

OMAN, US OFFICIALS HOLD DISCUSSIONS

Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Tuesday General Michael E. Kurilla, Commander of the United States (US) Central Command. **>A5**



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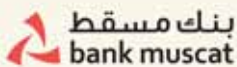
PEOPLE URGED TO TAKE SEASONAL INFLUENZA JAB

People in the Sultanate of Oman have been urged to get a jab of seasonal flu vaccine as the vaccine is safe, according to the Ministry of Health and practicing doctors. The call for taking the seasonal flu vaccine gains importance given the growing cases of seasonal influenza across the Sultanate of Oman. **>A5**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 158 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RECEIVES CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADORS

HM welcomed the envoys, expressing his gratitude for their leaders' greetings

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received separately the credentials of a number of ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries accredited to the Sultanate of Oman at Al Barakah Palace on Tuesday.

His Majesty the Sultan received credentials of the following ambassadors: Dr. Idris Maya, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr. Bashar Al Assad of the Arab Syrian Republic, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Salah Al Din Al Hajj Mohammed Al Kando, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Gen. Abdel Fattah Al Burhan, Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of the Republic of Sudan, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman. **>A4**



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Media messages and Oman Vision 2040

1 Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit organised on Tuesday a seminar to discuss the alignment of media messages that were published by government units with Oman Vision 2040. **>A5**

WORLD Embattled Liz Truss vows to stay on

2 UK Prime Minister Liz Truss has apologised for going "too far too fast" with reforms that caused investor confidence to evaporate and her poll ratings to plunge, but she vowed to stay on and lead Tories into next election. **>A6**

MARKET Growth worries may dampen crude rally

3 After showing swift recovery since the last week of September 2022, oil prices once again trended downwards led by concerns related to the pace of global economic growth and a possibility of a recession. **>B1**



**Karim Benzema wins
coveted Ballon d'Or
for the first time**

B6

OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

Sayyid Theyazin to patronise Women's Club for Sports celebrations today

MUSCAT: His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, will patronise today the celebration of the Women's Club for Sports and Cultural Creativity on the occasion of the Omani Women's Day.

During the event, to be held at Al Bustan Palace hotel, the logo of the club will be unveiled. The celebration would be accompanied by a seminar under the title "The Women's Seminar for Sports and Cultural Creativity", the activities of which would continue for two days.

Through the seminar, the Women's Club for Sports and Cultural Creativity reaffirms its true interest in working in line with the principles of partnership and interaction with all government departments and civil establishments.

The seminar would contribute



to showcasing the club and would shed light on its prerogatives and goals. It would also enhance the club's efforts to acquaint with the views of society and institutions concerned on the role the club would play in the enhancement of the presence of

Omani woman in the cultural and sports fields in partnership with the existing establishments.

The seminar would respond to the inquiries of the attendees. The seminar would also document the opinion and proposals of attendees and participants. Their views and

proposals would be considered and employed within the activities and programmes of the club.

The club aims to provide women with the opportunity to exercise various cultural and sports activities.

It also aims to boost the role of women in the sports and cultural fields and to work on organising contests, competitions, championship and events in the various cultural and sports fields.

The seminar would see the participation of those concerned with cultural and sports fields in addition to the related establishments of the government and private sectors. It should be noted that HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said issued a decision on 17 October 2021 to launch the Women's Club for Sports and Cultural Creativity. **-OMA**

FOOTBALL

Seeb in Kuala Lumpur with eye on AFC Cup triumph

Times News Service

MUSCAT: It was the boost the domestic football giants, Seeb Club, needed ahead of their maiden participation in the final of AFC Cup.

And it came at the perfect time as a confident Seeb Club team landed in Kuala Lumpur with a mission to create history.

Seeb will lock horns with Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur (KL) City in the summit clash of the 2022 AFC Cup on October 22. The match kicks off at 3pm, Oman time.

His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, on Tuesday gave orders for the support to Seeb Club, which included



a special Oman Air flight to be provided to the club fans for the final.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth (MCSY) also said that financial aid has been provided to the club for their preparations

ahead of the final.

In an effort to acclimatise to the weather conditions in Malaysia, Seeb delegation departed from Muscat on Tuesday and arrived in Kuala Lumpur later in

the afternoon.

With a goal to earn the first AFC Cup title, Seeb coach, Rasheed Jaber, wasted little time after the team's arrival and organised the team's first warm-up session in the night.

The AFC Cup is the second most prestigious club tournament organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and only next to Asian Champions League (ACL).

Seeb are chasing history as it vies to become the first Omani club to claim a title at the continental level.

Seeb booked a place in the final in style, trouncing Bahrain's Al Riffa Club 4-0 in the semifinal at the Seeb Sports Stadium.

Oman's only other club to make

a significant mark was Al Nahda when the club reached the AFC Cup semifinals in 2008.

No team from the Sultanate of Oman has reached the knockout stage since the introduction of the zonal system in 2017. Salalah-based Al Nasr Club featured in the quarterfinals in 2006.

Seeb, the reigning domestic league, His Majesty's Cup and Super Cup champions, are the first team from the Sultanate to reach the AFC Cup final in the current format.

This is the competition's 18th final and features two debutant finalists. KL City are looking to follow in the footsteps of domestic rivals Johor Darul Ta'zim, who won the title back in 2015.



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Asr.....3:16pm

Maghrib.....5:43pm

Isha.....6:54pm

Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:51am

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OMANI SOCIETY FOR WRITERS AND LITERATI

Literary creativity award for students

MUSCAT: The Omani Society for Writers and Literati, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, on Tuesday inaugurated the Literary Creativity Award for students of public and private schools and special education.

The award is set for two categories, the first one is for students aged 11-18 years old, while the

second is for students aged 7-10 years old.

Students aged 11-18 years old can compete in the fields of poetry, literary research, literary criticism, short fiction and literary article.

Students aged 7-10 years old can compete in the fields of literary article, speaking, reciting

poetry and reading. The Literary Creativity Award aims to boost cooperation between the Omani Society for Writers and Literati and the Ministry of Education, as well as highlighting the importance of literary work among all segments of society, especially young students.

— ONA

Announcement

Honda Bike Recall Campaign

Date of the campaign: 19 October 2022

Campaign type: Safety

Campaign section: Motor Cycle

Product Description:

Bike Type	Bike Model	Model Year	VIN No
Honda Bike	CRF1100D2	2020 YM	JH25D10G0LK000015
	CRF1100D2	2021 YM	JH25D10G0MK100004
	CRF1100D2	2020 YM	JH25D10G8LK000005
	CRF1100D4	2021 YM	JH25D10V1MK100009
	CRF1100D4	2021 YM	JH25D10V4MK100005
	CRF1100D4	2021 YM	JH25D10V6MK100006
	CRF1100D4	2021 YM	JH25D10V7MK100001

Details:

In the OBD diagnostic management program in ECM (FI-ECU), the setting of data writing processing is inappropriate, therefore the ECM operation reset due to data corruption after that, Fuel injection and Engine ignition are stopped, and Engine stalls while riding as the worst case. for DCT units, resetting of the ECM operation disconnects CAN communication with the TCM, then disengaging the clutch and losing driving force.

Action:

Rewrite ECM of all units to countermeasure programs.

For more Information:

The vehicle identification No (VIN) or the chassis Number appears on the plate attached to the chassis behind the front fork.

For Contact:

Toll free No : 800-71133

Landline No : 24665741

Timing : 24 hours daily

Timing : From 8 Am to 6 PM

Contact details:

For more information please visit any Honda Oman service centers.

PRESENTS

Times OF OMAN

INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ 2022

English: Friday, 28th October 2022

Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022

Venue: City Amphitheater, Qurm

Time: 7:00pm, Gates open at 5:30pm

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BankDhofar...

A Solid Foundation and Promising Aspirations



"BankDhofar has seen solid growth over the years. Despite some of the challenges, our highly qualified team had to overcome, learn from and deal with these challenges, as they were perfectly poised to take up challenges in such a rapidly changing and dynamic business environment. In line with our strategic vision, we offer innovative products and creative solutions designed to meet the market requirements and bring added value to our customers. We also believe on the importance of empowering and developing the Omani capabilities to enhance the level of services provided to customers".

Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili
Chief Executive Officer

BankDhofar continues striving to boost its role as one of the key players in the Sultanate's banking sector, maintaining sustainable business growth and gaining the trust of its key partners and stakeholders. Since 1990, the Bank has worked consistently towards revamping the banking industry in the Sultanate with diverse initiatives and unprecedented programs that aim to raise the service quality and set the benchmark for the best customer experience.

Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, CEO of BankDhofar noted, *"BankDhofar has seen solid growth over the years. Despite some of the challenges, our highly qualified team had to overcome, learn from and deal with these challenges, as they were perfectly poised to take up challenges in such a rapidly changing and dynamic business environment. In line with our strategic vision, we offer innovative products and creative solutions designed to meet the market requirements and bring added value to our customers. We also believe on the importance of empowering and developing the Omani capabilities to enhance the level of services provided to customers"*.

Developing capabilities to enhance customer satisfaction levels

With a clear focus on achieving sustainable growth over the years, BankDhofar has gained the trust and support of all its strategic partners and the wider base of stakeholders. The Bank applies a comprehensive business plan that revolves around providing the best customer experience through unique technology, following the best international practices in the financial market. The Bank believes that empowering employees through developing their skills results in high levels of customer satisfaction. Thus, the Bank has invested in establishing the Performance Academy to provide training and development programs.

Elaborating on that, Dr. Khalid Salim Al Hamadani, Chief Human Resources Officer at BankDhofar, said, *"We believe that our employees are the true ambassadors of our brand. Thus, the Bank invests in providing various training and talent development courses to the employees through the state-of-the-art Performance Academy which is equipped with the latest facilities to provide internationally certified courses through an advanced digital learning system. In addition, we are committed to making training available to all employees to enhance their professional efficiency, hence providing the best customer services with several tailored, comprehensive training and development programs launched jointly with our strategic partners. We believe that ongoing training and development is the effective way to ensure that our employees are equipped with the required market knowledge and are updated with the ever-changing trends. Additionally, we cater to ensuring the best working environment that guarantees high levels of productivity."*

In the first half of 2022, the Academy has conducted over 60 training and development programs and is committed to develop and groom Omani talent for future leadership and functional roles. The Bank continues its focus

on executing Competency Based training programs for both Conventional as well as Islamic Banking.

A New Structure that supports the aspirations and national qualifications

To achieve its ultimate vision to be one of the best banks in the Sultanate and to stay at the top of the game, BankDhofar undertook an organizational structure change with a clear focus on investing in developing national competencies. BankDhofar has appointed talented Omanis in high management positions, which supports the Bank's vision to increase the percentage of Omanization within the leadership positions. With the new structure, the Bank is in a position to build on the opportunities for our talents and achieve further business growth.

Dr. Khalid Al Hamadani said, *"We believe that effective organizational change leads to a more engaged workforce and improves working practices and helps in achieving higher productivity. The new structure will empower the Omani youth in the Bank and attract new talents to continue our desired success path of change. Today we are proud to say that the Omanization rate in BankDhofar goes above the directives of the Central Bank of Oman, reaching 95%. The Bank is also honored to announce that 84% of the management team that are contributing towards the growth strategy of the Bank are Omanis."*

Dr. Khalid Al Hamadani added, *"With the new structure, we aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations and internal processes by applying world-class methodologies. We have paved the path to get ready for the next phase of business growth and development to maintain our position as one of the top financial institutions in the Sultanate."*

BankDhofar moves toward the new phase of its operations with steady steps and aspires to redefine the financial landscape through continuing to provide innovative products and services that touch on the daily needs of its customers. With the well-founded digital banking infrastructure, BankDhofar has been and will continue to be the pioneer in launching various innovative and exclusive services, products and financial solutions. The Bank has a multi-award-winning Mobile Banking App with unique features that is constantly upgraded in line with market trends. These enhancements include instant international money transfer service via Western Union, cardless cash which is the first service of its kind in the world that enables customers to conduct ATM transactions easily only by using their mobile numbers. It has also launched a flagship drive-thru banking service for the first time in Oman. This drive thru service is the first-of-its-kind in the Sultanate and enables customers to conduct transactions without stepping out of their car, including cash deposit and withdrawal, cheque deposit, instant debit card issuance, bank transfers, and request for account statements, among other services and products.

