

TASKS OF INVENTORYING GOVT ASSETS COMPLETED

The Ministry of Finance completed the tasks of inventorying government assets and entering them in the National Register of Government Assets (codenamed Osool or Assets). **>A5**



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MINISTERIAL DECISION FORMS NEW BOARD OF CULTURAL CLUB

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth has issued a ministerial decision forming the new board of directors of the Cultural Club for three years as follows: Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Balushi as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Dr. Saud Nasser Al Hanini as Deputy Chairman. The board also comprises the following as members: Dr. Muna Habras Al Sulaimi, Badr Salim Al Abri and Muawiya Salim Al Rawahi. — **ONA**



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CAMPAIGN

Workshop on protecting competition organised

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion on Monday organised a workshop in complementation of a public awareness campaign titled “Together for Ensuring Freedom of Competition”.

The workshop sought to enlighten consumers, traders and investors about the provisions of the law on protecting competition, preventing monopoly, combating dumping and forging compensatory measures and free pricing principles.

The workshop was held at the premises of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) in Muscat. Its opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat.

The campaign constitutes a link in a series of steps to regulate the freedom to practice economic activities and enforce the principle of free market.

The workshop was attended by Qais Mohammed Al Yousef, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Faisal Abdullah Al Rawas, Chairman of the Board of Directors of OCCI, several businesspeople, investors and media persons. The Centre for Competition Protection and Monopoly Prevention investigates cases of monopoly and prohibited practices. The Centre studies applications for economic concentration and receives complaints and reports on commercial malpractices. — **ONA**



Sayyid Asa'ad bids farewell to Ambassador of Tanzania

A6

RELEASE

US President thanks His Majesty the Sultan over US detainees release from Iran

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden of the United States of America expressed his sincere thanks to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, for their efforts in facilitating a detainee-swap deal between the USA and Iran. Following the deal, five American citizens who were released by Iranian authorities arrived in Qatar on Monday, while Iranian funds estimated at \$6 billion US dollars were released and transferred to banks in Qatar. — **ONA**

Frozen assets released

TEHRAN: Iran expects to receive all of its assets frozen from South Korea, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani. “Some of our blocked assets in South Korea, will be available to Iran in their entirety,” Kanaani said. He said the process of implementing an agreement between Iran and the US on the two issues of frozen assets and prisoner swap has progressed step by step. — **ONA**

STAGGERING 14.9 MILLION AWAILED OMAN'S HEALTH SERVICES IN 2022

Infant mortality rate in Oman fell from 9.5 deaths per thousand live births in 2015 to 8.8 in 2022

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Health institutions play a key role in the well-being of the nation and the 263 health institutions in the Sultanate of Oman have been playing a major role to ensure the well-being of citizens and the expatriate community.

According to the Ministry of Health's annual report of 2022, there has been an increase in the number of visits to outpatient departments (OPDs) of health institutions in Oman with a staggering 14.9 million visits recorded, with around 41,000 visits per day.

The total discharge from inpatient departments reached about 295,000 patients, with a bed occupancy rate of 59.6 percent.

According to the report, the total number of health institutions affiliated with the Ministry of Health until the end of last year reached 263 health institutions, including 50 hospitals with a capacity of 4,954 beds, 21 health complexes and 192 health centres.

Among the other highlights in



29.8%
DECREASE IN
DEATHS IN
GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS

60,000
BIRTHS IN
GOVT HEALTH
INSTITUTIONS
IN 2022

1,989
DENGUE CASES
WERE RECORDED
IN THE SULTANATE
OF OMAN IN 2022

71%
OMANISATION
IN GOVT
HEALTH
SECTOR

263
HEALTH
INSTITUTIONS
UNDER MINISTRY
OF HEALTH

the report was the decline in the birth rate to reach 15.7 live births per thousand population in 2022, compared to 20.7 in 2015. The total number of births in the ministry's health institutions reached around 60,000 births in 2022.

The infant mortality rate decreased from 9.5 deaths per thousand live births in 2015 to 8.8 in

2022 while there was a reduction in the maternal mortality rate. It reached 17.1 deaths per 100,000 live births for the same period, despite the decrease in the ministry's recurring expenses in 2022 by more than 3 percent compared to 2015. There has been a decrease in the number of deaths in hospitals affiliated with the Ministry

of Health during the year 2022 (4,287 deaths) compared to the year 2021 (6,110 deaths), a decrease of 29.8 percent.

Infectious diseases

The report said that the incidence of infectious diseases has decreased to low levels, courtesy the immunisation programme, es-

pecially for young groups, where immunisation rates during 2022 exceeded 98 percent. The report said that about 37.9 percent of outpatient morbidity was due to infectious diseases, while non-communicable diseases represented 43.5 percent, and the number of cases sent for treatment abroad rose to 1,040 cases. **>A3**

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE AND TOURISM

Contract signed for management and operation of Al Mirani Fort in Muscat

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism on Monday signed a contract for the management, operation and utilisation of Al Mirani Fort in the Wilayat of Muscat. The contract was inked with Al Hajar Mountains Resorts and Hotels company.

The agreement was signed by Heritage Undersecretary Eng. Ibrahim Said Al Kharousi and Eng. Khalid Hamad Al Busaidi, CEO of Al Hajar Mountains Resorts and Hotels.



The agreement's signing reflects the Ministry's efforts to make optimum use of architectural heritage, ensure its sustainability and maximise its benefit.

This approach also seeks to pro-

vide direct and indirect employment opportunities, empower the private sector and enable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and artisans to find marketing outlets for their products.

Other objectives include enriching the tourism sector through value-added projects serving the local community and revitalising cultural heritage sites in accordance with Oman Vision 2040 and the strategic programmes of the 10th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025). — **ONA**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Ways to promote integrity discussed

1 The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the State's Audit Institution (SAI), on Monday chaired the 8th meeting of GCC undersecretaries' committee tasked with combating corruption. Held via videoconferencing, the meeting discussed a number of topics, most notably the accession of GCC states to the UN Convention against Corruption. It reviewed proposed regulatory procedures for joining the international agreement. **>A2**



WORLD Fighting escalates in Sudan's Khartoum

2 Sudan's paramilitary forces have attacked the army headquarters in Khartoum, according to media reports on Sunday. **>A7**

MARKET Opaz launches Omap digital platform

3 The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) launched Omap Platform, a digital portal for integrated geographical maps that include all-inclusive data of masterplans for the special economic zones, free zones, and industrial cities overseen by Opaz. This digital platform enables users to access detailed services and information about the zones through the available digital maps and tools. **> B1**

OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....12:06pm

Asr.....3:32pm

Maghrib.....6:12pm

Isha.....7:23pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:39am

Expo showcases latest developments in the food and hospitality sectors

Held at the OCEC, the exhibition seeks to enhance communication, networking and cooperation opportunities, innovation and exchange of expertise in the food and hospitality sectors



MUSCAT: The 16th edition of Oman Food and Hospitality Exhibition 2023 kicked off on Monday, with the participation of 13 regional and international parties. The three-day event showcases the latest developments and innovations in the field of food and hospitality, as well as Oman's local and international contributions to this sector. Held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), the exhibition seeks to enhance communication, networking and cooperation opportunities, innovation and exchange of expertise in the food and hospitality sector. In particular, the exhibition



café and restaurant solutions. It provides suitable grounds for cultural exchange and cooperation in the sectors of food industry, hospitality and tourism. The exhibition's opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources. In addition to the diverse array of offerings at Oman Food and Hospitality Exhibition, attendees can also benefit from the free-to-attend Knowledge Hub which features a series of seminars and conference programmes intended to delve into the opportunities and challenges of the Omani hospitality industry. The conference commenced with a keen focus on the dynamic landscape of Oman's food industry with keynote presentations covering sustainability in agriculture and food production, the transformative role of data analytics in shaping customer service efficiency, and ways to achieve food security, healthy nutrition, and a sustainable environment. Day 2 will delve into sustaining growth and innovation in SMEs and best practices for enhancing customer experience. In addition, culinary masterminds are set to share the secrets behind world-class chef creations, emphasising culinary innovation. On the final day, the agenda will take on a more focused and forward-looking approach with panel discussions exploring how cutting-edge technology is reshaping food retail, the advantages and hurdles of incorporating technology-driven solutions and the importance of adopting sustainable food practices. — ONA/Times News Service

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING



Ways to promote integrity and combat corruption discussed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: State Audit Institution (SAI) chaired the eighth Meeting of GCC Anti-Corruption Undersecretaries Committee, which was launched via video conferencing from the SAI's headquarters in Muscat on Monday. The event saw the participation of Their Excellencies from the member SAIs, His Excellency the Assistant Secretary General for Legislative and Legal Affairs and a number of SAI specialists. The meeting began with a speech by His Excellency Ahmed bin Salim Al Rujaibi, Deputy Chairman of the State Audit Institution, through which he expressed appreciation for the efforts exerted in the preparation of standard work manuals and implementation of professional capacity-building activities for the member SAIs' employees. In addition, His Excellency praised the exchange of experiences and cooperation with academic institutions and relevant organisations. He also noted that the field of

integrity promotion and anti-corruption is one of the areas requiring constant follow up on developments regionally and internationally, and active partnership with relevant organisations to achieve a higher level of efficiency in institutional performance and serve the inclusive and sustainable development goals. He further stressed the keenness of the Sultanate of Oman and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to promote integrity and combat corruption to continue the march of development and realise the aspirations of their peoples. During the meeting, a number of topics were reviewed and discussed, most notably the accession of the Gulf Cooperation Council as a regional organisation to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the review of the proposed regulatory procedures with regard to the accession to the Convention, in addition to activating cooperation and coordination between the departments of cooperation and international relations in the GCC anti-corruption authorities and

institutions, as well as the discussion of the action plan to achieve a higher level of cooperation. Moreover, the meeting discussed the excellence award for the ideal employee in the institutions responsible for protecting integrity and combating corruption in the GCC States and reviewed the candidates from member states, in addition to the joint Gulf program for awareness and education in the field of protecting integrity and combating corruption. The meeting also reviewed draft joint manuals, namely the Financial Declaration Manual, the Manual of Disclosure and Making Media Content Available to the Authorities and Institutions Responsible for Promoting Integrity and Combating Corruption in the GCC States, presented by the State Audit Institution in the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to the Strategic Manual for Coordination and Cooperation between the GCC Authorities and Ministerial Committees within the framework of developing and implementing the mechanisms for preventing and combating corruption.



