

**OMAN, INDIA REVIEW
BILATERAL COOPERATION**

Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs of India on Tuesday. The two sides reviewed aspects of cooperation between Oman and India. **>A2**



KING OF JORDAN ARRIVES IN OMAN

King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Queen Rania Al Abdullah arrived on Tuesday on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman lasting two days. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the welcoming party for the Jordanian Monarch. When the jet of King Abdullah II touched ground at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the guest at the foot of the ramp, welcoming him and wishing him and the accompanying delegation a pleasant stay in Oman. **>A4**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN, JORDAN KING DISCUSS REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

His Majesty the Sultan hailed the King's visit to the Sultanate of Oman

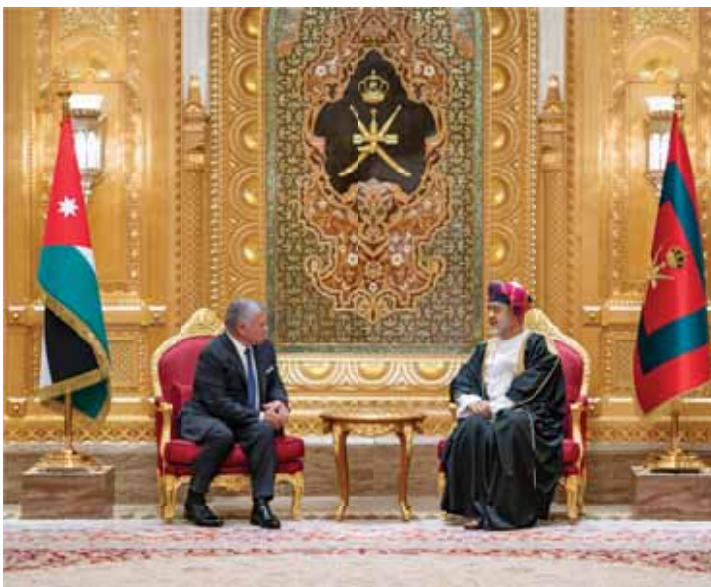
MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik held an official session of talks with King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at Al Alam Palace on Tuesday.

At the outset of the session, His Majesty the Sultan hailed the King's visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

He wished King Abdullah II and his accompanying delegation a pleasant stay. In his turn, the Royal guest expressed his sincere

sentiments and appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him by His Majesty the Sultan.

During the session, the two monarchs reviewed the march of deep-rooted relations binding Oman and Jordan. It also touched on various aspects of cooperation with a view to enhancing fraternal ties and the Omani and Jordanian people's aspirations for progress and prosperity.



The two leaders also discussed regional and international developments. The official session of talks was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, HH Sayyid Asa'ad bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Affairs, Personal Representative of His Majesty the Sultan, HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the

Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister (Head of the Mission of Honour), Dr. Hamad bin Said Al Oufi, Head of the Private Office and Sheikh Hilal bin Marhoon Al Ma'amari, Ambassador of Oman to Jordan.

Meanwhile, it was attended from the Jordanian side by Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan, Dr. Bisher Al Khasawneh, Prime Minister, Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Jaafar Hassan, Director of the King's Office and Amjad Al Qahawi, Ambassador of Jordan to Oman. **-ONA**

See also >A4 & A6

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MUSCAT

FOOTBALL

Historic triumph for Seeb as they storm into AFC Cup final

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman football fans erupted in joy as Muscat-based Seeb Club wrote a historic chapter in club football history of the Sultanate as they booked a place in the final of the 2022 AFC Cup on Tuesday. This is the first time that any Omani club has reached the final of AFC Cup, a continental competition.

Cheered by a large crowd of home fans, Seeb routed Bahrain's Al Riffa Club 4-0 at the Seeb Sports Stadium. Seeb will meet the winner of the other zonal final between PFC Sogdiana and Kuala Lumpur City FC at the Sogdiana Sporting Complex in Jizzakh, Uzbekistan. The AFC Cup final will be played on October 22.

Both the teams failed to break the deadlock but a splendid second

half performance saw the hosts record a convincing win. The hosts broke the stalemate with a strike soon after the resumption.

Led by newly-appointed coach Rasheed Jaber, a former national team coach and winner of many domestic titles, Seeb drew the first blood two minutes into the second half when experienced striker Abdulaziz al Miqbali found the back of the net beating Al Riffa's Abdulkarim Al Fardan, who had a busy night.

Al Riffa thought they had equalised when Hazza Ali supplied a sublime through pass for Mohammed Al Romaihi, who beat the Omani goalkeeper Ahmed Al Rawahi with a lobbed attempt, but he could not direct his finish toward goal and it passed wide.

The opening goal spurred the hosts as they went for the kill and the introduction of Ahmed

Al Siyabi turned out to be a successful one. A minute after Siyabi replaced an injured Mohammed al Habsi, he scored the team's second goal. Al Muqbali turned from scorer to provider, latching onto a long ball and outmuscling his marker before squaring for Siyabi to sweep home the second.

Talented Salah Al Yahyaie seemed to have got the victory sealed with a calm finish in the dying minutes as Ali Al Busaidi sent a defence-splitting pass down the left.

Substitute Cosmos Dauda put the cherry on the cake to spark massive celebrations with the fourth goal of the night to complete the rout in added time. The Ghanaian forward found space inside the box and powered home a diving header past Al Fardan to sign off on the victory.



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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:00pm
Asr.....	3:23pm
Maghrib.....	5:56pm
Isha.....	7:06pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:45am

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TENDER NOTICE

Oman Water & Wastewater Services Company hereby announces the following Tenders: -

Tender No.	Description	Eligibility	Tender Fee (RO)	Last Date of Sale Tender Documents	Bid Submission Date
T/2453360/2022	Consultancy Services for Supervision of Construction of Water Distribution Networks in Al Amerat Wilayat -1 Muscat Governorate	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 100 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	20/10/2022	14/11/2022
T/2453315/2022	Construction of Water Networks in Al Misfah, Yaqa and Al Misanna at Rustaq Wilayat in Al Batinah South	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	20/10/2022	14/11/2022
T/2453306/2022	Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 100 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	20/10/2022	31/10/2022
T/2453353/2022	Repair & Maintenance and Replacement Works for Membrane Air Diffuser Disc and Air Distribution Grids system	Local Companies registered with Government Tender Board and specialized in the works mentioned	R.O 50 (Plus 5% VAT) Non-refundable	20/10/2022	07/11/2022

The tender documents can be purchased from Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company (OWWSC) e-tendering page (Supplier Login) from the date of publication of this announcement until 20/10/2022. The applicants shall pay the tender fee through electronic payment gateway through Supplier Login. **Tender fee and bid bond are exempted for SMEs holding Riyada Card.**

Applicants who are not registered with OWWSC shall register from <https://owwsc.nama.om/Business-with-Us/Vendor-Registration> to have the login credentials of Supplier portal.

All applicants who have paid the tender fee shall have access to the Tender Documents through OWWSC e-tendering page (Supplier Login).

All participating Companies shall submit a Bid Bond of 1% of the bid value in a sealed envelope to OWWSC's Chairman of Tender Committee not later than 3:00 pm on the bid submission date. Bid Bond must be obtained from a Bank registered in the Sultanate of Oman and it should be addressed in favour of OWWSC.

The bid along with all required documents shall be uploaded through OWWSC e-tendering page not later than 3:00 pm on the date specified above.

For more details refer to Tender Page of our website www.owwsc.nama.om or Email to: tender@owwsc.nama.om

[@owwsc_om](https://www.owwsc.nama.om) 1442
www.owwsc.nama.om

MEETING

Oman and India review relations in many fields

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received here on Tuesday V Muraledharan, Minister of State for External Affairs of India.

