

Oman committed to clean energy

Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al Rumhy, Minister of Energy and Minerals, on Tuesday reviewed the promising opportunities to secure diverse energy sources to contribute to the comprehensive development in the Sultanate of Oman in these areas. This came during a panel discussion organised in London by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in conjunction with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the United Kingdom and the Anglo-Omani Society. **DETAILS ON P2**



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MENTALITY BOOSTS BRAZIL'S WORLD CUP CHANCES: TITE



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ENERGY MINISTRY CLARIFIES ON WEST BUKHA/HENGAM FIELD DEAL



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AL QANAIF: A VILLAGE OF 200 STONE HOUSES CREATED TO WITHSTAND TIME



SALALAH

SALALAH GETS FIRST SEASONAL FLIGHT

A Kuwait Airways flight landed on Tuesday at Salalah Airport as the first direct flight between Kuwait and Salalah during the summer tourism season in Dhofar Governorate.

The Kuwait Airways flight, which arrived at 2:15 pm, was greeted with a traditional water salute and the fragrance of Dhofari frankincense.

The airline is scheduled to operate two weekly flights between the two destinations. **DETAILS ON P2**

SAFER FOOD, BETTER HEALTH



The Sultanate of Oman joins the countries of the world in celebrating 'World Food Safety Day,' which falls on June 7. This year's theme, 'Safer Food, Better Health', defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), emphasises that safe food is essential to human health and well-being, and that unsafe food causes many diseases and stunted growth. – ONA

Oman enters Schengen visa waiver talks: EU

MUSCAT: The European Union (EU) said a decision for Sultanate of Oman's entry into the course of negotiations pertaining to the Schengen visa waiver for Omani citizens will be taken within two weeks.

During the press conference held at the Foreign Ministry here on Tuesday, Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary-General and Political Director of the European External Action Service (EEAS) of the EU stressed the "historic role" of the Sultanate of Oman and its efforts in resolving many regional and international issues, particularly the Iranian nuclear file. He said, "We look forward to support peace efforts together."

He added that there are ongoing negotiations with the GCC countries related to free trade.

He furthered that the EU is looking forward to augment cooperation with the countries



**The EU is striving to look for alternatives to provide liquefied gas, and on the long-term, the EU is exploring prospects for cooperation in the field of green energy**

ENRIQUE MORA
EU official

of the region in several areas, including maritime security, training, energy and technology.

Mora described Oman Vision 2040 as "ambitious" as it focuses on several themes and covers different aspects.

He pointed out that his current visit to the Sultanate of Oman represents an opportunity to review the bilateral relations between the EU and Oman, as well as ways to promote them and discuss foreign policies between the two sides.

Mora explained that the EU is striving to look for alternatives to provide liquefied gas, and on the long-term, the EU is exploring prospects for co-operation in the field of green energy.

He added that the European partnership strategy with the GCC states focuses on cooperation in several spheres, including energy and security. **TURN TO P2**

Al Mouj Muscat has delivered significant sustainable socio-economic impact for the Sultanate of Oman

Life — inspired

We are committed to the goals of Oman Vision 2040 Nasser Al Sheibani drives this		We have directly created 2,200 permanent jobs Hawra Al Lawati has one of them		We have attracted 844mn USD in Foreign Direct Investment Ahmed Al Massani oversees this	
	There are already 2,550 homes at Al Mouj Muscat Badriya Al Suqri helped build these		Home to 2,000 hotel rooms, Al Mouj Muscat drives tourism growth Carsten Wiegandt oversees some of them		150 SMEs operate at Al Mouj Muscat Aisha Al Kharousi owns one of them

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Meet calls for mechanism to ensure rights at all levels

- REGIONAL BODIES HAIL ROLE OF OMAN IN PROTECTING CITIZENS' AND RESIDENTS' RIGHTS
- RESOLVE TO INTRODUCE CLARITY ON CONTRACTUAL AND NON-CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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The two-day human rights symposium concluded on Tuesday on a high note with a resolve to introduce clarity on contractual and non-contractual human rights mechanisms and the role of the government and civil society institutions in this regard.

The symposium titled ‘The Role of National Mechanisms in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights’ saw participation from regional human rights agencies. They expressed appreciation for the role played by the Sultanate of Oman in protecting citizens’ and residents’ rights at all levels.

The event was organised by the Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in cooperation with the Arab Network of National Human Rights Institutions.

Over a period of two days, three sessions were held, and nine papers presented. The presenters



of the papers reviewed many topics, including an introduction to the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and the foundations of establishing national institutions, the responsibilities of the OHRC in protecting and promoting human rights at the national level, and its role in the field of cooperation



and coordination with regional and international human rights organisations.

The speakers also shed light on the responsibilities and efforts of government institutions to protect and promote human rights in terms of harmonising national legislation with international conventions, the most prominent human rights issues and model

rules for the treatment of inmates, with an explanation of government efforts regarding the protection of the rights of the most favoured groups, as well as the goals and responsibilities of civil society associations and challenges they face.

The symposium aimed to introduce the national mechanisms with a resolve to

protect and promote human rights, enhance cooperation and partnership between the Omani Committee and other relevant authorities, and highlight the role of the Committee with governmental and non-governmental organisations.

It also looked into raising the efficiency of participants to implement policies and practices

to achieve the objectives of protecting and promoting human rights, reviewing efforts, exchanging best practices to overcome challenges, ensuring optimal implementation of the contents of regional and international instruments and strengthening cooperation mechanisms at the national and international levels.



Oman enters Schengen visa waiver talks: EU

FROM PI
On his part, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali al Harthy, Under-Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, said: “A representation office of the European Union will be opened in the Sultanate of Oman soon.”

Al Harthy reaffirmed that the Sultanate of Oman and the EU countries enjoy growing relations. He added that Oman welcomes the European partnership strategy with the GCC countries and looks forward to strengthening these relations in various fields.

He pointed out that the third round of talks between the Sultanate of Oman and the EU, which was held at the Foreign Ministry, affirm that the relations between the two sides scale new heights.

He added that the EU is interested in green energy and hydrogen, and that Oman is working to diversify sources of income through renewable energy. He also said that Oman seeks to benefit from the EU experience in diversifying sources of income. — ONA

OMAN-UK FTA LIKELY SOON

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A Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Sultanate of Oman and Britain is likely to be entered into by both parties and discussions are currently under way for a region-wide FTA, it is learnt.

Such an agreement will be beneficial for both the GCC and the UK as the GCC is the 4th largest trade partner with the UK after the US, Europe and China.

“There are multilateral negotiations going on through the GCC as a trade bloc and hence no bilateral negotiations is happening. However, there’s great possibilities for such an agreement between the GCC and the UK,” said Mohsin bin Khamis al Balushi, Adviser, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MoCIIP).

Experts opined that a post-Brexit Free Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and the Sultanate of Oman is likely to boost trade between the two countries, as well as speed up the

Sultanate of Oman’s diversification process.

Speaking to the Observer on the sidelines of Lulu British Food Week, Bill Murray, the British Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman said that Britain is seeking great scope for the FTA as it enjoys great trade and socio cultural relations with the region.

“The FTA to be entered into by both Britain and Oman is going to be a milestone as Oman along with other GCC countries will be working towards what they want to achieve through this. So there’s is an opportunity for further growing it with the support of the private suppliers of British goods,” Murray said, adding, “We will be identifying the goods and services that these countries will benefit out of the Agreement.”

“Such an FTA, direct investment in Oman and enhanced trade relations especially in energy and retail sector will be beneficial to Oman, with the Sultanate of Oman, under its renewed renaissance, looking to diversify its economy and not to depend upon the hydrocarbon sector alone and

thus seek better trade ties with the UK,” said Micheal Eyley, Director of Trade and Investment- Oman at the British Embassy.

The representatives further said that the UK represents nearly half of all foreign direct investment into Oman, but it is keen to further diversify this it into future sectors like green energy, shipping, logistics and fin-tech. A Sovereign Investment Partnership was signed between the UK and Oman in January 2022 to coordinate investment both ways (and into third markets) so that both the UK and Oman can create more highly skilled jobs for the future.

“The FTA will be a GCC-UK FTA, as the GCC operate as one economic bloc and such an FTA will boost trade and possibly decrease the cost of imported goods to consumers,” he adds.

A wide range of sectors, starting with energy to consumer goods, and food and beverages which are close to families and other areas will be explored under the FTA which is currently in the discussions and negotiation stage.



Oman committed to clean energy

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This came during a panel discussion organised in London by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, in conjunction with the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman in the United Kingdom and the Anglo-Omani Society.

The discussions covered major investment opportunities in the fields of oil, gas and renewable energy in Oman. Present at the event were businessmen and representatives of private sector companies operating in these fields in both countries.

In his remarks, Dr Al Rumhy said that serious response to all international requirements, foremost of which is the goal to reach zero carbon, greatly pushes towards clean energy alternatives and the renewal of local and international plans. He stressed that working in the field of green hydrogen might be one of the future solutions and that the Sultanate of Oman strives to develop its production capabilities and open new markets in this field. — ONA

Salalah receives first seasonal flight of Kuwait Airways

SALALAH: A Kuwait Airways flight landed on Tuesday at Salalah Airport as the first direct flight between Kuwait and Salalah during the summer tourism season in Dhofar Governorate.

The Kuwait Airways flight, which arrived at 2:15 pm, was greeted with a traditional water salute and the fragrance of Dhofari frankincense. The airline is scheduled to operate two weekly flights between the two destinations.

The Kuwait Airways flight was received by Salim bin Awad al Yafei, Executive Vice-President of Salalah Airport, in the presence of a number of officials from Oman Airports, Salalah Airport, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the Royal Oman Police and the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in



Muscat.

Welcoming the Kuwait Airways flight, Shaikh Aimen bin Ahmed bin Sultan al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, said: “On behalf of all colleagues at Oman Airports, its subsidiaries, and all its strategic partners, I am pleased to welcome Kuwait Airways at Salalah Airport. This would not have been achieved

without the efforts of our colleagues at Oman Airports Commercial Unit who have been keen to promote our internationally recognised airports, including Salalah Airport; a five-star airport and one of the important national landmarks in the Governorate of Dhofar.”

“This direct international line

linking the Sultanate of Oman, through Salalah Airport, with the State of Kuwait will not only contribute to the consolidation of brotherly relations and support tourism, economy and trade exchange between the two countries, it also represents a real milestone in our bilateral partnerships.”

Salim bin Awad al Yafei, Executive Vice-President of Salalah Airport, stated that the return of flights to Salalah Airport this year, after a pause for two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will meet the increasing demand for travel to Salalah from various GCC countries. The governorate is expected to witness a significant increase in the number of visitors this year, especially with the increase in the number of direct flights coming from the Gulf countries.

According to Maen Razouqi, CEO of Kuwait Airways, “Kuwait Airways is pleased to launch its first direct commercial flights to Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman, starting from June 7, with two flights per week, on Saturdays and Tuesdays.”



Outdoor workers relieved over mid-day break

SAMUEL KUTTY
@samuelkuttyp

Outdoor workers heaved a sigh of relief as the annual mid-day break for the summer months started on June 1.

An initiative aimed at safeguarding the health and safety of workers, especially at construction sites, the three-month-long break will witness outdoor work for employees being suspended from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

The annual break is a lifesaver during the hot summer months. This was evident when Ahmed Sirajuddin, a mason, told the Observer, "This decision ensures that we are able to get some rest during these months of sweltering heat. We are relieved to some extent."