Omani Competencies at BankDhofar

 Abdul Hakeem Omar Awadh Al-Ojaili Chief Executive Officer	 Kamal Uddin Hassan Al Marazi Chief Maisarah Islamic Banking Officer	 Faisal Hamed Sulaiman Al-Wahaibi Chief Government Banking & Investment Banking Officer
 Ahmed Said Salim Al Ibrahim Chief Corporate Services Officer	 Dr. Tariq Saleh Mohamed Taha Chief Information Officer	 Amjad Iqbal Hassan Al Lawati Chief Retail Banking Officer
 Dr. Khalid Salim Ali Al Hamadani Chief Human Resources Officer	 Mohammed Hilal Hamed Al Reyami DGM - Head of PPD & LPP	 Bashir Said Abdullah Al Subhi DGM-Treasury & Financial Institutions
 Amor Said Mohammed AlAmri Head Retail Banking - Maisarah	 Amina Nasser Mohammed Al Falahi AGM - Head - Government Banking	 Ali Mohamed Ahmed AlAlawi AGM & Head of Compliance
 Khalil Ibrahim Said Al Balushi AGM - Credit Administration Department	 Hussam Qassim Abdul Rasool AlJamali AGM - Enterprise Project Management Office	 Majida Issa Ali Al Balushi AGM - Large Corporate & Corporate Branch
 Hind Abdul Malik Ali Al Sabbagh AGM & Head of Premier Banking	 Talib Mohamed Salim Al Hajri AGM-Interior Branches & Direct Sales Unit	 Bilal Faiz Muhammad Al Raisi AGM-Cards & Bancassurance
 Omar Salim Hamed Al Hikmani Head of Operations		





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His Majesty welcomes envoys

< FROM A1 Mohammed Nazmul Islam, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Mohammad Abdul Hamid of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Dornath Aryal, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Bidya Devi Bhandari of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Amina Ali Abdallah, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Dr. William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Barnabas Fodor, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Katalin Novak of Hungary, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Mohammed Nasser Al Hajri, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Ahmed Lebbe Sabarullah Khan, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Ranil Wickremesinghe of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

Florin Marius Tacu, Extraordi-

nary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of President Klaus Iohannis of Romania, accredited to the Sultanate of Oman.

During their meetings with His Majesty the Sultan, the ambassadors conveyed greetings and best wishes of their countries' leaders to His Majesty and the Omani people.

They also expressed their great honour and delight to present their credentials before His Majesty the Sultan. They affirmed to exert sincere efforts to promote relations of their respective countries with Oman in various spheres in a manner that serves the joint interests of the Omani people and their countries' citizens.

His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the ambassadors, expressing his gratitude for their leaders' greetings and best wishes. His Majesty affirmed that they would receive all support from him, the Government and the Omani people to facilitate carrying out their duties.

The credentials presentation ceremony was attended by the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, the Foreign Minister, the Commander of the Royal Guard of Oman, the Head of the Royal Protocols and the Military Aides to His Majesty the Sultan. -ONA



OMANI WOMEN'S DAY

Partners in Oman's development, growth

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Since 2009, the Sultanate has started celebration of Omani Women's Day which falls on 17 October every year. The celebrations recognised the achievements of the Omani woman at the local, regional and international level in the education, culture, health, sports, entrepreneurship, economic and political sectors.

Captain Ibtisam Al Hadabi, head of Enquires & Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Oman Police (ROP) at Athaiba Police Station, extended her congratulations to the Omani women on top of whom comes Her Highness the Honourable Lady As-sayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

She said that the Omani Women's Day translates the Royal Care accorded by late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour for the Omani women. Regarding



the nature of work of women she said that the Omani women have made their presence felt in the various fields at ROP such as in security, criminal investigations, airports and other fields.

Captain Al Hadabi is the first military lawyer at the level of military judiciary and ROP courts.

She said that advocacy is a pas-

sion for her as she completed her bachelor degree in Egypt, the masters' degree and is now proceeding with her Doctorate.

Sumayah Al Wahaibi, former Advisor at the Gender Equality Department, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) said that the strong presence of the Omani

women in the various arenas is not unusual as the Omani women in a short period of time managed to make their presence felt in the various international institutions and organisations.

About the significance of laws and legislations, she said that she is currently working to get her Doctorate in New Zealand.

Dr. Thamrah Al Ghafri, Director General of the Directorate General for Health Services, Ministry Of Health, Muscat Governorate said that the Omani women has several unlimited sacrifices in the field of health as seen in handling the COVID-19 pandemic and at other tough times.

She said that female cadre was over 90 per cent of the total professionals in the health centres across the Sultanate and a majority of nursing staff at the hospitals were women, which is evidence for the strong presence of the Omani women in the various fields of the health sector.

BE'AH-TECH

be'ah launches new programme

MUSCAT: A programme code-named 'Be'ah-Tech' was launched by be'ah. This programme seeks to encourage university students to maximise innovation and hone their expertise in utilising technology and techniques of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) to help develop the waste management sector, improve life quality and build a sustainable national economy in Oman.

The programme seeks to enhance cooperation among the public sector, the private sector and the academic sector.

New specialisations

In particular, it aspires to engage colleges and universities and enable them to provide new specialisations in the fields of environment, engineering, technology and innovative solutions worthy of addressing the challenges in the waste management sector.

The programme is designed to empower youth to use artificial intelligence and 4IR techniques



in serving the environment, promoting the approach of 'green waste', studying and classifying types of waste.

Three-month programme

The three-month programme will bring together teams of students from different universities and colleges (public and private). The students will attend training workshops administered by experts and specialists. - ONA



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AL MURTAFA'A GARRISON

Oman, US discuss military matters

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Za'abi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Tuesday General Michael E. Kurilla, Commander of the United States (US) Central Command. The two sides discussed several matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman and the Military Attaché of the US Embassy in Muscat. Separately Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Com-

mander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Tuesday General Michael E. Kurilla, Commander of the United States (US) Central Command. The two sides discussed several military matters of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by several senior officers of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), ambassador of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman and the Military Attaché of the US Embassy in Muscat. -ONA



SEMINAR

Focus on aligning government messages with Vision 2040

MUSCAT: Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit organised on Tuesday a seminar to discuss the alignment of media messages that were published by government units with Oman Vision 2040. The event targeted the State Administrative Apparatus, represented by the vision's imple-

mentation follow-up offices and departments of communication and media. The seminar aimed to bolster partnerships and achieve integration among visions and media messages in line with the implementation requirements of the current stage of Oman Vision 2040. -ONA

SEASONAL INFLUENZA

People urged to take a flu vaccine

Times News Service

MUSCAT: People in the Sultanate of Oman have been urged to get a jab of seasonal flu vaccine as the vaccine is safe. The call for taking the seasonal flu vaccine gains importance given the growing cases of seasonal influenza across the Sultanate of Oman, according to the Ministry of Health and practicing doctors. Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Dr. Zaid Al Hinai, a paediatric infectious diseases consultant at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), said: "The spread of influenza cases is currently on the rise and we have started to monitor severe infections among children and adults. We have noticed cases among individuals who do not suffer from chronic diseases. "The seasonal influenza virus is similar to what we have seen in the past but I think the only difference is rising number of cases. But over the last two years it was the COVID-19 pandemic and not many were affected by seasonal flu. The herd immunity decreases if the virus is receding. So the infections this year are like infections for the first time, and the symptoms are stronger and more widespread." He stressed the importance of vaccination against influenza and said that a "seasonal flu vaccine is very important." Dr. Al Hinai said: "The vaccination is free at health centres for anyone with chronic diseases,



Dr. Zaid Al Hinai



Dr. Asim Al Manji



Dr. Fatma Hashim Abdullah AlHashmi

obese, or aged over 50, and pregnant women as well. Vaccination is also available to everyone at private hospitals." Speaking to *Times of Oman*, Dr. Fatma Hashim Abdullah Al Hashmi, Director of disease surveillance and control, Directorate general of health services North Batinah Governorate, said: "We have noticed a rise in the cases of seasonal influenza in the Governorate of North Al Batinah. The rise in cases is not just confined to the governorate of North Al Batinah, but to all the governorates. Cases of seasonal influenza began in early September this year, and the main reason was community members mingled freely." Dr. Fatma Al Hashmi added: "The academic year began from September and as we know that children, especially in schools, play with each other and share a lot of things. They are more sus-

ceptible to infection. The transmission of the virus is fast as the children carry the virus to their homes." She also indicated that the number of seasonal influenza cases is similar to what was noticed in 2018 and 2019. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the numbers were mixed as both seasonal influenza and COVID-19 patients experienced similar symptoms. The doctor further said that people took precautions during the pandemic by wearing masks among other measures that helped in the control of the spread of seasonal influenza virus. The doctor admitted that there is a reluctance among people to take the seasonal influenza vaccine. "The reason could be attributed to the lack of awareness of the benefits of taking vaccines in the

society," she added. "Do not heed rumours" She urged people not to heed rumours and stressed the importance of spreading awareness among family members and society on the need for vaccines. Dr. Asim Al Manji, Head of surveillance section, Department of Disease Surveillance and Control in Muscat region, said: "There are several reasons for the growing cases of seasonal flu. The virus evolves every year and that's why we recommend a seasonal flu vaccine to curb the spread and help patients recover soon." On the alleged reports that seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccines weaken the immunity in the body, the doctor said: "One should pay heed to such reports only if they are based on a globally recognised study or published in scientific journals."

SEMINAR

Dhofar's ancient neighbourhoods highlighted

SALALAH: The Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in the Governorate of Dhofar organised here on Tuesday a seminar on ancient neighbourhoods in Dhofar. Ali Ahmed Al Ma'ashani, Assistant Director of Heritage at the General Directorate of Heritage and Tourism said in a statement that the number of old neighbourhoods reached 1,036 all over Oman. He further said that the ministry, in cooperation with authorities concerned, counted, documented and repaired several ancient neighbourhoods in a bid to transform them to become cultural and economic sources of revenue and as tourism destinations. Al Ma'ashani added that the seminar highlights several important topics through scientific work papers presented by researchers and scholars in the fields of history and architecture. -ONA



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(RE-FLOATING) LOCAL ONLINE TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (Ibri College of Technology) announces the tender shown in the following table:

Tender No.	Tender subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
26/2022	Operation and maintenance of the sewage treatment plant	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board General Secretariat	30/10/2022 at 14:30 pm	24/10/2022 at 14:30 pm	09/11/2022 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Wednesday 19/10/2022 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- All bidding companies must attach with their bids a temporary tender bond in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by a bank operating in the Sultanate, not less than (1%) of the bid value, addressed to the name of the Chairman of the Internal Tender Committee, and valid for a period of (90) days from the date of bid submission. Any bid that does not meet the required temporary tender bond shall not be considered. Bid shall be submitted sealed and signed by the authorized person, and uploaded in the electronic tender system with the tender name and number only.
- Bid prices shall be written in ink in Omani currency, in digits and letters. The price list must be dated, stamped and signed by the bidder. The bid shall be attached online.
- For assistance and inquiries: For inquiries related to technical support for the e-tendering system, please contact via e-mail at etenderhd@lta.gov.om or phone number (24402200).
- The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid

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STARLINK INTERNET

SpaceX to continue funding Starlink Internet in Ukraine

WASHINGTON: SpaceX CEO Elon Musk on Monday said that the company will continue to fund the Starlink Internet service in war-torn Ukraine and that he has withdrawn the request for funding to the Pentagon.

Making an official announcement on Twitter, Musk said, "SpaceX has already withdrawn its request for funding." Earlier, CNN reported that Space X had made a



request to the US Department of Defense Pentagon in September as the rocket company was no longer able to donate its critical Starlink terminals or support the expensive accompanying service "for an indefinite period of time."

SpaceX asked the Pentagon to start paying for the service for the current terminals operated by the Ukrainian government as well as fund almost 8,000 new terminals

and services for Ukraine's military and intelligence services.

Funding

The letter also requested that the Pentagon take over funding for Ukraine's government and military use of Starlink, which SpaceX claims would cost more than USD 120 million for the rest of the year and could cost close to USD 400 million for the next 12 months. -ANI

UK PM 'sorry' for economic 'mistakes' but vows to stay on

Her government on Monday axed almost all of its debt-fuelled tax cuts unveiled last month to avert fresh market chaos



LONDON: UK Prime Minister Liz Truss on Monday apologised for going "too far too fast" with reforms that caused investor confidence to evaporate and her poll ratings to plunge, however, she vowed to stay on and lead Tories into next election.

In an interview with UK-based media, Truss said, "I do want to accept responsibility and say sorry for the mistakes that have been made... we went too far and too fast," reported The Straits Times. However, she said that she was "completely committed to deliver-

ing for this country" despite questions over who was now in control of government policy, she told.

Her government on Monday axed almost all of its debt-fuelled tax cuts unveiled last month to avert fresh market chaos.

Finance Minister Jeremy Hunt, who was appointed on Friday after Truss sacked her close ally Kwasi Kwarteng, jettisoned the remaining major planks of her tax-cutting agenda on Monday, including scaling back her vast energy support scheme.

Asked if she was now prime minister in name only, Truss said she had appointed Hunt because she knew she had to change direction, reported Australian daily, The Islander.

The shock move by new finance chief Jeremy Hunt - parachuted into the job on Friday to replace sacked Kwasi Kwarteng - leaves Truss' position in a precarious state, with Conservative MP Roger Gale saying that Hunt was "de facto prime minister".

Hunt estimated the tax changes

would raise about Pound 32 billion per year after economists estimated the government faced a Pound 60 billion black hole. He also warned of tough spending cuts, reported The Straits Times.

The chancellor of the exchequer said no government could control markets - but stressed his action would give certainty over public finances and help secure growth.