OMAN-BAHRAIN MILITARY DRILL KICKS OFF

The joint Oman-Bahrain drill "Arabian Leopard 5" kicked off on Monday. The drill is conducted by the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) alongside units of Bahrain Defence Force. The exercise, which runs till 26 September, is carried out in the training zones at Al Jabal Al Akhdar. Moreover, conducting this drill comes within the framework of RAO's training plan to sustain the preparedness of its personnel. — ONA



TO BE HELD IN ALGERIA



Omani documentary short-listed among 35 films from 12 countries

MUSCAT: The Omani documentary Al Zeeg, directed by Salah Al Hadhrami, is taking part in the Kerdada African Short and Documentary Film Festival, held in Algeria from 30 September to 2 October 2023. The Omani documentary was

short-listed alongside 35 films from 12 countries. **Oman Film and Theatre Society** Al Zeeg, produced by Oman Film and Theatre Society, showcases in a theatrical way the relationship between Omani people and

the cultivation and production of Omani sugarcane. It also touches on humanitarian, economic and social aspects related to this profession. The documentary bagged several awards in local, Arabic and international festivals. — ONA

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Oman ranks 18th in Asia in Digital Quality of Life Index

The Sultanate of Oman has also climbed overall four places globally from last year's ranking to reach 61st in the world

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman has been ranked 18th in Asia in the Digital Quality of Life (DQL) Index, according to a report from Surfshark, a cybersecurity company



focused on developing humanised privacy and security solutions. The fifth annual study ranked 121 countries by their digital wellbeing based on five core pillars with the Sultanate of Oman climbing overall four places globally from last year's ranking to reach 61st in the world. Out of the Index's five pillars of ranking, Oman performed best in internet affordability, with a global 40th rank, but faced challenges in e-security, as it is ranked 88th.

Oman is placed 43rd in e-infrastructure, 53rd in e-government, and 74th in internet quality. In the overall Index, UAE is placed 38th while Saudi Arabia is 45th. Singapore is ranked No.1 in Asia. "In many nations, 'digital quality of life' has merged into the broader concept of overall 'quality of life'. There's no other way to look at it now that so many daily activities, including work, education, and leisure, are done online. That's why it's crucial to pinpoint the areas in which a nation's digital quality of life thrives and where attention is needed, which is the precise purpose of the DQL Index", said Gabriele Racaityte-Krasauske, Surfshark's spokeswoman. **Oman's Internet quality** According to the report, fixed internet averages 89 Mbps in Oman while mobile Internet averages

104 Mbps. Since last year, mobile internet speed in Oman has improved by 14 percent, while fixed broadband speed has grown by 31 percent. The report said that the internet is affordable in Oman compared to other countries. In e-security, Oman improved by three places to reach 88th in the world. The e-security pillar measures how well a country is prepared to counter cybercrime, as well as how advanced a country's data protection laws are. Oman outperforms the UAE, which ranks 90th, but lags behind Saudi Arabia, which takes 42nd place in the e-security pillar. Advanced e-infrastructure makes it easy for people to use the internet for various daily activities, such as working, studying, and shopping. This pillar evaluates how high internet penetration is in a given country, as well as its network

readiness (readiness to take advantage of Information and Communication Technologies). Oman's Internet penetration is high reaching 95 percent to be 19th in the world, and the country ranks 51st in network readiness. The e-government pillar shows how advanced a government's digital services are and the level of Artificial Intelligence (AI) readiness a country demonstrates. Oman's e-government is above the global average. The DQL Index 2023 examined 121 nations (92 percent of the global population) based on five core pillars that consist of 14 indicators. The study is based on the United Nations' open-source information, the World Bank, and other sources. This year's study includes four more countries than DQL 2022, reaffirming Surfshark's commitment to global representation.

Oman Health Exhibition and Conference begins at OCEC

MUSCAT: The 12th edition of Oman Health Exhibition and Conference 2023 began on Monday at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC). The three-day event sees the participation of more than 160 local entrepreneurs and international health institutions. The event is held within the framework of sharing knowledge. It also exhibits the latest innovations and explorations in the healthcare field. Further, the event is organized by the Ministry of Health in cooperation with Oman Exhibitions Organising Company (CONNECT). The opening ceremony of Oman Health Exhibition and Conference 2023 was held under the auspices of Sayyid Khalid Hamad Al Busaidi. — OMA

OCA to host various activities to mark Global Pink Ribbon Month

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In a global effort to raise awareness on breast cancer, October has been designated as the Pink Month. The Pink Month is a month where efforts are made to educate those concerned about the disease, including early identification and signs and symptoms associated with breast cancer. The Oman Cancer Association (OCA) will organise a host of activities to mark the October Global Pink Ribbon Month for Breast Cancer awareness across Oman. This is the 19th year the OCA will hold the Pink Month with the goal of increasing awareness on breast cancer during which there will be engagement in schools,

colleges, companies, and the community through events in malls throughout October, starting from October 1. Among the various activities planned are awareness programmes for breast cancer, free mammography services to all women above 40 years at select malls by OCA's mobile Mammography Unit, educational programmes in schools, colleges, and companies and free clinical breast examination and daily programmes to teach young women how to undertake self-breast examination as part of the screening for breast cancer. The OCA in a press statement said that the instances of breast cancer are very high in Oman, affecting young women under 40



years of age. This year's theme is "Every Step Counts". The Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Awareness month will end with the Annual Walkathon. The OCA successfully ran the 18th Annual Walkathon with almost 8,000 participants at the Qurum Park last year. The 19th Annual Walkathon this year will be organised differently and will be a full day event on November 3, Friday, at Qurum Park. It will start from 10 am and conclude at 6.30 pm with various entertaining activities and a food

court for the family to enjoy the day out in the park. There will be activities for children and adults. The symbolic Walkathon will start at 4.30 pm and end by 6.30 pm covering a distance of around 1.5 km. All participants will wear a T-shirt given free during registration. T-shirts will be available in three different colours: Pink, White, and Navy Blue. The aim of the Walkathon is to support patients with cancer/survivors and their families by showing that the community cares for them, create awareness and advocacy in the community, and encourage the children to learn about cancer. It will also help raise funds for the work of the OCA. The registration for the event will be available at the following locations - City Centre Muscat, Araiimi Boulevard, Oman Avenues Mall, Mall of Oman - every Thursday, Friday and Saturday while registration will be open at the OCA headquarters from Sunday to Thursday.

Rise in dengue cases

<FROM A1 The Ministry's efforts to contain measles were successful as only 5 cases were recorded in 2022, noting that no cases were recorded during 2020 and 2021. A decrease in the incidence of hepatitis was also recorded. The Sultanate of Oman has remained free of polio since 1993, diphtheria since 1992, and neonatal tetanus since 1992. The report indicated a significant increase in dengue fever, with 1,989 cases recorded. This led to a campaign by the ministry, in cooperation with the relevant authorities, to combat the Aedes mosquito (the carrier of this disease). The report found that 11,600 cases of injury in outpatient clinics and accident and emergency departments were due to traffic accidents, with 3,164 cases occurring, and the number of deaths reaching 188. On organ donations, the report said that 12 people donated kidneys and 10 people donated livers. There were 13 kidney transplants and 10 liver transplants performed during 2022, and more than 79,000 other surgical operations were done. The total number of patients receiving dialysis reached 2,436 patients, and the number of beds reached 449 in which more than 334,000 dialysis sessions were performed. The report also highlights the efforts of the ministry to improve the quality of health services provided at all levels,

noting that there are 27 dialysis units and 13 blood donation units in the country. **71 percent Omanisation** The total workforce in the health sector, according to the report, is around 59,000 employees, with an Omanisation rate of 71 percent. In some job categories, the percentage has reached 95 percent or more, such as: dentists, pharmacists, pharmacist assistants, health assistants, and nursemaids. The ministry has also made consistent efforts to maintain the health of school students, as 98 percent of first and second grade students underwent oral and dental examinations and the student immunisation programme was around 100 percent. Besides that, environmental health activities, drinking water quality, and students' nutritional status, in addition to mental health have been monitored. Statistical data for patients admitted to hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health indicate that about 13 out of every 10,000 residents were hospitalised due to ischemic heart disease during the year 2022, seven out of every 10,000 residents due to febrile infectious diseases (including COVID-19), and six out of every 10,000 of residents were hospitalised due to diabetes and about two out of every 10,000 residents due to high blood pressure.

Full story at timesofoman.com/oman

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Oman’s Al Rawahi leads MERC after runner-up finish at Rally of Lebanon



It was yet another spectacular display by Abdullah and his co-driver Ata Al Hmoud of Jordan in Lebanon to finish second and emerge MERC leaders with two rounds to go



MUSCAT: No Omani driver has ever claimed the overall title in the highly-competitive FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC) since the inaugural edition in 1984.

On Sunday, Oman’s young Abdullah Al Rawahi took an encouraging step towards achieving his dream and fulfilling the long-cherished ambitions of motorsports fans in the Sultanate when he finished a creditable runner-up in the 45th Rally of Lebanon, the fourth round of the MERC, to climb to top of the overall standings with two rounds to go.

It was yet another spectacular display by Oman Rally Team’s Al Rawahi and his Jordanian co-driver Ata Al Hmoud in their Skoda Fabia Rally2 Evo as they finished behind experienced Roger Feghali and his navigator Joseph Matar. Lebanon’s Feghali teamed up with his countryman Matar to claim a record 16th victory at the rally.

The Lebanese led from the second special stage, won all but one of the 11 timed tests in his Motortune Racing-run Volkswagen Polo GTi Rally2 to finish 3min 46.4sec ahead of Al Rawahi and Ata Al Hmoud.

Favourite Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah of Qatar and his Andorra-based co-driver Mathieu Baumel won the opening super special and pushed the local crew hard for the next three stages before leaving the road and badly damaging their



Autotek Motorsport Volkswagen Polo GTi Rally2 in the fifth special. The Qatari’s retirement means that he now trails Al Rawahi in the MERC title race heading to the remaining two rounds in Cyprus and Kuwait. Al Rawahi won the opening round in Oman but was forced to retire in the next at Qatar International Rally, won by Al Attiyah.

Rawahi’s stupendous form this season continued when he became the first ever Omani to win the Jordan Rally, the third round of the MERC, and now with his second-place finish in the challenging Rally of Lebanon is looking ahead to the remaining two rounds in Cyprus and Kuwait.

Al Rawahi leads the overall standings after four rounds with 84 points while Al Attiyah is

close behind with 78 points. In his exclusive remarks to *Times of Oman* from Beirut after climbing the podium, Al Rawahi said: “This my first ever finish in Rally of Lebanon. Since I made my debut here in 2018, I had some issues or crashes which meant that I was unable to finish the rally on previous occasions. “Rally of Lebanon is really tough because of its unique characteristics of stages, they’re very slippery and tricky. Preparing for this rally was important, especially since this was the fourth round of the Middle East Rally Championship.” Al Rawahi added: “We didn’t get enough practice since it’s the only tarmac rally on the MERC calendar. We started the rally very cautiously and gradually increased our pace until we made it



to the finish. I am very happy that we could finish in second place.” The Omani rally driver said: “Tarmac conditions are tough and unique. I still have a lot to learn and it was a great learning experience competing along experienced drivers like Roger Feghali and Nasser Al Attiyah. I will need to maintain the gap at the top with two remaining rounds. I hope that I can achieve my dream of becoming the first Omani to be the MERC champion.” So far Al Rawahi has already recorded four victories in MERC rally, which places him sixth best overall in the history of the championship. The only other Omani to win a rally in the MERC was Nizar Al Shanfari. Al Attiyah has to his credit a record 80 rally wins. UAE’s Mohammed Ben Sulayem is the next best with 60 wins while

Feghali is third with 16. Qatar’s Saeed Al Hajri with 11 and UAE’s Khalid Al Qassimi with eight are the other drivers ahead of Al Rawahi, who shares same number of wins with Cyprus’s Andreas Tsoulotas. **29 cars at the start** The local Škoda Fabia R5 Rally2 crew of Bassel Abu Hamden and Firas Elias rounded off the top three and Rabih Ayoub and Georges Nadher finished fourth in a similar car. Action got underway on the 11-stage event being hosted by the Automobile and Touring Club of Lebanon (ATCL) with a 2.52km super special stage late on Friday evening, near Jounieh. A total of 29 cars were permitted to start, including six in Rally2 and 14 registered for the MERC.