While announcing the decision, the Ministry of Labour called on company owners not to violate the provisions of the decision and the necessity of implementing it to

preserve the safety and health of workers during the summer period while warning that legal measures will be taken against violations.

According to the ministry's decision, labourers must not work at all during the banned hours if they usually work outside, but companies working on emergency projects can continue work.

Last week, Shaikh Nasr bin Amer al Hosni, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, urged companies to take necessary measures to avoid the effects of high temperatures in workplaces, especially during the months of June-August.

"The ministry will work to complete efforts to activate the heat stress campaign this year and stop work between 12:30 to 3:30 pm during the months of June, July and August on a daily basis in the open places that can expose workers to the dangers of the hot sun."

The decision by the ministry also requires employers to post



The Ministry of Labour has called on company owners not to violate the provisions of the decision and the necessity of implementing it to preserve the safety and health of workers during the summer period

clear scheduling of the daily working hours during the midday break period and provide shelter for the labourers during the resting hours.

Roopesh Yadav, an outdoor cleaner, said the break gives him solace as he can take a rest in a nearby air-conditioned building.

"I have been here for a few years now. It gets so hot outdoors during peak summer months that at times I feel dizzy, so break is such a respite. When I resume work after the break, I feel so much more fresh and rejuvenated," he said.

According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), Oman's construction sector employs the largest number of expatriate workers. At the end of the first quarter of 2022, there were 373,184 workers.

Working in the sun during the hot summer days can deplete the body's water before one even starts to feel thirsty. Workers are exposed

to hot and humid conditions, mainly in the construction sector.

Common summer diseases occur during the daytime, especially during the noon time when the sun's rays are directly perpendicular.

During summer, doctors receive a lot of patients complaining of urinary stones and renal colic because of reduced water intake, exacerbating bronchial asthma.

"Taking a break from the heat, especially at midday, when the sun is at its hottest, helps the workers by giving them some respite from hot and humid working environment," said Dr Shashiraj Eswarappa, Medical Superintendent and Consultant in Internal Medicine at a leading hospital here.

Heat stress can lead to heat stroke, heat exhaustion, fainting, cramps and rashes. High temperatures can also lead to injuries among workers due to sweaty hands, fogged glasses and dizziness.

Oman's pavilion at Rabat Book Fair attracts crowds



RABAT: The pavilion of the Sultanate of Oman at the 27th International Book and Publishing Fair in Rabat, Morocco, is witnessing a remarkable turnout as the pavilion plays a pivotal role in introducing the visitors to the Omani culture. The Ministry of Culture,

Sports and Youth, and the Ministry of Information are participating in activities of the fair, which run from June 2 to 12 in its 27 session during the period.

Latifa Moftaqir, Director of the fair, praised the distinguished display of publications at the Omani pavilion. — ONA

Oman Sail leads underwater clean-up to mark World Oceans Day



STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

Oman Sail has teamed up with sister company SeaOman, official logistics provider DB Schenker Oman, environmental partner Environment Society of Oman (ESO) and the Environment Authority to mark the United Nations World Oceans Day, which falls on June 8.

In line with the UN's theme of 'Revitalisation: Collective Action for the Ocean', stakeholders came together to remove abandoned fishing nets entangled in the coral of the protected Daymaniyat Islands. SeaOman provided powerboats, dive equipment, divers and cutting tools to support the volunteers and the Environment Authority waived the cost of the visit permits and assisted with the removal of the nets.

It took nine divers and seven

snorkelers, surface support volunteers over two hours to safely remove the nets. In the process, the team were able to release fish that had been caught in the nets, 10 metres deep. The critically endangered Hawksbill turtles watched as the divers patiently and carefully cut the fishing nets entangled in the coral. It was a relief for all that the disregarded nets, that weighed approximately 200kg, were removed from the seabed.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has reported that on average between 500,000 and 1 million tonnes of fishing equipment are abandoned in the ocean each year. In 2018, Earth.Org shared that up to 650,000 marine animals are killed by abandoned nets every year.

Dr Khamis al Jabri, Oman Sail CEO, said, "Omanis have a unique bond with the water, it is our duty

to preserve it for generations to come and the thousands of species of marine life living in the sea and onshore. In partnership with our stakeholders, we are keen to annually take great strides in conservation, by reducing our impact on the environment in every aspect of operations on this day and every day."

Richard van Schie, Managing Director from DB Schenker Oman, said, "DB Schenker shares Oman Sail's vision for sustainability in Oman and is pioneering clean logistics in the industry as it is committed to becoming carbon-neutral by 2040. To reach this ambitious goal, we have invested in renewable energies to support customers with their transport needs while meeting environmental targets. Being able to support World Oceans Day ties into our ongoing efforts to confront climate change

by clearing the seas of man-made waste, taking action on behalf of the ocean and protecting the wildlife and the communities that depend on it."

Suaad al Harthi, Executive Director, ESO said, "Our ocean covers 70 per cent of the world's surface, accounts for 80 per cent of the planet's biodiversity and produces at least 50 per cent of the planet's oxygen. We are hugely dependent on it for our own health and yet we continue to take more from the ocean than can be replenished."

Oman Vision 2040 emphasises the need to protect coral and marine creatures as part of the environmental pillar focusing on preserving the nation's beauty for future generations. Oman Sail encourages everyone to take the UN #CleanSeas pledge to reduce or eliminate single use plastic in everyday life.



Health Ministry begins vaccination for Haj pilgrims

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The Ministry of Health has announced vaccination requirements for the performance of Haj.

The vaccinations will be available at the health centres. Speaking to the Observer, an official from the Ministry of Health said, "For the Haj vaccines, if the person is assigned to a specific group, the group leader will send the individual the link through which he can choose the health centre."

According to MoH, the citizens and residents who have been accepted to perform the Haj pilgrimage this year have vaccines provided from Tuesday, June 7, until July 3, 2022.

According to the authorities' requirements from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there are three specific jabs to be taken to be accepted in the participation of Haj.

As per Oman's regulations, the necessary vaccinations require - two doses; the quadric vaccination against Meningococcal Meningitis

(ACYW135) and seasonal flu.

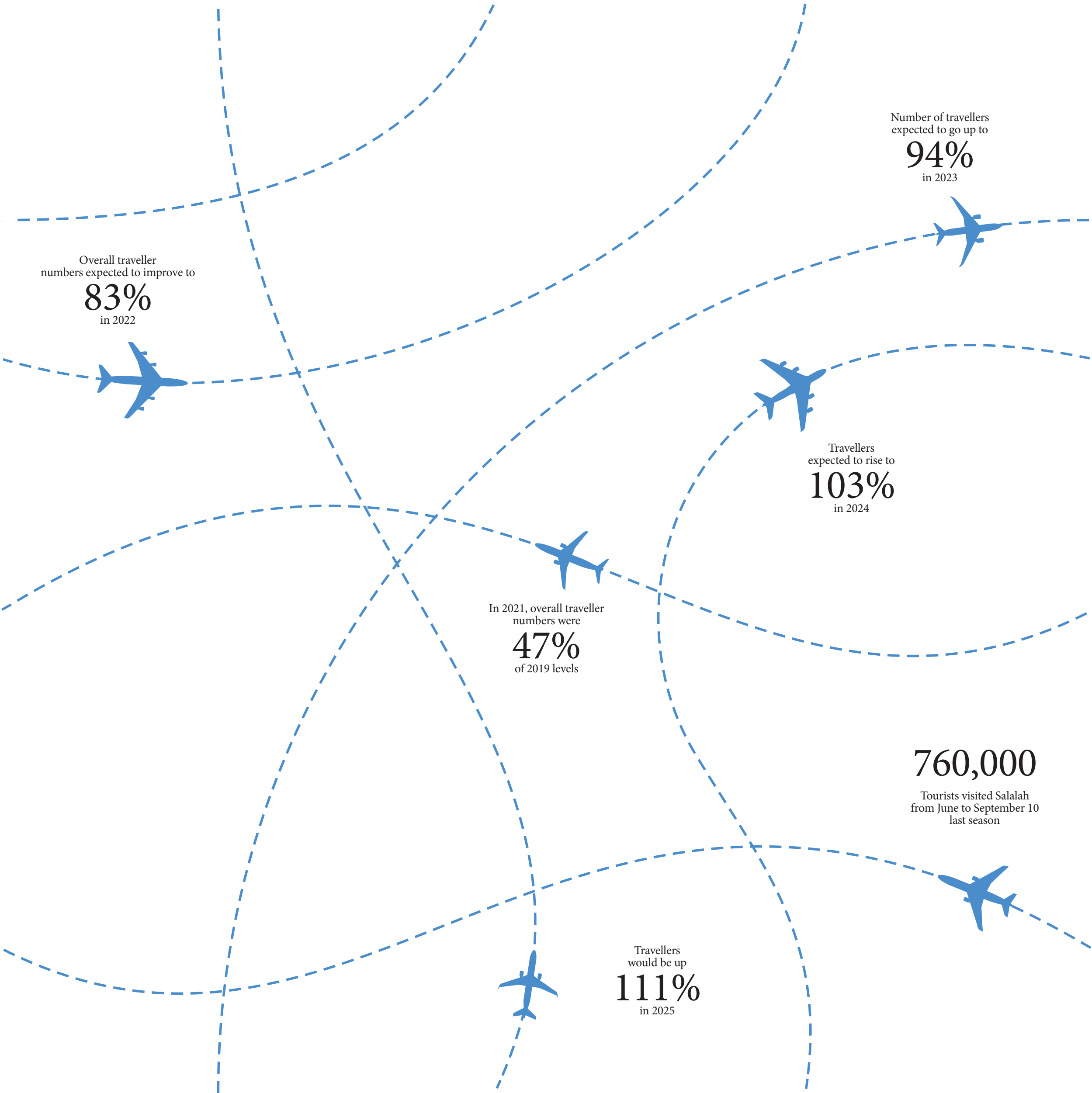
Meanwhile, MoH has urged all citizens and residents who want to perform Haj this year to adhere to taking the vaccinations within the required time frame. As per the rule, the vaccinations must be taken not less than ten days before travelling.

These requirements are prerequisites for entering the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. These steps have been taken for prevention against the spread of infection and safeguard public health.

The Haj this year will begin on the evening of Thursday, July 7 and will end on the evening of Tuesday, July 12.

For enquiries, the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has a hotline of 80008008, and more information is available on www.Hajj.om.

The website also provides details and has facilities such as how to change company, requesting to change guardian, cancellation of Haj request, issuance of a certificate of going to Haj and to check on registered companies.