"The prime minister and I agreed yesterday to reverse almost all the tax measures announced in the growth plan three weeks ago," Hunt told parliament, flanked by a grim-faced Truss.

The chancellor also announced the formation of an economic advisory council, featuring four experts outside of government, reported The Straits Times.

Hunt scrapped plans to axe the lowest rate of income tax and curbed the government's flagship energy price freeze - pulling the plug in April instead of late 2024.

A proposed reduction in shareholder dividend tax was also binned, along with planned tax-free shopping for tourists and a freeze on alcohol duty. -ANI



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



Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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BILATERAL TIES

India-Egypt will take ties to next level, says Indian Foreign Minister

CAIRO: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar concluded his bilateral visit to Egypt where he met eminent personalities in the field of foreign policy.

The External Affairs Minister further noted that common perspectives and shared interests between India and Egypt will surely take the ties of both the countries to next level.

In a Tweet, the EAM wrote, "Concluded my first official visit to Egypt. Our common perspectives and shared interests will surely take ties to the next level."

Jaishankar was on a two-day official trip to Egypt for his first bilateral visit from October 15-16.

During the visit, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry and said that both of them discussed the Ukraine conflict and Indo-Pacific and also invited Egypt to the G20 summit to be chaired by New Delhi.

The minister also discussed a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest with Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and also interacted with Indian community-based in Egypt, including students, and address a gathering of the Egyptian and Indian business community.

In an interaction with the Indian community in Cairo, he



said, "There was a particular interest in Egypt about getting one of our IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) to set up a collaborative enterprise here. I will discuss this with our Education Minister in India."

Addressing the India-Egypt Business Forum on Sunday, Jaishankar said, "Well-reputed Indian companies are coming out to a destination like Egypt, assessing the possibilities here favourably. I think this says a lot about our companies and your credibility as an investment destination. I see a world of possibilities here."

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi urged India to increase the turnover of trade and also said that the current revenue was not enough.

He also highlighted India's commitment to the success of COP27 under the Egyptian presidency. -ANI

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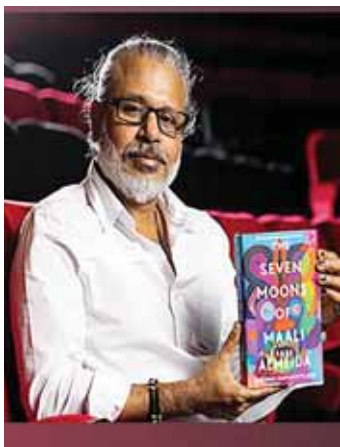
Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka wins 2022 Booker Prize for fiction

LONDON: Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka on Monday won 2022 Booker Prize for fiction - “The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida.”

“We are delighted to announce that the WINNER of the #BookerPrize2022 is “The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida” by Shehan Karunatilaka,” tweeted The Booker Prizes. Shehan Karunatilaka’s second novel is a searing, mordantly funny satire set amid the murderous mayhem of a Sri Lanka beset by civil war.

The protagonist, Maali Almeida, war photographer, gambler and closet gay, has woken up dead in what seems to be a celestial visa office. His dismembered body is sinking in the Beira Lake and he has no idea who killed him. At a time when scores are settled by death squads, suicide bombers and hired goons, the list of suspects is depressingly long.

But even in the afterlife, time is running out for Maali. He has ‘seven moons’ to try and contact the man and woman he loves most and lead them to a hidden cache of photos that will rock Sri Lanka.



Shehan Karunatilaka is considered one of Sri Lanka’s foremost authors. In addition to his novels he has written rock songs, screenplays and travel stories.

“To have a novel about Sri Lanka’s chaotic past come out just when the world is watching Sri Lanka’s chaotic present also requires an alignment of dark forces. Unlike my protagonist Maali Almeida, I don’t gamble. So I don’t expect to roll two more sixes, though I will scream with joy

if I do,” said Karunatilaka earlier in an interview with The Booker Prizes. The Sri Lankan author said that he began thinking about it in 2009, after the end of the civil war, when there was a raging debate over how many civilians died and whose fault it was.

“A ghost story where the dead could offer their perspective seemed a bizarre enough idea to pursue, but I wasn’t brave enough to write about the present, so I went back 20 years, to the dark days of 1989,” said Karunatilaka.

The war in Sri Lanka between the separatist Tamil forces and the government was a heavy one with a death toll of over 150000 from both sides including civilians. Starting in 1983 as a minor insurgency, it took almost 26 years for the government to finally suppress the bloody civil war.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka, a country of 22 million people, is under the grip of an unprecedented economic turmoil, the worst in seven decades, leaving millions struggling to buy food, medicine, fuel and other essentials. **ANI**

CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Humanitarian needs of Afghans rising: Report

KABUL: There is no end to the crisis in Afghanistan as more as more people are compelled to live on the streets and struggle to find food, the International Committee of the Red Cross stated, highlighting increasing need for humanitarian aid in the country.

Millions of people have reportedly been forced to scavenge for food on the streets in the war-torn nation which is also why the Red Cross International has appealed to the international community to ramp up assistance to the people of Afghanistan, Khaama

Press reported. In the wake of an excessive surge in food insecurity in Afghanistan, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has provided aid to 38 per cent of Afghans to help them avoid the impact of the ongoing crisis.

The Japanese Embassy in Kabul announced on Sunday that Japan has pledged to donate 5.5 million dollars in aid to Afghanistan’s health sector, Khaama Press reported.

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, the country has

been facing a severe decline in human rights, women’s rights and religious freedom. Earlier in July, the UN mission in Afghanistan released a report and outlined the human rights situation prevailing in the country.

The UN mission further stated that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) also have a significant role to play in ensuring that people in the war-ravaged nation get easy access to food and basic amenities on a daily basis. **ANI**

POWERFUL EXPLOSIONS

Denmark confirms Nord Stream ‘explosions’ caused damage

COPENHAGEN: Danish authorities on Tuesday confirmed that “powerful explosions” had caused the “extensive damage” to pipelines bringing gas from Russia to Europe last month.

Copenhagen Police said in a statement that it had carried out a preliminary investigation on the “crime scenes” at the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines in the Baltic Sea, with assistance from the military and intelligence services.

“It is still too early to say anything about the framework under which the international coopera-

tion with e.g. Sweden and Germany will run, as it depends on several factors,” Copenhagen Police said of an international probe into the incident, which happened in the territorial waters of Sweden and Denmark.

Their findings corroborated Swedish reports from earlier in October, which found evidence that “strengthened the suspicions of serious sabotage” during a preliminary investigation of leaks off its own coast.

Also Tuesday, the Swedish newspaper Expressen published video footage allegedly showing

a 50-meter (160-foot) stretch of missing pipeline.

The four leaks detected in the pipelines have caused major environmental concerns as well as compounded issues for Europe’s increasingly tight energy supply.

European leaders believe the leaks are the result of sabotage, and have said Moscow is to blame. The Nord Stream pipelines were already at the center of political tensions prior to the leaks. Moscow cut natural gas supplies to Europe in a suspected retaliation for sanctions against Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. **mw**



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Netherlands eye Super 12 berth after thrilling win

It was an excellent team performance from the Netherlands against Namibia

GEELONG, AUSTRALIA: The Netherlands have leapt to the top of Group A and are well placed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup following their nail-biting five-wicket triumph over Namibia in Geelong on Tuesday.

It came down to the final over with the Netherlands needing six to win and experienced all-rounder Bas de Leede held his nerve and made sure he did enough to clinch the Player of the Match award by guiding his side



home with three balls remaining. It was an excellent team performance from the Netherlands, with skipper Scott Edwards rotating his bowlers well to ensure Namibia could muster just 121/6 in good conditions at Kardinia Park. The opening duo of Vikramjit Singh (39) and Max O'Dowd (35) got the Netherlands off to a bright start and the victory target was always within their reach, with de Leede's knock of 30* enough to overcome a late wobble. The win sees the Netherlands move to the top of Group A and they can clinch a berth at the Super 12 stage by defeating Sri Lanka in their final group match on Thursday.

Namibia vs Netherlands		Scoreboard	
NAMIBIA		NETHERLANDS	
M van Lingen c de Leede b Ackermann	20	M O'Dowd run out	35
D la Cock c de Leede b Pringle	0	V Singh c Loftie-Eaton b Scholtz	39
S Baard c Klaassen b van der Merwe	19	B de Leede not out	30
JN Loftie-Eaton c Edwards b van Meekeren	0	T Cooper c van Lingen b Smit	6
J Frylinck c van Meekeren b de Leede	43	C Ackermann c Erasmus b Smit	0
G Erasmus b de Leede	16	S Edwards c Loftie-Eaton b Frylinck	1
D Wiese not out	11	T Pringle not out	8
JJ Smit not out	5	Extras: (nb 1, w 2) 3	
Extras: (lb 3, w 4) 7		TOTAL: 122/5 in 19.3 overs (RR: 6.25)	
TOTAL: 121/6 in 20 overs (RR: 6.05)		Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-92, 3-101, 4-101, 5-102	
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-30, 3-32, 4-63, 5-104, 6-105		Bowling: B Scholtz 4-0-21-1, D Wiese 2-3-0-22-0, G Erasmus 3-0-13-0, B Shikongo 1-0-18-0, JJ Smit 4-0-24-2, J Frylinck 4-1-16-1, JN Loftie-Eaton 1-0-8-0	
Bowling: F Klaassen 3-0-15-0, T Pringle 3-0-15-1, B de Leede 3-0-18-2, C Ackermann 3-0-17-1, P van Meekeren 4-0-18-1, T van der Gugten 3-0-29-0, R van der Merwe 1-0-6-1			

Quote of the Day



SCOTT EDWARDS,
NETHERLANDS SKIPPER

We did well in terms of front-loading the runs. It's well and truly in our hands, but for us, it's just about winning the third game.

Today's matches

**08:00am**
Ireland vs Scotland

**12:00pm**
West Indies vs Zimbabwe

Points table							
GROUP A (first round)							
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS	NRR
Netherlands	2	2	0	0	0	+0.149	4
Namibia	2	1	1	0	0	+1.277	2
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	0	+0.600	2
UAE	2	0	2	0	0	-2.028	0
GROUP B (first round)							
Team	P	W	L	N/R	T	PTS	NRR
Scotland	1	1	0	0	0	+2.100	2
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	0	0	+1.550	2
Ireland	1	0	1	0	0	-1.550	0
West Indies	1	0	1	0	0	-2.100	0

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BIG WIN

Bowlers' day out as Sri Lanka crush UAE

GEELONG, AUSTRALIA: Sri Lanka put on an exhibition of fast bowling under lights to gain a big win over UAE after a hat-trick from leg-spinner Karthik Meiyappan in the first innings. Meiyappan made history against Sri Lanka when he became the first player to claim a hat-trick for UAE in T20Is. It was also the first hat-trick of the tournament. Meiyappan came into the bowl in the 15th over and dismissed Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Charith Asalanka and skipper Dasun Shanaka.

On either side of the hat-trick, it was Sri Lanka who dominated the game for the most part as they scored 152/8. Pathum Nissanka top-scored with 74.

Three of UAE's first four victims were cleaned up as Dushmantha Chameera and Pramod Madushan put on an exhibition of fast bowling, swinging and seaming the new ball around. Under the lights, UAE struggled, losing four wickets inside the Powerplay to be reduced to 21/4. UAE were bowled out for 73 to give Sri Lanka a 79-run win.

Sri Lanka vs UAE		Scoreboard	
SRILANKA		UAE	
P Nissanka c Hameed b Z Khan	74	M Waseem b Chameera	2
K Mendis lbw b Lakra	18	C Suri b Liyanagamage	14
D de Silva run out	33	A Lakra b Chameera	1
B Rajapaksa c Daud b Meiyappan	5	CP Rizwan c Rajapaksa b Chameera	1
C Asalanka c Aravind b Meiyappan	0	V Aravind lbw Hasaranga	9
D Shanaka b Meiyappan	0	B Hameed c de Silva b Shanaka	2
W Hasaranga c Hameed b A Khan	2	A Khan b Hasaranga	19
C Karunaratne c Daud b Z Khan	8	K Daud lbw b Hasaranga	0
P Liyanagamage not out	1	K Meiyappan st Mendis b Theekshana	4
D Chameera not out	1	J Siddique c Nissanka b Theekshana	18
Extras: (lb 4, w 6) 10		Z Khan not out	1
TOTAL: 152/8 in 20 overs (RR: 7.60)		Extras: (w 2) 2	
Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-92, 3-117, 4-117, 5-117, 6-120, 7-150, 8-151		TOTAL: 73 in 17.1 overs (RR: 4.25)	
Bowling: J Siddique 4-0-38-0, K Daud 1-0-14-0, Z Khan 4-0-26-2, A Khan 3-0-16-1, A Lakra 3-0-24-1, K Meiyappan 4-0-19-3, B Hameed 1-0-13-0		Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-17, 3-19, 4-21, 5-30, 6-36, 7-42, 8-52, 9-56, 10-73	
		Bowling: P Liyanagamage 3-0-14-1, M Theekshana 3.1-0-15-2, D Chameera 3.5-0-15-3, C Karunaratne 2-0-14-0, W Hasaranga 4-1-8-3, D Shanaka 1.1-0-7-1	

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$88.90, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 70 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$89.60. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,489.75 points, down by 0.45 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.17 per cent at 483.79 points. Al Madina Takaful, up 4.55 per cent, was the top gainer while Sembcorp Salalah, down 10 per cent, was the top loser



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Economic growth worries likely to dampen rally in crude prices

Crude oil future prices peaked at a five-week high level of \$98.63 per barrel on October 10, 2022, after seeing consistent gains that came after Opec+ announced a larger-than-expected cut to its oil production

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After showing swift recovery since the last week of September 2022, oil prices once again trended downwards led by concerns related to the pace of global economic growth and a possibility of a recession in parts of Europe,



according to a new report.

