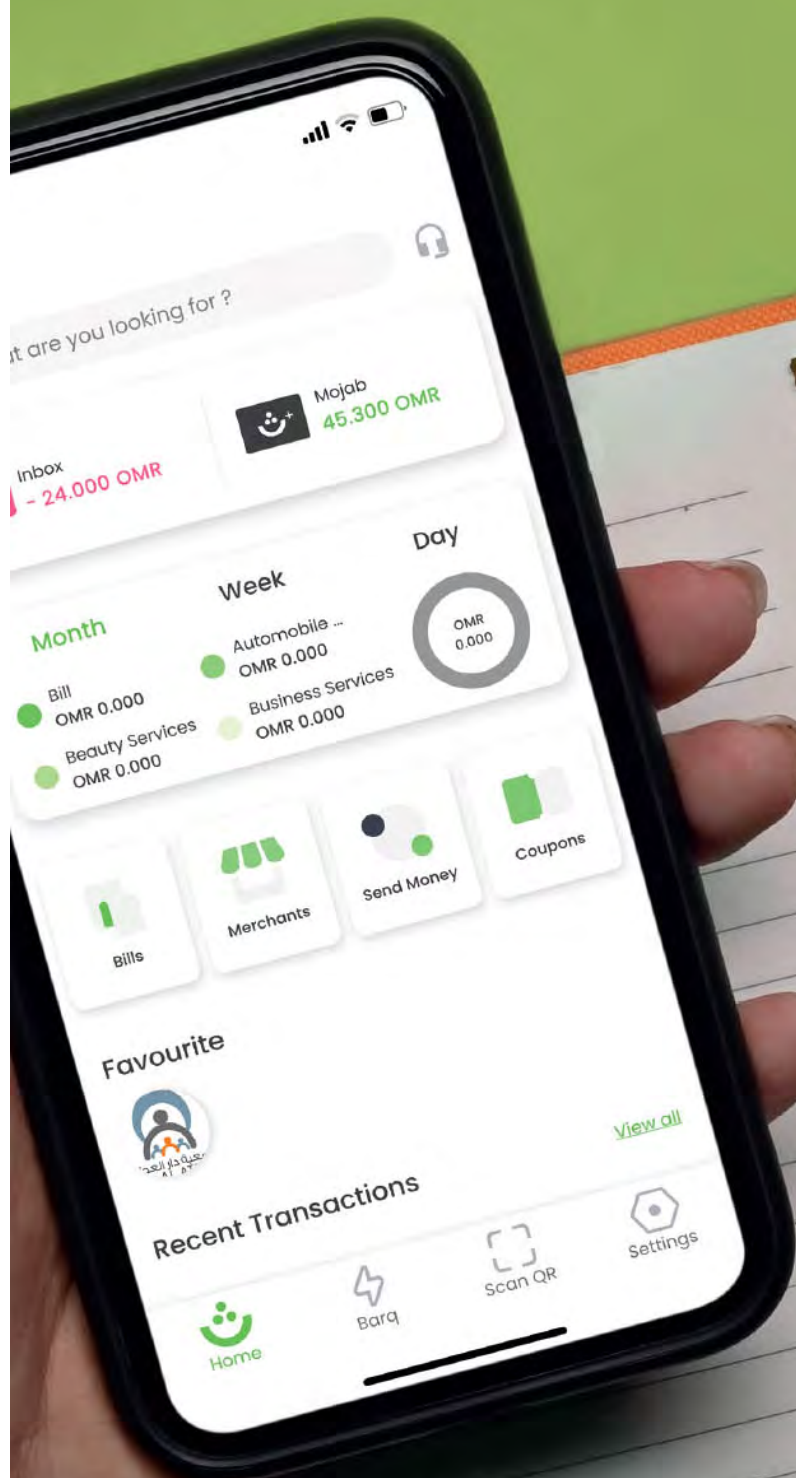


**HAVE A
DESIGN
IN MIND?
WE CAN
MAKE IT
FOR YOU!**

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



A card that is
delivered at
your doorstep



www.thawani.om

Contact us:
merchant@thawani.om
+968 91304608

Click to download
and order your card for free



THE
BEACHFRONT
JEBEL SIFAH

OWN YOUR DREAM HOME ON THE BEACH

Starting from **OMR 53,000**



Sea view homes at **The Beachfront** Jebel Sifah. Premium villas, townhouses & simplexes. Prices starting at **OMR 53,000**. This unique neighborhood includes a secluded beach promenade and an infinity pool for the ultimate beachfront lifestyle.

Phase 1 – Sold out and ready to welcome homeowners

Avail of the limited-time special offer
Register your interest for Phase 2 today!

\$ 10% Down Payment
& Extended Payment Plan

 **Signature Villas**
with Infinity Pools

 **Located Directly**
on the Beach

 **Only 45-minute Drive**
from Muscat

 **Private Pools**
& Garden

 **Family Residency**
for All Nationalities


JEBEL SIFAH
MUSCAT

Book Your Unit Now
+968 2464 5555

MASTER DEVELOPER
MURIYA
مرييا

JEEP. ROAD TO JUVENTUS

Win an unforgettable VIP experience with Juventus in Italy



A Jeep® SUV allows you to go anywhere and do anything. But have you ever imagined it could take you to Italy to live an unforgettable VIP experience with the Juventus team?

When you purchase a Jeep® SUV before 30 June 2022, you are automatically entered into the draw. You could win a once-in-a-lifetime adventure where you'll rub shoulders with the iconic football club.

So, what are you waiting for? Tap below to explore our range of Jeep® SUVs and begin your amazing journey.

>> START YOUR JOURNEY