TRAVEL IS BACK

DEMAND IS PICKING FOR FLIGHT AND HOTEL BOOKINGS GLOBALLY, AND THE SITUATION IS NOT DIFFERENT IN THE SULTANATE OF OMAN

KABEER YOUSUF
@kabeeryousef

WITH the beginning of the holiday season and the closure of schools from the second week of June, the hospitality sector is in a joyous mood because most countries have relaxed travel restrictions. Demand is picking for flight and hotel bookings globally, and the situation is not different in the Sultanate of Oman. However, with the rise in

demand for travel, there has been a surge in airfares, making it unaffordable for some. In an earlier statement, IATA had predicted that overall traveller numbers in 2024 touching 4 billion, including multi-sector connecting trips as one passenger. This is in excess of the pre-Covid-19 levels by 103 per cent of the 2019 total, which has created a sense of excitement among the travel and tourism houses. “As always, when you have high demand, you have higher rates to pay for. Now that the Covid-19 protocols relaxed, people feel safe

travelling back and forth between their home countries and holiday destinations,” said Sunil D’Souza, CEO, Travel City Group. “However, monkeypox, which is slowly being detected in multiple countries, is bit worrying but WHO hadn’t raised the alarm as it is not as infectious and deadly like Covid-19,” he added. Since the government-imposed travel restrictions in some markets have been lifted, expectations for the shape of the near-term recovery have gone high slightly, according to the travel experts. Studies have reported that

travel houses can look forward to a busy summer season in 2022, and many small, as well as big players in the sector, will be relieved of their backlogs of the pandemic. In 2021, overall traveller numbers were 47 per cent of 2019 levels. This is expected to improve to 83 per cent in 2022, 94 per cent in 2023, 103 per cent in 2024 and 111 per cent in 2025. In 2021, international traveller numbers were 27 per cent of 2019 levels. This is expected to improve to 69 per cent in 2022, 82 per cent in 2023, 92 per cent in 2024 and

101 per cent in 2025. **KHAREEF AND TOURISM** Khareef, or the monsoon season of the Dhofar Governorate, which usually extends from mid-June to the end of September, is a major tourist puller. Two years of the pandemic had taken the sheen out of season. Dhofar’s Salalah is an important attraction for the people of the Arab region, where they face hot weather during these months. According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), 760,000 tourists visited Salalah from June

to September 10 last season. While Omanis constituted the largest, with 70.8 per cent of the visitors, UAE nationals accounted for 7.7 per cent and GCC nationals 9.2 per cent. The arrivals of the tourists contribute to the economy as they seek services from airlines and bus services to the cab driver, from hotels, motels, and restaurants to roadside eateries. “Overall travel demand is healthy and high, and this season would help the industry recover its past losses to a larger extent,” a travel agent from Salalah added.



Role of medical coding, clinical documentation stressed

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

The Ministry of Health, represented by the Department of Health Data Management and Registration of the Directorate General of Planning and Studies, on Tuesday held a workshop on the clinical documentation and medical coding and its impact on morbidity and death indicators. The event was attended by Dr Halima al Hinai, the Director General of Planning and Studies, as well as the MoH's senior officials at Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque.

More than 75 participants from various MoH institutions, in addition to the Armed Forces, Diwan of Royal Court, Royal Oman Police and the Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, took part in the workshop. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Halima al Hinai underlined the significance of clinical documentation and its impact on medical services providers



at all levels, highlighting the relevant actions undertaken to promote community health and raising health workers' awareness. The implementation of health insurance and its impact on medical coding practices were highlighted by Dr Salim al Salmi, Associate Dean for Health Information Management Programme

at Oman Health Sciences College. Dr Al Salmi touched upon the recent version of the International Classification of Disease (ICD) pointing out the tendency towards designing a version compatible with the health insurance requirements. He stressed the need for developing scrutinised plans, and qualifying cadres capable of dealing with the coming phase

through improving academic qualification, training, and professional practice. The workshop reviewed resources of health data and shed light on the current situation of mortality statistics and quality along with their different uses for research and studies. The specificity of clinical documentation rather than their amount was stressed in the workshop. The event further elaborated on the clinical documentation process and its link with the provided health services, auditing, and influence on death certificates, medical coding, and the institution performance.

Over 900 water licences issued in May

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The total number of water licences issued during May this year amounted to 913, varied between requests for registration and surveys of wells, requests for licensing wells, requests for dams and aflaj, requests for well-drilling contractors and others for various development projects, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.

Al Dakhiliyah Governorate topped the list with 242 licences, followed by North Al Batinah with 156, Al Dhahirah 143, South Al Batinah 131, North Al Sharqiyah 120, South Al Sharqiyah 49, Al Buraimi 36, Muscat 16, Dhofar 9, Al Wusta 6, and finally Musandam Governorate five licences. Maqbool bin Hussein al Rawahi, Director of the Water Licensing Department at the ministry, said the ministry

issued water licences out of its keenness to make optimal use of water resources in a manner that ensures a balance between the available and required quantities for various uses. He explained that during the past two years, the ministry worked on updating the regulations according to the nature of the water situation in the country. "It worked to facilitate the conditions and controls related to issuing water

licences to comply with the requirements necessary for the optimal use of this water wealth on the one hand, and the actual needs of community members on the other hand," he added. The ministry works to rationalise the use of water resources to ensure a balance between the quantities available and required for various services. The total number of water licences issued for various uses in 2020 reached 3,196 licences.



SAF Chief receives Pakistani delegation

MUSCAT: Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), on Tuesday received in his office at Muaskar Al Murtafaa a delegation from the National Defence University in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, led by Brigadier Sajjad Hussein. The two sides exchanged views and discussed several matters of mutual

interests. A number of senior SAF officers attended the meeting. Also on Tuesday, the delegation visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC), where the members were received by its Acting Head. They were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the maritime environment. — ONA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF BATHYMETRIC SURVEYS ON AD-HOC BASIS



The Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (OPWP), a member of Nama Group, is responsible for procuring new capacity for power and water in the Sultanate of Oman in accordance with the requirements of the law for the regulation and privatization of the electricity and related water sector promulgated by Royal Decree 78/2004 as amended and the OPWP license.

Tender Description	OPWP is looking to hire a qualified and experienced consultant(s) under an ad hoc consultancy service contract(s) to carry out bathymetric surveys. The contract(s) will be for a period of three (3) years. The Consultant for bathymetric surveys shall be responsible of conducting the investigations with respect to bathymetric survey, geophysical seabed survey, seabed sampling and testing Survey for the project(s). The tender documents provide more details with respect to the scope of work.
Tender Number	OPWP/2022/19
Tender Purchase Period	06 June 2022 up to 20 June 2022
Tender Fee	25 OMR / Free of charges for (SME) with a valid Riyada card.
Submission date	27 July 2022 at 12:00 PM Gulf Standard Time GST
Collection & Payment Methods	The tender documents are available for purchase in an electronic format through OPWP website (https://www.omanpwp.om/new/Default.aspx). The payment is done electronically through OPWP website. In case of any queries, please send an email to: procurement.officer@Omanpwp.nama.om
Bank Guarantee	A Bid Bond of OMR 200 valid for a period of 120 days from the submission deadline date referred to above is required to be enclosed as part of the Bid.

 **Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (OPWP)**
5th Floor, Building 5, Muscat Grand Mall, Tilal Complex (Office)
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SEAWATER QUALITY SURVEYS SERVICES ON AD-HOC BASIS



The Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (OPWP), a member of Nama Group, is responsible for procuring new capacity for power and water in the Sultanate of Oman in accordance with the requirements of the law for the regulation and privatization of the electricity and related water sector promulgated by Royal Decree 78/2004 as amended and the OPWP license.

Tender Description	OPWP is looking to hire a qualified and experienced consultant(s) under an ad hoc consultancy service contract(s) to carry out environmental and seawater quality surveys. The contract(s) will be for a period of three (3) years. Depending on the work required for each survey, the off-shore field investigation included as part of the environmental and seawater quality survey to be carried out by the consultant may consist of: environmental survey, seawater quality vertical profiles, and seawater sampling and testing. The tender documents provide more details with respect to the scope of work.
Tender Number	OPWP/2022/20
Tender Purchase Period	06 June 2022 up to 20 June 2022
Tender Fee	25 OMR / Free of charges for (SME) with a valid Riyada card.
Submission date	26 July 2022 at 12:00 PM Gulf Standard Time GST
Collection & Payment Methods	The tender documents are available for purchase in an electronic format through OPWP website (https://www.omanpwp.om/new/Default.aspx). The payment is done electronically through OPWP website. In case of any queries, please send an email to: procurement.officer@Omanpwp.nama.om
Bank Guarantee	A Bid Bond of OMR 250 valid for a period of 120 days from the submission deadline date referred to above is required to be enclosed as part of the Bid.

 **Oman Power and Water Procurement Company SAOC (OPWP)**
5th Floor, Building 5, Muscat Grand Mall, Tilal Complex (Office)
Tel.: +968 24508400 | Fax: +968 24399946 | www.omanpwp.com

Training in Holy Quran recitation



STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

The Ministry of Education, represented by the Directorate-General of Private Schools, Early Education Department, has started the training seminar on "Correcting the recitation of the Holy Quran (Juz Amma) for early education stage teachers". The seminar, being held at Al Awael Private School (Al Khoudh Branch) over five consecutive days, is attended by 25 teachers from the schools of Al Seeb and Bausher. The training will focus on correcting the teachers in different aspects of recitation, including the "obvious melody and hidden melody" in the recitation, and learning the right intonation and pronunciation. The seminar follows the supervisory visits carried out by the Technical Supervision Department, which found that there is a need for corrections in terms of recitation and intonation among early education teachers. The training also aims to ensure the correct recitation of the surahs (Al Fatihah and Juz Amma) by the teachers with the right tongue position and intonation.



Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of **Ministry of Social Development** hereby re-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-retundable)
21/2022	General maintenance work for Al-Wafa Center for the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in the Wilayat of Rustaq	Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Monday 27-6-2022 02:00 PM	Sunday 17-7-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>). On Wednesday 8/6/2022.
- 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 though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200).

" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry "

www.mosd.gov.om



At least 27 killed in Sudan ethnic clashes

KHARTOUM: Heavy fighting in Sudan's west and south has killed at least 27 people and left dozens wounded, residents said on Tuesday, with the United Nations envoy saying he was "deeply concerned."

In separate incidents, clashes broke out in the restive Darfur region in a bitter land dispute, leaving 16 dead, as well as in South Kordofan state, where 11 people died after an argument between two people reportedly escalated into wider gun battles.

The latest violence comes as Sudan grapples with the fallout from a coup in October last year led by army chief Abdel Fattah al Burhan.

In West Darfur, the arid region of Sudan bordering Chad, fighting took place near Kolbus, some 160 kilometres from the state capital El Geneina. Attackers set fire to villages leaving them burned to the ground.

It is the latest in several rounds of clashes pitting largely settled farmers against semi-nomadic Arab pastoralist groups. "Fighting



Protesters of Sudan's Beja Optical Council stage a sit-in outside the secretariat general of the Red Sea State's government in the city of Port Sudan. — AFP

erupted over a land dispute between member of an Arab tribe and a farmer from a non-Arab one," said a leader from the non-Arab Gimir people. "The clashes killed eight people from Gimir,

and three villages were burned." A leader from the Arab Rizeigat community said fighting began over a dispute over land. "Eight of our people were killed," he said. "Clashes are ongoing." In

South Kordofan, fighting erupted between rival groups — the Hawazma and Kenana groups — near Abu Jebeiha. "At least 11 people were killed and 35 wounded in fighting," said

one resident, who is involved in mediation efforts between the rivals. He said fighting began as a dispute between two people, but spread into clashes between the

The latest violence comes as Sudan grapples with the fallout from a coup in October last year

groups. "I am deeply concerned about inter-communal clashes," UN special representative Volker Perthes said on Tuesday, over the fighting in South Kordofan.

"I call on security forces to secure the area and ensure the protection of civilians, and urge local leaders to undertake mediation efforts."

Both Darfur and South Kordofan suffered heavily during decades of civil war during the three-decade rule of president Omar al Bashir, who armed some groups to fight ethnic minority rebels demanding an end to marginalisation by his regime. The scorched-earth campaign left 300,000 people dead and displaced 2.5 million, according to the United Nations. — AFP

18 years' jail upheld in Algeria for ex-high flyer

ALGIERS: An Algerian appeals court on Tuesday confirmed an 18-year prison sentence for Rafik Khalifa (pictured), who embezzled from his own bank to finance a lavish lifestyle, the official APS news agency said.