"Crude oil future prices peaked at a five-week high level of \$98.63 per barrel on October 10, 2022, after seeing consistent gains that came after Opec+ announced a larger-than-expected cut to its oil production," the Kuwait-based Kamco invest said in its October 'Oil Market Monthly Report'.

However, prices trended downwards after the US dollar reached a fresh 24-year high on expectations of higher-than-expected rate hikes

in the coming months as inflation continues to remain elevated. In addition, a downward revision to the world gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate by the IMF with a warning of increased risk of a global recession also affected the trajectory of oil prices.

Meanwhile, the rising COVID-19 risk in China once again forced the country to heighten restrictions in key Chinese cities, thereby further delaying the hopes of a crude oil demand recovery in

one of the world's largest consumers of crude oil, the report added.

On the other hand, prices of oil products saw consistent growth as the December 2022 deadline for the imposition of European sanctions on Russia nears along with recent reports of several supply disruptions. A recent Reuters report showed some of the biggest price spikes in diesel prices in Europe and the US. The price rise in Europe came as a result of oil refinery worker strikes in France while in the US

refinery maintenance is affecting the supply of finished products.

Refinery capacity

Refinery data compiled by Bloomberg showed more than 0.9 million barrels per day of refinery capacity outage in the US with an additional more than 1 million barrels per day of outage in North-western Europe and the Mediterranean region. In addition, a recent leak in a key European oil pipeline in Poland that connects Russia to Germany halted supplies and supported prices. Another incident of malfunction at Shell's Pernis refinery resulted in excessive flaring.

On the production side, the decision to lower output by 2 million barrels per day by the Opec+ group from November 2022 came as a surprise to the oil market as traders had braced for a much smaller cut due to the international pressure led by rising inflation rates. The cuts include Saudi Arabia and Russia curbing combined output by more than 1 million barrels per day while Iraq, UAE and Kuwait would slash production by an additional 0.5 million barrels per day combined.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) also lowered its forecast for oil production in its latest Short-Term Energy Outlook.

The EIA now expects US production to average 12.4 million barrels per day in 2023 down from 12.6 million barrels per day in its previous forecast while global production expectation was trimmed by 0.6 million barrels per day to 100.7 million barrels per day, the Kamco Invest report said.

Demand forecast

On the demand side, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) lowered its demand forecast for 2022 by 460,000 barrels per day to a growth of 2.64 million barrels per day while 2023 demand was lowered by 360,000 barrels per day to a growth of 2.34 million barrels per day. The EIA also lowered its demand forecast for next year by around 0.47 million barrels per day to 101.03 million barrels per day as compared to its previous forecast of 101.50 million barrels per day.

Oil prices

Oil prices witnessed consistent declines since the start of last week following warnings of economic growth expected in the near term. The declines almost completely offset growth in oil prices that came after the Opec+ announced higher-than-expected cuts starting next month.



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MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Al Madina Takaful, up 4.55 per cent, was the top gainer while Sembcorp Salalah, down 10 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,489.75 points, down by 0.45 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.17 per cent at 483.79 points. Al Madina Takaful, up 4.55 per cent, was the top gainer while Sembcorp Salalah, down 10 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were down by 8.16 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 1.03 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,114.46 points, down 0.57 per cent. Prices of Oman Flour Mills were up by 0.73 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement, Oman Fisheries, Gulf Mushroom Products, Jazeera Steel Products, and Voltamp Energy were down by 3.19 per cent, 2.91 per cent, 2.8 per cent, 2.61 per cent and 2.13 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.87 per cent before closing at 1,579.68 points. Prices of Al Maha Marketing and Ooredoo were up by 1.90 per cent and 0.97 per cent, respectively. Prices of Sembcorp Salalah, Phoenix Power, Muscat Desalination, Renaissance Services, and Oman Telecom were down by 10.00 per cent, 2.22 per cent, 1.75 per cent, 1.68 per cent and 1.35 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

up by 4.55 per cent, and 0.63 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Global Financial Investments, United Finance, Bank Muscat, and Bank Nizwa were down by 8.16 per cent, 1.85 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 1.05 per cent and 1.03 per cent respectively.

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INDICES							
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%	
MSX 30 INDEX	4,511.50	4,478.98	4,489.75	4,510.23	-20.48	-0.45	
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,199.45	7,143.38	7,169.93	7,189.49	-19.56	-0.27	
Industry Index	6,141.12	6,102.19	6,114.46	6,149.77	-35.31	-0.57	
Services Index	1,596.16	1,578.23	1,579.68	1,593.61	-13.93	-0.87	
MSX Shariah Index	485.04	482.97	483.79	482.99	0.80	0.17	
MSX TR INDEX	5,690.06	5,649.04	5,662.62	5,688.45	-25.84	-0.45	
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,533.42	7,474.75	7,502.53	7,523.00	-20.47	-0.27	
SERVICES TR IDX	1,657.46	1,638.85	1,640.35	1,654.81	-14.46	-0.87	
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,373.45	6,333.05	6,345.78	6,382.43	-36.65	-0.57	
Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
11,030,053	2,029,246	338	23,169,368,454	5	19	14	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY OCTOBER 18

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (OM)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST HD.	LAST OFFER	PRI VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM	5,825	3,290	2	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.844	-0.016	1.896	0.880	0.880	0.860	0.100...58,340,000
OM0000003868	OOREDOO	479,000	199,972	5	0.418	0.418	0.418	0.416	0.412	0.004	0.971	0.416	0.396	0.416	0.100...270,792,800
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	4,360	2,415	2	0.554	0.554	0.554	0.554	0.550	0.004	0.727	0.554	0.550	0.554	0.100...87,255,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	36,400	4,005	6	0.110	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100...15,680,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN.	177,000	22,744	15	0.129	0.129	0.128	0.129	0.129	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.128	0.129	0.100...30,573,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	31,000	10,230	6	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.100...220,560,591
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV.	13,000	975	3	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.075	0.077	0.100...6,750,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	60,300	22,070	3	0.366	0.366	0.366	0.366	0.368	-0.002	-0.543	0.366	0.336	0.366	0.100...80,520,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	120,500	35,538	6	0.296	0.296	0.294	0.294	0.296	-0.002	-0.678	0.294	0.280	0.295	0.100...97,276,577
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	1,205,970	182,806	3	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.136	-0.001	-0.735	0.135	0.130	0.135	0.100...263,203,738
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	545,000	53,492	14	0.095	0.098	0.095	0.098	0.099	-0.001	-1.010	0.098	0.096	0.098	0.100...448,826,104
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	653,405	373,678	33	0.574	0.574	0.568	0.568	0.574	-0.006	-1.045	0.568	0.568	0.570	0.100...613,818,766
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	343,651	305,475	14	0.888	0.892	0.880	0.880	0.892	-0.012	-1.345	0.880	0.876	0.900	0.100...660,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	341,000	160,260	8	0.470	0.470	0.468	0.468	0.476	-0.008	-1.681	0.468	0.468	0.468	0.100...110,639,880
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	132,950	7,027	8	0.053	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.054	-0.001	-1.852	0.053	0.052	0.053	0.100...10,600,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	3,500	784	3	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.224	0.230	-0.006	-2.609	0.224	0.224	0.228	0.100...27,977,143
Total	16	4,151,861	1,364,761	131											
Parallel Market															
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	188,604	17,053	19	0.088	0.092	0.088	0.092	0.088	0.004	4.545	0.092	0.087	0.092	0.100...16,100,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	10,000	1,600	2	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.159	0.001	0.629	0.160	0.153	0.164	0.100...320,050,046
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	234,000	14,224	13	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.061	0.100...18,428,780
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	74,734	5,680	5	0.076	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.076	0.078	0.100...15,200,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	2,000	290	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.145	0.100...13,050,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	232,000	33,640	2	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.000	0.145	0.100...434,470,958
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,500	240	1	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.154	0.159	0.100...32,477,831
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	6,758	838	2	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.124	0.000	0.000	0.124	0.117	0.124	0.100...12,127,468
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	11,000	418	3	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.000	0.000	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.100...25,645,722
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	152	9	1	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.057	0.060	0.100...28,271,183
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	5,255,945	502,086	70	0.096	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.097	-0.001	-1.031	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100...214,747,491
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	10,000	830	1	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.084	-0.001	-1.190	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.100...28,978,986
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	10,000	1,120	1	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.114	0.114	-0.002	-1.754	0.112	0.110	0.116	0.100...17,421,645
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	50,000	4,600	2	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.002	-2.128	0.092	0.090	0.094	0.100...7,489,053
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	4,371	192	2	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.044	0.000	0.044	0.100...64,354,464
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P.	82,350	20,096	9	0.245	0.245	0.243	0.243	0.250	-0.007	-2.800	0.243	0.243	0.244	0.100...10,110,081
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	73,713	7,417	12	0.103	0.103	0.100	0.100	0.103	-0.003	-2.913	0.100	0.097	0.100	0.100...18,207,840
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	248,118	36,663	48	0.144	0.145	0.144	0.152	0.157	-0.005	-3.185	0.152	0.146	0.149	0.100...30,400,000
OM0000002366	AL BATINAH DEV.	300,000	13,500	7	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.049	-0.004	-8.163	0.045	0.045	0.047	0.100...1,350,000
OM0000004735	SEMBCORP SALALAH	65,447	3,761	4	0.059	0.059	0.054	0.054	0.060	-0.006	-10.000	0.054	0.054	0.057	0.100...51,546,885
Total	20	6,980,692	664,257	205											

BOOST SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PDO to support host of new social investment initiatives worth OMR1.4mn

MUSCAT: Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) has committed to supporting a host of new projects worth more than OMR1.4 million, which will benefit communities and boost sustainable development across the Sultanate of Oman.

The initiatives include commitments in the key areas of health, community infrastructure development as well as enhancing the education sector.

Nine Memorandums of Collaboration (MoCs) confirming these commitments were signed during an official ceremony held under the patronage of Eng. Badr Salim Al Ma'amari, Secretary General of the Tender Board, at the PDO Knowledge World venue here today.

To encourage the provision of the best medical services across Oman, PDO is funding the construction of a new Mudhi health centre in the Wilayat of Thumrait, which serves 40 patients per day. It is also fund-



ing the purchase of medical equipment for the Royal Hospital and Al Halaniyat Health Centre.

In line with the company's commitment to supporting the education sector within its concession area, PDO signed an agreement to provide lab computers to Alm'arif and Al Kuhl schools in the Wilayats of Haima and Al Jazer. As many as 558 students will benefit from these

computers which will contribute to enhancing the quality of education.

PDO External Affairs and Value Creation Director Eng. Abdul Amir Abdul Hussein Al Ajmi said, "Today's signings are following PDO's long-standing practice of supporting local communities through investments in sustainable development projects.

"These and other social projects

that arise from the partnership between PDO and different Government stakeholders have been endorsed by the Social Investment Committee, and they stand as a testament to PDO's dedication to supporting the prosperity of local communities."

Other agreements include purchasing a new bus for Al Noor Association For the Blind and funding an innovation club for the Childcare Center in Muscat.

To encourage the adoption of sports and healthy lifestyles in Oman, PDO is sponsoring the Himam Trail Run race which is expected to attract more than 500 participants from 40 countries.

Moreover, PDO will fund the renovation of the Camel racetrack in Saih Al Arrad in the Wilayat of Bahla and the construction of a 1.6-km walk path in Hamra Duru in the Wilayat of Ibbi, both of which will benefit 118 villages and more than 6,000 beneficiaries.



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400 PRIZES ON RAFFLE DRAWS

Offer valid from 1st October to 31st December 2022. Raffle draws will be held at Oasis Water Company, Azaba with a total of 3 raffle draws. Dates: 3rd November, 5th December 2022 and 4th January 2023. Winners will be intimated directly. Oasis Water Company employees are not eligible to participate in this promotion. Gifts shown are for illustrative purpose only. Actual may vary. Promotion at Lulu, Nesto, Carrefour, Makkah Hypermarkets & The Sultan Center.