The two sides reviewed aspects of cooperation between Oman and India. They also underscored the importance of boosting bilateral relations in all fields, especially in economic, business and scientific spheres.

The two sides touched on several regional and international matters of mutual interest.

Sayyid Badr congratulated India for hosting the G-20 Summit in 2023.



The meeting was attended by Khalid Hashel Al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department, Amit Narang, Ambassador

of the Republic of India to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials from both sides.

-ONA

PAYMENT SYSTEMS

MoU signed to explore e-payment links between Oman and India

MUSCAT: Within the framework of commercial and economic cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tuesday with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to study the possibility of linking some payment systems between the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Tahir Salim Al Amri, CBO's Executive President and Ritesh Shukla, CEO of International Payments Limited, a subsidiary of NPCI.

The MoU aims at studying the possibility of connecting the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Rupay Card used in India with similar payment systems and services in the Sultanate of Oman.

In order to maximise the mutual benefits for the two countries, the proposed cooperation will also consider the possibility of using Debit Cards issued by the



banks in Oman to be used in India through OmanNet, as well as using the Mobile Payment System.

Al Amri explained that this cooperation aims to explore linking payment systems and services between the two countries, adding that this step will undoubtedly benefit the citizens of the two countries.

He further added that this MoU will also contribute to the knowl-

edge transfer in payment systems domain between the two countries, as well as keeping abreast of global developments in e-payment systems.

The signing ceremony was attended by the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, the Indian Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and other officials from both sides. -ONA

Puck PRESENTS

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 Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022
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COMMENTARY

The Last Tick! Sorrow and Nostalgia



NOOH BIN MOHAMMED
AL BUSAIDI



The news of the closure of the BBC Arabic Service Radio has reverberated with mourns and groans across the Middle East.

The Radio was more than a radio station, it was the amusement for generations of Arabic speakers that for decades got so attached to the cool waves aired from London.

The robust announcement “Huna London” - Here is London - that bursts after the pounding ticks of Big Ben for 84 years has been a daily thrill for millions of listeners.

One might ask why such an attachment, yet the Middle East has thousands of other media outlets! The answer might be quite simple as the BBC Arabic Service Radio has many factors that can never be challenged.

Firstly is its Arabic that is so stylish and authentic which many Arabs viewed with pride.

Secondly, is the content, credibility and the delivering manner of the various programmes.

Another factor is historical as BBC Arabic Radio Service was first launched on 3 January 1938 and it was the only source that updated the older generation about news of WWII.

People at that trying time were struck by its coverage, so they passed such passion to the generations that followed.

Also the BBC Arabic Radio Service introduced to their Arabic listeners some of the finest news anchors and broadcasters.

The various programs were so culturally enriching. In addition to the news bulletin, talk shows were so popular.

They directly engaged people from various parts of the world and presented views that were a taboo to express locally.

One of the most famous programmes that are still remembered was “Qawlun Ala Qawl” that delved into the beauty of the Arabic poetry.

The programme was prepared and presented by Hasan Al Kar mi, a Palestinian linguist, and gained so much fame and appreciation for 30 years.

Lately the BBC tried to appeal more to the younger generation by introducing youthful pro-

grammes like BBC Extra that related to modern day trends.

Whether its budgetary restriction as Britain is ‘scratching the barrel’ or may it be the digital realities that are imposing its hegemony on the new age, the fact remains that the Middle East is mourning the departure of their beloved BBC Arabic Service Radio with deep emotions.

May Allah bless the pioneers of this Service.

Written by honourable Sayyid Nooh bin Mohammed Al Busaidi, Member of State Council, and Chairman of the Historical Association of Oman

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King of Jordan arrives in Oman

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the welcoming party for the Jordanian Monarch

MUSCAT: King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Queen Rania Al Abdullah arrived on Tuesday on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman lasting two days.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik led the welcoming party for the Jordanian Monarch. When the jet of King Abdullah II touched ground at the Royal Airport, His Majesty the Sultan met the guest at the foot of the ramp, welcoming him and wishing him and the accompanying delegation a pleasant stay in Oman.

Along with His Majesty the Sultan, King Abdullah II was received by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Gen. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'mani, Minister of the Royal Office, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister (Head of the Mission of Honour), Dr. Madeeha bint Ahmed Al Shibani, Minister of Education (Escort of the Queen), Sheikh Hilal bin Marhoon Al Ma'amari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Amjad Al Qahaiwi, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Sultanate of Oman and members of the mission of honour.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan and the Jordanian Monarch proceeded to the reception hall, passing between two rows of the guard of honour of the Royal Guard of Oman, as Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman welcomed the King, the Queen and the Crown Prince of Jordan.

After a short stay, the motorcade of His Majesty the Sultan and his guest, King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, left the Royal Airport heading to Al Alam Palace for an official reception ceremony.

Before the arrival of the main vehicle of the motorcade at Al Alam Palace, a squadron of cavalry lined the two sides of the road heading to the gate of the palace.

Upon the arrival of the motorcade of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Abdullah II at the entrance of Al Alam Palace, the RGO band played a welcoming tune to the accompa-



niment of trumpets, as the motorcade entered the courtyard of Al Alam Palace.

After that, His Majesty the Sultan accompanied King of Jordan to the Dais of Honour where the Royal Anthem of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was played, while the artillery fired a 21-gun salute for the guest.

Then, His Majesty the Sultan shook hands with members of the official delegation accompanying the Jordanian Monarch, welcoming them and wishing them a pleasant stay.

In his turn, King Abdullah II of Jordan shook hands with some members of the Royal Family, Chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police (ROP).

After that, His Majesty the Sultan and the guest proceeded to the hall where they took Arabian coffee.

King Abdullah II is accompanied during the visit by an official delegation comprising Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan, Dr. Bisher Al Khasawneh, Prime Minister, Ayman Safadi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Jaafar Hassan, Director of the King's Office, Amjad Al Qahaiwi, Ambassador of Jordan to Oman and some officials. -ONA



GIFTS EXCHANGED

HM the Sultan, King Abdullah II exchange orders, mementos

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, exchanged orders and commemorative gifts at Al Alam Palace on Tuesday evening on the occasion of the Jordanian monarch's visit to Oman.

His Majesty the Sultan conferred on King Abdullah II "Oman Civil Order—First Class", one of Oman's loftiest accolades, as a manifestation of His Majesty the Sultan's esteem for King Abdullah II and in appreciation for the strong ties binding the

The orders and commemorative gifts' exchange ceremony was attended by Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, and Queen Rania Al Abdullah.

two countries.

Meanwhile, King Abdullah II awarded His Majesty the Sultan the Supreme Order of the Renaissance, one of the greatest knight-hoods of Jordan, in demonstration of the monarch's admiration for His Majesty the Sultan and in appreciation for the sincere ties of friendship between the two countries.

Commemorative gift

Then, His Majesty the Sultan presented a coveted Omani dagger as a commemorative gift to King Abdullah II, who reciprocated the gesture presenting His Majesty the Sultan with "Aal Al-Bayt Holy Quran".

The orders and commemorative gifts' exchange ceremony was attended by Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of His Majesty the Sultan, and Queen Rania Al Abdullah.