The early contest was between Al Attiyah and Feghali. The Qatari beat his local rival by 0.3 seconds in the opener, before crews tackled two loops of three challenging asphalt special stages on Saturday at Monsef, Ain Aaaya and Sourat. Feghali hit back strongly, won the opener by 9.3 seconds and extended his advantage to 13.3 in stage three. Feghali’s son, Alex, and Al Rawahi were the closest challengers to the front-running duo in third and fourth. Feghali finished the morning loop with another fastest time and extended his cushion over Al Attiyah to 20.6 seconds. MERC2 series leader Al Thefiri fell by the wayside after shedding a wheel on the second stage. A high-speed accident which inflicted considerable damage to Al Attiyah’s Volkswagen sidelined the Qatari on the re-run of Monsef and Autotek Motorsport decided to withdraw the Golf as the result of the incident. Feghali duly claimed the fastest times in stages five, six and seven and reached the night halt with a 2min 47.4sec advantage over second-placed Al Rawahi. The final leg used repeat runs through the classic tarmac stages of Zandouka and Zabbougha before the finish at the ATCL in Jounieh. Feghali was quickest in the opener to extend his lead to 2min 56.3sec. His lead grew to 3min 16.1sec through the ninth stage and there were no late dramas for the Lebanese, who dominated the last pair of timed tests to seal his 16th victory in Lebanon by 3min 46.4sec. The next FIA Middle East Rally Championship continues in Cyprus from October 6-8. **Rally of Lebanon result [top five]:** 1. Roger Feghali (Lebanon)/Joseph Matar (Lebanon) Volkswagen Polo GTi Rally2 (1hr 52min 53.4sec), 2. Abdullah Al Rawahi (Oman)/Ata Al Hmoud (Jordan) Skoda Fabia R5 Rally2 (1hr 56min 39.8sec), 3. Bassel Abu Hamdan (Lebanon)/Firas Elias (Lebanon) Skoda Fabia R5 Rally2 (1hr 57min 35.4sec), 4. Rabih Ayoub (Lebanon)/Georges Nadher (Lebanon) Skoda Fabia R5 Rally2 (2hr 01min 40.7sec), 5. Elias Dehni (Lebanon)/Amin Akl (Lebanon) Citroën DS3 (2hr 06min 23.7sec).



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MINISTRY OF FINANCE



Ministry completes tasks of inventorying govt assets

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Finance completed the tasks of inventorying government assets and entering them in the National Register of Government Assets (codenamed Osool or Assets).

The second phase of the project covered the assets of the Ministry of Finance and Muscat Municipality. As many as 14,722 registered assets in both institutions were inventoried, among 3,442 assets belonging to the Ministry of Finance and 11,280 assets belonging to Muscat Municipality. The second phase also saw the launch of the e-system of the Government Assets' National Register. Inventorying procedures are still ongoing at the Health Ministry, which owns a broad range of assets in its directorates general, hospitals, polyclinics, health centres and their affiliate establishments.

The Ministry of Finance also resumed second phase preliminary procedures of asset inventorying at the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Dhofar Municipality and the Environment Authority. The project will later cover other government entities.

The next phase of inventorying will also cover the assets of the Sultanate of Oman's investments, locally and abroad, the assets Oman Investment Authority and

the Central Bank of Oman.

The Finance Ministry will simultaneously set hands on developing the electronic system for the National Register of Government Assets.

It is worth noting that "Osool" project aims to establish an integrated central system for inventorying government assets within the context of a unified strategy to ensure the centralisation of their management.

The overall aim is to raise efficiency and maximise government benefits and revenues by optimizing the assets' investment in a manner that contributes to supplying the state's budget with additional financial resources. — **DNA**

REGIONAL GATHERING

Sultanate chairs GCC foreign ministers' meeting in New York

NEW YORK: The Sultanate of Oman on Monday chaired a coordination meeting of GCC foreign ministers in preparation for the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Joint meetings

Chaired by Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, the meeting looked into a programme of joint meetings that GCC states will hold with friendly countries, as well as regional gatherings on schedule. The GCC ministers exchanged views about ways to maximize common benefits from various aspects of cooperation.

The meeting also touched on means of consolidating security and stability and supporting efforts to forge peaceful solutions for major regional issues and global challenges. — **DNA**





Ministry of Defence
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SUPPLY OF HEAVY DUTY EQUIPMENT FOR MOD INFORMATION PRESERVATION AND DESTRUCTOR CENTER	22/2023	03/10/2023	10/10/2023	78 OMR

- Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.
- Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in Oman.

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

We deeply mourn the sad demise of



Shree Ramanlal Bhikalal Shah
(15/09/1937 - 17/09/2023)

Son - Prashant, Nilesh
Daughters - Anita, Yogita, Namita

Wife - Kamlata Ramanlal Shah

Daughter in law - Komal, Sneha
Grandchildren - Mahi, Tavish, Prisha



May the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace, and grant strength and solace to the bereaved family.

MUSCAT JAIN FAMILIES

OMAN/WORLD

MEETING

Sayyid Asa’ad bids farewell to Ambassador of Tanzania

MUSCAT: On behalf of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, HH Sayyid Asa’ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, received in his office on Monday Abdullah Abbas Kilima, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid him farewell at the end of his tour of duty.

The ambassador expressed his thanks to His Majesty the Sultan for the support extended to him from His Majesty, the Government and the Omani people during his tour of duty.

The ambassador wished His



Majesty the Sultan good health, happiness and a long life. He also wished the Sultanate of Oman further development and growth under the wise leadership of His Majesty.

HH Sayyid Asa’ad expressed his appreciation to the ambassador for the efforts he exerted in enhancing the relations between the two countries, wishing him continuous success.

HH Sayyid Asa’as also wished the people of Tanzania further progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General and the adviser at the office of HH Sayyid Asa’ad. – **ONA**



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IN NEW YORK

Bangladesh PM to attend UN session

NEW YORK: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday arrived in New York to attend the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Bangladesh-based Dhaka Tribune reported.

She landed at the John F Kennedy International Airport in New York at 8:42 am (Bangladesh time) on Monday. Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad Abdul Muhith and Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Muhammad Imran received her at the airport.

During her stay in New York, Sheikh Hasina will attend the first day of the high-level General Debate of the 78th UNGA session at the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters on Tuesday. She is scheduled to participate in a dinner hosted by US President Joe Biden on Tuesday.

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, Bangladesh PM will hold several bilateral and courtesy meetings. She will also attend a number of high-level side events including climate change, Sustainable Development Goals



(SDGs), universal health, and finance.

She is expected to deliver a keynote address at a conference titled “Thought for Food -Collaborating for Food Supply Chain Innovation to Accelerate the SDGs” organised by the UNIDO and Deloitte at Rockefeller Centre in New York on September 18.

On the same day, Sheikh Hasina will also address another conference titled “SDG Summit -Lead-

ers’ Dialogue 4 at the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

In the evening, she will likely attend a high-level private dinner to mark the United Nations’ 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit hosted by UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown and World Health Organization (WHO) Ambassador for Global Health Financing and Sarah Brown Executive Chair of

During her stay in New York, Sheikh Hasina will attend the first day of the high-level General Debate of the 78th UNGA session at the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters on Tuesday

the Global Business Coalition for Education at Lexington Venue, New York.

On Tuesday, Sheikh Hasina will address a High-Level Roundtable titled “Towards a Fair International Financial Architecture” convened by the Spanish Prime minister and president of the European Council and European Union (EU) at UN Headquarters. –**ANI**

US

2 planes collide at Nevada air show, both pilots killed



WASHINGTON, DC: Two pilots were killed on Sunday after their planes collided during the National Championship Air Races and Air Show in Reno, Nevada region of the US.

“Around 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, at the conclusion of the T-6 Gold race, upon landing, two planes collided and it has been confirmed that both pilots are deceased,” the Reno Air Racing Association said in a statement posted on Facebook.

The organisers identified the two pilots as Nick Macy and Chris Rushing.

“Both expertly skilled pilots and Gold winners in the T-6 Class, Macy piloted Six-Cat and Rushing flew Baron’s Revenge,” the statement said. “Families of

both pilots have been notified and support services are onsite as they deal with this tragedy.”

No other injuries were reported, it said, adding the remainder of the races were cancelled.

In a statement, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Federal Aviation Administration said that it is carrying out an investigation to find the cause of the crash, CNN reported. The agency identified the two aircraft as North American T-6G and North American AT-6B and said they had just completed the race.

NTSB said, “The wreckage of each plane came to rest one-half mile from each other,” adding the wreckage would be taken to an off-site facility for analysis.” –**DW**





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Two other dams in Libya likely to collapse: UN body

For years, experts had warned that the two-now collapsed dams were at risk due to floods, especially amid a lack of immediate maintenance



TRIPOLI: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has expressed concern regarding two more dams in east Libya which were said to be dealing with massive amounts of pressure, after the collapse of two dams in a storm last week killed thousands.

The UN agency said reports regarding the two dams' stability were "contradictory."

The Jaza Dam, which lies between the storm-hit, devastated city of Derna and nearby Benghazi, and the Qattara dam near Benghazi were both in good conditions and functioning, authorities meanwhile said.

Jaza Dam was being equipped with pumps to relieve pressure, the OCHA cited authorities as saying.

Mediterranean storm Daniel hit the country last week, destroying the two dams and causing floods which largely devastated the city of Derna, killing thousands of the city's residents and

leaving more missing.

For years, experts had warned that the two-now collapsed dams were at risk due to floods, especially amid a lack of immediate maintenance. The two dams lay uphill from the coastal city of Derna and were meant to protect some 90,000 people.

"In the event of a big flood, the consequences will be disastrous for the residents of the valley and the city," Abdelwanees Ashoor, a professor of civil engineering, wrote in a study published last year in the Sabha University Journal of Pure and Applied Sciences.

Ashoor's words were echoed by many other experts in previous years.

Built in the 1970s by a Yugoslav construction company, the Abu Mansour and Derna dams were meant to protect the city from common flash floods. They suffered major damage in 1986, when a strong storm hit the region.