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MEETING

Sharia Supervisory Board assesses Alizz Islamic Bank's Sharia-compliant performance

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In the third meeting of this year, Alizz Islamic Bank's Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) discussed a variety of items including new products about which resolutions were passed and also considered several requests for the restructuring of corporate finances and appropriate resolutions were passed.

The meeting was attended by Alizz Islamic Bank's CEO Sulaiman Al Harthy, senior executive management, the internal Sharia auditor, the Sharia compliance officer and the Sharia audit officer. The CEO gave a visual presentation on the bank's third quarter (Q3) performance this year. The meeting was also attended by the SSB chairman and members.

In addition, the meeting discussed the Q3 Sharia audit report and the Sharia compliance and Sharia risk report and appropriate resolutions were passed. Alizz Islamic Bank's SSB also endeavours to propose innovative products and banking solutions that permanently meet customer needs and develop strategic plans that achieve the Islamic banking sector's growth and development in the Sultanate of Oman.

"There is a growing demand for Alizz Islamic Bank's products as we innovate products which gain customer satisfaction by offering flexible finance options of various types. As for the Islamic bank-



ing sector, data indicates that the total assets of the Islamic banks and windows altogether grew to about OMR6.2 billion, which accounts for 15.9 per cent of the total assets of the banking sector in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of June 2022, a 9.6 per cent increase compared to the same period in the past year. As for the total finance granted by the financial institutions, it grew to about OMR 5.1 billion, an 11.2 per cent increase. The Islamic banks and windows' deposits grew to OMR 4.7 billion, a 12.8 per cent increase by the end of June 2022," said Issa bin Salem Al Riyami, the Head of Alizz Islamic Bank's Shari'a Audit & Compliance Department.

Alizz Islamic Bank's Shari'a Audit & Compliance Department plays various roles in direct contact with society including the

ratification of the products and services provided by Alizz Islamic Bank, the authentication of their full compliance with the provisions and principles of the Islamic Sharia law, the launch of the initiatives which serve the various age groups, the development of awareness of the Islamic banking concepts and the conduct of various initiatives and seminars in the various governorates and wilayats of Oman. Compliance with Islamic Sharia law is the cornerstone of Islamic banking and the real capital of Islamic finance. Therefore, the Bank selected a group of prominent Islamic scholars who are specialised in the jurisprudence of Islamic transactions, have long experience in financial consultancy, and have a good reputation for serving on the SSB.

CBO

Treasury bills worth OMR13 million issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR13 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday. The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 28 days, from October 19 until November 16, 2022.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.820 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.810 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 2.35144 per cent and 2.35570 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. CBO acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the repo operations with CBO is 3.75 per cent while the discount rate on the treasury bills discounting facility with CBO is 4.25 per cent.

Treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures. —**ONA**



STUDY FINDS PEOPLE HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON ON ALARM MORE OFTEN THAN THOUGHT



If you got delayed getting out of bed this morning, you're certainly not alone as a study by researchers at the University of Notre Dame has painted a clearer picture of the human tendency to hit the snooze button.

The study, published in the journal SLEEP, found that 57 per cent of the participants were habitual snoozers. While scientists and medical professionals have long advised against it, the act of snoozing -- how often and why we do it -- remains virtually unstudied.

"Most of what we know about snoozing is taken from data on sleep, stress or related behaviours," said Stephen Mattingly, lead author of the study. He conducted the research while a postdoctoral researcher at Notre Dame, with Aaron Striegel, a professor of computer science and engineering at Notre Dame.

He added, "Alarm clocks, smartphones, they all have snooze buttons. The medical establishment is generally against the use of snoozing, but when we went to look at what hard data existed, there was none. We now have the data to prove just how common it is -- and there is still so much that we do not know." The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 3 Americans do not get enough sleep. The findings of the study suggest snoozing may be how some battle their exhaustion.

"So

many people are snoozing because so many people are chronically tired," Mattingly said. "If only 1 in 3 people are sleeping adequately, that means a lot of us are turning to other means to manage fatigue."

The study surveyed 450 adults with full-time, salaried employment. Participants completed daily surveys and a questionnaire. Data collected from wearable devices measured sleep duration and heart rate. According to the study, females were 50 per cent more likely to snooze than males. Snoozers tracked fewer steps than other respondents and experienced more disturbances during sleeping hours.

"These are people who have been in the workforce for years, white-collar workers with advanced degrees -- and 57 per cent of them are snoozing," Mattingly said. "Critically, these statistics are only representative of a small population that is likely to be in the best position with respect to sleep habits. We have no idea about various age groups such as teenagers, lower-income households or any of the populations that are historically more sleep deprived than the respondents of this study. So, the odds are this is probably a conservative estimate of the wider population."

The study also considered each respondent's chronotype, or when they prefer to go to bed and wake up. Night owls were found to snooze more and were found to be more tired in general. "In the 9 to 5 world," Mattingly said, "night owls are losing."

"Part of the focus of this study was to demystify what is happening with snoozing," Striegel said. "Is it really worse than waking up to an alarm on the first ring -- is it that much different? The recommendation against an alarm is well-founded, but as far as we can tell from the physiology and our data, waking to one alarm or hitting the snooze button and waking to two or three alarms doesn't make much of a dif-

ference.

If you need an alarm because you're sleep-deprived -- that's the issue."

When respondents woke naturally, without the aid of an alarm, they slept longer and consumed less caffeine. Snoozers and non-snoozers are getting the same amount of sleep. Snoozers aren't taking more naps and they do not report feeling tired more often.

"When we are able to sleep as long as we want," Mattingly said, "the body experiences a stress response right before waking. That physiological response contributes to an individual feeling alert when they wake up."

Disrupting natural sleep cycles with an alarm can lead to sleep inertia -- the feeling of being tired or groggy.

"When you wake up from a REM sleep state," said Mattingly, "your brain is most of the way to being fully awake. Hormone levels circulating at that stage are going to be different than when you're in a deep sleep." Waking up to an alarm is sort of like a double whammy, bypassing the natural stress response needed to feel alert and waking you up with brain chemistry that's out of whack.

Both Striegel and Mattingly say more research is needed to understand any potential negative health impacts of snoozing, and Mattingly emphasized that the best advice is for everyone to sleep as much as their body needs.

— ANI

STILL, SNOOZING MAY HAVE ITS BENEFITS

“IF YOU SNOOZE AND YOU’RE MORE ALERT WHEN YOU GET BEHIND THE WHEEL TO GO TO WORK, THAT MIGHT BE A BENEFIT AND A USEFUL ONE,” HE SAID. “IF IT REDUCES DEPENDENCE ON CAFFEINE, THAT’S ANOTHER. IT’S NOT UNIFORMLY BAD -- SIMILAR TO STRESS. SOME STRESS IS GOOD -- THAT’S WHY WE HAVE THE FIGHT OR FLIGHT RESPONSE. THERE ARE TIMES AND PLACES FOR IT. THERE MAY BE CASES WHEN HITTING THE SNOOZE BUTTON IS ACTUALLY BENEFICIAL.”

Karim Benzema, Alexia Putellas clinch top honours in Ballon d'Or

Benzema became the first French player since Zinedine Zidane to win the top honour

PARIS: French striker Karim Benzema claimed the 2022 Ballon d'Or on Monday after a dazzling season with Real Madrid which saw the Spanish giants win both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League.

Spain's Alexia Putellas won the women's trophy for the second year in a row following another stellar season with Barcelona.

The first French player to win the prestigious individual football prize since Zinedine Zidane in 1998, Benzema had his best season ever at Madrid, finishing with 44 goals in 46 matches and becoming the top scorer in both domestic and continental tournaments.

A highlight for the 34-year-old came in the knockout stages



of the Champions League when he grabbed two consecutive hat-tricks against Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16, and Chelsea in the quarterfinals.

"It's a collective victory. It's an individual trophy but without your

teammates, you can't score. Sometimes you might get a screamer but, for me, football is a collective sport and I will always be a team player," Benzema said.

"It makes me really proud. All the work I did, I never gave up. It

was a childhood dream like all kids - the motivation. I had two motivations in my life - Zidane and Ronaldo. I've always had this dream in my mind that anything is possible," Sky Sports quoted Benzema as saying.

"There was a difficult period where I wasn't in the French team, but I never stopped working hard nor gave up. I always kept my head, concentrated on playing football and I am really proud of my journey here. It was not easy, it was a difficult time. It was hard for my family as well. To be here today, for the first time for me, I'm happy and pleased with my work and I keep going."

Real Madrid

"I want to thank my team-mates, whether it's Real Madrid or the national team. My coach, thanks to him as well. The Real Madrid president as well."

"I have a lot of people to thank. It's an individual prize, but it's a collective one because everyone has played a role," he concluded.

For the first time in the award's history, the Ballon d'Or was awarded based on the performance of the past season, not according to achievements in a calendar year.

Benzema's club teammate Thibaut Courtois was given the Yashin Trophy for the best goalkeeper.

"KARIM BENZEMA IS THE 2022 BALLON D'OR! @Benzema @realmadrid #ballondor," tweeted

ed the official handle of Ballon d'Or. "Barcelona's Alexia Putellas became the first to win two back-to-back Women's Ballon d'Or trophies in consecutive seasons.

"BACK TO BACK WINNER! ALEXIA PUTEILLAS IS THE 2022 WOMEN'S BALLON D'OR! @alexiaputellas @FCBfemeni #ballondor," tweeted official handle of Ballon d'Or.

Beth Mead, England's Euro 2022 winning star and top scorer at that tournament, finished as runners up, while Sam Kerr of Chelsea from Australia stood at third position.

Alexia won the award after an incredible 2021-22 season in which she helped Barca reach second consecutive Champions league final, scoring 11 goals in 10 matches and a total of 18 goals and 15 assists within 26 league matches.

"Without my team-mates this would not have been possible. I want to thank the staff and the coach and everyone involved at Barcelona," Alexia was quoted as saying by Goal.com.

Manchester City won the 'Club of the Year' honours.

"Manchester City is the club of the year! Congrats @ManCity #clubdelannee #ballondor," tweeted Ballon d'Or. **ANI**

COMFORTABLE WIN

Real Madrid to be back in La Liga action today



MADRID: Real Madrid return to La Liga action on Wednesday following their comfortable win at home to FC Barcelona on Sunday, when they visit bottom side Elche. Newly crowned Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema will lead the Madrid attack, although coach Carlo Ancelotti is likely to maintain his policy of squad rotation, with Rodrygo, Nacho Fernandez and Antonio Rudiger - who will wear a protective face mask after his injury last week - all possible starters.

Thibaut Courtois remains doubtful with a back problem, although he is expected to be back at the weekend.

Elche appointed Jorge Almiran as coach last week and he

led them to a creditable 2-2 draw away to Valencia last Saturday which should have been a 3-2 win after the referee disallowed a third Elche goal to instead award them a free kick.

Wednesday also sees Valladolid at home to Celta Vigo in a game between two sides whose football has not matched their results. Valladolid lost 1-0 away to Espanyol at the weekend, while Celta were beaten 2-1 at home by Real Sociedad. Real Betis moved into the top four with a 3-1 win at home to Almeria on Sunday, and they have another Andalusian derby as Manuel Pellegrini's side make the short trip to face Cadiz.

Cadiz are slowly improving after a poor start to the season, but

have fitness doubts over Ivan Alejo and Alvaro Gimenez, and Betis should be too strong for them despite the absence of Nabil Fekir through injury.

Real Sociedad aim to stretch their winning run to eight games when they entertain Mallorca, who travel after a narrow 1-0 defeat at home to Sevilla.

Mikel Oyarzabal, Ali Cho and Umar Sadiq are still out for the home side, but with Alex Sorloth, Take Kubo and Brais Mendez in excellent form, Real Sociedad are clear favorites for another three points.

Elsewhere, FC Barcelona will try to recover from their defeat in the 'Clasico' when they face Villarreal. **xinhua**

ODI CAPTAIN

Australia give ODI captaincy to Pat Cummins following retirement of Aaron Finch

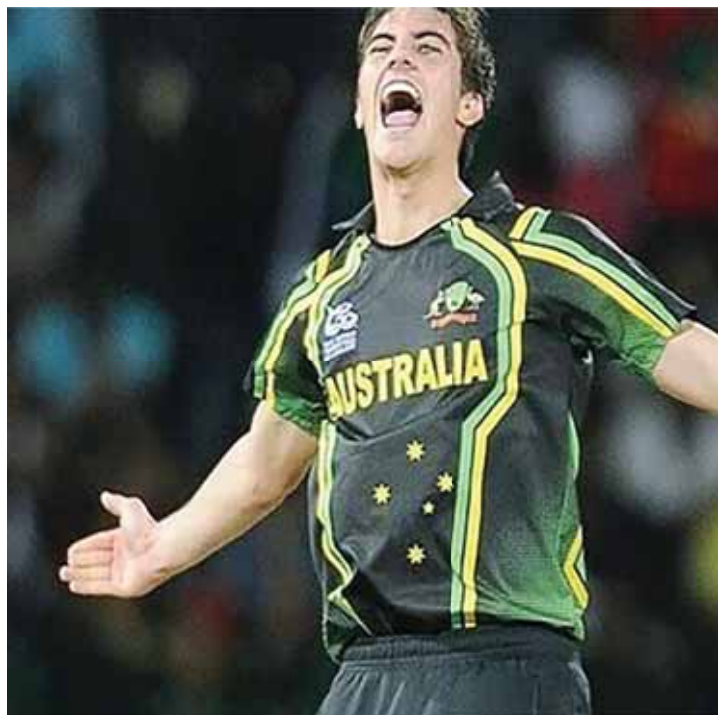
CANBERRA: Australian test captain Pat Cummins has been handed the additional responsibility to lead the Aussie team in the white ball format after Aaron Finch's retirement from ODI cricket last month.