The ceremony was also attended by HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, and Prince Al Hussein Ibn Abdullah II, Crown Prince of Jordan. -ONA

DINNER

HM the Sultan hosts dinner in honour of Jordan Monarch

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik hosted an official dinner at Al Alam Palace guesthouse on Tuesday evening in honour of King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of his visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

The dinner was attended by members of the Royal Family, chairmen of the State Council and Shura Council, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) and the Royal Oman Police, as well as ambassadors of Arab and friendly countries. -ONA

AL ALAM PALACE

Honourable Lady hosts dinner in honour of Queen Rania

MUSCAT: Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman hosted a dinner at Al Alam Palace this evening in honour of Queen Rania, marking

her visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

Omani female officials

The dinner was attended by a number of senior Omani female officials. -ONA

HM MEETS JORDAN OFFICIALS



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JORDAN KING AFTER ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT



TWO-DAY VISIT

King of Jordan meets senior Oman ministers





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NOBEL PRIZE

Three physicists share Nobel Prize for work on quantum science

STOCKHOLM: Three scientists jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in physics for their work on quantum information science that has significant applications, for example in the field of encryption.

Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger were cited by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for discovering the way that particles known as photons can be linked, or "entangled," with each other even when they are separated by large distances.

Speaking by phone to a news conference after the announcement, Zeilinger said he was "still kind of shocked" at hearing he had received the award.

"But it's a very positive shock," said Zeilinger, 77, who is based at the University of Vienna.

Clauser, Aspect and Zeilinger have figured in Nobel speculation for more than a decade.

While physicists often tackle problems that appear at first glance to be far removed from everyday concerns, tiny particles and the vast mysteries of space and time, their research provides the foundations for many practical applications of science.



cal applications of science.

Last year, the prize was awarded to three scientists namely Syukuro Manabe, Klaus Hasselmann and Giorgio Parisi whose work has helped to explain and predict complex forces of nature, thereby expanding our understanding of climate change.

A week of Nobel Prize announcements kicked off yesterday with Swedish scientist Svante Paabo receiving the award in medicine for unlocking secrets of Neanderthal DNA that provided key insights into our

immune system.

They continue with chemistry tomorrow (Wednesday) and literature after tomorrow (Thursday). The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize will be announced this Friday and the economics award on 10 October 2022.

The prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$900,000) and will be handed out on 10 December 2022. The money comes from a bequest left by the prize's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895. **UNA**

BACKLASH

Ukrainian officials slam Elon Musk

WASHINGTON: Tesla CEO Elon Musk drew backlash from Ukrainian officials, including Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for his Tweets advising on how to bring about "peace" amid the ongoing war

between Moscow and Kyiv. Tesla CEO floated a number of ideas to solve the conflict, asking his followers to vote "yes" or "no" on his proposals, which included formally allowing Russia to annex Crimea. **ANI**

UN REFUGEE AGENCY PRIZE

Former German chancellor Angela Merkel wins UN refugee agency prize

GENEVA: UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, announced on Tuesday that former German chancellor Angela Merkel will receive the 2022 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for "political courage" and decisive action taken during her tenure to protect people forced to flee.

"NEWS: Former Federal Chancellor of Germany Dr. Angela Merkel is the global laureate of the 2022 UNHCR Nansen Refu-

gee Award," UNHCR said in a tweet. "Dr. Angela Merkel is the 2022 #NansenAward global laureate for her political courage, compassion and decisive action as Federal Chancellor of Germany to protect people forced to flee," it added.

Highlighting Merkel's determination to protect asylum seekers, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said, by helping more than a million

refugees to survive and rebuild, Merkel displayed great moral and political courage.

"Congratulations to Angela Merkel, former Chancellor of Germany, recipient of the 2022 #NansenAward. It recognizes her moral and political courage in helping more than a million refugees rebuild their lives, and her leadership in strengthening Germany's global humanitarian role," Grandi tweeted. **ANI**



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
183/2022	General maintenance works for the building of the General Directorate of Social Development in Al Dhahirah Governorate	Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Sunday 23-10-2022 02:00 PM	Tuesday 22-11-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), **On Wednesday 5/10/2022**
- ❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- ❖ For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

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Al-Zubair, Schiller, Jeffries finish fourth at season’s race finale in Barcelona



The Al-Manar Racing by HRT Mercedes-AMG GT3 crew were at ninth spot for the last three-hour race of the season

Times News Service

BARCELONA: Oman’s Al-Faisal Al-Zubair, German team-mate Fabian Schiller and Zimbabwe’s Axcil Jeffries rounded off their first season together in the Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS – Endurance Cup by finishing in fourth place in the Silver Cup category at the season’s finale in Barcelona.

The Al-Manar Racing by HRT Mercedes-AMG GT3 crew had qualified ninth for the last three-hour race of the season. They climbed four places in the race to cross the finish line in fourth with victory going to Silver Cup category champions, Benjamin Goethe, Thomas Neubauer and Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer.

The champions overtook the Garage 59 McLaren 720S GT3 of Vargas Maldonado, Dean MacDonald and Nicolai Kjaergaard in the last hour, while the Emil Frey Racing Lamborghini crew of Mick Wishofer, Stuart White and Konsta Lappalainen finished third.

The result also confirmed that



the Al Manar Racing trio finished fourth in the final Silver Cup Drivers’ Championship.

Reflecting on the race weekend, Al-Zubair said: “That’s the end of the season for us and definitely not the way we wanted to end it. Testing was really good and we finished first in pre-qualifying. Qualifying really sent us lower on the grid and we started P25 (all cars) and P9 nine in Silver.

“We moved up to P4 and 14th overall. The race was really good. I drove the first stint and went from about 25th to 20th and my team-mates did a great job to get us further up. So close to a podium, but just not quite. A good season overall and we hope to go further next year.”

The Al Manar Racing trio were classified in eighth after the free practice session on Saturday morning, with a best lap of 1min

45.771sec putting them just under a second off the pace of Silver Cup pace-setters, Nicolas Baert, Cesar Gazeau and Aurelian Panis.

Al-Zubair, Jeffries and Schiller were the fastest of the entire field through the pre-qualifying session on Saturday afternoon that preceded the three qualifying stints on Sunday morning. Schiller clocked a hot lap of 1min 45.398sec to win the session.

Pro Cup cars dominated the upper reaches of the Q1 results. Goethe, Neubauer and Simmenauer were the quickest of the Silver Cup crews with a best lap of 1min 45.457sec. The Al Manar Racing Mercedes finished the stint in 13th, albeit less than a second off the winning tour.

Silver Cup runners, Maldonado, MacDonald and Kjaergaard, topped all the Q2 times in their Garage 59 McLaren 720S GT3, in a short stint

where the Al Manar Racing Mercedes stopped the clocks in sixth.

Those two heats put a little pressure on the team to improve in Q3, where Maldonado, MacDonald and Kjaergaard were classified in second and again topped the Silver Cup times to claim pole position. The Al Manar Racing trio came home in seventh and, when the three heats were combined, found themselves lining up in ninth place on the grid for the three-hour race.

Al-Zubair and Jeffries drove well during the first two stints of the race to push the Al Manar Racing Mercedes up the Silver Cup field into fifth place after 90 minutes of the race and they continued their momentum after Schiller took over for the final stint. With 30 minutes of the race to run, the Mercedes AMG GT3 had climbed to fourth place and the German managed to cross the finish line in fourth.

CRICKET

Oman to clash with Hong Kong, Singapore to meet Bahrain in semis

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Singapore’s winning streak continued as they defeated Hong Kong by 58 runs to top Group B in the ongoing ICC U19 Men’s Cricket World Cup Division -2 Asia Qualifier at the Oman Cricket Academy grounds on Tuesday.

In another Group B match, Qatar beat Thailand by five wickets to record a consolation win as both the teams had already bowed out of contention for the knockout stage.