Khalifa, 55, had received the same sentence in a November 2020 court ruling involving one of the North African country's largest financial scandals.

Khalifa, who had a French villa and a private jet, built and lost his empire while still in his 30s.

The criminal court in Blida, southwest of the capital Algiers, also fined Khalifa one million dinars (\$6,873), with confiscation of his seized assets for offences including conspiracy, fraud and falsification of bank documents, APS said. Khalifa, who appeared by video from prison, was acquitted of influence peddling.

After inheriting his father's small pharmacy in a suburb of Algiers, Khalifa founded in the late 1990s a bank that bore his own name, beginning the creation of a conglomerate that included an airline and a television channel in France.

It all came crashing down in 2003 when the group built around the bank, founded in the 1990s, went bust with losses estimated up to around \$5 billion.



It had employed 20,000 people in Algeria and Europe.

When his empire collapsed, Khalifa fled to London to avoid arrest but was extradited at the end of 2013.

In 2007, an Algerian court convicted him in absentia to a life sentence. He was then retried in Algeria and given an 18-year jail term in 2015.

A further retrial in 2020 issued the same sentence, which was upheld on Tuesday.

A French court in 2014 convicted Khalifa in absentia and sentenced him to five years for misappropriating millions of euros.

Of 15 accused in the same case, the court on Tuesday acquitted eight, including Abdelwahab Keramane, a former central bank governor, his brother Abdenour, an ex-industry minister, and daughter Yasmine. The others were each jailed for between two and eight years. — AFP

Relief in Beijing as city lifts Covid dine-in curbs

BEIJING: After staying home for more than a month, Chen Chunmei joined a long line of customers at a popular Beijing restaurant where diners tucked into massive bowls of crayfish following an easing of Covid restrictions in the Chinese capital.

Last month, the city of 22 million stopped people from eating out, closed gyms and sealed off dozens of subway stations to try and stamp out a coronavirus outbreak.

The curbs are now finally easing, including at restaurants. "I'm very excited, mainly because we'd been sealed off for so long," Chen said.

"I've been ordering take out or cooking every day. I really wanted to come out for meals." At its peak, Beijing logged just dozens of infections every day.

But authorities in China are committed to a zero-Covid strategy — using rapid lockdowns, mass testing and severe travel restrictions to eliminate even the smallest outbreaks.

Chen, 28, said her compound was initially locked down for two weeks but when she was finally allowed to leave, the nearby



Students enter a school to sit for the first day of the National College Entrance Examination known as 'gaokao' in Beijing. — AFP

Authorities in China are committed to a zero-Covid strategy

subway station was closed. "Since then, I'd been staying at home," she said.

"At first I thought working from home was pretty good but after a while, I got bored."

As Beijing's case numbers fell — it reported just two local asymptomatic infections on

Tuesday — authorities told residents they could return to work this week, while schools would reopen from June 13.

The Universal Beijing resort said it will reopen on June 15, while Chinese media reported that cinemas and gyms will run at 75 per cent capacity from this week in most areas.

Dine-ins at restaurants have also mostly resumed, although two districts still have restrictions in place because of recent Covid cases. — AFP

Vietnam arrests health minister, Hanoi mayor

HANOI: Vietnam's police have arrested the health minister and Hanoi mayor following accusations they were involved in a \$170-million coronavirus test-kit scandal, the public security ministry said on Tuesday.

The arrests come as the Communist nation ramps up an anti-corruption drive in the wake of the Viet A scandal, in which officials were bribed to supply hospitals with vastly overpriced Covid-19 test kits.

The public security ministry issued an arrest warrant late on Tuesday for health minister Ngoc Anh over accusations of "violating regulations on management and use of State assets, causing loss and waste" during his term as minister of science and technology, according to a statement on the public security ministry website.

A warrant has also been issued for Hanoi mayor Nguyen Thanh Long for "abusing positions and powers while performing official duties".

"After being approved by the Supreme People's Procuracy, the ministry of public security has implemented the decisions and orders in accordance with law," the statement on the website added. — AFP

ISLAMABAD

German FM breaks Pakistan trip after positive test

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock tested positive at the beginning of her visit to Pakistan, shortly after holding a press conference warning the Afghan Taliban about human rights. Baerbock has since cancelled all of her appointments, a spokesperson said. She was originally due to travel on wards to Greece and Turkey after Pakistan. Earlier, Baerbock called on the Afghan Taliban to respect human rights. "The international community must stand united



and together, and tell the Taliban loud and clear, you are heading in the wrong direction," Baerbock said at a joint press conference with Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto. — dpa

COLOMBO

Lanka urgently seeks \$6 bn to keep economy afloat

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka asked the International Monetary Fund to arrange a creditor meeting for \$6 billion in loans to help keep the country afloat during its unprecedented economic crisis. Months of daily blackouts, long queues for petrol and record inflation have made daily life a misery in the South Asian island nation of 22 million people. The government has already defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign debt, and a critical shortage of foreign currency has left trad-



ers unable to import adequate supplies of food, fuel and other essential goods. Prime Minister Ranil said the country needed \$5 billion for its daily needs in the next six months. — AFP

SEOUL

US, S Korea fly warplanes after North's missile tests

South Korea and the United States flew warplanes including stealth fighter jets over waters around the Korean peninsula in a fresh show of force following recent missile tests by the North, Seoul said.

Sixteen South Korean warplanes, including F-35 stealth fighters and four US F-16 jets, formed an attack squadron over the West Sea — also known as the Yellow Sea — to "respond to the enemy threat", Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.



The allies "demonstrated their strong ability and will to strike quickly and accurately against any provocation from North Korea", it added. — AFP



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In brief

■ STOCKHOLM



SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AVERTS POLITICAL CRISIS, CLINCHES DEAL

Sweden's government averted a political crisis, after it clinched a last-minute deal to ensure its justice minister survived a no-confidence vote in parliament. The deal stems from winning the support of an independent lawmaker who is determined that Stockholm does not cave into Turkish conditions for supporting Sweden's bid to join Nato. The potential crisis came just three months ahead of general elections and less than a year after the Social Democratic government was toppled and then returned to power within weeks. The no-confidence vote held on Tuesday was launched by the far-right Sweden Democrats. — **AFP**

■ VILNIUS



SCHOLZ: NO REQUEST FROM SPAIN TO EXPORT TANKS

According to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Spain has not yet submitted a request for the export of German-made Leopard-2 tanks to Ukraine. Should there still be such a request, it would be examined, Scholz said during his visit to Lithuania.

According to a report in the Spanish newspaper 'El País', Spain wants to supply Ukraine with German-made Leopard 2 A4 battle tanks. As a rule, the German government has to approve such arms exports because the purchase contracts contain so-called end-use clauses that provide for this in the event of a transfer. — **dpa**

■ BERLIN



80 MONKEYPOX PATIENTS RECORDED IN GERMANY

Monkeypox has now been confirmed and reported in 80 people in Germany, according to data from the country's disease control body. According to the Robert Koch Institute's (RKI) website, there are cases in nine of the country's 16 federal states. Since Friday, before the Whitsun holiday weekend, the number of cases registered at the RKI has increased by 15. Furthermore, it says: "As far as is known, most of those affected do not fall seriously ill." According to information from the WHO on Sunday, the disease has now been detected in around 30 countries where the virus does not otherwise circulate. — **dpa**

PM Johnson clings on, despite calls to quit

LONDON: Britain's embattled Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed on Tuesday to plough on with policy priorities including the economy and Ukraine, but was urged by a Conservative predecessor to quit and save the nation from further "agonies".

Addressing his cabinet a day after narrowly fending off a no-confidence vote from his own Conservative MPs, Johnson said: "We're able now to draw a line under the issues that our opponents want to talk about."

But most critics and commentators disagreed, with many characterising the margin of his win — 211 votes to 148 — as a "Pyrrhic" victory that left the Tory leader drained of much authority.

Johnson's former employers at the 'Daily Telegraph' branded it "a hollow victory that tears Tories apart".

"Party's over, Boris", headlined the 'Daily Mirror', in a nod to a series of lockdown-busting parties held in Downing Street, which saw Johnson fined by police and drew outrage from voters.

The prime minister's team tried to regain the offensive by pointing to a set piece speech expected in the coming days on new economic support measures, as Britons struggle with a cost-of-



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks as he chairs a Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street in London. — **AFP**

living crisis.

The government is also expected to introduce new legislation to unilaterally walk away from its post-Brexit commitments on Northern Ireland, placating some right-wingers but likely infuriating the European Union. However,

a cabinet reshuffle to replenish his team of Brexit loyalists is not "currently" on the cards, Johnson's spokesman said.

Nor is a snap general election, the prime minister said after the vote, pointing to the pressing need for government unity in the face of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Britain has been at the forefront of European military support for the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who spoke by phone to Johnson in the hours before Monday's Conservative ballot.

At an online event on Tuesday hosted by the *Financial Times*,

The govt is expected to introduce new legislation to unilaterally walk away from its post-Brexit commitments

Zelensky said he was "very happy" that Johnson had survived the vote.

"Boris Johnson is a true friend of Ukraine", the president added, speaking through a translator.

But at home, many question whether Johnson can recover voters' trust, as the party braces for two Westminster by-elections this month and an upcoming investigation by MPs into whether he lied to parliament over "Partygate".

Even without any obvious candidate to succeed him, former Tory party leader William Hague argued that Johnson should now "look for an honourable exit".

Comparing Monday's margin to votes that ultimately toppled Johnson's predecessors Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, Hague said it showed "a greater level of rejection than any Tory leader has ever endured and survived". — **AFP**

Russia claims partial control of Ukraine city

KYIV: Russia on Tuesday reported its forces had taken full control of residential neighbourhoods in Ukraine's flashpoint city of Severodonetsk, after Kyiv said its troops were fighting on in the eastern hub despite being outnumbered.

"The residential areas of the city of Severodonetsk have been fully liberated", Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told a defence ministry meeting.

The Russian army was still seeking to establish control over the city's "industrial zone and the nearest settlements", he added, amid conflicting reports of who is in control of what.

Moscow has been pushing for control of the strategic industrial hub as part of its bid to conquer a vast swathe of eastern Ukraine but Kyiv's forces have so far managed to hold out.

"Our heroes are holding their positions in Severodonetsk. Fierce street fights continue in the city", Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video address late on Monday.

Zelensky warned Ukrainian forces in the key city were outnumbered and the Russians "are stronger". He was speaking to journalists after visiting frontline positions in Lysychansk, across the river from Severodonetsk.

Thousands of civilians have been killed and millions forced to flee their homes since President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine on February 24.

After being repelled from other parts of the country, including Kyiv, Russia has concentrated its assault on the eastern Donbas region and had been making slow but steady progress.

The leader of Ukraine's pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk,



Ukrainian troops fire with surface-to-surface rockets MLRS towards Russian positions at a frontline in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas. — **AFP**

Denis Pushilin, on Tuesday confirmed the death of another Russian general in the fighting.

Pushilin expressed on Telegram his "sincere condolences to the family and friends" of Major General Roman Kutuzov, "who showed by example how to serve the fatherland".

Ukraine's forces have claimed to have killed several of Russia's top brass but their exact number is not known as Moscow is tight-lipped on losses.

Defence Minister Shoigu said Russia had completed demining of the eastern port city of Mariupol, the second busiest in Ukraine before the conflict.