The pacer becomes the first fast bowler to lead the Australian side in the 50-over format and only the second bowler after the late Shane Warne who led the team in the ODI's for 11 games in the nineties. Australia are still to name a vice-captain to Pat Cummins and the announcement could be expected soon as the newly appointed captain will look to build a strong team with the ODI World Cup just a year away. The ICC ODI World Cup will be played in India between October and November 2023.

Cummins overpowered his teammates Steve Smith, Mitch Marsh, Alex Carey and Glenn Maxwell in the race for the top job to become Australia's 27th ODI captain.

Australian opener David Warner was also in the reckoning but could not be cleared of his lifetime leadership ban handed over by Cricket Australia for his involvement in the ball-tampering scandal during the Cape Town Test against South Africa.

"Pat has done an excellent job since taking on the captaincy of the Test side and we look forward to him leading the one-day team to the 2023 World Cup in India," said



selection chief George Bailey as quoted by Cricket Australia.

Cummins will have big shoes to fill as Finch was extremely respected by his peers and was considered perfect for the ODI portfolio. However, a recent slump in ODI cricket prompted Finch to make way for new talent.

A point of concern for the Australian board will be the workload management of the lanky pacer

given his prior commitment to play Tests for the team added with the recent addition of a leadership role. The quick fiery pacer is currently with the Aussie T20 side to defend Australia's T20 title. Australia's next ODI assignment is a three-game ODI Series against England that will take place next month, between the T20 World Cup and the home Test summer. **ANI**

OMAN CRICKET

First Gary Kirsten Cricket camp in Oman a grand success

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket (OC) has been constantly working hard to ensure that the domestic coaches, young cricketers and beginners are provided top-class facilities to learn, train and improve their skills sets.

As part of OC's continued efforts, the recent maiden partnership initiative with South Africa's Gary Kirsten Cricket (GKC) Academy turned out to be a grand success. A total of 75 players attended the five-day coaching camp that catered to grassroots players, high-performance cricketers and domestic coaches.

Evert Laubscher, Oman Cricket Academy manager, said that a total of 21 cricketers, including three Omani nationals and five girls, took part in the grassroots camp, conducted by two coaches from the GKC Academy - Ryan van Niekerk and Garreth Von Hoess-



lin. He added: "Buoyed by the success of the inaugural camp, the founder of GKC and former South African great Gary Kirsten has expressed his interest to come to

Oman when the second camp is held next year."

A total of 54 players took part in the high-performance camp, which included one Omani na-

tional and three girls.

Assisting the two GKC coaches were coaches from Oman Cricket - Laubscher, Mazhar Khan, Syed Amir Ali, Syed Amir Kaleem,

Parviz al Balushi, Adeel Shafique, Muhammad Nadeem, Haider Ali and Desmond Berhardt.

The senior GKC coaches also conducted a three-day coach education session for the OC coaches.

The visiting GKC coach Niekerk said, "Coaches session provided practical application of global coaching standards through CoachED Cricket across a variety of topics."

He added: "The high-performance camp with the local coaches was quite a useful exercise as they [domestic coaches] are now better equipped with more refined processes which they can continue to explore in the coming months."

During the high-performance camp for cricketers, the GKC trainers worked out a schedule that was split for Test, ODI and T20 formats.

Commenting on the coaching sessions for the young cricketers of Oman, Laubscher said: "The

drill sets over three formats for the budding cricketers was a great hit and training sessions were held in outdoor and indoor conditions at the Oman Cricket Academy."

He added: "The camp was greatly welcomed by the parents of the cricketers who sent in a lot of emails applauding the initiative and are now looking for the next camp with the GKC team."

All the participants were handed a certificate of participation and a branded shirt from OC and GKC.

GKC founder and World Cup-winning coach Kirsten in a household name among cricket fans across the world. Since his retirement in 2004, the former opening batter has devoted his time running GKC, coaching international teams and franchises and tasted tremendous success, leading India to a World Cup title in 2011 and more recently as a mentor of Gujarat Titans in IPL 2022.



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ROUND-UP

GAC hosts ‘Outlander Experience’ drive event for Oman media

The event offered attendees the chance to experience the capabilities, technology and performance of the all-new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander crossover SUV first-hand from behind the wheel

MUSCAT: General Automotive Company (GAC), the official distributor for Mitsubishi vehicles in Oman, organised an exclusive ‘Outlander Experience’ drive event for media and social media influencers yesterday.

Hosted at the Ghala Golf Club, the event offered attendees the chance to experience the capabilities, technology and performance of the all-new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander crossover SUV first-hand from behind the wheel.

In attendance were the Chief Operating Officer of the Zubair Automotive Group, Mohammad Al Farei, the General Manager of GAC, Manoj Ranade, a repre-

sentative of the Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, Tokyo, Japan office, Tagawa Yuichi, as well as two senior representatives of the Mitsubishi Motors Middle East and Africa office together with other members of the senior management of GAC.

All new from the wheels up, the Outlander has been reimagined and reinvented in every way. Not only does it feature a bold new design direction for this vehicle and the brand, but it is also the best-equipped and most technologically advanced vehicle the company has ever sold in the region.

Commenting on the event, Chief Operating Officer at ZAG, Mo-



hammad Al Farei, said, “The 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander has been one of our most highly anticipated Mitsubishi models. Our exclusive ‘Outlander Experience’ drive event with Omani media and influencers builds on well-founded expectations: the 2023 Outlander is the best Mitsubishi model ever sold by GAC in Oman. With this more technology-driven model, Mitsubishi has re-imagined our driving experience focusing on safety, innovation and a bold, authentic design. Our ‘Outlander

Experience’ drive event was meticulously planned with routes designed to offer the over 25 attending journalists and influencers an opportunity to drive the flagship Mitsubishi model, discover its premium features, and experience everything the vehicle has to offer.”

Also attending the event, Tagawa Yuichi, a representative of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, stated: “From the design to its development, everything about the new Outlander is carefully thought out to showcase the best of Mit-

subishi Motors. With this model, we are looking to challenge expectations and let people experience the new era of Mitsubishi vehicles. We are proud to work with GAC to bring our new flagship Outlander model to Oman.”

The 2023 Outlander was crafted under the design language of “I-Fu-Do-Do,” which means “authentic and majestic” in Japanese. This design ethos is reflected in the vehicle’s bold proportions, muscular fenders, and the chiselled lines of the next-generation “Dynamic Shield” grille. Standard 18-inch wheels and available 20-inch wheels add a robust presence that emphasises strength and security.

Inside, the Outlander is a quiet and serene space, showcasing quality and convenience through class-above materials and placing a premium on comfort and convenience. It also features seating for seven, leather upholstery, a panoramic sunroof, a power remote lift-gate, numerous storage locations, and USB-A and USB-C charge ports. The comfortable seating also comes with a massage function, power adjustments and memory for the driver and front passenger.

As the best-equipped Mitsub-

shi ever sold in Oman, the all-new Outlander also offers an impressive array of standard and available advanced driver assistance systems to increase driver convenience, confidence, and safety. Depending on trim level, the all-new Outlander offers seven airbags, Forward Collision Mitigation, Blind Spot Warning, Lane Departure Warning, Driver Attention Alert, Rear Automatic Emergency Braking, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Hill Descent Control, and a Multi-Around Monitor System.

“The Mitsubishi flagship model inspires with its premium-quality, innovative technology and seven-seat practicality, all at a competitive price. As a well-known brand in the market, the new Outlander model is set to become very popular in the Sultanate. Not just because of its state-of-the-art technology, integrated features and the bold new design but because it is proof of the brand’s much-anticipated evolution. Everyone is welcome to experience the Outlander 2023 model for test drives and viewings at GAC’s showrooms across the country, including our Athaibah showroom,” said Manoj Ranade.

POPULAR MODELS

Enjoy thrilling drives with Toyota passenger car range

MUSCAT: Toyota passenger car range includes popular models that are renowned for being reliable, durable and of high quality. At Toyota, the focus has always been to deliver the finest ownership experiences and every model in the Toyota range exhibits that impressively.

The Toyota passenger car range includes sedans like the all new Yaris, Corolla and Camry. The all new Yaris adopts a powerful and elegant fastback style that embodies the Yaris’ trademark stability and reliability.

The all new Toyota Yaris promises a dynamic driving experience thanks to its four-cylinder engine that is equipped with 16-valve DOCH and dual VVT-I. The vehicle is available with 1.5-liter capacity engine, producing 105 horsepower and 138 Nm of torque with fuel consumption of 20.5 km/l. This is paired with Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT), which simulates a seven-speed sequential shift transmission. The Yaris’ cabin hosts a range of practical features, including an 8-inch multimedia screen with Apple CarPlay® & Android Auto together with a USB port on the head unit and two ports at the rear console that enable passengers to connect external media devices. Additional features include a four or six-speaker sound system and an



automatic air conditioning system with two rear vents for extra passenger comfort.

The Corolla’s striking look is complemented by an exciting drive personality imbued by three powertrain options. It includes a newly developed 2.0-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine which produces 168 HP and 20.39 Kg-m of torque, which is paired with a CVT transmission. The Corolla’s cabin is accentuated with an extensive range of features, which vary based on the trim level. Occupants also benefit from AC vents for the rear seat, a moonroof, 4.2 or 7-inch color multi-information display (MID), 7-inch touch-screen multimedia infotainment display, rear

view camera, cruise control, six-speaker sound system, and 60:40 split-folding rear seats.

The stylish Camry is available in two engine options. The 2.5 Litre engine delivers 204 HP & 243 Nm torque & 3.5L engine delivers 298 HP & 356 Nm torque. Camry is also available in the 3.5L sports edition that adds to the thrill. The Camry’s interior is stylish and impressive. The dash design has a sporty, cockpit-like feel, while treating both the driver and the front passenger to wider visibility. The exciting interior’s distinctive design offers comfort and convenience with a layer of luxury and hosts a range of advanced features. These include a panoramic moonroof, a floating 7-inch or 9-inch multimedia touch screen that comes integrated with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™, among others.

OFFICIAL VISIT

Dr Muhanna Al Maslahi, DG of Private Health Institutions visits Burjeel Hospital

MUSCAT: Dr Muhanna Nasser Al Maslahi, the Director General of the Directorate General of Private Health Institutions at the Ministry of Health (MOH) made an official visit to Burjeel Hospital, Al Khuwair last week.

Dr Muhanna was received by Dr Rohil Raghavan, Regional CEO, Burjeel Holdings, Oman; Nelson Prabhakaran, Director Operations; and Farzana Sultana, Head of Quality of Burjeel Hospital; as well as other members from the Hospital’s senior management team.

He was given a tour of the various departments and facilities at Burjeel and was also given a brief introduction to the hospital’s capabilities which are comparable to the best hospitals in the world. He also interacted with several patients in the hospital enquiring about their feedback on the hospital’s services.

Dr Maslahi had a warm meeting with Dr Sultan Al Maskari, Head of the Maskari Burjeel Orthopedic Centre at the MBO’s premises within the hospital. He also took a special interest in the oncology department and had a long interaction with both of the hospital’s oncologists.

During the tour of the Hospital, Dr Maslahi expressed his support for the private sector and his desire to enable the private healthcare sector to play a larger role in transforming



Oman’s healthcare ecosystem. Speaking about the visit, Dr Rohil Raghavan commented, “We are pleased to have had the opportunity to host Dr Muhanna Nasser Al Maslahi; highlighting the progress we have made, and the developments we wish to make in the future. More than anything, we have relished the opportunity to underline the incredible job our team is doing, and are confident will continue to

do, as we move ahead.” Nelson Prabhakaran mentioned: “As one of Oman’s and the GCC’s premium healthcare solutions providers – Burjeel - has a commitment towards excellence in treatment and care that ensures the highest standard of outcomes for the patient. We were humbled to welcome Dr Maslahi to our premises and take him through our state-of-art facility and world-class services.”

SPECIAL OCCASION

Apollo Hospitals Oman marks Omani Women’s Day

MUSCAT: Apollo Hospitals, Sultanate of Oman, marked Omani Women’s Day coinciding with Breast Cancer Awareness Month by recognising the unsung heroes, the doctors from government and private healthcare sectors in the Sultanate, who have dedicated their life towards the fight against breast cancer.