Singapore’s win at the OCA 2 ground set up their semifinal date with Group A runner-up Bahrain while Hong Kong will take on hosts Oman in the other semifinal. Both matches will be played on Thursday after a rest day. Electing to bowl first, Hong Kong’s attempts to keep the Singapore batters at bay met with early success as the rivals were pegged down to 29/2 by the 12th over. With Singapore batters made to work hard, the run rate dipped and were 69/4 in 23 overs as Vihaan Maheswari got out for 24.

However, a 76-run fifth-wicket partnership between in-form Sidhant Srikanth, the tournament’s only centurion so far, and Aaryan

Modi, put the team back on track. Both the batters counter-attacked. However, Srikanth was run out for a 66-ball 45.

Modi batted till the last over for a responsible 72-ball 51 and shared a crucial 47-run eighth wicket stand with Venkatesan Thiyanesh (32) to lead the team past 200-mark. Singapore were bowled out of the last ball of the 50th over for 209.



Muhammad Mudassar Khan was the most successful bowler with 4/29.

Chasing a challenging total, Hong Kong got off to a forgettable start as they lost opening batter Jayden Botfield for a duck, leg before to Adwitya Bhargava, as the team’s total read 0/1 at the end of first over.

A 41-run stand between Daksh Mangkukia (22) and Ansh Doshi raised hopes but Mangkukia’s run out dismissal applied brakes on the run chase. Doshi departed a run later, becoming Bhargava’s second victim. Hong Kong were soon 44/4 as Parth Bhagwat became first of the three wickets of Singapore skipper Jeevan Santhanam (3/32). A fifth-wicket 46-run partnership between Abdul Samad Khan and Mohammad Zahir put up a semblance of fight but Khan’s exit led to another mini collapse.

Hong Kong were soon reduced to 108/7. Zahir top-scored with 50 as the team was bowled out for 151 in 48.3 overs.

Besides Santhanam’s three-for, Bhargava and Vihaan Hampihallikar picked two wickets each.

OMAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

OFA chief in fray for a seat in AFC executive committee

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Football Association (OFA) chairman Sheikh Salim Al Wahaibi is one of the 14 contestants in fray for the nine posts in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Executive Committee for the term 2023-2027.

Wahaibi’s nomination was confirmed by the AFC on Tuesday when the continental body announced the candidates for the AFC elections, scheduled to be held at the 33rd AFC Congress in Manama, Bahrain, on February 1 and 2, 2023.

Wahaibi’s nomination is among the five from West Zone with Adnan Darjal Motar (Iraq), Louie Oumeish Yousef Oumeish (Jordan), Abdullah Ahmed Alshaheen Alrabee (Kuwait), and Abdullah Nasser Aljneibi (United Arab Emirates) the other candidates. From Central Zone, Arslan Aynazarov (Turkmenistan) and Irmatov Ravshan (Uzbekistan) are in fray while from South Zone, India’s Shaji Prabhakaran along with Bassam Adeel Jaleel (Maldives) and Pankaj Bikram Nembang (Nepal) in fray.

Three candidates are from ASEAN Zone - Chris Nikou (Australia), Somyot Poompanmoung (Thailand) and Tran



Quoc Tuan (Vietnam). Hong Kong’s Fok Kai Shan Eric is the sole candidate from East Zone.

Nominations closed on 1 October and incumbent AFC chief Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain is set to be elected unopposed for another term as AFC President as no other candidate is in fray against him.

Shaikh Salman will also assume the position of FIFA Vice President (ex officio) once he is formally re-elected.

Six are in race for five AFC Vice Presidents while seven are in fray for six FIFA Council Members, one of whom shall also be an AFC Female Executive Committee Member.

Only five candidates, including Palestine’s Susan Riyad Abdelrahim Alshalabi, are for the five AFC Female Executive Committee Members, one of whom shall also be a FIFA Council Member.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$88.82, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 61 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$88.21. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) lost 6.1 points, comprising a decline of 0.13 per cent to close at 4582.43 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4588.55 points.

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OMR24mn seafood canning plant construction begins

KNOWLEDGE OMAN

Seminar on role of Omani women in sustainability

The project will create investment opportunities that will ensure the ready availability of fisheries products and the localisation of the fish product value chain that will contribute to the GDP

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fisheries Development Oman commenced the construction of the seafood canning and value addition plant worth OMR24 million in Al Wusta Governorate, the Wilayat of Duqm, expected to be inaugurated in first quarter of 2024 in line with the company's fisheries development strategy.

"The project will create investment opportunities that will ensure the ready availability of fisheries products and the localisation of the fish product value chain that will contribute to the GDP noting that the tuna canning project was designed according to the latest specifications and quality and food

safety standards. Phase 1 capacity will be 100 million cans per year," Engineer Ali Nasser Al-Rasbi, the General Manager of the International Sea Food Company the manufacturing arm of Fisheries Development Oman, commented.

"The project comes as a complement to the efforts already expended and a part of the output of the Tanfeedh Programme which is aligned with Oman Vision 2040 and will promote the Sultanate's vision of economic diversification by maximising the return on the fisheries in which the Sultanate abounds and increasing the fish product value chain before export to the global markets.

"The plant will promote GDP through the local supply chains



of which several Omani SMEs will avail themselves, which will enhance the sector's investment opportunities and will create specialised and support job opportunities," Al Rasbi added.

It is noteworthy that the International Sea Food Company is a subsidiary of Fisheries Develop-

ment Oman and will be the industrial manufacturing arm of the group in addition to its other arms in, commercial fishing and fish and shrimp farming projects.

It is also worth noting that, in September 2021, the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones signed a

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The project comes as a complement to the efforts already expended and a part of the output of the Tanfeedh Programme which is aligned with Oman Vision 2040

Ali Nasser Al-Rasbi
GM, International Sea Food Company

land usufruct agreement with the International Sea Food Company for the construction of a tuna, sardine and seafood canning plant covering an area of 85,000 m2.

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In commemorating the annual Omani Women's Day, Knowledge Oman, the leading-knowledge sharing platform in the Sultanate, is all set to host a seminar under the theme, 'Women: The Pulse of a Sustainable Society', in recognition of Omani women and their contribution to the growth of a sustainable Oman.

The event is the first live, face-to-face seminar since the organisation went online with webinars during the Covid-19. The event will take place at Muscat University's Hall in Al Ghubra north, on Wednesday, October 12 at Muscat University at 6pm.

The seminar will highlight the important role Omani women play in shaping the Sultanate and contributing to building a prosperous and sustainable society. Omani women from different fields of expertise that includes entrepreneurship, technology, psychology, legal, sports, and private and public sector will participate in the event. The seminar will celebrate the achievements of the women and acknowledge the challenges faced in shaping them into who they are today.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN

Treasury bills worth OMR9mn issued



MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR9 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from October 5 until January 4, 2023.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.266 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.260 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 2.94585 per cent and 2.96765 per cent, respectively.

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.

The 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). - **OMA**

AWARENESS CONTENT

Investment awareness programme extends entry dates for GCC Smart Investor award

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Gulf Securities Commission, represented by a team of specialists in communication and investor awareness, announced the extension of receiving entries in the GCC Smart Investor award until the end of November.

The award was launched by the capital markets regulators in the GCC countries in March as part of the GCC awareness investment programme.

The award aims to encourage the public and motivate the citizens and residents in the GCC states to produce awareness content and present creative

ideas related to the culture of financial and investment transactions, within the scope of three basic categories, video, drawing and photography. A committee comprising experts in the GCC countries was constituted to supervise the award and evaluate the entries.

Those interested in participating in the award can upload their contributions through the dedicated website of the programme www.MulimGCC.org. They can also contact program officers for inquiries through the website.