"It is operating as normal and has accepted the first cargo ships",

Shoigu said.

With fighting raging in the east of Ukraine, Kyiv hit out at the UN's nuclear watchdog for trying to visit Europe's largest nuclear reactor in the south of the country while it is under Russian occupation.

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, said on Monday his agency was preparing an expert mission to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant.

Grossi said on Twitter the visit was arranged after Ukraine had "requested" it.

But Ukraine's nuclear agency, Energoatom on Tuesday accused Grossi of lying and said it did not greenlight the trip. — **AFP**

Dutch reporter's children confront alleged killers in court

AMSTERDAM: The children of the best-known Dutch crime reporter confronted his alleged killers in court as their trial started on Tuesday and accused the two men of gunning down their "hero" father from behind.

Journalist Peter R de Vries, 64, was shot in the head outside a television studio in Amsterdam in July 2021 in a crime that prosecutors say was linked to his role in the trial of a Dutch drugs mafia kingpin. Dutch man Delano G, 22, is accused of fatally shooting de Vries, while Polish national Kamil E, 36, allegedly drove their getaway car and carried out surveillance prior to the shooting.

"I am looking at you, like you didn't dare to look at my father when you shot him down from behind", the journalist's daughter Kelly said to Delano G at Amsterdam District Court.

"Why did you shoot him? For money? Because you didn't agree with him?" The suspect looked back across the room without showing any emotion.

The murder of de Vries in broad daylight stunned the

Netherlands, where he was a household name with his own TV show, and sparked outrage across Europe. A verdict is due on July 14. The pair face possible life sentences for murder, with prosecutors set to make their sentencing demands later on Tuesday.

Kelly de Vries told the accused that "I hate you" but that she could "bring myself to treat you with humanity."

"Your children will realise what their fathers have done — at least I can be proud of mine. People will say that he was a hero", she said.

De Vries' son Royce separately told the suspects "had you asked my father for help, instead of pulling the trigger, he would have done so."

The journalist's daughter had earlier asked to leave the room, as the court saw closed-circuit television footage of the murder.

Images from various vantage points in the city, including a nearby cafe, appeared to show Delano G and Kamil E walking around the area shortly before de Vries was shot. — **AFP**



Photograph shows the court in Amsterdam, as the criminal proceedings begin against the two suspects for the murder of Peter R de Vries. — **AFP**

The sense of belonging



Massrat Shaikh

The writer is an educational psychologist

We adopt a more inclusive model in our schools with every passing year. As more special educational needs students find a place in general education, their social inclusion requires more effort on our part as educators.

Research studies show that special needs students feel alone, isolated, and left out in schools.

A study published in 2001 found that students with disabilities are often deliberately excluded by their peers in academic and extracurricular settings.

Parents of special needs children usually report that their children are sometimes excluded or separated from their peers at school events like field trips, ceremonies, and celebrations. To meet the needs of students with disabilities — particularly their need to feel like they belong in the school community — we need to prioritise social inclusion throughout our

schools. Removing the physical barriers to play for children with disabilities is one part of inclusion but removing the social barriers that help all children in our schools feel included requires further effort.

For children with disabilities to feel genuinely included, it requires looking at the invisible barriers — the misconceptions, the perception that they are somehow less capable, seen as less valuable than their peers without disabilities.

The following are some of the tips that can help our schools become more socially inclusive.

1)To facilitate social interaction between students with and without disabilities, field trips between general and special education classes to inclusive playgrounds help children interact and play together.

2)Play is something that all children, regardless of their abilities, enjoy together, but simply throwing students together on the playground

RESEARCH STUDIES SHOW THAT SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS FEEL ALONE, ISOLATED AND LEFT OUT IN SCHOOLS

does not ensure that they play together. An inclusion awareness programme that teaches general education students to acknowledge and challenge their biases toward people with disabilities is one way to remove the barriers to social inclusion.

3)Grouping students from general education students with special education students as buddies bypasses another roadblock by ensuring that students interact with each other. Letting the general education students know their buddies’ interests, abilities, and limitations beforehand helps the students to enjoy each other and have fun.

4)Having general education students participate in a reflection session where they consider how their beliefs changed and how they will interact with their peers with disabilities also helps to remove bias.

5)Bringing middle and high school students with and without disabilities together to engage in service projects, giving them a chance to develop relationships with their peers and do something useful for their community is also helpful.

6)Inclusion efforts can also be very simple as arranging for special and general education students to meet once a month, have lunch together and do activities, also helps break down barriers.

7)Parents of general education students can also play an essential role in the inclusion efforts. Parents can include the SEN students and their families at events and birthday parties. All parents want

their children to learn and develop their social and adaptive skills and participating in the school community helps them achieve these goals.

8)General education students learning sign language to communicate with their friends and using person-first language instead of ability-centred language when talking about students with disabilities can help them develop greater empathy through their interactions.

These kinds of interventions, when put in place, can transform school campuses. However, an inclusion process like this takes time. Working towards inclusion is not just one quick trip; and it is something that has a lasting impact. It shapes how students act, think, and feel about differences, and it shapes who children are and how they will interact with others in the world and society.

Violence in spotlight as French parliament vote looms

ANNE RENAUT, INGRID BAZINET, & ADAM PLOWRIGHT

A fatal police shooting in Paris has thrust the issue of violence by security forces to the heart of an increasingly close French parliamentary election battle between a new left-wing coalition and allies of centrist President Emmanuel Macron.

Police killed a passenger in a car in northern Paris on Saturday after the vehicle failed to stop when summoned by officers and then allegedly drove towards them at speed.

“If you vote for me, I’ll change the doctrine governing the use of force by the police in our country,” Jean-Luc Melenchon, leader of the Nupes left-wing alliance, told France Inter radio on Tuesday.

“It’s not normal that we kill someone for failing to stop,” he added, saying that four people had died in such circumstances in four months.

“The police kill,” he tweeted on Saturday, sparking condemnation from rival politicians and Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin ahead of the two-stage vote on June 12 and 19.

Saturday’s shooting came just a week after police were widely condemned over their conduct at the Champions League final in Paris, where security forces teargassed fans and failed to stop street crime by local youths.

Images of frustrated passengers being teargassed outside a Paris train station over the weekend after rail services were cancelled also fed questions about their methods.

The three officers involved in Saturday’s shooting say they opened fire on the car in self-defence and their lawyer claims there is video evidence to back them up.

The 38-year-old driver, who has been hospitalised with a throat injury, has a long criminal record and no driving licence, Le Parisien newspaper reported. A woman in the front seat was hit in the head by one of the “eight or nine shots” fired in the capital’s 18th district. The use of force by French police is a divisive political issue in France, with Melenchon and other left-wingers frequently criticising security forces.

Darmanin said that police “deserve respect” and that “insulting them dishonours those that want to govern”. Far-right leader Marine Le Pen said that Melenchon “is always on the side of thugs, of criminals. He’s never on the side of the security forces.” — AFP

How Boris became politically vulnerable



Mark Landler

The writer is the London bureau chief of

The New York Times

When Boris Johnson won a landslide election victory for his Conservative Party in 2019, he loomed as a colossus over British politics, the man who had redrawn the country’s political map with a vow to “get Brexit done.”

With an 80-seat majority in Parliament, the greatest amassed by a Conservative leader since Margaret Thatcher in 1987, Johnson seemed assured of five years in power. Some analysts predicted a comfortable decade in No. 10 Downing St for Johnson, the most reliable vote-getter in British politics.

Now, just 2-1/2 years after that triumph, Johnson’s political invincibility has been shattered.

Rebels in his party fell short of ousting him in a dramatic no-confidence vote on Monday. But with 148 of 359 Tory lawmakers voting against him, he has been damaged, perhaps irretrievably, as an effective, credible leader.

Although he remains prime minister, he may be living on borrowed time.

It is one of the most head-spinning reversals of fortune in modern British political history. What happened?

To some extent, Johnson’s standing crumbled because of the same confounding mix of strengths and foibles that propelled his rise: rare political intuition offset by breathtaking personal recklessness;

ALTHOUGH BORIS REMAINS PRIME MINISTER, HE MAY BE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME

a sense of history not matched by a corresponding sense of how he should conduct himself as a leader; uncanny people skills vitiated by a transactional style that earned him few allies and left him isolated at dangerous moments.

It is that last quality, analysts say, that made Johnson so vulnerable to the setbacks he has suffered. With no underlying ideology beyond Brexit and no network of political friends, the prime minister lost the support of lawmakers in his party when it became clear they could not count on him to win the next election.

“Johnson’s such an accomplished escape artist, and his colleagues so craven and cowardly that you can’t rule out him living to fight another day,” said Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London. “But for what precisely? ‘There’s no there there,’ as the saying goes.”

Johnson, after all, is the politician who decided to back Brexit after writing two columns — one making the case for leaving the European Union; the other arguing against it — the night before announcing his position. He won in 2019 by promising to “Get Brexit done,” but having accomplished that goal within



months of the election, he often seemed like a prime minister without a plan.

Events, as another British prime minister, Harold Macmillan, once put it, have also played a role. Like other world leaders, Johnson was thrown off course by the coronavirus pandemic, his government upended by a rolling health crisis, in which he played a highly visible but not always reassuring role.

Johnson reacted late to the looming threat of the virus, imposing a lockdown on the country a week after neighboring European countries. That delay, critics argued, made the first wave of the pandemic worse in Britain than elsewhere. In April 2020, with the virus circulating in Downing Street, Johnson himself contracted Covid-19, ended up in an intensive care unit and nearly died.

But Johnson also pushed for Britain to be a pioneer in developing a vaccine. When Oxford University and AstraZeneca produced one, he rolled it out faster than almost any other major country. He also made a fateful decision — one later copied by other leaders — to reopen society after a significant percentage of the population had been vaccinated. Britons, he said, must learn to live with Covid.

It was during the darkest days of the pandemic that the seeds of Johnson's current troubles were sown. While the rest of the country was enduring stifling lockdowns, the prime minister and his top aides were taking part in social gatherings at Downing Street that violated their own lockdown restrictions.

The first reports of illicit parties emerged late last November, prompting Johnson to issue a blanket denial that any laws had been broken. A subsequent police investigation found that was not true: Johnson himself was fined for attending his own birthday party in violation of the rules.

Allies of Johnson argue that ‘Partygate,’ as the London tabloids nicknamed it, is a trivial distraction at a time when Europe is confronting its first major land war since World War II. — New York Times

Safer food, better health



Samuel Kutty
@samkuttyvp

The writer is a journalist and author

June 7 is a special day dedicated as World Food Safety Day to address one of the basic necessities of life — food. This year the day was marked with the theme “safer food, better health” highlighting the role of safe and nutritional food and how it plays in ensuring human health. Established in 2018 by the United Nations General Assembly, the day reminds us that the food that we consume must be hygienic and safe or else it can be a threat to our health. In addition, the day was meant to draw attention and mobilise action to prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks.

According to the World Health Organisation, one in ten people are affected by foodborne diseases annually across the globe. Unsafe food and water kills an estimated 700,000 children in the South-East Asia Region every year.

With an estimated 600 million cases of food-borne illnesses annually, unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalised people, especially women and children and people affected by conflicts and wars.

Food-borne illnesses are usually infectious or toxic in nature and often invisible to the plain eye, caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites or chemical substances entering the body through contaminated food or water.