Late on Friday, Libya's General Prosecutor Al-Sediq Al-Sour said a 1990s study had revealed cracks and fissures in the dams' struc-

ture. However, experts' incessant calls for maintenance largely went unheeded and since then, for more than a decade, Libya has been divided between two rival governments.

Al-Sour pledged on Friday that prosecutors would investigate the collapse of the two dams, as well as where the funds allocated previously to maintain them had gone.

"I reassure citizens that whoever made mistakes or negligence, prosecutors will certainly take firm measures, file a criminal case against him and send him to trial," he said.

Displaced landmines

Residents who survived the devastating flooding in the eastern coastal Libyan city of Derna were faced with the threat of displaced landmines in surrounding areas on Sunday.

Residents said they had to think whether to wade through areas where landmines were displaced by raging torrents that swept away entire families in the wake of this week's floods. -aw

Fighting escalates in Khartoum

KHARTOUM: Sudan's paramilitary forces have attacked the army headquarters in Khartoum, according to reports Sunday.

City residents told the AFP news agency they heard "huge bangs" in the capital. A fire also broke out in Khartoum's landmark Greater Nile Petroleum Oil Company Tower.

Posts on social media show the skyscraper in flames. But it is unclear how the fighting started, Sudanese media said it was the result of fighting between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

Posts showed other buildings smoldering. The buildings had bullet holes in the walls and windows. Witnesses reported fighting in the city of El Obeid, which lies some 220 miles south of the capital, AFP reported.

A resident told AFP that fighting between the army and the RSF appeared to have flared once again over the weekend.

An airstrike on an open market



in Khartoum last weekend killed at least 40 civilians too, according to activists and medical workers.

The latest escalation comes as world leaders make their way to New York City to attend the UN General Assembly.

Sudan has been gripped by fighting by factions opposed to one another — the Sudanese army led by Abdel Fattah al-Burha and the RSF led by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo.

The fighting first broke out in April, after the relationship between the two broke down during discussions to integrate the RSF into the country's military and to pave the way for civilian rule.

Some 7,500 people have been killed in the fighting, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. Aid groups put the toll much higher, since many of those injured or killed never make it to the hospitals. -aw

EU President pledges action to help Italian island of Lampedusa

ROME : Amid the rising number of migrants in Lampedusa, EU President Ursula von der Leyen pledged action to help Italy's crisis-hit island during her visit on Sunday.

Von der Leyen visited a migrant reception centre on the island after the Italian Prime Minister urged the European leader to extend help to the island.

The EU president's visit came after Mayor Filippo Mannino warned about Lampedusa's migrant crisis saying that it had reached a "point of no return".

At least 130,000 migrants have arrived on the shores of Italy this year, which is almost double as compared to the previous year.

Addressing a press conference

along with Italian PM Georgia Meloni, Von Der Leyen said, "We will decide who comes to the European Union and under what circumstances, and not the smugglers and traffickers."

Meanwhile, Meloni and the EU Chief met on Sunday to "offer a coordinated response by the Italian and European authorities" Von Der Leyen informed.

"We have an obligation as part of the international community. We have fulfilled it in the past and we will do so today and in the future," she added.

"Migration is a European challenge and it needs a European answer and solution," she said.

Meloni said the "problem" of migrants crossing the Mediterra-

nean to Europe cannot be solved by redistributing migrants within European borders but rather requires tackling the problem externally and preventing the departure of migrants, according to CNN.

Von Der Leyen promoted legal pathways and humanitarian corridors as measures to counter "smugglers' lies."

"We will offer migrants real alternatives through this humanitarian admission. This is very important to break the vicious narrative of the smugglers," she added.

Earlier, on Saturday, a newborn baby was found dead on a boat carrying people to Lampedusa even as dozens of the island's citizens protested over a surge in arrivals. -aw

'WORLD UNIVERSITY'

Santiniketan of India makes it to UNESCO World Heritage list



RIYADH: Santiniketan, the town in West Bengal, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list during the 45th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia on Sunday, said UNESCO in a social media post on "X".

Established in 1901 by poet and philosopher Tagore, Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.

A 'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921, recognising the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati".

Distinct from the prevailing British colonial architectural orientations of the early 20th century and of European modernism, Santiniketan represents approaches toward pan-Asian modernity, drawing on ancient, medieval and folk traditions from across the region.

India had been striving for a long to get a UNESCO tag for this cultural site located in the Birbhum district.

There was an air of celebration and unbridled joy around Visva Bharati University in the Birbhum district of West Bengal after Santiniketan, where Ra-

bindranath Tagore spent a significant part of his life.

The iconic university building and compound were lit up with decorative lights and the faculty, staff and hostellers, dressed in traditional attire, were seen breaking into Rabindrasangeet (Tagore songs) as word of the prestigious UNESCO tag reached them.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, too, expressed her delight at Santiniketan being accorded UNESCO's world heritage tag.

Taking to her official page or handle on social media platform X, Banerjee posted, "Glad and proud that our Santiniketan, the town of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, is now finally included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. Biswa Bangla's pride, Santiniketan was nurtured by the poet and has been supported by (the) people of Bengal over the generations."

She added that her government had "significantly added" to the infrastructure at Santiniketan over its last 12 years in power.

"We from the Government of West Bengal have significantly added to its infrastructure in last 12 years and the world now recognises the glory of the herit-

age place. Kudos to all who love Bengal, Tagore, and his messages of fraternity. Jai Bangla, Pranam to Gurudev," Mamata added in her tweet.

Also rejoicing the heritage tag for Santiniketan, West Bengal Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Shashi Panja said, "Today is a proud moment for Bengal. It's a proud moment for India."

Santiniketan is an ensemble of historic buildings, landscapes and gardens, pavilions, artworks, and continuing educational and cultural traditions that together express its Outstanding Universal Value, UNESCO said in a release.

Union Minister for Culture and Tourism G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday informed that the Shantiniketan in West Bengal's Birbhum district has been recommended for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list by The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

In this regard, he took to Twitter and said, "Great news for India on the Jayanti of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Santiniketan, West Bengal has been recommended for inscription to the World Heritage List by ICOMOS, the advisory body to UNESCO World Heritage Centre". -ANI



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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2023 reaching \$95.20, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 31 cents from the price of Friday, which was \$95.51. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,710.52 points, down by 0.02 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.03 per cent at 469.50 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 2.04 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 7.90 per cent, was the top loser.

Opaz launches Omap Platform to promote investment opportunities



This platform enables users to access detailed services and information about the zones through the available digital maps and tools



MUSCAT: The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) launched Omap Platform, a digital portal for integrated geographical maps that include all-inclusive data of mas-

terplans for the special economic zones, free zones, and industrial cities overseen by Opaz.

This platform enables users to access detailed services and information about the zones through the available digital maps and tools.

Introducing Omap Platform complements Opaz's efforts to improve the quality of services provided to

investors by facilitating and accelerating procedures, reducing time and effort, offering opportunities for all investors and beneficiaries, and ensuring that plans do not overlap.

The platform guarantees easy access to comprehensive and accurate spatial information through detailed interactive maps for all the zones, as well as identifying the

vacant lands for investment and its associated economic activities.

This platform aims to promote investment opportunities in these zones within and outside the Sultanate of Oman, provide information and spatial systems that support the decision-making process for investors, and enable them to use modern technologies in urban planning pro-

cesses and future expansion with the possibility of printing maps.

Speaking on the occasion, Najya Sultan Al Hajri, Section Head of Geographical Information System (GIS), pointed out, "Omap Platform provides a range of features, including the search for specific locations or plots of land for investment and providing detailed information about key landmarks and facilities such as hospitals, restaurants, schools, stores and hotels, which could be found nearby. Further, users can get the details of lands by their type, usufruct rates, location coordinates, size, and nearby utilities such as electricity, telecommunications, water, and public and private transportation networks. Moreover, the platform makes it possible for users to measure the distance between different locations and how far they are from the trans-

portation networks concerned with shipping goods and products to foreign markets."

On the other hand, the platform brings several advantages to the users, such as identifying various biodiversity sites, reserve sites, tourist attractions, camping sites, and others. In addition, the platform's users can get an insight into the weather and climate conditions as it is connected to climate monitoring stations' systems in the zones.

Likewise, the platform provides information related to soil tests for different sites in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, being a platform attracting future and artificial intelligence technologies.

It is worth noting that Omap Platform will contribute to promoting special economic zones, free zones, industrial cities and investment opportunities through the advantages it provides. -**ONA**

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING

OQGN announces offer price range, details of its IPO subscription period

Times News Service

MUSCAT: OQ Gas Networks SAOG (under transformation) ("OQGN" or the "Company") announced the price range and details of the subscription period for its initial public offering (the "IPO" or the "Offering") on the Muscat Stock Exchange. The prospectus has been approved by the Capital Market Authority (CMA), of the Sultanate of Oman, which regulates and develops Oman's financial markets for the capital market and insurance sectors.

Talal Al Awfi, OQ Group Chief Executive Officer and OQGN Chairman said: "We are immensely proud of this milestone and look forward to the launch of the IPO subscription period. OQGN has a compelling story, and a track record of consistent delivery and is



now taking a significant step forward to its next phase of growth."

Mansoor Al Abdali, Managing Director of OQGN, said: "We are confident in our position as the exclusive operator of the gas transportation network in Oman

and in our ability to provide critical infrastructure for both our domestic and international partners. Since announcing our intention to float on the MSX, we are pleased to see our strong position and performance reflected by significant interest from investors including our three, globally renowned, anchor investors. We believe that OQGN represents an attractive investment proposition, and we are excited for what is to come."

Muteb Al Shathri, Acting CEO of the Saudi Omani Investment Company, said: "The company's high cash flow visibility, underpinned by a robust regulatory environment and experienced leadership team was critical in determining our investment in OQGN. We are pleased to underline our commitment to the investment by securing an anchor position in the forth-

coming IPO. We have confidence in OQGN's development and trajectory, as well as in Oman as an attractive investment destination and are excited to be part of the largest IPO to date on the Muscat Stock Exchange. This investment underscores our commitment and our long-term investment strategy for Oman."

Mansoor Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud, CEO, QIA, said: "We are proud to partner with OQGN in its IPO and recognise the critical role OQGN plays in connecting gas producers and customers as part of Oman's broader infrastructure network. QIA recognises OQGN's strong growth potential through further network expansion and adaptation to renewable energy sources."

Pascal De Buck, Chief Executive Officer, Fluxys, said: "This investment aligns perfectly with our strategy to develop low carbon energy value chains through partnerships. As Oman will become a leading export hub for renewable hydrogen, it's a unique opportunity for Fluxys to play a key role in accelerating the energy transition and bringing renewable hydrogen to Belgium and Europe."