The committee supervising the award is working to intensify the promotional campaigns for

the award through social media accounts, introductory meetings and events for schools and university students and coordinating with educational institutions in the GCC countries to promote the award in addition to the participation of "Mulim" programme in the global investor week which will be launched in October.

The Capital Market Authority invites interested citizens and residents of the Sultanate of Oman to participate in the award, and access the campaign content through the programme's website or social media platforms on Twitter and Instagram "@MulimGCC".

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MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

The trading value stood at OMR2,099,444, comprising a drop of 11.8 per cent, compared to the last session



MUSCAT: Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index (30) lost 6.1 points, comprising a decline of 0.13 per cent to close at 4582.43 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4588.55 points.

The trading value stood at OMR2,099,444, comprising a drop of 11.8 per cent, compared to the last session, which stood at OMR2,381,291.

The report released by MSX

pointed out that the market value went down by 0.050 per cent to reach about OMR23.21 billion.

The report added that the value of shares bought by non-Omani investors reached OMR75,000, comprising 3.58 per cent. The value of shares sold by non-Omani investors reached OMR193,000), comprising 9.20 per cent. The net non-Omani investment decreased by 5.62 per cent to OMR118,000. — **ONA**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES														
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff%								
MSX 30 INDEX	4,603.33	4,556.51	4,582.43	4,588.55	-6.13	-0.13								
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,319.34	7,254.92	7,300.26	7,298.36	1.90	0.03								
Industry Index	6,301.57	6,250.12	6,275.64	6,242.41	33.23	0.53								
Services Index	1,634.54	1,593.64	1,617.74	1,625.30	-7.55	-0.46								
MSX Shariah Index	486.54	480.44	485.81	484.93	0.88	0.18								
MSX TR INDEX	5,805.87	5,746.82	5,779.51	5,787.24	-7.73	-0.13								
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,658.87	7,591.46	7,638.90	7,636.91	1.99	0.03								
SERVICES TR IDX	1,697.32	1,654.85	1,679.88	1,687.72	-7.84	-0.46								
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,539.98	6,486.57	6,513.06	6,478.57	34.49	0.53								

Trading Summary						
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal
6,851,538	2,099,444	359	23,212,839,162	14	10	17

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

ISIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADER	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SER	87,528	42,971	16	0.480	0.500	0.480	0.490	0.472	0.018	3.814	0.490	0.490	0.496	0.100	115,840,900
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	132,032	7,526	6	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.001	1.786	0.057	0.056	0.056	0.058	0.100	11,400,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	876,136	77,700	9	0.133	0.135	0.131	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.135	0.131	0.135	0.100	263,203,758
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	13,000	19,250	6	1.480	1.500	1.480	1.500	1.480	0.020	1.351	1.500	0.000	1.500	0.100	134,550,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	22,832	2,493	5	0.109	0.111	0.109	0.111	0.110	0.001	0.909	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	15,540,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	65,082	29,287	7	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.448	0.002	0.446	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.100	24,750,000
OM0000001325	OMAN INVST& FIN.	9,100	1,183	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.132	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	6,050	2,009	1	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332	0.320	0.332	0.332	0.100	221,897,201
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	63,375	19,139	6	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.308	0.100	96,923,558
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	273,000	109,200	10	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.390	0.400	0.400	0.100	88,000,000
OM0000000176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	3,200	150	1	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.000	0.250	0.248	0.250	0.250	0.100	31,224,490
OM0000000796	BANK MUSCAT	150,100	89,101	23	0.586	0.600	0.586	0.590	0.000	0.000	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.590	0.100	2,214,387,133
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,073,321	965,979	25	0.880	0.900	0.880	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.884	0.900	0.884	0.900	675,000,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	355,181	33,387	8	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.100	24,314,209
OM0000002236	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	1,000	278	11	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.280	-0.002	-0.714	0.278	0.278	0.278	0.100	17,014,788
OM0000003386	SOHAR INT. BANK	241,300	24,697	11	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	468,186,554
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	658,299	173,919	4	0.268	0.268	0.262	0.268	0.268	-0.003	-1.119	0.265	0.265	0.268	0.100	430,875,784
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	360,936	150,619	11	0.422	0.422	0.412	0.418	-0.006	-1.435	0.412	0.392	0.418	0.418	0.100	268,189,023
OM0000003900	AL MAHA PETROLEUM	13,077	10,324	7	0.808	0.808	0.800	0.800	0.820	-0.020	-2.439	0.800	0.800	0.804	0.100	55,200,000
Total		19			4,101,549	17,599,911	160									
Parallel Market																
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	100	9	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.080	0.008	10.000	0.088	0.075	0.080	0.100	5,500,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	526,339	94,294	43	0.063	0.066	0.063	0.065	0.063	0.002	3.175	0.065	0.065	0.066	0.100	18,964,141
OM0000002804	ASAFAT FOODS	35,000	10,550	9	0.295	0.304	0.295	0.304	0.295	0.009	3.051	0.304	0.297	0.304	0.100	36,480,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	8,000	344	1	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.040	0.043	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	3,000	237	1	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.078	0.001	1.282	0.079	0.080	0.085	0.100	2,652,145
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	277,080	22,675	14	0.082	0.082	0.081	0.082	0.081	0.001	1.235	0.082	0.076	0.082	0.100	16,400,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	37,112	3,187	5	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	15,050,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	245,922	41,060	27	0.167	0.169	0.165	0.166	0.165	0.001	0.606	0.166	0.166	0.167	0.100	33,695,750
OM0000001169	NATIONAL GAS	10,000	1,330	2	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.100	3,305,000
OM0000001418	RAISUT CEMENT	2,873	548	3	0.188	0.188	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.191	0.190	0.190	0.100	38,000,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	503,136	79,682	10	0.158	0.159	0.157	0.157	0.157	0.000	0.000	0.157	0.154	0.157	0.100	314,049,108
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	31,035	3,431	6	0.111	0.111	0.110	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.100	20,210,702
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	79,208	69,660	4	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.800	0.880	0.000	0.000	0.880	0.824	0.900	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	13,519	1,352	2	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.105	0.100	8,140,275
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	495,248	48,029	18	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.096	0.097	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	609	24	1	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.040	0.000	0.000	0.040	0.000	0.040	0.100	28,578,254
OM0000004447	OMAN RET. FUND	135,013	8,401	15	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.100	38,271,193
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	2,000	290	1	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.146	0.001	0.685	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.100	13,050,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	214,339	9,531	17	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.044	0.045	-0.001	-2.222	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.100	64,354,464
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	119,152	4,145	13	0.035	0.035	0.034	0.035	0.036	0.001	2.778	0.035	0.033	0.035	0.100	23,621,060
OM0000004735	SEMBOCP SALALAH	10,806	666	5	0.059	0.063	0.059	0.063	0.065	-0.002	-3.077	0.063	0.059	0.063	0.100	60,138,033
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	498	448	1	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	1.000	-0.100	-10.000	0.900	0.900	1.000	0.100	55,147,500
Total		22	2,749,989	339,533	199											