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY, FROM FARM TO TABLE, IN ENSURING THAT THE FOOD WE EAT IS SAFE AND DOESN'T HARM OUR HEALTH. SAFE FOOD IS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTING CONSUMER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AND ENDING HUNGER

New threats to food safety are constantly emerging mainly from the impact of climate change on food production, distribution and consumption. This also poses challenges to the safety of our food by way of biological and environmental contamination of the food chain, new technologies, new and emerging pathogens.

While safe food guarantees good health, unsafe foods are the most critical cause of poor health conditions and diseases such as impaired growth and deficiencies, non-communicable or communicable diseases and mental illness. Unsafe food creates a vicious cycle of disease and malnutrition, particularly affecting infants, young children, the elderly and the sick.

We all have a role to play, from farm to table, in ensuring that the food we eat is safe and doesn't harm our health. Safe food is essential to promoting consumer health and well-being and ending hunger, two of the 17 main UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Only when food is safe, can we benefit from its nutritional value and the mental and social benefits of sharing a safe meal.

Establishment of a database of imported and domestic food products will help to keep a watch at each stage of food handling while evaluating and developing the health system to monitor diseases transmitted by food and food poisoning.

In the Sultanate of Oman, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, is primarily involved in the regulation of food through inspection of products available on the local market. The ministry, represented by the Food Safety and Quality Centre, makes continuous efforts to implement the programmes, plans and control systems related to the safety of the quality and suitability of food products.

The ministry, in association with the respective civic authorities, ensures that all food products meet Omani labelling requirements and are accompanied by small, easy to handle samples for possible laboratory verification.

Bilingual labels are permitted, provided one of the languages is Arabic and another preferably English. Arabic language stickers are permitted in lieu of the original Arabic or bilingual label. Dates must be engraved, embossed, printed or stamped directly onto the original label or primary packaging at time of production, using indelible ink.



Bangladesh firefighter's unit decimated by blast

SAM JAHAN

Firefighter Rakibul Hasan Bappy's engine was the first to arrive at a blazing Bangladeshi container depot. After a devastating explosion, everyone else in his 15-man crew is now either dead, missing or injured.

The 22-year-old — who joined the fire service three years ago — had been ordered to increase the water pressure moments before the monumental blast lit up the night sky for miles around.

He stepped away to the fire truck, only to be confronted when he returned by carnage and the bodies of friends and crewmates. “I will never forget this till my death”, Bappy said, trembling as he recalled the scene at the weekend's disastrous blast.

“All those colleagues, gone in front of my eyes. We were energised to work, but when I saw them dead, I don't know how to express it. I am not feeling right anymore.

“God has gifted me a second life”, he added. “I can't believe I'm alive.”

Firefighters in Bangladesh are badly equipped and poorly paid — salaries start at \$200 a month — compared to some in private jobs or army soldiers, who can be sent on lucrative UN peacekeeping missions.

But for rural families, a government job is one-way ticket out of poverty, bringing with it steady and regular pay hikes and pensions for the employee and

their spouse. Tens of thousands of people apply every year for the firefighter test and Bappy, the only child of a farming family in the rural northern district of Mymensingh, thought he was the “luckiest” man in his village when he got the job.

“For my parents and me, it was the proudest moment”, he said. “I felt proud because I know I could serve the nation.”

Posted to Kumira, in Chittagong, he made friends with fellow new recruits Mohammad Rana Mia and Moniruzzaman. Both of them were killed at the weekend, their bodies ripped apart by the explosion.

“They are my best friends, and we were more than a family”, said Bappy.

“We worked so many nights together. They are also from the same background as I have. I know how devastating their deaths are to their poor families.”

Kumira is only eight kilometres from the BM Container Depot in Sitakunda, where the blaze broke out late Saturday night. Authorities have accused the facility operators of not telling firefighters volatile hydrogen peroxide was stored on site, and when they unwittingly doused it with water, the cache of chemicals detonated. Five of Bappy's crewmates have been confirmed dead, two are missing and feared dead, and the other seven are all critically injured, flown in military helicopters to Bangladesh's best hospital for burn victims.

Local media said the Kumira

firefighters did not have any training in chemical fires, which require sophisticated firefighting equipment — not available at their station — and careful handling.

“The depot did not tell us that there were chemicals close to the garment containers”, said Purnachandra Mutsuddi, a regional fire official.

Had they known, he added, “We would never send our firefighting team to splash water on the fire. Now our young brothers are dead.”

More than 40 people were killed in total, among them at least nine firefighters, making it the nationwide service's worst-ever single disaster. Bangladeshi infrastructure has long been poor but its economy is now booming, a combination that keeps firefighters busy with frequent blazes in factories and multi-storey buildings.

Notoriously, the Rana Plaza garment factory complex in Dhaka collapsed in 2013, killing more than 1,100 people. Authorities later found it had been built flouting building and fire safety laws.

More recently, 54 people died in a factory fire last July.

Bappy was still on duty at the station on Monday, where colleague Riad Hossain — part of a reinforcement crew for the blaze — recalled chatting to Rana immediately before he responded to the distress call and went to his death.

“I don't believe they are now gone”, said Riad, breaking down in tears. — AFP



People hold portraits of the victims of a fire that broke out in a shipping container storage facility in Sitakunda, to pay tribute during a candlelight vigil in Dhaka on Monday. — AFP

sport

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France's midfielder Adrien Rabiot shoots and scores a goal during the Uefa Nations League - League A Group 1 match against Croatia at Stadion Poljud in Split, Croatia. – AFP

KRAMARIC PENALTY RESCUES CROATIA

FRANCE HELD TO DRAW, DENMARK PREVAIL OVER AUSTRIA



Denmark's midfielder Christian Eriksen (C) and defender Victor Nelsson (L) celebrate after winning the Uefa Nations League match against Austria at the Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna. – AFP



(L-R) Austria's Marco Friedl, Denmark's Rasmus Kristensen and Austria's Michael Gregoritsch vie for the ball during the Uefa Nations League match Austria v Denmark in Vienna. – AFP



France's midfielder Christopher Nkunku (L) fights for the ball with Croatia's defender Josip Juranovic at Stadion Poljud in Split. – AFP

SPLIT, Croatia: Andrej Kramaric scored a late penalty as Croatia salvaged a 1-1 draw at home to world champions France on Monday that left both teams still chasing a first win in the Nations League.

Juventus midfielder Adrien Rabiot fired France ahead on 52 minutes in Split as coach Didier Deschamps selected an inexperienced side without star forwards Kylian Mbappe and Karim Benzema.

Croatia equalised seven minutes from time when Andrej Kramaric won and converted a spot-kick.

“We did some good things taking into account all the changes. We were ahead and we could have got the second goal. It’s a shame we gave them the equaliser with the penalty,” Deschamps said.

“Of course the result doesn’t fully satisfy me. But there’s tiredness to factor in and with all the other matches I’m forced to make changes. It’s an ideal preparation for the World Cup.”

France and Croatia have just

one point apiece in League A, Group 1. France were beaten 2-1 by Denmark in their opening game at home last week, while Croatia crashed to a 3-0 loss to Austria.

Denmark top the section on six points after defeating Austria 2-1 in Vienna in a game that was delayed by an hour and a half because of a power outage.

On a night Luka Modric earned his 150th cap for Croatia, Deschamps handed a number of fringe players the chance to make an impression before the World Cup starts in Qatar in November.

But it was experienced defender Presnel Kimpembe who raced back to block as Ante Budimir hesitated to shoot with team-mate Lovro Majer also in position for a tap-in.

Christopher Nkunku, coming off a brilliant season with RB Leipzig, dinked the ball home over Dominik Livakovic but was adjudged offside on the half-hour.

Moussa Diaby was then denied by Livakovic as he burst towards goal down the right, with Aurelien

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE RESULTS ON MONDAY:

League A, Group 1

In Split
Croatia 1 (Kramaric 83-pen)
France 1 (Rabiot 52)

In Vienna
Austria 1 (Schlager 67)
Denmark 2 (Hojbjerg 28, Stryger 84)

League B, Group 2

In Reykjavik
Iceland 1 (Thorsteinsson 49)
Albania 1 (Seferi 30)

League C, Group 3

In Trnava
Slovakia 0 Kazakhstan 1
(Darabayev 26)

In Novi Sad, Serbia
Belarus 0 Azerbaijan 0

League D, Group 1

In Andorra la Vella
Andorra 0 Moldova 0

In Riga
Latvia 1 (Zjuzins 73)
Liechtenstein 0

Tchouameni’s long-range drive punched away by the Croatia goalkeeper.

Rabiot broke the deadlock when he was played in by a superb ball from Wissam Ben Yedder, sweeping clinically inside the near post for only his second international goal.

Substitute Antoine Griezmann saw a shot repelled by Livakovic shortly before Croatia were awarded a penalty following a VAR review after it was initially overruled for offside.

Mike Maignan saved at the feet of Luka Sucic, but Jonathan Clauss caught Kramaric from behind, the Hoffenheim striker calmly rolling in from the spot after a lengthy wait to review the incident.

Nikola Vlasic threatened to snatch a first win for Croatia over France in nine attempts, but Maignan got down sharply to turn behind. Griezmann was then unable to take advantage of a miskick by Josip Juranovic in the closing moments as he dragged wide. — AFP



Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi celebrates after scoring a half-century. — AFP

Zadran century helps Afghanistan to victory

HARARE: Opening batsman Ibrahim Zadran scored an unbeaten 120 as Afghanistan defeated Zimbabwe by eight wickets on Monday to take a winning 2-0 lead in a three-match one-day international series.

Atoning for scoring only five runs when the tourists won the first match by 60 runs last Saturday, Zadran faced 142 deliveries and struck 16 fours at Harare Sports Club.

He was well supported by Rahmat Shah — the 94-run star of the first victory — who contributed 88 and was an able partner to Zadran in a second-wicket stand that produced 195 runs.

Afghanistan made 229-2 to win with 33 balls remaining.

Put in to bat after Afghanistan won the toss, Zimbabwe were all out for 228 with Innocent Kaia (63) and Ryan Burl (51) contributing half centuries.

Making only his second ODI appearance, Kaia hit six fours and one six off 74 balls before being caught by wicketkeeper Rahmanullah Gurbaz off the bowling of Fareed Ahmad, whose 3-56 were the best Afghan figures.

Burl was unbeaten after facing 61 deliveries and his total included two fours and one six in the Zimbabwean capital.

After opener Gurbaz was out having scored only four runs, Zadran and Shah took control

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE
R Chakabva lbw Farooqi0
I Kaia c Gurbaz b Ahmad63
C Ervine lbw Ahmad32
W Madhevere lbw Khan15
S Raza c Shah b Nabi40
M Shumba lbw Ahmad1
R Burl (not out)51
D Tiripano b Khan5
T Chatarra c Ahmad b Nabi0
B Muzarabani b Farooqi9
T Chivanga (run out)1
Extra (B-1, LB-1, W-9)11
Total (all out, 50 overs)228
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-47, 3-84, 4-151, 5-153, 6-168, 7-176, 8-177, 9-223
Bowling: Farooqi 8-1-34-2, Mujeeb 6-0-24-0, Ahmad 10-0-56-3, Omarzai 7-0-25-0, Nabi 9-0-31-2, Khan 10-0-56-2

AFGHANISTAN
R Gurbaz lbw Muzarabani4
I Zadran (not out)120
R Shah c Chakabva b Tiripano88
Shahidi (not out)1
Extras (B-2, LB-2, W-12)16
Total (For 2 wks, 44.3 overs)229

while Zimbabwe used eight bowlers.