Details of offer price range and subscription process

The Offering will be conducted in the manner approved by the CMA and will be offered in a parallel offering as follows:

The Selling Shareholders intend to offer up to 49% of OQGN's total share capital. Immediately following the Offering, a maximum of 51% shareholding will continue to be held

by OQ. The Company and the Selling Shareholders reserve the right to amend the size of the Offering at any time before the end of the subscription period in their sole discretion, subject to applicable laws and the approval of the CMA. All the shares being sold by the selling shareholders are existing ordinary shares and the company will not receive any proceeds from the sale of the shares in the offering, all of which will be paid to the selling shareholders. The offering expenses will be paid by the selling shareholders.

Category I Offer: 848,802,288 Offer Shares have been allocated for Category I applicants, as follows: (a) 20 per cent of the Offer Shares (equivalent to 50 per cent of the Category I Offer Shares i.e., 424,401,144 Offer Shares) shall be reserved for subscription by Local Applicants. **>B2**

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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 2.04 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 7.90 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,710.52 points, down by 0.02 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.03 per cent at 469.50 points. Al Omaniya Financial Services, up 2.04 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Madina Investments, down 7.90 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 387 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating turnover of OMR1.82 million, with more than 5.58 million shares changing hands. Out of 33 traded securities, 5 advanced, 18 declined, and 10 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR129,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR110,000, followed by

foreign investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,650.16 points, down 0.54 per cent. Prices of Al Omaniya Financial Services, National Bank Oman were up by 2.04 per cent, 1.33 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Oman Arab Bank, United Finance, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful were up by 7.90 per cent, 4.70 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.28 per cent, 1.18 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,757.37 points, up 0.05 per cent. Prices of Oman Chromite, Oman Cables Industry were up by 1.77 per cent, 1.54 per cent respectively. Prices of Voltamp Energy, Raysut Cement, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Chlorine were up by 3.28 per cent, 2.16 per cent, 1.35 per cent, 0.37 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.24 per cent before closing at 1,633.59 points. — **United Securities**

CBO

Treasury bills worth OMR19.4mn issued



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR19.4 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Monday.

The value of the allotted Treasury bills amounted to OMR5 million, for a maturity period of 28 days. The average accepted price reached OMR99.660 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.660 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 4.43214

per cent and 4.44726 per cent, respectively.

Whereas, the value of the allotted treasury bills amounted to OMR14.4 million, for a maturity period of 91 days. The average accepted price reached OMR98.702 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR98.690 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 5.20760 per cent and 5.27611 per cent, respectively. —**OMA**

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,710.52	4,697.26	4,710.52	4,711.25	-0.73	-0.02
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,693.29	7,644.78	7,650.16	7,691.46	-41.30	-0.54
Industry Index	5,765.79	5,757.37	5,757.37	5,754.32	3.05	0.05
Services Index	1,637.44	1,632.46	1,633.59	1,637.44	-3.85	-0.24
MSX Shariah Index	470.37	468.86	469.50	469.35	0.16	0.03
MSX TR INDEX	6,201.97	6,184.51	6,201.97	6,202.92	-0.96	-0.02
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,394.79	8,341.86	8,347.73	8,392.79	-45.07	-0.54
SERVICES TR IDX	1,808.47	1,802.97	1,804.22	1,808.47	-4.25	-0.24
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,159.30	6,150.30	6,150.30	6,147.05	3.25	0.05

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
5,582,037	1,824,067	387	23,715,543,773	5	18	10	33

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BR.	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	237,007	71,702	9	0.300	0.304	0.300	0.304	0.300	0.004	1.333	0.304	0.304	0.302	0.100	494,287,692
OM0000001152	OMAN NATIONAL ENGINEERING & INVESTMENT	110,500	11,603	7	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.104	0.001	0.962	0.105	0.104	0.105	0.100	15,750,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,209	77	1	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.000	0.000	0.064	0.064	0.065	0.100	7,800,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	10,300	1,957	2	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	41,800,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIYA INVESTMENT HO.	8,000	544	1	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.100	6,120,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	596,000	62,580	27	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.000	0.000	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.100	574,128,293
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	6,405	436	4	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.000	0.000	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.100	13,575,221
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	737,313	743,080	52	1.004	1.010	1.004	1.009	1.010	-0.001	-0.099	1.009	1.008	1.009	0.100	756,750,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	537,500	218,491	13	0.410	0.410	0.405	0.409	0.410	-0.001	-0.244	0.409	0.400	0.410	0.100	96,691,690
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	281,540	110,853	9	0.400	0.400	0.390	0.394	0.395	-0.001	-0.253	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.100	263,335,978
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	677,612	192,662	50	0.285	0.285	0.284	0.284	0.285	-0.001	-0.351	0.284	0.284	0.285	0.100	2,131,816,766
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	525,700	200,837	18	0.383	0.383	0.382	0.382	0.384	-0.002	-0.521	0.382	0.382	0.383	0.100	248,660,696
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	60,000	5,060	5	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.085	-0.001	-1.176	0.084	0.084	0.085	0.100	14,700,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	115,566	6,472	8	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.057	-0.001	-1.754	0.056	0.056	0.057	0.100	19,943,129
Total	14	3,904,652	1,626,353	206												

Parallel Market

OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	70,000	10,470	5	0.147	0.150	0.147	0.150	0.147	0.003	2.041	0.150	0.000	0.150	0.100	46,151,161
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	300	1,548	5	5.199	5.199	5.100	5.190	5.100	0.090	1.765	5.190	5.020	5.190	1.000	15,570,000
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDUSTRY	250	495	1	1.980	1.980	1.980	1.980	1.950	0.030	1.538	1.980	0.000	1.975	0.100	177,605,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	11,300	599	2	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.000	0.000	0.053	0.053	0.057	0.100	16,278,755
OM0000003141	BANKA WATER AND POWER	43,600	1,598	7	0.037	0.039	0.036	0.039	0.039	0.000	0.000	0.039	0.037	0.039	0.100	6,240,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,257,360	123,205	86	0.097	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000008868	THE PEARL REEF	2,955	355	1	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.116	0.120	0.100	60,972,426
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	159,401	46,601	45	0.292	0.293	0.292	0.292	0.293	-0.001	-0.341	0.293	0.293	0.293	0.100	224,896,400
OM0000002341	OMAN CHLORINE	100	54	1	0.540	0.540	0.540	0.540	0.542	-0.002	-0.369	0.540	0.000	0.540	0.100	38,614,774
OM0000004735	SEMOB CORP SALALAH	300	29	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.096	-0.001	-1.042	0.095	0.000	0.095	0.100	90,684,335
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	28,520	2,196	2	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.077	0.078	-0.001	-1.282	0.077	0.075	0.077	0.100	15,862,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	100	22	1	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.223	-0.003	-1.345	0.220	0.221	0.000	0.100	10,068,476
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	26,855	3,686	9	0.138	0.139	0.136	0.136	0.139	-0.003	-2.158	0.136	0.130	0.136	0.100	27,200,000
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	20,300	1,665	2	0.084	0.084	0.082	0.082	0.084	-0.002	-2.381	0.082	0.000	0.084	0.100	38,637,284
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	26,959	3,181	6	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.122	-0.004	-3.279	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.100	9,605,525
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	11,200	258	2	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.024	-0.001	-4.167	0.023	0.022	0.023	0.100	15,522,411
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	9,696	1,377	2	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.149	-0.007	-4.698	0.142	0.142	0.142	0.100	237,056,220
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	8,100	308	2	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.035	0.038	-0.003	-7.895	0.035	0.035	0.035	0.100	2,975,000
Total	18	1,677,296	197,646	180												

DELEGATION VISIT

Tunisian business delegation explores key investment opportunities in Samail Industrial City

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A Tunisian business delegation visited on Monday Samail Industrial City to explore the diverse investment landscape and the available investment opportunities.

Eng. Yasser bin Ibrahim Al Ajmi, Acting Director General of Samail Industrial City, welcomed the delegation and gave a brief on Madayn's network of industrial cities across the Sultanate of Oman.



The delegation was introduced to the vision of Madayn in enhancing Oman's position as a leading regional centre of manufacturing, ICT, innovation and entrepreneurship excellence, and its mission in attracting industrial investments

and providing continued support, through regionally and globally competitive strategies, good infrastructure, value-adding services, and easy governmental processes.

Ahmed bin Suleiman Al Hashmi, Investor Services Head at Sa-

mail Industrial City, highlighted that Madayn has divided Samail Industrial City into several sectors, among which is a 39,000 sqm area designated for the SMEs, with the current occupancy rate of this sector touching 34 per cent.

ANCHOR INVESTOR

Fluxys and OQGN sign strategic partnership MoU to support global energy transition



Times News Service

MUSCAT: With abundant wind and solar resources enabling competitive renewable hydrogen production, Oman has the ambition to become a world-leading renewable hydrogen hub.

Following an invitation to become an anchor investor in the coming IPO process on the Muscat Stock Exchange, Fluxys has committed to acquire a 4.9 per cent stake in OQGN, the state-owned transmission system operator. The partnership is further strengthened by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Fluxys and OQGN to explore areas of strategic co-operation in the development of Oman's hydrogen and CO₂ infrastructure.

Oman has a major renewable energy potential as solar and wind conditions are among the best in the world. Furthermore, Oman is strategically located with excellent access to hydrogen import markets with ports located on established sea trading routes. With strong govern-

ment support, a substantial investment plan is currently implemented with 9 hydrogen projects under development.

In September 2021, the Belgian and Omani ministers of energy signed an MoU to promote and develop renewable hydrogen projects together. Belgian players like the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and DEME already hold a material presence in the Port of Duqm and the hydrogen space in Oman.

Within this renewable hydrogen strategy, OQGN will play a critical role in developing the country's renewable hydrogen (and CO₂) networks. Therefore, this acquisition fits perfectly with Fluxys' strategy to connect and invest in new low-carbon energy value chains by developing hydrogen (and CO₂) routes towards Belgium and Europe.

Talal Al Awfi, CEO of OQ Group and Chairman of OQGN noted, "Fluxys' decision to be an anchor investor in OQGN's IPO demonstrates the strength of OQGN's investment case and growth potential in Oman and beyond. This investment creates a natural partnership

between our businesses as we both seek support for the global energy transition and Oman's Vision 2040."

Fluxys and OQGN are front-runners in decarbonisation projects sharing the same renewable future vision. Both companies' infrastructure and projects are highly complementary, translating into a strategic MOU confirming the collaborative ambition of both companies to develop hydrogen, CO₂ and green gas infrastructure in Oman.

Pascal De Buck, CEO of Fluxys: "This investment aligns perfectly with our strategy to develop low-carbon energy value chains through partnerships. As Oman will become a leading export hub for renewable hydrogen, it's a unique opportunity for Fluxys to play a key role in accelerating the energy transition and bringing renewable hydrogen to Belgium and Europe."

The listing of OQGN shares on the Muscat Stock Exchange is expected to take place in October 2023, subject to receiving the required regulatory approvals.