LIFESTYLE

SOCIAL MEDIA

USAGE ASSOCIATED WITH DEPRESSION: RESEARCH

Public policy and education researchers recently discovered that young adults who use more social media are significantly more likely to develop depression within six months, regardless of personality type. Published in the Journal of Affective Disorders Reports, the study, “Associations between social media use, personality structure, and development of depression,” was co-authored by Renae Merrill, a doctoral student in the Public Policy Pro-

gram at the University of Arkansas. Merrill wrote the paper with the dean of the College of Public Health and Human Sciences at Oregon State University, Brian Primack, and Chunhua Cao, an assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Alabama. “Previous research has linked the development of depression with numerous factors,” the authors noted. “However, the literature has been lacking in studies that focus on how various personality characteristics may interact with social media use and depression. This new study addressed these important research questions, finding strong and linear associations of depression across all personality traits.” Among the study’s findings was that people with high agreeableness were 49 per cent less likely to become depressed than people with low agreeableness. Additionally, those with high neuroticism were twice as likely to develop depression than those with low neuroticism when using more than 300 minutes of social media per day. More importantly, for each personality trait, social media use was strongly associated with the development of depression. The sample of more than 1,000 U.S. adults between the ages of 18 to 30 was from 2018 data collected by

Primack and his colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh. Depression was measured using the Patient Health Questionnaire. Social media was measured by asking participants how much daily time was spent using popular social media platforms, and personality was measured using the Big Five Inventory, which assessed openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and neuroticism. The authors suggest that problematic social comparison can enhance negative feelings about oneself and others, which could explain how the risk of depression increases with increased social media use. Engaging primarily in negative content can also enhance these feelings. And lastly, engaging in more social media reduces opportunities for in-person interactions and activities outside of the home. Depression has been noted as the leading cause of disability and mortality worldwide. This makes these findings even more pronounced for creating health interventions and prevention efforts. “Findings from this study are important during a time of technology expansion and integration,” Merrill said. “Connecting to people virtually may increase the risk of miscommunication or misperception that leads to relationship difficulties and potential risk for developing mental health problems.” “People have innate emotional needs for social connection and understanding,” Merrill added. “For example, social media experiences can be improved by becoming more aware of our emotions and our connection with others in various life circumstances. This awareness helps improve relationship quality by simply reaching shared meaning and understanding through more effective communication and concern for others and ourselves. Despite our differences, we have the ability to create a culture of empathy and kindness.” -ANI



ROUND-UP



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THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

A ROUND UP OF THE PERFORMANCES FOR OCTOBER 2022



The Royal Opera House Muscat is delighted to announce the host of performances programmed for the month of October, with a variety which will appeal to a broad audience.

The month begins with an exciting World Premiere in Flamenco Meets Tango, From Buenos Aires to Seville. The contrasting forms of dance from two different parts of the world meet in a special concert which will enthrall audiences at the opera house.

Families will be excited to learn of the Open House event on the 8th of the month. Open House is a free day of activities spread across the opera house buildings which are designed to inspire a love of music and to offer families workshops which are fun and interactive.

Join a musical 'whodunnit' mystery game, design your own instrument, create a drum kit, learn the secrets of sound tech, compose your own rap song and so much more. Book ahead to avoid disappointment!

Kadim AlSahir returns to the opera house for a solo concert which sold out as soon as the tickets were released. His programme will explore his world-renowned hit songs.

The star will perform over three nights on the 13, 14 & 15 of October

at the Royal Opera: House of Musical Arts.

October 17 sees the annual Omani Women's Day Concert at the Royal Opera: House of Musical Arts. We are pleased to announce that the special guest is Rawan Bebehani, the Kuwaiti pianist and child prodigy, who will perform alongside the Royal Oman Symphony Orchestra and the First Royal Ensemble for Music in a celebration of women and women musicians around the region.

Our enduringly popular Lunch Music series continues on 22 October. Enjoy an informal dip in and out of opera at the Opera Galleria. Grab a coffee or an early lunch and bring the family to enjoy live music in the mall. Free of charge, Lunch Music starts at 11.30 and will be performed by the Deutsche Oper Berlin ahead of their performance of Hänsel und Gretel.

Hänsel und Gretel, the fabulous opera based on Grimm's fairy tale, comes to Muscat for the first time. Performed by the acclaimed Deutsche Oper Berlin, conducted by Sir Donald Runnicles and directed by Andreas Homoki, this is a perfect opera to enjoy with family and long-term opera fans.

For more information on the range of tickets on offer or to discover the programme for the rest of the season, please download the app or visit the ROHM website.





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ROUND-UP



Al Ahlia Insurance scores big at AIWA Award 2022 for fifth time



We are proud to have received this award for the fifth time and this achievement highlights that the execution of our strategy has been clearly defined and well executed, said Hanaa Al Hinai, Chief Executive Officer

MUSCAT: Al Ahlia Insurance Company, one of Oman's leading and publicly listed insurers, has won the AIWA (Alam Al-Iktisaad Wal-A'mal) Award for Best Performing Companies (in the mid-cap category) for the fifth time.

The award was announced in a gala ceremony held on September 28, 2022, in Muscat. Awarded by the leading Arabic business magazine - AIWA, this is a based on a survey of best performing listed companies.

The criteria for evaluation for the mid-cap category include company's market capitalisation and key financial performance parameters. The evaluation and validation of results are done independently by reputed organisations. This award reflects Al Ahlia's commitment to its core philosophy, of putting customers first. "We are proud to have received this award for the fifth time, this achievement highlights that the execution of our strategy has been clearly defined and well executed," said Hanaa Al Hinai, Chief Executive Officer.

Continued support Hanaa Al Hinai added, "None of it would be possible without the continued support and guidance by

Capital Market Authority and the MSM and we extend our gratitude to all involved. This is a commendable achievement to the efforts put in by the staff, management and the Board of Directors." As Oman's leading insurer, Al Ahlia has always delivered innovative solutions to its customers. Breakthrough propositions like the WhatsApp contact centre, fast and easy online portal, claims registration via WhatsApp and its recent paperless insurance project are all industry firsts launched by Al Ahlia in Oman. Al Ahlia has been a consistent performer in terms of all financial KPIs including shareholder returns whilst maintaining high governance standards since its debut on the Muscat Stock Exchange.

CROSSOVER RANGE

INFINITI announces special offer on QX50, QX55, QX60



MUSCAT: Dream of owning an INFINITI crossover? Now is the right time. INFINITI Oman has announced special offers across its crossover range of INFINITI QX50, INFINITI QX55, and INFINITI QX60 as part of a special promotion. Life demands a vehicle that can do just about everything - one that's meticulously shaped to complement and enhance one's life. Built to cater to passengers but designed around the driver, INFINITI's range of award-winning crossovers delivers firsthand luxury that should be lived in. Customers who purchase INFINITI crossovers - QX50, QX55 and QX60 during the promotion period are eligible for free registration, free insurance, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer's warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card. The special promotion which started on September 25 is valid till November 24.

The scheme is applicable for all the customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles for personal use only. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. The scheme is applicable for retail billing only. A senior spokesperson at INFINITI Oman said, "This is the ideal time to book one of the versatile INFINITI SUVs which continue to be amongst the best-selling vehicles in Oman for obvious reasons. They are an excellent choice for anyone looking for powerful performance, safe drive, and comfortable interiors. INFINITI Crossovers - QX50, QX55 and QX60 are extraordinary performers and are fitted with smart technologies that adapt to the needs of customers. The SUVs have multiple advanced features to please even the most demanding

of lifestyles, such as versatile interior with adaptable seating, cargo space, and the adapted entertainment system." All customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX55, and QX60 in the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration. Customers purchasing INFINITI QX50, QX55 and QX60 in the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of three years or 50,000km (whichever is earlier). This offer excludes battery and wear & tear components. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km. INFINITI vehicles QX50, QX55, and QX60 purchased in the scheme period will have a three years / 100,000km manufacturer's warranty. Free AAA / Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI vehicles, for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman & UAE.