The Omani women employees were recognised for their contribution and celebrated to mark the day, October 17 which was declared Omani Women’s Day in the year 2009.

“Breast cancer is one of the leading health challenges Omani women face today. The Ministry of Health, Doctors in both Government and Private sector, Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Center, Royal Hospital and one of the nation’s leading NGOs - the Oman Cancer Association, have been crucial in treating breast cancer patients and spreading awareness early detection. Carrying forward this initiative, Apollo Hospitals will be conducting a breast cancer awareness event open for the public on October 29 in collaboration with OCA and free screening will be performed with a mammogram,” said VT Saileshwaran, Managing



Director, Apollo Hospitals Oman. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Center, from the private sector, were felicitated.

“We have more than 30 hospitals in the private sector currently and they see thousands of patients every day and more than eight million visits every year. We see the quantity and quality of the hospitals and the medical staff. We need to do more on detection including illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension as well as breast and other cancers,” Dr Muhanna al Maslahi, Director General, Private Health Establishment, Ministry of Health.

“Globally female breast cancer has surpassed lung cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer, with an estimated 2.3 million new cases 11.7% in 2020 as per Globocan. When you are 40 is when your country needs you the most,” pointed out Dr Adil Al Ajmi, Head of Breast Program SQCCCRC, explaining how cancer cases are being detected in the 40s.

Dr Taha Al Lawati, Sr Consultant Onco- Plastic Breast Surgeon from Royal Hospital said that Breast cancer is the highest among all patients -Omanis and non-Omanis. According to him, collaboration is the most important thing between the government and private sec-

tors, as breast cancer should be fought by both of us for early diagnosis as it is the key to prevention and cure breast cancer; the key to success is screening and early detection of breast cancer. With early detection, we reach a survival rate of 99%, while the late diagnosis has hardly a 4% survival rate.”

“The Apollo team felt that the best way to celebrate Omani Women’s Day would be to recognise the efforts of the unsung heroes in appreciation of their achievements and dedication in the fight against breast cancer,” explained Debraj Sanyal, COO – Group Business Head, Apollo Hospitals Oman.

The celebration also marked the move towards establishing Breast Cancer Clinic at Apollo Super Specialty Hospital. Throughout the year, Apollo Super Specialty Hospital is offering special tests to encourage screenings for early detection to guarantee and maintain quality of life.

After receiving the felicitation, in her presentation, Dr Rajyashree said, “Block cancer out, prevent cancer and protect yourself from cancer. Prevent by changing your life and make it healthy by including a proper diet, regular physical exercise staying fit and not obese. These are all interrelated.”

AL BUSTAN PALACE, A RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL



Muscat’s top hotels unite for World Food Day drive

MUSCAT: Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel, has once again teamed up with a group of Muscat’s most prominent hotels to mark World Food Day, celebrated annually on October 16. In keeping with the United Nations #ZeroHunger and healthy eating theme, the resorts’ ladies and gentlemen joined over 120 volunteers from Shangri-la Barr Al Jissah, Muscat, Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Sheraton Oman Hotel and W Muscat in a food cart race at Lulu Hypermarket in Darsait.

With total fundraising from all hotels equally divided, the teams raced through the store to fill their carts with as much food as possible in 10 minutes. Over 200 boxes were then packed and donated to Oman Food Bank Charity Association, which caters to underpriv-

ileged families in the Sultanate. In its fourth annual edition this year, the teams managed to raise a total of OMR 4328, where Kempinski Hotel Muscat contributed OMR1,116, followed by OMR1,064 from Sheraton Oman Hotel, which was collected through a series of charitable initiatives including flea markets, ice cream and popcorn corners and salary contributions.

Nabil Al Zadjali, General Manager of Al Bustan Palace said “Helping families in our community is a cause that is very near and dear to our hearts given our line of business. We have adopted sustainable methods to reduce and dispose of food waste and firmly believe that the hospitality industry plays an integral role in championing this important cause that impacts every country around the globe.”



ROUND-UP



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All-new Hyundai Tucson: Unmatched blend of design and performance

In Oman and the wider region, the Tucson is an all-time favourite, particularly with families who see the SUV as an end-to-end mobility solution bristling with convenience features and the assurance of an unbeatable motoring experience

MUSCAT: The culmination of a design and smart technology revolution, the all-new Hyundai Tucson is making a powerful impression on legions of customers in Oman, who are riveted by its winsome looks, sophistication and premium features. The darling of SUV lovers globally, the Tucson is Hyundai Motor Corporation's best-selling SUV with more than 7 million vehicles sold around the world since its launch 16 years ago. In Oman and the wider region, the Tucson is an all-time favourite, particularly with families who see the SUV as an end-to-end mobility solution bristling with convenience features and the assurance of an unbeatable motoring experience. The all-new Tucson takes modern SUV design aesthetics to the next level. Dynamic lines and chiselled edges enhance its sporty look and bold road presence. A



striking feature is the parametric grille's dark chrome geometric design pattern, which is instantly transformed when you start driving. Thanks to state-of-the-art half-mirror lighting technology, the Parametric Hidden Lights are hidden when turned off, and when switched on: the outer sections of the grille transform into brilliant wing-like shapes, creating a

unique hi-tech lighting signature. Under the hood of the all-new Tucson is a selection of powerful, future-ready powertrains that deliver an exhilarating driving experience with exceptional fuel efficiency. Powering the Comfort variant of the Tucson is a 2.0-litre Multipoint Injection (MPI) engine producing 156ps/6200 rpm and torque of 19.6 kg.m/4500 rpm. The

4-cylinder engine is mated with a 6-speed automatic transmission system. Available in the Comfort, Premium and Royal variants are a 2.5 litre GDI engine producing 190 ps / 6100 rpm of power and torque of 24.7 kg.m / 4000 rpm. Inside the ergonomically designed cabin of the all-new Tucson are the trappings of extravagant seating and versatile space settings. The expansive second row offers lounge-like comfort with increased space owing to the SUV's longer wheelbase. The rear seats can be folded in a 40:20:40 ratio, creating far more space than ever before. Trunk capacity, which is about 620 litres when the seats are upright, soars to 1799 litres when the seats are folded. Indeed, convenience and connectivity combine to ensure an enhanced cabin experience for Tucson customers. Many of these features can be accessed via a 10.25-inch

open-type digital cluster (coupled with a 10.25-inch audio-video navigation touchscreen on the 2.5-litre variant and 8-inch display audio on the 2.0-litre version). Push button gear selection is now a standard feature across the entire model range. In line with Hyundai's penchant for safety, the all-new Tucson is outfitted with an enhanced seven-airbag system which features a new centre-side airbag to prevent front passengers from colliding with one another. The model's active safety and driving assist package have been upgraded to include Blind-spot View Monitor (BVM) and Parking distance warning. The Hyundai range is exclusively marketed in Oman by OTE Group, a leading distributor of reputable international automotive brands. Visit Hyundai showrooms located in major cities across the country for a first-hand look and feel of the Tucson line-up.

SPECIAL EVENT

Bank Muscat celebrates Omani Women's Day

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to community service and sustainable development, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, hosted a special event at its Head Office at Airport Heights on the occasion of the Omani Women's Day which falls on October 17 every year. The event was attended by Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, General Manager - Corporate Banking, Bank Muscat and included a special lecture titled "Choose your destiny" by Rehab Sharif, a well-known personal development coach. On this occasion, Ilham Murtadha Al Hamaid, General Manager - Corporate Banking, said: "The Omani Women's Day is an



important occasion which allows us to shed light on the essential role and the efforts of women in building our society and family. By celebrating this day, we are able to shed light on their various achieve-

ments and contributions socially, economically and culturally." She added that it was a proud occasion which is reflected in Omani society. She also expressed her happiness at the fact that female

employees now constituted over 50 per cent of Bank Muscat's 3,800 employees and that they work across different departments and at all levels including the bank's Management Team. Ilham Al Hamaid added that the Women's Day celebrations at Bank Muscat provided an opportunity for everyone to express their appreciation and pride in their efforts, successes and achievements. Omani women play an important social role as mothers who bring up the next generation in the best traditions and heritage of Omani society. On top of this, they have an important role at the workplace in ensuring that they support the progress of the country along with their male brethren.

AL RAZI PHARMACY CELEBRATES

Al Razi Pharmacy participated in the Omani Women's Day celebration organised by Diwan of Royal Court polyclinic in Ghalala. Al Razi Pharmacy under the leadership of its Managing Director Fatma Yousuf Alawi is committed to supporting women empowerment and honour the dignity of women in the Omani society. To mark the occasion, pharmacist Tasneem Hamid, Sana Alzedjali, Nouf Alghafri, Nhea and Tariq set up a stall to explain and distribute its complimentary packs.



UNIVERSITY OF BURAIMI



Induction programme for new engineering students

MUSCAT: Highlighting the significance of student clubs at the university, the Student Engineering Club at the University of Buraimi organised an induction program for new students who joined the Faculty of Engineering at the beginning of the current semester (Fall 2022-2023). The program included interactive corners for different departments in the Faculty of Engineering, in which several faculty members and students participated. Each corner showcased its respective field of specialisation and projects. For example, the Department of Mechanical Engineering conducted a workshop (Moto mech) in one of the mechanical laboratories at the university, which introduced new students to several pieces of types of equipment available in the laboratory and their operation. These scientific corners were also accompanied by entertain-

ment and marketing activities including a corner for the sale of flowers, hosting some restaurants and cafes, and offering discounts and free coupons to students in the engineering questions and puzzles corner. The program received great interaction and appreciation from the attendees. Iman hint Khamis Al-Hadi, President of the Student Engineering Club, stated that the club, which is supervised by the Student Affairs Department, always contributes to enriching university life by providing remarkable events that serve the students of the University of Buraimi. During this orientation event, students were given comprehensive information about the club, its objectives and its most important activities and events. Also, club membership registration was available to students online via an electronic link dedicated to this purpose.

TOMOHI GRADUATES

Sohar International reaffirms its commitment to youth skill development

MUSCAT: In line with its social agenda to continuously educate, enhance, and empower national talent, Sohar International has been at the forefront of investing in youth programs that are sustainable, relevant, and inclusive. In line with the same, the bank honoured the second batch of its Tomohi graduates - a one-year internship programme that seeks to enhance Omani youth skills. Held under the patronage of Eng Said Hamoud Al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, the ceremony was held at the W Hotel recently. The event was presided over by Mohamed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Sohar International, several Board of Directors and executive members, staff of the bank, special invitees, as well as the parents of the interns. The event's proceedings began with a welcome note by Mohamed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi addressing the audience on this significant milestone in the lives of Tomohi candidates; which was followed by a video highlighting the Tomohi Programme journey and a keynote speech from Mutheer Al Kalbani, Head of Sohar | Academy. After this, a speech was delivered by a graduate where she expressed her views and the benefits of the Tomohi programme, followed by a special graduation ceremony felicitating the programme's graduates



was conducted. The event also included a special session awarding the Omani innovator Sumaiya Al Siyabi who won first place as the first Arab woman in the Stars of Science programme. Congratulating the graduates on the successful completion of the program, and commenting on the bank's commitment to nurture and enable Omani youth through it, Mohammed Mahfoodh Al Ardhi, Chairman of Sohar International, elucidated, "Quality education and training is a top priority for any nation that is on the path to building a knowledge-based, sustainable, and progressive economy. Sohar International is strongly aligned with Oman Vision 2040 which places increased emphasis on nurturing the local youth workforce. Our innovative Tomohi programme is designed keeping in

mind the changing business landscape and the respective skills required to stay ahead of demands. Initiatives like these form a critical part of Sohar International's Corporate Social Responsibility agenda. Through this year-long internship program, Sohar International continuously reinstates its commitment to contributing to the empowerment of the nation's youth." Mohamed Al Ardhi added saying, "I would like to congratulate the second batch of graduating interns and applaud them for their dedication. The inherent enthusiasm the interns have shown and the efforts they have put in throughout the programme have been commendable. We are certain that they will not only take on leadership roles in the future but will also drive transformation in the sector."

3RD EDITION



National University participated in Oman Science Festival 2022

MUSCAT: The National University of Science and Technology, represented by the College of Engineering, participated in the 3rd edition of Oman Science Festival 2022, themed "Together we live the Passion of Science". The college showcased many student activities under the supervision of Ryyan Al-Ghaithi, a student counsellor with the participation of 38 students from various scientific disciplines. University students presented several scientific and awareness initiatives, including the "WITH U" initiative, the first outreach initiative of its kind, as a combination of the student's creativity and the analytical capacity of psychology in collaboration with the student counsellor, with innovative content in providing awareness and psychological support.