Apart from winning the series and taking a 17-10 lead over Zimbabwe in ODI matches, third-placed Afghanistan added another 10 points to their World Cup Super League total.

The two victories in Zimbabwe have lifted them to 90 points, five less than second-placed England, who have played four more matches.

After the final ODI match on Thursday, the countries will play three Twenty20 internationals on June 11, 12 and 14, also in Harare. — AFP

Oman U-17 team gears up for West Asian tourney in Jordan

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

Oman national under-17 football team began another short domestic preparatory camp on Monday at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

The warm-up gathering is part of the team's preparation for the West Asian U-17 Championships which will be held in Jordan during September 21 to 30.

The eight days camp will feature morning and evening training sessions while the team may face some local friendly games.

Eight teams will take part at the Asian event distributed into two groups. Oman is clubbed in group A besides the defending champion Yemen, Iraq and the hosts Jordan.

The Group B comprises Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Kuwait. The toppers from each group will advance to the semifinals. Oman will commence their campaign with a match against the hosts Jordan in the opening day. Then they will face Iraq in the following day. Oman will take on Yemen in the concluding fixture of the group stage on June 25.

Oman's last preparatory camp was ended in the first week of May under supervision of Spanish coach Pablo Herrero Fernandez.



During that camp, the national U-17 team had played friendly games against Muscat U-19 club

which ended at 1-1 draw. In this underway camp, the Spanish coach will finalise the starting line

up of the Asian event.

Oman's head coach Pablo Herrero Fernandez picked up 26 probables for Oman squad namely: Fernas al Jabri, Helmi al Balushi, Al Harith al Mashakhyi, Yassar al Balushi, Awad al Mashakhyi, Momen al Souli, Anas al Ghadani, Tamim a Buraiki, Hamza al Saadi, Jassim al Dhaeen, Marwan al Noobi, Emad al Hadi, Haitham Khareef, Al Hussain al Balushi, Abdullah al Maqbali, Mohammed al Balushi, Abdul Nasser al Hasani, Zaher al Aysari, Abdullah al Rawahi, Adnan al Mushaifri, Taha al Hinai, Hamed al Shuraiqi, Al Haitham al Shukaili, Mohammed Ghanim, Syaf Mustafa and Abdullah al Hindasi.

Oman take on USA in final leg of CWC League 2

MUSCAT: Oman men's national team en-tour of USA for the final leg of the ICC CWC League 2 2023 tri series involving USA and Nepal start their campaign on Wednesday against in-contention USA for the qualifications to the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in 2023.

Ahead of the tri series, Oman played MLC's Invitational XI twice as practice games for the CWC League 2 matches. Both sides were evenly poised - MLC beating Oman in the 1st game and in return Oman beat MLC in the later. Of the squad, Kashyap Prajapati and Zeeshan Maqsood looked in sublime form in the batting department while Bilal Khan and Fayyaz Butt looked sharp delivering with the ball.



USA are coming into the series having played their previous leg of the series vs Scotland and UAE winning a game each to both and losing a game as well. Nepal on the other hand come into the series fresh but not having played any

ODI's in the last 2 months.

Oman sitting at 40 points of 32 matches on top of the CWC League 2 table yet does not let them relax as they look to strengthen their lead attaining 8 achievable points. Oman will play USA on June

8 and 12 while they play Nepal on June 9 and 14 respectively. All matches will be starting at 7:30 pm GST. All the matches will be broadcasted live on icc.tv and Willow TV on YouTube.

OMAN SQUAD: Zeeshan Maqsood (captain), Jatinder Singh, Kashyap Kumar Prajapati, Shoaib Khan, Mohammad Nadeem, Mohammad Naseem (WK), Ayaan Khan, Nester Dhamba, Khawar Ali, Fayyaz Butt, Kaleemullah, Suraj Kumar (WK), Bilal Khan, Sandeep Goud; Support Staff: Duleep Mendis (Head Coach), Evert Laubscher (Assistant Coach), Zeeshan Siddiqui (Analyst), Sean Nowak (Physio), Mazher Saleem Khan, Amir Ali.

Confident Pakistan seek WI rout to boost World Cup hopes

MULTAN, Pakistan: High-flying Pakistan aim to boost their chances of qualifying for next year's World Cup with a clean sweep against an inexperienced West Indies side when their three-match one-day international series starts in Multan on Wednesday.

A 3-0 win will lift the Babar Azam-led team to third from their current 10th place in the 13-team World Cup Super League, the qualification process for 2023 World Cup.

The West Indies, led by wicketkeeper-batsman Nicholas Pooran, are fourth after winning 3-0 in the Netherlands, but have just six of their 24 qualifying ODIs remaining.

Defeat in the oppressive heat of Multan will put West Indies in danger of needing to play in the qualifying round, while Pakistan have a further nine ODIs after the

series to secure direct passage.

Hosts India and the top seven teams will qualify automatically, while the remaining five will have to battle for the last two berths later this year.

Pakistan's confidence is sky high after a 2-1 home series win over Australia two months ago, and skipper Azam is hoping for a similar display of intensity from his side.

"As a team, as a captain, you go into the series thinking about a clean sweep, whoever the opponent is," said Azam.

"The intent is the same, but it's not like we are underestimating the West Indies."

Pakistan have won their previous nine ODI series against the West Indies, with their last defeat in 1991.

The West Indies are without leading players Jason Holder who



Pakistan's captain Babar Azam (L) and his West Indies' counterpart Nicholas Pooran pose with the ODI series trophy during a ceremony. — AFP

is being rested, Shimron Hetmyer who is on paternity leave and Evin Lewis who was left out after not reaching required fitness levels,

while former skipper Kieron Pollard retired in April.

Batsmen Shai Hope, Kyle Mayers and Shamarh Brooks

hit hundreds in the Netherlands series while left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein took eight wickets.

The series, initially scheduled in December 2021, was postponed because of a Covid-19 outbreak in the West Indies camp and has since been moved to Multan from Rawalpindi because of political uncertainty in Islamabad.

Azam admitted countering Multan's searing heat where temperatures could touch 45 Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) will be a challenge, although to counter the blistering sun the matches will start late afternoon.

The series will also be the first without a bio-secure bubble after Pakistan lifted all coronavirus restrictions in March following a steep decline in infections.

The other two matches will be on June 10 and 12, also in Multan. — AFP

PROBABLES

PAKISTAN (FROM): Babar Azam (captain), Shadab Khan, Abdullah Shafique, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Ifthikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim Junior, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shahnawaz Dahani, Zahid Mahmood

WEST INDIES (FROM): Nicholas Pooran (captain), Shai Hope, Nkrumah Bonner, Shamarh Brooks, Keacy Carty, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Shermion Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Anderson Phillip, Rovman Powell, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Hayden Walsh Junior

Mentality boosts Brazil’s WC chances: Tite

NEYMAR PENALTY BREAKS DOWN STUBBORN JAPAN



Brazil's head coach Tite gestures during the friendly match against Japan at the National Stadium in Tokyo. – AFP

TOKYO: Brazil manager Tite said his team’s “mentality” can make the difference at the World Cup, after they broke down a stubborn Japan in a 1-0 friendly win in Tokyo on Monday.

Neymar broke the deadlock from the penalty spot in the 77th minute, but only after Japan had frustrated Brazil with a dogged defensive effort.

Tite expects to encounter similar resistance at the World Cup in Qatar and he took heart from the way his team continued to plug away against Japan.

“It was a very high-level game, both teams showed their quality and it was very competitive,” he said. “I said yesterday that this would be a game played at the same level as the World Cup, especially when it comes to mentality. We were determined to score and we kept looking for a goal, and that’s what got us the win.”

Tite shot down suggestions of a rift in the Brazil camp, branding reports that forwards Richarlison and Vinicius Junior had clashed in training on Saturday as “fake news”.

The pair were filmed being separated by team-mates -- a clip that Richarlison later posted on his Instagram page -- but it was not clear whether the incident was serious or a joke.

“There is a lot of fake news in the world, and people reporting that the players were fighting are telling lies,” Tite said.

Richarlison came off the bench to win Brazil’s penalty when Japan midfielder Wataru Endo clattered into him from behind.

Brazil looked like they were going to be in for an easier night when Lucas Paqueta hit the post in the second minute, following a cheeky back-heel flick from Neymar.

Instead, the home side steadied the ship and began to

create chances of their own, with platinum blond winger Junya Ito causing problems down Brazil’s left flank.

MORIYASU DISAPPOINTED

Goalkeeper Shuchi Gonda bailed Japan out several times and manager Hajime Moriyasu was disappointed to take nothing from the game.

“We fought well, the players stuck at it and they never forgot to go for goal or attack,” said Moriyasu, whose team has also qualified for the World Cup and will face Germany and Spain in Qatar. “It’s a great pity we couldn’t get the result.”

Brazil arrived in Tokyo fresh off a 5-1 thrashing of South Korea in Seoul last week, where Neymar scored twice to take his international goal tally to 73.

His penalty against Japan took him to 74 — just three short of the legendary Pele’s record 77 goals for Brazil.

Brazil assistant manager Cesar Sampaio said the team’s two-game tour of Asia had been a good “simulation” for the World Cup.

“Korea are more physical and have more movement than Japan, and Japan are very technical and good in defence,” he said.

“Moriyasu has built a very good mechanism for his team. They hadn’t lost for eight games so he is doing a great job.”

Moriyasu said there was “a lot to praise” in his own team’s performance, days after beating Paraguay 4-1.

“The players never gave up, they kept on repeating the important things over and over,” he said.

“After weathering very heavy pressure in the first half, we managed to develop our own shape in the second.

“If we hadn’t stuck at it like that, we could have been swept away,” he added. — AFP



Brazil's Neymar (R) dances with Lucas Paqueta after scoring a goal from a penalty during the friendly against Japan at the National Stadium in Tokyo. – AFP

Son leads South Korea past depleted Chile

SEOUL: Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min celebrated his 100th international match with a picturesque goal from a free kick on Monday as he led South Korea to a 2-0 victory over 10-man Chile in a tune-up for the World Cup.

The East Asian country’s other Premier League player, Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton Wanderers, scored South Korea’s other goal at the Daejeon World Cup Stadium.

South Korea survived some dicey moments early on, turning the ball over deep in their own zone as Chile pressed forward.

But Hwang broke through on 12 minutes, with a well-struck

right-footer finding the top right corner past Fernando de Paul.

Chile then fought back with a few dangerous chances past the half-hour mark. Marcelino Nunez and Diego Valencia each just missed the net with close-range attempts. Just before half-time, Benjamin Brereton Diaz nearly levelled with a low shot that rolled wide of the left post.

Chile failed to build on that momentum in the second half, with defender Alex Ibacache sent off following a second yellow card on 52 minutes.

Despite being a man down, the visitors pushed hard for an equaliser, with a Brereton Diaz

header nullified by an offside call at the hour mark.

Son almost doubled South Korea’s lead on 66 minutes but his low left-footed attempt from the left side of the box rolled just wide of the far post.

Seven minutes later, Brereton Diaz tried to respond for Chile, but his promising foray into the box only resulted in a weak shot turned aside by Kim Seung-gyu.

Son, the 16th South Korean to hit the century mark in international caps, eventually gave the 42,000 fans something to cheer about with a gorgeous free kick from just outside the box to seal the win. — AFP



South Korea's Son Heung-min (C) celebrates after scoring against Chile during a friendly against Chile in Daejeon. – AFP

business

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China lifts 83pc of Omani crude exports in 2021

MUSCAT: Crude oil and oil condensate exports from the Sultanate of Oman totalled around 289 million barrels in 2021, with China lifting the dominant share of 83.8 per cent of this output, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals revealed here on Tuesday.