ICONIC STATUS



Nissan Patrol Super Safari has reputation for versatility, capability and performance

MUSCAT: Nissan's Patrol Super Safari's long-standing heritage in Oman has lasted with every passing generation, achieving iconic status among nationals and expats alike. This sustained love and demand for the Nissan Patrol Super Safari doesn't come as a surprise. A senior official from SBA said, "A compelling combination of power and elegant sophistication, Nissan Patrol Super Safari has evolved over the years to placate the new-age SUV customers, who demand eye-catching design, lush interiors, unmatched versatility, spectacular performance, and super technology for a multifaceted lifestyle. With its ability to conquer even the most difficult road conditions and the harshest of terrains without compromising on comfort and luxury, the Super Safari is a model that is highly in demand, especially due to the region being a hub for outdoor activity and adventure." Nissan Patrol Super Safari as-tounds auto enthusiasts because of its legacy and reputation for versatility, capability, and extreme performance. Its legendary capability and its deep-rooted heritage in the region makes it a popular vehicle. This legacy of reliability and

superior 4x4 capability remains true today, and it is why one can take the Nissan Patrol Super Safari where others don't dare to go. Nissan Patrol Super Safari boasts of all the elements that have elevated the vehicle to iconic status such as the rugged design and the off-road capability, while delivering a modern approach that is complimented by the special upgrades and enhancements that add to its usability and visual appeal. The Patrol Super Safari boasts all-new tan leather seats and door trim with 8-way power seats for the driver and 4-way for the front passenger. New driver aids include a navigation system as well as front and rear parking sensors with rear view camera, Bluetooth, USB, CD, auxiliary input socket and FM/AM radio to complete the in-car entertainment offering. The vehicle comes equipped with automatic climate control and a built-in, refrigerated cool box. Building on the iconic Super Safari model, the new Nissan Patrol Super Safari enjoys the legendary exterior design which has distinguished it from other Patrol models and made it one of the most recognised icons of modern

off-road vehicles. Distinctive machine cut 17" black alloy wheels, dual-tone body colours, flared fenders, a rear spoiler and a Super Safari body stripe all build on its iconic looks. The Patrol Super Safari boasts a 4.8L DOHC in-line 6-cylinder engine producing 280hp and a mighty 46kg or 451Nm of torque which allows it to power up dunes or tow heavy objects with ease. The engine is mated to a 5-speed automatic transmission with manual mode. Dual front airbags, ABS, an immobilizer and cruise control are among the other features contributing to both safety and driver convenience, while the vehicle boasts rear locking differentials, an electric front winch, as well as front and rear tow hooks as standard equipment for desert use. Nissan Patrol Super Safari marries legendary off-road capability with modern day comfort and innovation that truly excites. Designed to be a remarkable off-road vehicle while maintaining all the comforts of a road going full size SUV, the Patrol Super Safari incorporates some of the latest innovation and features that Nissan customers have come to expect.

OMAN ARAB BANK

OAB hosts event to announce Fifa World Cup hospitality packages winners

MUSCAT: Oman Arab Bank (OAB) recently conducted an exciting live draw at the auditorium of its Head Office to pick the winners for the Fifa World Cup Qatar 2022 hospitality packages, courtesy of Visa. The announcement comes as part of OAB's recent special offer in partnership with Visa, for all football enthusiasts among its customers that grants the man opportunity of a lifetime to attend one of the Fifa World Cup 2022 matches in person in Qatar. Ahmed Hadid Al Mukhni, a former player of the Oman national football team, was the guest of honour at the raffle ceremony. The event also witnessed the attendance of members of the bank's management team and employees. The draw saw hospitality packages given away to the three lucky winners. Each comprised an all-expenses-paid trip for two to the Fifa World Cup 2022, which includes air tickets, accommodation, and stadium transport, courtesy of Visa. Speaking on the occasion, Ra-



shad Al Sheikh, the Head of the Retail Banking Division at OAB, said, "We congratulate all the winners. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend one of the world's most-anticipated sporting events and enjoy a memorable experience. At OAB, we constantly aspire to provide top-notch services and exceptional offers that target and meet the

needs of all segments of the community. Thanks to our collaboration with Visa, this promotional offer falls in line with these objectives. We are delighted that the campaign witnessed such great interest from customers. Through this offer, we wanted to surpass customers' expectations and fulfil their dream of attending the Fifa World Cup, courtesy of Visa."

The bank launched the offer in partnership with Visa in July 2022. OAB Visa Credit Cardholders were automatically entered into raffle draws when they used their Visa cards for purchases. The prize was an all-expenses-paid trip for two to the Fifa World Cup 2022, which includes air tickets, accommodation, and stadium transport, courtesy of Visa.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



National University organises annual Research Day

MUSCAT: The National University of Science and Technology (NU) held its annual Research Day, on October 3 at NU headquarters, Bsusher under the patronage of Dr Khalfan bin Said Al Shuaili, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning in the presence of Dr P Mohamed Ali Pro-Chancellor, Dr Ali Al Bimani, the vice-chancellor as well as the senior NU Executives and both faculty and student researchers from the different colleges. Various stakeholders including industries and community research from various colleges and departments of NU also attended this important event. This research Day was fea-

tured by more than 40 research project posters and exhibitions from constituent colleges. Further, technical sessions consisting of 55 research paper presentations from both faculty and student researchers from the College of Engineering, College of Pharmacy, and College of Medicine and Health Sciences as well as International Maritime College, were presented. The most outstanding presentations and best research work of faculty and student categories were considered for awards and prizes. The keynote speakers from academia and industries enlightened the sessions with the latest knowledge in the relevant fields.

All-new 2023 Toyota Yaris launched in Sultanate of Oman

The Yaris is a compact sedan that has built a strong fan base across the world

MUSCAT: At an exclusive function, held at the Toyota showroom at Wattayah, the much awaited all new 2023 Yaris was launched with an all-new profile. Attending the occasion were guests from different sectors.

Sharing his thoughts on the all new Yaris, a representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive said, "The Yaris is a compact sedan that has built a strong fan base across the world. When the new Yaris was conceived by Chief Engineer Hideyuki Kamino, he envisioned three pillars to build this amazing vehicle. The first one, Proudful. The idea was to create a design and equip the vehicle with innovative features which would make owners feel proud and powerful at the same time. The second pillar is comfortable. The Yaris appeals to customers of various segments, especially those looking for easy to access & comfortable cabin and an easy to drive vehicle. The third pillar is affordable. Users are cost-conscious, but strongly look for value for money creating a satisfying ownership experience."

Speaking about what sets the all new Yaris apart he said, "With the all new Yaris, the team at Toyota set out to ensure that the vehicle is not only functional, but also represents the lifestyle and values of customers. The next-generation sedan adopts a powerful and elegant fastback style that embodies the Yaris' trademark stability and reliability that has won a loyal following across the region."

In the all new Yaris, the width has increased by 10 mm to 1,740 mm, while the length of the wheelbase increased by 70 mm to 2,620 mm. The length and overall height of the vehicle has been maintained at 4,425 mm and 1,480 mm respectively, making the new model the roomiest yet.

The 2023 Toyota Yaris boasts a new glossy black front grille and ultra-slim LED headlamps. The vehicle's side design and sleek fastback silhouette heighten its hyper-modern aesthetic, while the distinctive diffuser shape at the rear expresses exceptional strength and stability.

The all new Yaris' spacious cabin is designed to provide greater comfort and convenience for both the driver and passengers.



A 7-inch Thin Film Transistor (TFT) multi-information display and digital LED speedometer can be set to one of four layouts, allowing the driver to fully customize and optimize their experience. The spacious 475-liter capacity trunk comes complete with a folding board that serves as a partition to enable more efficient luggage distribution.