OFFER

OQGN offer

< FROM B1 The allocation of Offer Shares to Local Applicants shall be made on a proportionate basis. Applicants for Offer Shares in the Category I Offer can apply for a minimum of 100,000 Offer Shares and in multiples of 100 thereafter. (b) 20 per cent of the Offer Shares (equivalent to 50 per cent of the Category I Offer Shares i.e., 424,401,144 Offer Shares) shall be available for subscription by Non-Local Applicants. Allocation of Offer Shares to Non-Local Applicants shall be determined by the Selling Shareholders in consultation with the Joint Global Coordinators.

Anchor investors: 636,601,716 Offer Shares have been allocated for Anchor Investors, being 30 per cent of the Offer. In this respect, the Company has received irrevocable commitments from the Saudi Omani Investment Company, a wholly owned entity of the Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Falcon Investments LLC, a subsidiary of Qatar Investment Authority, the sovereign wealth fund of the State of Qatar, and Fluxys International SA/NV. The anchor investors have, in aggregate irrevocably committed OMR 89,124,240 to the IPO representing a purchase price of Bzs 140 per share, subject to the terms contained in their respective anchor investment agreements. Category II Offer: 636,601,716 Offer Shares have been allocated for Category II, being 30 per cent of the Offer (allocation to Category II Applicants to be made on a proportionate basis).

If the aggregate demand in Category II is greater than 30% of the Offer Shares, the CMA may decide that a minimum number of Category II Offer Shares be distributed equally among Category II Applicants, and the remaining Category II Offer Shares shall be allocated on a pro-rata basis. Applicants for Offer Shares in the Category II Offer can apply for a minimum of 1,000 Offer Shares and in multiples of 100 thereafter.



According to a study, patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) can lower their risk of dying from cardiovascular disease by sleeping with a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine.

People with OSA snort frequently, their breathing stops and starts throughout the night, and they may wake up several times. This can cause weariness by reducing the amount of oxygen in the blood. It can also increase your chances of developing hypertension, stroke, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes.

CPAP machines are provided to people with OSA to help them sleep better.

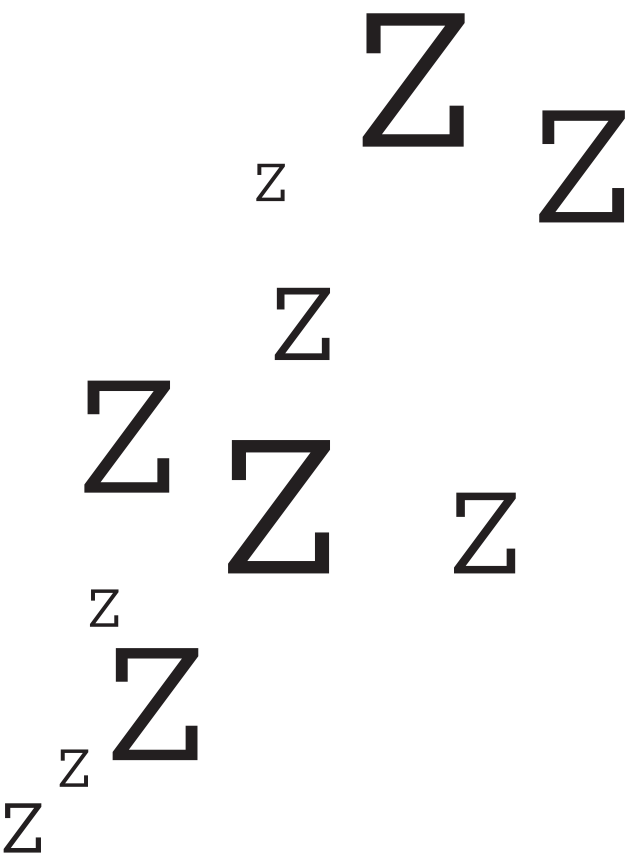
During the night, they blow air through a face mask to keep the user's airways open. However, research on the impact of CPAP on cardiovascular disease has shown contradictory results.

The heart disease study was presented by Dr Jordi de Batlle of the Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida (IRBLleida) in Lleida, Spain. He and his colleagues identified all 3,638 OSA patients in Catalonia who had elected to stop using CPAP in 2011. They compared these to 3,638 OSA patients who used CPAP until at least 2015 or until they died.

Dr de Batlle said, "Our results suggest that CPAP treatment can help most OSA patients by preventing cardiovascular problems such as heart disease and stroke. This is a plus, as CPAP treatment already helps most OSA patients by reducing sleepiness and improving their quality of life. Based on these findings, we should encourage people with OSA to keep using their CPAP machines."

The pilot study was presented by Dr Cliona O'Donnell, a specialist registrar in respiratory medicine at St. Vincent's University Hospital and University College Dublin, Ireland. She and her colleagues conducted a study with 30 patients suffering from OSA who underwent a computerised tomography (CT) coronary angiogram to assess any signs of narrowing in the blood vessels that supply the heart.

The patients were then randomly assigned to 24 weeks of treatment either using a CPAP machine at night, injections with the weight loss drug liraglutide, or both together.



Patients who showed signs of coronary artery disease in their first scan underwent a repeat scan at the end of the 24 weeks of treatment. Researchers used an artificial intelligence program to analyse the patients' scans.

The patients who were treated with CPAP and those treated with CPAP and weight loss injections experienced reductions in the plaque build-up in their arteries and a reduction of inflammation in their aorta (the main artery that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body). Patients who were treated with weight loss injections only did not experience these effects.

Dr O'Donnell said, "Continuous positive airway pressure works by keeping patients' airways open while they sleep. This stops fluctuations in oxygen levels in the blood that can exacerbate cardiovascular disease."

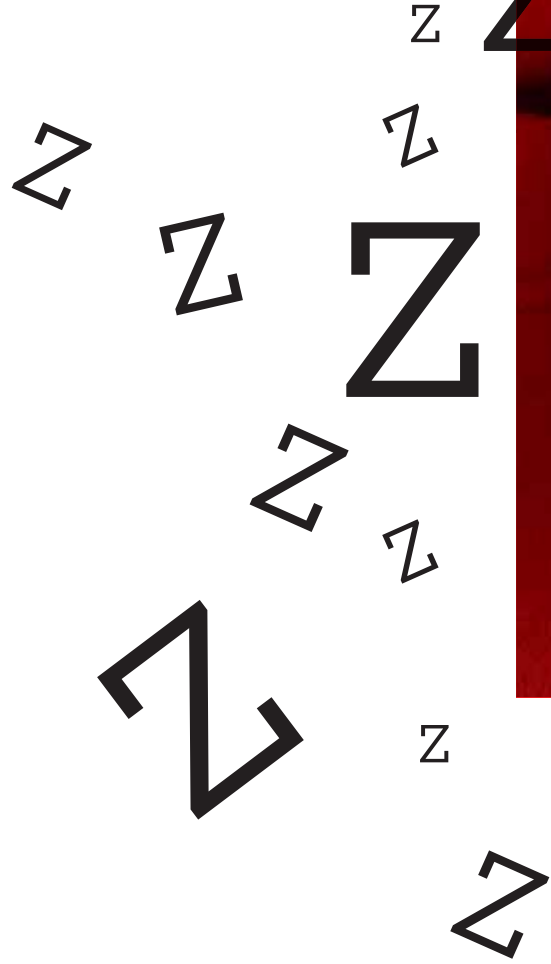
“Although this is a pilot study, meaning we cannot draw firm conclusions, we found improvements in some early signs of cardiovascular disease with CPAP treatment. This should now be further evaluated in larger studies.

Professor Sophia Schiza, who is secretary of the European Respiratory Society's group assembly on sleep-disordered breathing and was not involved in the research, said, "We know that people with obstructive sleep apnea are at a higher risk of cardiovascular problems, but there are conflicting data on the effects of CPAP on reducing this risk.

However, research using real-world data shows that CPAP adherence is one of the key predictors for reducing cardiovascular risk and for better outcomes in general. Here we have two studies: one large study showing that CPAP could help lower the risk of developing or dying from cardiovascular disease in people suffering from OSA and another small study suggesting that CPAP could be more beneficial than weight-loss therapy for people suffering from OSA.

OSA is an extremely common disease, with consequences for people's daytime functioning and the health of their hearts, blood vessels and metabolism.

One of the treatment options is CPAP, and the more the patients use CPAP every night, the greater the reduction in cardiovascular illness and death. Therefore, there is a need for individualised treatment plans, patient engagement, educational activities and close treatment follow-up in order to increase adherence to long-term treatment and improve outcomes for patients."



Real Madrid secure top spot

Former champions preserve their perfect start to the season after a win over Real Sociedad

MADRID: Former champions Real Madrid rallied from behind to preserve their perfect record, securing the top spot in Spanish La Liga after a tight 2-1 victory against Real Sociedad at the Bernabeu Stadium.

Former Newcastle and Stoke striker Joselu was their unlikely hero, rising at the far post to head home Fran Garcia's cross on the hour.

After netting five times in his first four games for his new club, Jude Bellingham's phenomenal scoring run came to an end.

Bellingham's best chance came in stoppage time as he rose to meet Brahim Diaz's cross only for Alex Ramiro to make an excellent save.

However, the England man was pivotal in Real Madrid clawing their way back into the game after they had suffered the shock of conceding in the fifth minute.

On-loan Chelsea keeper Kepa Arrizabalaga couldn't keep out Ander Barrenetxea's second effort after he had pushed the first back to the visiting forward.

Sociedad had gone 46 league matches without defeat since they last lost after leading at the break, but once Federico Valverde had levelled with a powerful shot from the edge of the area a minute after the resumption, it was always likely to be an uphill battle to preserve that record.

The visitors did have chances to extend their lead in an open



contest as Barrenetxea blazed over after Kepa had pushed another rebound straight to him and then saw the Spain international keep another effort out with a full-length save.

But once Real Madrid got themselves in front, they never looked likely to surrender their advantage.

The visitors also rued Take Kubo's first-half strike, which would have given them a 2-0 lead,

being disallowed due to Mikel Oyarzabal's positional offside.

The result maintains Real Madrid's two-point advantage over arch-rivals Barcelona at the top of the table as they get ready to begin their quest for a 15th Champions League crown against German challengers Union Berlin on Wednesday.

Real Sociedad, who were suffering their first defeat of the season, are also in action on Wednesday

when they entertain last season's runners-up Inter Milan.

Villarreal beat Almeria

Villarreal also rebounded from an early deficit to triumph 2-1 at home against Almeria in Jose Rojo Pacheta's managerial debut.

Sergio Akieme bypassed the off-side trap to put Almeria in the lead in the 44th minute, but Gerard Moreno equalised from close range just before halftime. Almeria

squandered numerous opportunities to seal the win and were punished when Alexander Sorloth netted the winner for Villarreal in injury time.

Getafe edged out Osasuna 3-2 in a thrilling home match. Stefan Mitrovic and Jose Angel Carmona twice gave Getafe the lead with headers, but Iker Munoz and Ante Budimir responded for Osasuna, with Budimir converting a penalty. Nemanja Maksimovic's header in

the 86th minute ensured Getafe's victory, and Mason Greenwood made a cameo appearance in the 77th minute.