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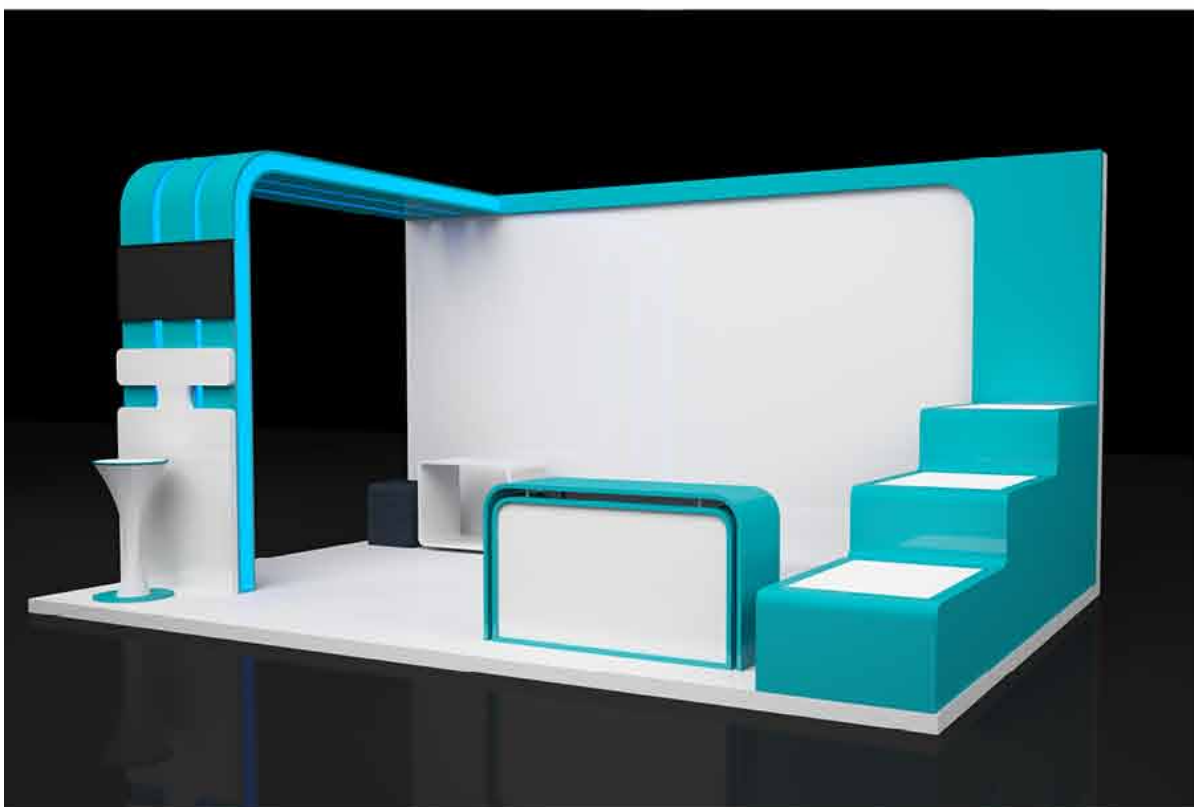
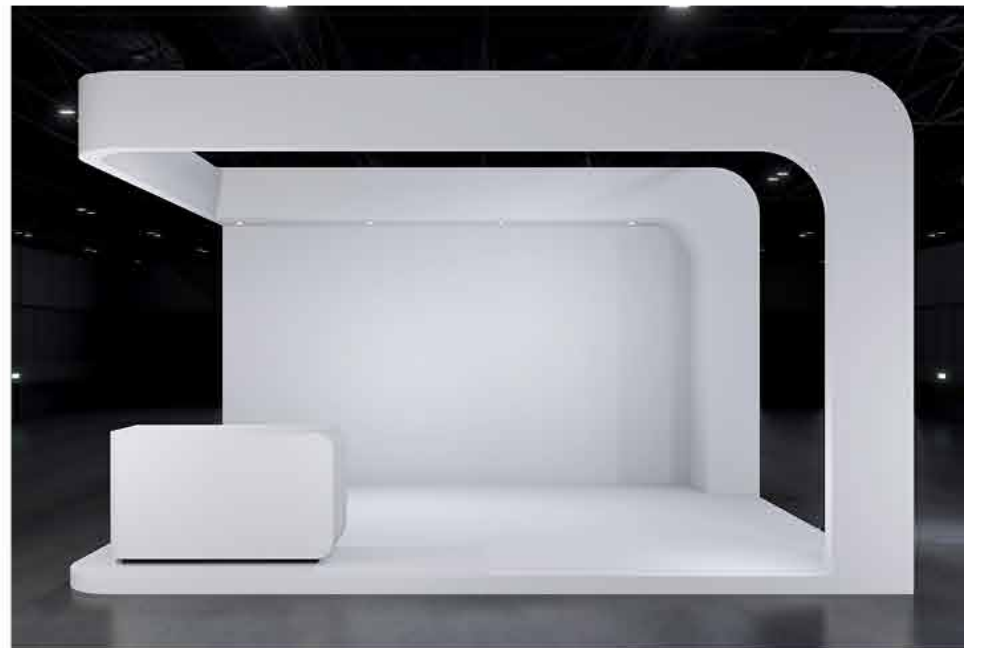
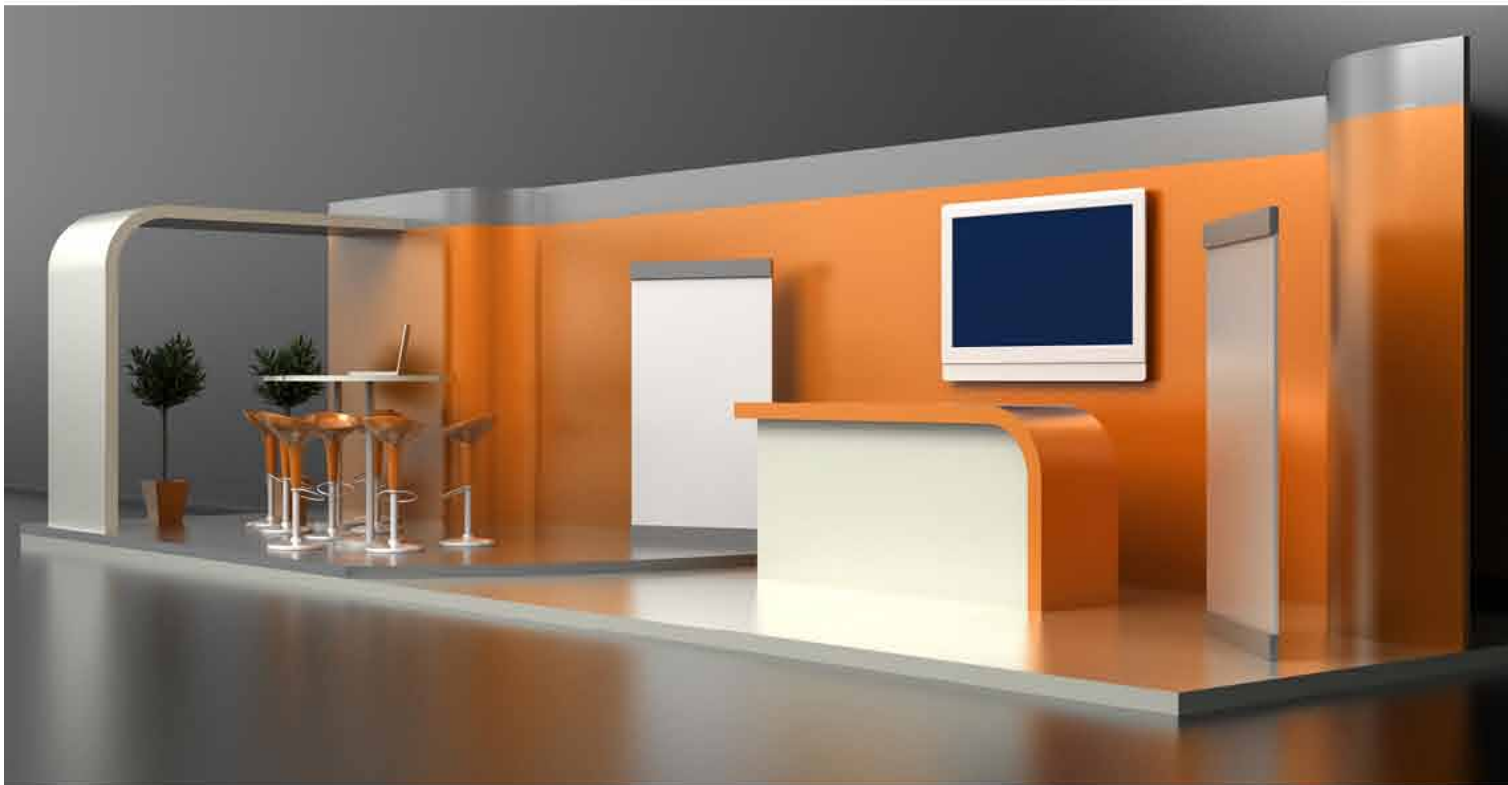
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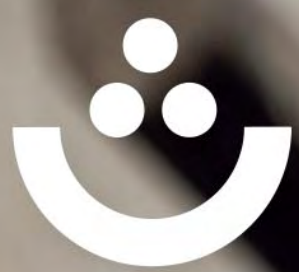


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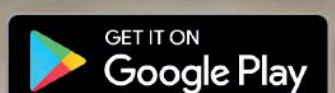
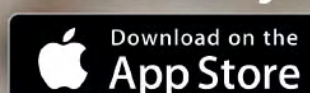
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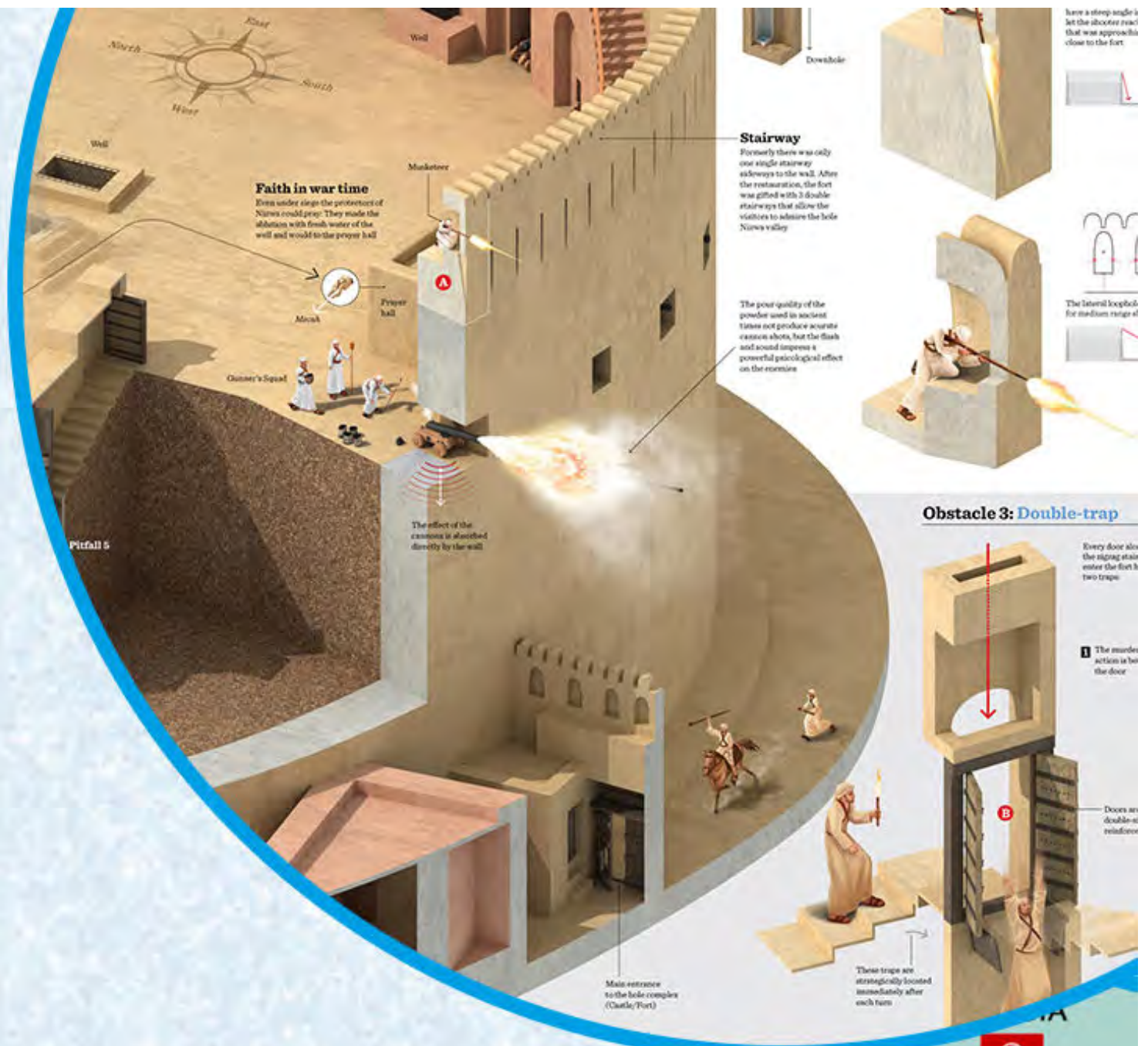
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