The vehicle's 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. Meanwhile, parents benefit from the added peace of mind provided by Toyota's ISOFIX safety system, which attaches baby seats securely using specially designed tethers.

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 that delivers smooth acceleration and a quick response, 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 to

deliver powerful, smooth acceleration from start-off and at low speeds and quiet, efficient transmission at higher speeds with excellent fuel efficiency.

The all new Yaris maintains Toyota's sterling safety standards. Its safety system is complemented by Toyota Safety Sense, an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS), Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC), Lane Departure Alert (LDA), Lane Departure Prevention (LDP), as well as a new Front Departure Alert (FDA) feature that gives drivers a visual and audible warning when a stationary vehicle in front begins to move forward.

In addition, the vehicle comes with a comprehensive array of

safety features to protect its driver and occupants. These include SRS airbags, with options available based on the grade for either two or six airbags (including front airbags for the driver passenger, side airbags for the front seats, and side-curtain airbags for the front and rear seats), Vehicle Stability Control (VSC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Brake Assist (BA), Electric Parking Brake (EPB) with Brake hold function, Traction Control (TRC), Hill-start Assist Control (HAC) and many others.

A choice of seven exciting exterior hues adds to the all new Yaris's striking visual appeal. These include three new colours - metal stream metallic, scarlet sequin, and gray metallic - the last two of which have been newly developed

for the vehicle. Meanwhile, the premium interior cabin features a stylish black & beige color scheme. The 2023 Yaris also comes with a choice of 15-inch steel wheels or 16-inch alloy wheels.

Earlier in the evening, a Representative from Saud Bahwan Automotive said, "Saud Bahwan Automotive and Toyota Motor Corporation always work hand-in-hand to offer high levels of ownership experiences, leading to higher levels of customer satisfaction. I humbly thank our valued customers for their continued patronage. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Toyota Motor Corporation for their constant support, guidance & encouragement."

The all-new 2023 Yaris is now on display at the Toyota showrooms.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SIGN LANGUAGES

Bank Muscat stresses on financial inclusion to support people with hearing disabilities

MUSCAT: According to the World Health Organisation, about 430 million people around the world have a disabling hearing loss.

Hence, it is important to protect and support deaf communities by implementing a range of accessibility measures and inclusion strategies. Financial inclusion is an important part of this strategy and as Oman's leading financial services provider aligned to the landmark objectives of Oman Vision 2040, Bank Muscat is continuously taking a number of efforts to develop services that provide greater accessibility and inclusion for its large family of customers. Hence, the bank recently celebrated the UN-mandated Interna-

tional Day of Sign Languages by organising training programmes for a number of its employees in cooperation with the Oman Association for the Hearing-impaired. Notably, more than 210 employees of the bank have completed various levels of the Sign Language course in the past so as to enable the bank to better serve its various customer segments.

Speaking on the occasion, Said Salim Al Auli, General Manager - Human Resources and Administration, said: "We are very proud of all the efforts made by various government and private sector organisations, NGOs and individuals in working together to achieve the inclusion of different groups



in society as inclusivity is one of the main strategies that will help accomplish the visionary goals of Oman Vision 2040. As a pioneer in promoting financial inclusivity, the bank has seen the positive results that arises from enhancing financial inclusion and meeting

the requirements of customers with disabilities through a variety of initiatives including training programmes for our employees. The bank is constantly working to enhance its role in providing an appropriate environment that fosters the abilities of all so as to

promote greater participation in economic activities by all sections of our society."

Bank Muscat has been undertaking many measures for the inclusion of persons with disabilities. In 2021, the bank contributed a number of wheelchairs and electric beds to persons with severe disabilities in partnership with the Oman Association for the Disabled. The bank also recently contributed laptops and BrailleSense devices to visually-impaired students at Sohar University and hearing aids to the Omani Association for the Hearing-impaired.

Bank Muscat had earlier supported the construction of a playground at the Al Aman Rehabili-

tation Centre for children with severe disabilities, and is also at present helping provide a sports field at the Al Wafa Centre for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The bank has also previously installed a special ATM with a special transaction flow for blind and visually-impaired people on the premises of the head office of the Al Noor Association of the Blind. Bank Muscat has also identified 11 conventional bank branches as well as 9 branches of Meethaq across different governorates, which will be fully equipped and prepared in the coming months to provide banking services to people with different types of disabilities.



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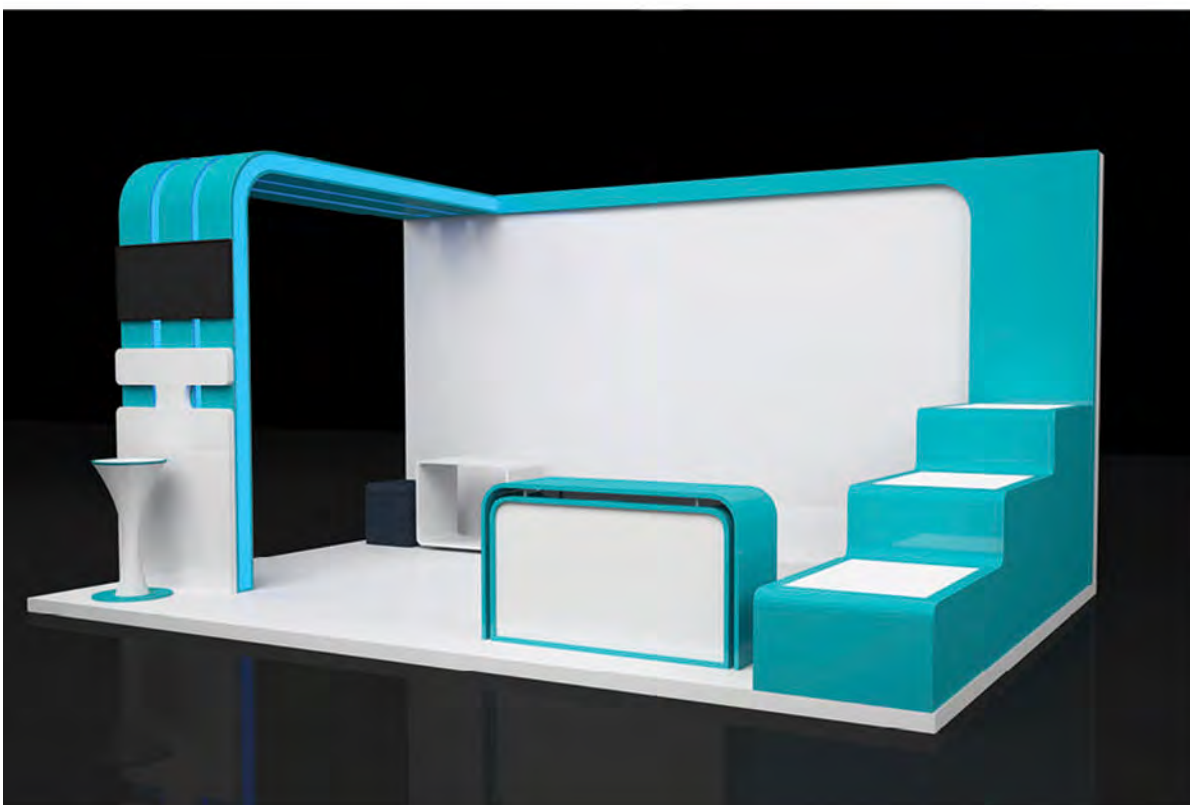
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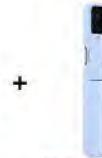
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