Sevilla's Dodi Lukebakio came off the bench to score the match's lone goal, granting Sevilla their inaugural points of the season with a 1-0 victory over Las Palmas. However, the highlight was Sergio Ramos donning a Sevilla jersey, nearly two decades after his departure to Real Madrid. - Agencies

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal edge past Everton



LONDON: Arsenal maintained their positive start to the English Premier League, securing a 1-0 victory over Everton at Goodison Park on Sunday.

The Gunners - who replaced England goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale with David Raya - have suffered away at Everton in recent years, losing on four of their past five visits.

But the Toffees, still without a Premier League win this season, were desperately short of quality and Arsenal substitute Leandro Trossard broke the dead-

lock with a classy side-foot finish after 69 minutes.

Arsenal had Gabriel Martinelli's sweeping first-half finish narrowly ruled out for offside against Eddie Nketiah in the buildup, but the home side could not hold out in the second period as Trossard finished off some patient Gunners probing around the box.

Manager Mikel Arteta was clearly elated as his side maintained their unbeaten start to the season and moved back to within two points of leaders Manchester City.

The early departure of Martinelli, who went off with a hamstring injury moments after seeing his goal ruled out for offside, was a blow but Trossard made his mark with a clever side-foot finish following neat build-up from Martin Odegaard and Bukayo Saka.

Arsenal may have approached the game with a degree of trepidation given past results here, but this was a test they passed comfortably.

"It was a long time without a win here," Arteta said.

"We played a great game, we didn't give anything away. We dominated the game and created numerous chances. The score should probably have been bigger.

"I really enjoyed this. Against Manchester United, I saw my face after and it was a bit of relief. This was enjoyable."

Chelsea's fluctuating form persisted, resulting in a 0-0 stalemate against Bournemouth.

While Mauricio Pochettino's squad saw more ball possession, both teams had comparable opportunities.

Nicolas Jackson and Raheem Sterling were unfortunate as their attempts hit the post. Chelsea's goal-scoring woes continued, marking their second consecutive game without a goal. - Agencies

ITALIAN SERIE A

Roma hit seven past Empoli

ROME: Roma unleashed their pent-up frustration to register their first win of the new season by decimating Empoli 7-0 on Sunday with new signings Renato Sanches and Romelu Lukaku both marking their debuts with goals.

The Giallorossi had a rocky start to the season, securing only one point from three matches.

The Giallorossi started the match in the relegation zone, but secured a huge home win which equalled the record margin of victory in a modern Serie A match.

The result means Jose Mourinho's men have climbed from 18th to 12th. The home team set the tone early. Paulo Dybala's penalty gave Roma the lead just two minutes into the match. Six minutes later, Sanches' diving header doubled their advantage, and Bryan Cristante's pressure led to an own goal by the opposition.

Roma's dominance persisted in the second half. Dybala's intricate footwork culminated in a signature left-footed curler 10 minutes post-interval. Cristante then unleashed a long-range strike, Lukaku found the net unchallenged, and Gianluca Mancini's header sealed the emphatic win.

The result matches the eight previous 7-0 wins teams have managed in Serie A since the competition introduced three



points for a win in 1994. One of those also came at the Stadio Olimpico in November 2006, when Roma hammered Catania under the guidance of current Italy manager Luciano Spalletti.

No Italian team has won by more than seven goals since Juventus thumped Inter Milan 9-1 at home in April 1961, and Roma were responsible for an equally emphatic hammering when they embarrassed Napoli 8-0 two years earlier.

Roma also won 9-0 at home to Cremonese in October 1929 but the overall top flight record remains Torino's 10-0 win at home to Alessandria in May 1948.

Mourinho, who had empha-

sised Roma's potential but bemoaned their absences before the game, last triumphed by such a large scoreline when he led Real Madrid to an 8-1 home win over Almeria in May 2011.

In other Sunday fixtures, Sassuolo took a two-goal lead thanks to Andrea Pinamonti's double.

However, they squandered their advantage as newly-promoted Frosinone rallied to win 4-2, with Luca Mazzitelli also netting twice. In additional matches, Fiorentina staged a comeback to edge Atalanta 3-2, Monza drew 1-1 with Lecce, and Cagliari played a goalless draw against Udinese. - Agencies

FIRST OMAN AMATEUR GOLF SERIES

Jayasinghe crowned champion at Ghala Golf Club

MUSCAT: Ruwan Jayasinghe was crowned champion at the inaugural Oman Amateur Gold Series event that concluded at the Ghala Golf Club recently.

Jayasinghe scored 74, 79 and 72 for a tournament total of 225 over three days to edge national golf team player Badar Al Amri by two shots.

In the mix from the first round where Jayasinghe posted a two over par 74 to be tied with Al Amri, he relinquished his lead after a second round score of 77 to Azzan Al Rumhy.

However, Jayasinghe recorded the tournament's lowest round of the week in the final round to take top spot with a par 72, which included three birdies and three bogeys.

The Sri Lankan, who plays out of Ghala Golf Club, finished ahead of Al Amri who posted a final round 73, with Ahmed Al Wahaibi a further two shots back.

The Oman Amateur Series has been created by the Oman Golf Association (OGA) to provide playing opportunities for elite amateur golfers based in the country.

The events will be accredited with World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points. The WAGR listing is managed by the R&A and the USGA and is used as a global measure of the elite amateur competitive game. Currently Oman has only Azzan Al Rumhy listed with WAGR status. The OGA hopes to see more players from Oman in the rankings with such events.



Ruwan Jayasinghe in action during the event at Ghala Golf Club

As the series develops it is expected to attract more elite players, with WAGR points available.

It will also allow players based in

the Sultanate of Oman to measure themselves against the best in the region.

The Oman Amateur Series has



National team golfer Badar Al Amri in action during the event

been made possible by the support of Ghala Golf Club, the R&A, Asian Tour, and OGA partners - Sohar Aluminium and Moore Stephens.

The OGA also thanked the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Youth for their ongoing support and guidance.

ROUND-UP



Drive home Ford's new exciting range

In Oman, Ford's exciting range is a popular choice due to the latest additions that place Ford's vehicles at the forefront of advancements in design, technology, features, comfort and more

MUSCAT: Ford enthusiasts can now own their favourite Ford from the latest range and enjoy exclusive benefits. The benefits include Service 3 Years / 60,000 kms and 1 Year Registration. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.)

In Oman, Ford's exciting range is a popular choice due to the lat-



est additions that place Ford's vehicles at the forefront of advancements in design, technology, features, comfort and more. The range includes the Expedition, Explorer, Territory and Taurus.

The Expedition is equipped with a 3.5-liter EcoBoost® engine with standard Auto Start-Stop plus a class exclusive 10-speed automatic transmission. The Expedition offers best-in-class fuel economy and power, with up to 380 horsepower and 637Nm torque available. The Ford Expedition also offers the best towing capability of any full-size SUV with Trailer Tow Class IV. Plus, an available power

liftgate makes loading cargo easy. The Expedition offers connectivity technologies and convenience features, including - Tri-zone Electronic Temperature Control, Wireless charging, SYNC® 4 with 12" LCD touchscreen, Power in every row: With four 12-volt power points, six USB chargers and a 220-volt power outlet that lets passengers stay charged and connected; Advanced cargo manager with an adjustable shelf, and Panoramic Vista Roof.

The Ford Explorer looks impressive and performs amazingly well too. Equipped with 4x4 capability, impressive space, comfort

and a host of features and technology, the Ford Explorer is a trusted partner for the outdoors and routine journeys too. The Explorer is equipped with a revised 2.3-litre turbocharged EcoBoost® engine that produces 300 horsepower and 420Nm of torque. The engine is matched to an all-new 10-speed transmission and Intelligent All-Wheel-Drive system. With its quick-shifting 10-speed automatic transmission, Intelligent Four-Wheel Drive plus a Terrain Management System featuring seven selectable drive modes, the new Explorer is built to tackle virtually any adventure. Sand mode comes

standard on all models.

The Territory SUV combines a modern and striking look, ample cabin space, and confident driving with smart, safe technologies and empowering experiences for young professionals and small, busy families. Ford Territory's interior provides a convenient and sophisticated experience space that caters to a wide range of customer needs, whether for work, play, or family. The horizontal coast-to-coast design evokes a connecting space in an embracing gesture, creating openness and spaciousness. Comfort and function are maximized through Premium Leather seats.

with a 10-way adjustable ergonomic driver's seat. Ford Territory is equipped with an EcoBoost 1.8L engine, delivering 320Nm torque using moderate fuel and impressive power up to 190 hp. The vehicle is equipped with an advanced dual clutch Seven-Speed automatic transmission providing smooth, responsive gear shifting.

The Ford Taurus blends seamless connectivity, high on-road performance, and an entirely new sleek modern design. Boasting an all-new design, on an entirely different platform, the all-new Taurus still exudes refinement with numerous premium touches. Featuring 19-inch, 10-spoke polished alloy wheels, a new flatter streamlined hood, and a power-deployable door handle, Taurus is sleeker in its stance. Under the bonnet, Ford's proven 2.0-litre EcoBoost engine powers the all-new Taurus, mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission, producing 232 Hp and 388 Nm of torque. Offered with front-wheel drive and three driving modes – Normal, Sport, and Eco – the Blue Oval's flagship sedan enjoys an impressive economy of as much as 15.3 km/l.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

BankDhofar launches youth account to empower next generation

MUSCAT: BankDhofar introduced its latest offering, the BankDhofar Youth Account, designed to cater to the unique financial needs and aspirations of Oman's young generation.

BankDhofar encourages young Omanis to embrace Youth Account as a stepping stone to financial literacy and independence. With this account, the bank aims to inspire a generation of confident and responsible financial leaders.

The Youth Account is specially crafted to cater to the unique needs of youth, aged between 18 and 23 years. This innovative youth-centric account is a testament to

BankDhofar's commitment to empowering the youth with convenient and flexible banking solutions that enable financial independence from an early age.

Commenting on the launch of the Youth Account, Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Chief Retail Banking Officer at BankDhofar said, "Our Youth Account is designed to empower the younger generation to take control of their finances, learn essential money management skills, and build a strong financial foundation for the future. We are committed to providing them with the tools they need to start their career and

achieve their financial goals.”

The Youth Account comes with no minimum balance requirement powered by a personalised debit card and free transfers through mobile payment service, ensuring that young account holders can enjoy their banking experience without any extra fees.

BankDhofar is one of the best banks in the region, catering to customers' needs and requirements and setting the standard for the best customer experience within the banking industry in the Sultanate through innovative products and creative solutions.

Following best international banking practices, provision of outstanding customer experience, in addition to its commitment to community development and contribution to the growth of the national economy, has placed Bank Dhofar at the top of the list of best banks in the region.

BankDhofar national wide network currently consists of more than 100 branches including Maisarah and three corporate branches. The network also includes more than 300 (ATMs – CDMs – FFMs – MFKs) for BankDhofar and Maisarah.



ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat inaugurates new Green Sports field in Izki Wilayat

The Green Sports programme reaffirms the bank's commitment to corporate social responsibility and contributes substantially to encouraging the youth by providing green sports fields to help them develop their talents and skills



MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to social responsibility, community development and the youth, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, recently inaugurated the new Green Sports field for Al Humaidha Sports and Cultural Team in the Wilayat of Izki at an event held under the patronage of Sheikh Younis bin Ali Al Manthri, Member of the Shura Council and Representative of Izki.

The event was also attended by Hamdan Hamoud Al Bimani, Regional Manager, Dakhiliyah, Bank Muscat and a number of officials and team members. Addressing the gathering, Hamdan Hamoud Al Bimani, Regional Manager, Dakhiliyah, Bank Muscat, congratulated the management, players and fans of the team and said: "The Green Sports programme reaffirms the bank's commitment to corporate social

responsibility and contributes substantially to encouraging the youth by providing green sports fields to help them develop their talents and skills. We wish success to all members of the Al Humaidha team in the coming years." On his part, Aref Subaa' Al Amri, Head of Al Humaidha Sports and Cultural Team, expressed his happiness with the completion of the project and thanked Bank Muscat for its pioneering role in corporate

social responsibility, particularly in Green Sports, which is contributing to the building of quality sports infrastructure across the Sultanate of Oman. He affirmed that the team would continue to work hard to develop the capabilities and talents of its members as a way to contribute to developing the overall sports sector in Oman. Bank Muscat's Green Sports programme is one of the leading CSR programs in Oman, which

provides support to local sports teams as part of the bank's efforts to develop sports infrastructure and green spaces throughout the Sultanate of Oman. The support includes greening of football pitches, water desalination and lighting. It is a matter of great encouragement that the Bank Muscat's Green Sports programme has so far benefitted 183 teams with over 50,000 team members across the Sultanate of Oman. The bank recently announced the winners in the 12th edition of Green Sports programme, representing 20 teams from across the country. Since its inception in 2012, the Green Sports programme reaffirms the bank's commitment to providing ample opportunities for young Omanis to develop their talents. It goes a long way in developing the sporting skills and talents of Omani youth, thereby leading to all-round development of the sport. It is worth mentioning that the football fields developed as part of the Green Sports programme serve as a gathering venue for social activities for children and youth.

AUTHORISED DISTRIBUTOR

Sayarti signs strategic partnership agreement with Tesla Power Mena

MUSCAT: Sayarti, a subsidiary of the Zubair Corporation, announced the signing of a strategic partnership agreement with Tesla Power Mena (Middle East and North Africa) – a part of Tesla Power USA. The partnership marks Sayarti as the authorised distributor for passenger car, SUV as well as commercial vehicle batteries and a range of industrial batteries. This affiliation cascades within Sayarti's framework of meeting the evolving needs of customers in the fields of renewable and conventional energy storage. The partnership agreement was signed by Niels Bormans, CEO of The Zubair Corporation and on behalf of Tesla Power Middle East by Irfan Ahmed, the CEO - Mena region. The ceremony was graced by the presence of several senior representatives of both the companies. Speaking on the occasion, Niels Bormans, CEO of The Zubair Corporation said, "The agreement between Sayarti and Tesla Power Mena is a strategic move to provide high-quality innovative products and energy solutions to the local market. As a trusted and experienced entity, the opportunity to serve as an Authorised Dealer for



Tesla batteries holds special significance and will allow Sayarti to provide comprehensive mobility solutions to its customers. We look forward to a long-term productive relationship between the Corporation and Tesla Power Mena." Tesla Power Mena is a part of the American company Tesla Power USA, has been acknowledged for being a pioneer and leader in introducing high quality and long-life battery solutions, completely

revolutionising the energy storage industry. After having established a prominent client base in the American continent, Tesla Power USA has now expanded its operations in the Mena region. Tesla Power USA is also well known for its Sealed Maintenance Free Valve Regulated Lead Acid Batteries as well as Solar Batteries with a growing customer base in the region. Irfan Ahmed, CEO of Tesla Power Mena said, "With a strong focus

on innovation through research & development, Tesla Power USA continually provides innovative solutions in the energy storage space. We are delighted to enter the Omani market through our range of automotive and industrial batteries with a robust partner such as The Zubair Corporation. This partnership will further Tesla Power's position as a leading company in the renewable and conventional energy storage industry

across the globe." Commencing operations in 1992, Sayarti is an ISO certified company that serves as a market leader in the field of vehicle rental and leasing services in Oman. Operating under the General Automotive Co, the company offers best-in-class services to deliver innovative solutions in the field of vehicle leasing, catering not only to the needs of individual customers, but to those of corporate clients as well.

HEALTHCARE



Gulf Specialised Hospital appoints ENT specialist

MUSCAT: Gulf Specialised Hospital announced the addition of Dr Ammar Bin Mohsin Bin Jumaa Al Lawati, the hospital's first ENT consultant, to its team. Dr. Ammar will be available on all weekdays following his extensive experience at Al Nahdah Hospital. He possesses a wealth of expertise in diagnosing, treating and performing various ENT surgeries for patients of all age groups. Dr. Ammar's educational background includes graduating from Italy and specialising in Germany. He has also completed a prestigious ear and skull base fellowship in Italy. Furthermore, Dr Ammar has published many scientific papers and is considered one of pioneers in ear and cochlear implant surgery in the region.

SHARIA-COMPLIANT

ahli Islamic enables opening Children's Savings account through mobile banking app



MUSCAT: Known for its innovative Sharia products and services, ahli Islamic, has recently provided its loyal customers the chance to open a children's savings account through its mobile banking app. This is in line with the bank's endeavours to streamline processes and guarantee great services at the ease and comfort of its customers. Advocating sound financial literacy, ahli Islamic's Children's Savings Account is a Sharia-compliant account structured to build and instil in children a savings habit and raise awareness of its importance in shaping their future. Fathers of children under the age of 18 are eligible to open an ac-

count using the bank's mobile app. In light of this new feature in ahli Islamic's mobile banking app, Noora Sultan, AGM - Head of Retail Banking at ahli Islamic, said, "We are delighted to introduce this new feature to parents who want the best for the younger generation and to empower them in their financial journey. "We believe the Children's Savings Account, now accessible through our mobile banking app, will nurture strong savings values from an early age, in tandem with the principles of Islamic banking. This innovative service will secure children's futures and instil a sense of responsibility, prudence,

and the beauty of halal earnings in the youth." **Financial well-being** With the children's savings account, ahli Islamic will allow customers to safeguard their children's financial well-being. It also includes many benefits that pertain to the wider needs of parents and guardians; such as, customers can avail of exclusive offers and get discounts on purchases of different kinds. "While adhering to the principles of Sharia, the Children's Savings Account, through our digital platform, indeed reflects our commitment to combining modern

convenience with the timeless values that guide us. As we move forward, we remain dedicated to serving our community with integrity and excellence. We invite parents to join us, as we pave the way for our children's well-being, today and for generations to come," she added. By enabling fathers to easily open savings accounts for their children, ahli Islamic continues to set new standards in the banking industry. With Islamic finance principles and cutting-edge technology, the Bank aspires to enable families to plan responsibly, ensuring a prosperous tomorrow for their loved ones.



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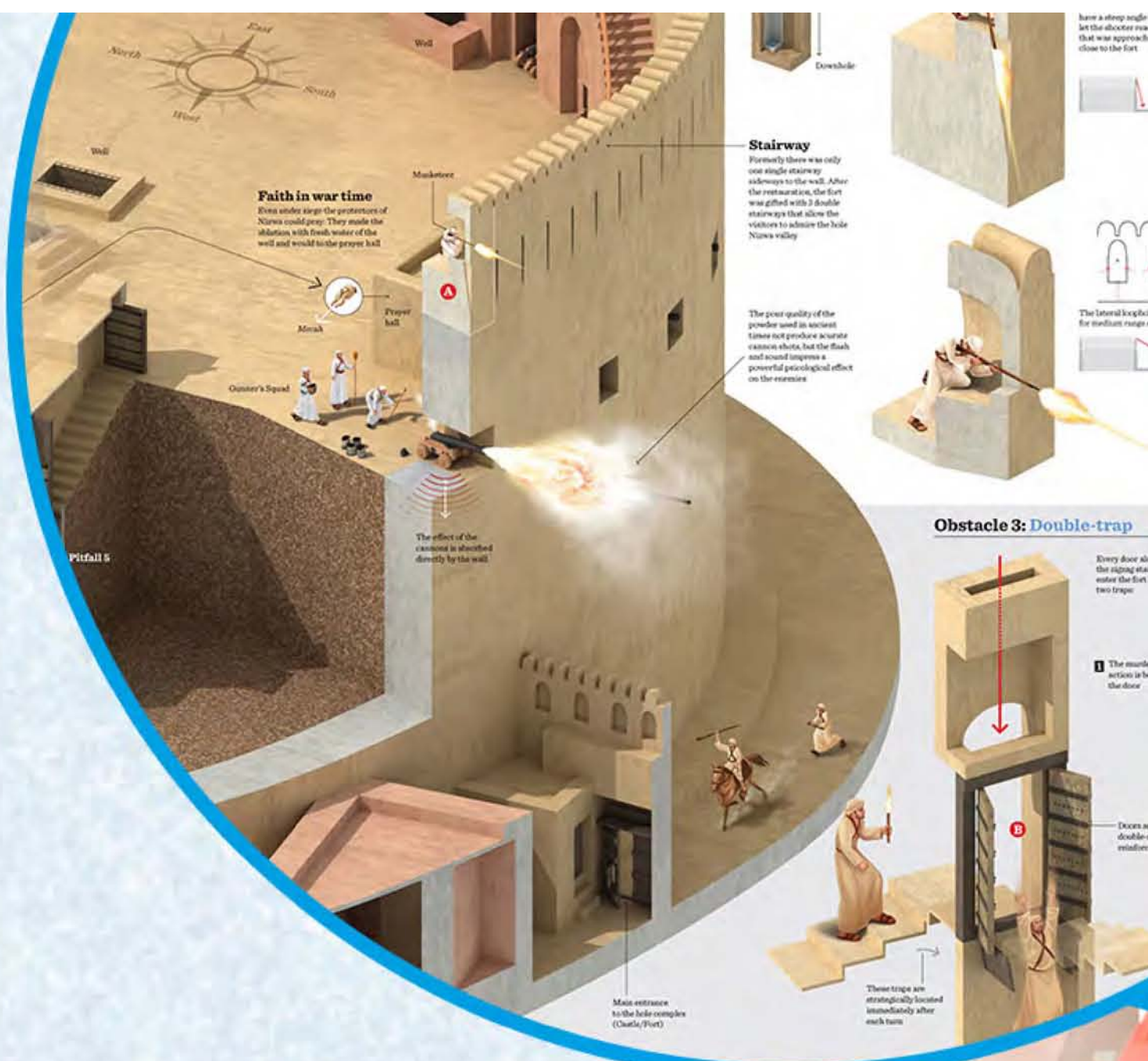
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