India, another key market for Omani crude shipments, received around 10 per cent of total exports last year.

Speaking to Oman News Agency, Dr Saleh bin Ali al Anbouri (pictured), Director General of Exploration and Production, said crude oil and oil condensate production in 2021 averaged 971,000 barrels per day, up from 951,000 barrels per day in 2020, up 2.1 per cent from last year.

This was in keeping with production quotas agreed with the Opec+alliance of global producers. “The Ministry is also working with constant interest to strengthen oil and gas reserves, through exploration and production operators that are working on drilling, testing and appraisal



exploratory wells, which have produced positive indicators in a number of them, adding to Oman’s oil and gas reserves”, he noted.

Reserves of crude oil and oil condensate increased by 4 per cent from 2020, and the results of analysis and testing of the productivity of wells for natural gas resulted in positive indicators in a number of them, which added new gas reserves, he said.

The Ministry oversaw the delivery of a number of major projects by Oil & Gas operators to ensure sustained output. This included the Yibal Khuff project, which is the second largest venture of Petroleum Development Oman (PDO).

Dr Saleh al Anbouri explained



that the ministry has strengthened the role of social responsibility and unifying the sector’s efforts in achieving its goal in serving the largest segment of society, implementing sustainable projects, and has set up joint projects under the umbrella of the ministry since 2020, including the joint training centre “Outward Bound Oman”, and signed an agreement on the implementation of the Centre for Culture and Innovation in Musandam, as

well as contributed the sector to a number of other community initiatives.

According to the report of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals indicated that during 2021, licensed operators drilled and tested 66 oil exploration and evaluation wells, including some wells that were previously drilled and tested and appraised this year.

Oman’s total crude oil reserves and oil condensate expected by the end of 2021 were 4 per cent

higher than last year, and PDO reserves accounted for 64.4 per cent of total crude oil reserves and oil condensate.

Oman’s average natural gas production in 2021 was about 132 million cubic metres per day, with associated gas production accounting for 18.9 per cent of total production, at a rate of 25 million cubic metres per day, and non-associated gas production accounting for 81.1 per cent of total production at a rate of 107

million cubic metres per day.

In addition to this production, natural gas was imported during the year from Dolphin Energy at a rate of 5 million cubic metres per day.

In 2021, oilfield operators drilled and tested 14 exploration and appraisal wells for gas, including some wells that had been drilled in advance and tested and appraised this year.

The results of the analyses and testing of well productivity have yielded positive indicators in a number of them, which have added new gas reserves, he said.

Oman’s LNG exports during the year amounted to about 10.6 million metric tonnes, exported through 163 shipments, and natural gas liquids (NGL) exports of 0.189 million metric tonnes shipped.

In 29 shipments, Oman LNG exports accounted for 73 per cent of total LNG exports, while Qalat LNG exports accounted for about 27 per cent of total LNG exports by the end of 2021, Dr Al Anbouri said. — ONA

Oman’s Energy Ministry clarifies on West Bukha/ Hengam field



QASIM AL MAASHANI
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

Oman’s Ministry of Energy and Minerals has announced that no agreement has yet been reached on the allocation of shares between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran in the proposed joint development of a hydrocarbon field straddling their maritime borders.

The field, known as Hengam on the Iranian side and Bukha on the Omani side, figured in recent discussions by the two neighbourly countries during the recent visit of Iranian President Dr Ebrahim Raisi to Muscat.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, the Omani part of the field, currently comprising Block 8

off Musandam Governorate, has been in production since 1985.

“With regard to the joint development of the field and the allocation of shares between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran, there have been previous discussions on this objective, which produced no agreement on joint development”, the Omani ministry said.

“The Ministry of Energy and Minerals confirms that it has not recently participated in any technical discussions or negotiations related to this common field, thus denying that there is any agreement to allocate shares among the partners. It has stressed the need to optimise benefits from this field through its joint development, if and when agreed upon”, it added.

Omani insurance sector posts positive overall growth in 2021

KEY INDICES: Gross direct premiums of insurance companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 3 per cent to RO 479.857 million

CONRAD PRABHU
@conradprabhu

Insurance policies issued by insurance companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman climbed 8.6 per cent to 1.782 million policies in 2021, underscoring the growing penetration of insurance coverage in the domestic market.

According to the 2021 Annual Report of the Capital Market Authority (CMA), which also regulates the insurance industry, gross direct premiums garnered by insurers inched up 3 per cent to RO 479.857 million last year, buoyed by a 5.6 per cent increase in gross direct premiums from the healthcare segment totalling RO 163.866 million in 2021, compared to RO 155.193 million in 2020.

Overall, the insurance sector continues to contribute to economic growth, said Shaikh Abdullah bin Salim al Salmi, Executive President — CMA. “The sector’s contribution to the GDP was 1.45 per cent, and the gross direct premiums of



insurance companies operating in the Sultanate of Oman increased by 3 per cent to RO 479.857 million coupled with a clear increase in the gross direct premiums of the health insurance class by 5.6 per cent to RO 163.866 million. The financial statements also indicated an increase in the number of insurance policies issued in general, life/family and health insurance by 8.6 per cent”, he stated.

Healthcare insurance, one of the fastest growing segments, is poised to expand exponentially when the Unified Health Insurance Scheme (Dhamani) goes into effect, starting sometime later this year. Planned for implementation in phases, the first phase will cover employees of large private sector organisations, arriving tourists and visitors.

While gross direct premiums grew overall in 2021, they dipped

3.2 per cent in the general insurance segment to RO 412.143 in 2021, down from RO 425.880 million in 2020. For the life insurance segment, gross direct premiums rose 0.7 per cent to RO 258.670 million in 2021 compared to RO 256.951 million in 2020.

Takaful companies reported a 6.6 per cent increase in gross direct premiums of life insurance/ family Takaful of RO 57.321 million in 2021 compared to RO 53.752 million in 2020.

A breakdown of the distribution of policies across the various insurance segments in 2021 reveals the following: General Insurance — 1.569 million policies; Life/Family insurance — 189,636 policies and Health Insurance — 22,939 policies.

Significantly, the retention ratio of insurance companies in 2021 was about 55.5 per cent,

HEALTHCARE INSURANCE, ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SEGMENTS, IS POISED TO EXPAND EXPONENTIALLY WHEN THE UNIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME (DHAMANI) GOES INTO EFFECT, STARTING SOMETIME LATER THIS YEAR.

which was marginally lower than the corresponding figure of 56.5 per cent in 2020.

“Audited financial statements for 2021 suggest that the retention ratio for national insurance companies in 2021 was about 55.4 per cent compared to 55.2 per cent in 2020.

The retention ratio for foreign insurance companies has decreased from 62.8 per cent in 2020 to 55.9 per cent in 2021.

Retention ratio for motor (comprehensive and third party) was the highest compared to other types in national insurance companies at 89.6 per cent and 91.5 per cent consecutively. For foreign companies, the retention ratio for motor (comprehensive and third party) was the highest compared to other types at 95.7 per cent and 95.1 per cent consecutively”, the Authority added.

Lulu Hypermarket joins hands with Khimji Ramdas and P&G UAE to create new Guinness record

MUSCAT: Lulu Hypermarket in a joint association with Khimji Ramdas and P&G UAE made a successful bid to break into the Guinness World Record for the largest packaged product sentence created.

The feat read ‘UP TO 100% STAIN REMOVAL, 0% POWDER RESIDUE AVAILABLE NOW IN LULU’ all in capital letters with the help of a mammoth 12,430 Ariel & Tide Nano Pod packets. The record breaking achievement was adjudicated by the Guinness World Records team and was an engagement activity to mark the new benchmark in laundry innovation and technology.

The results of the attempt were announced at Lulu Hypermarket, Avenues Mall on June 6, 2022 in the presence of officials from Khimji Ramdas, Lulu, the Guinness team as well as officials of Procter & Gamble UAE.

Speaking about the achievement, Sridhar Moosapeta, CEO Consumer Products Cluster, Khimji Ramdas, stated, “The Guinness World Record is a wonderful recognition of our hard work and partnership with Lulu. We hope that the product exceeds the expectations of our customers. At Khimji Ramdas, we



are committed to introducing new and innovative products that make life easier for our customers.”

Ananth A V, Director – Oman, Sri Lanka and India of Lulu Group, remarked, “We are extremely happy to be part of Khimji



Ramdas & P&G’s celebrations, and we congratulate the team for this remarkable achievement. This accomplishment is even more special considering how the entire team has worked harmoniously towards this commendable

record. I congratulate the determination demonstrated by one and all towards successfully attaining this goal.”

The world’s most recognisable laundry brands, Ariel & Tide, recently launched the first-of-its-kind Nano pods to meet consumers’ needs in the Gulf.

The revolutionary Ariel & Tide Nano pods delivers unprecedented levels of cleaning power and is the newest form of detergent in the world designed to solve the region’s number one laundry challenge of getting up to 100 per cent stain removal with 0 per cent powder residues on clothes.

It is also the first ever laundry innovation exclusively designed for the people of the GCC and is available in all supermarkets across the GCC.

The single unit-dose sachet is built from the finest powder detergent and super soluble film that instantly dissolves upon contact with water, perfectly dosed for ease and convenience.

Upon dissolving in water, the sachet releases fine, highly concentrated detergent particles that penetrate deep into the fibres of fabrics to give the ultimate stain removal without powder residues.

Sohar Islamic inaugurates new branch in Khasab

MUSCAT: In line with the bank’s ongoing organic expansion strategy to serve customers and achieve further financial inclusion, Sohar Islamic, Sohar International’s Islamic window, officially inaugurated its new branch in Wilayat Khasab recently, making it the very first Islamic bank in the Governorate of Musandam.

The inaugural ceremony welcomed Sayyid Ibrahim bin Said al Busaidi, Minister of State and Governor of Musandam, as guest of honour, and also witnessed the presence of Ahmed al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, and Abdul Wahid al Murshidi, Chief Islamic Banking Officer at Sohar International, amongst other officials from the bank.



Commenting on the opening, Ahmed al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer of Sohar International, said, “The opening of Khasab branch is another milestone in our strategy and to expand our Islamic banking network across the nation to meet existing and potential market demands.

“This latest opening for Sohar Islamic in the Governorate of Musandam is essential to our drive in promoting higher levels of financial inclusion for customers seeking Islamic banking facilities. In planning for such strategic activities, we always make sure that we are aligned with the government’s socio-economic development plans and are contributing positively to the economy overall.”

Ras Al Hamra hosts inaugural Omantel Monthly Pairs competition



MUSCAT: The inaugural Omantel Monthly Pairs competition took place at Ras Al Hamra golf club on May 27 with participation of 48 golfers (maximum field size). The event was played in a format of ‘country pairs’ where by two golfers of the same nationality play together as a team.

A total of twelve countries were represented with two teams playing under the United Nations flag as the team members were from two different countries.

A total of twenty-four teams took part with several teams decorating their golf carts with their countries flags making the event feel like a mini-golf Olympics in Oman.

Competition commenced with a 3 pm shotgun start and was scored under stableford format. With much improved temperatures and pleasant light winds following the recent heat wave, it was a perfect day for golf at Ras Al Hamra.

Golfers were able to enjoy a variety of beverages served at the half-way house while on the golf course and by 7 pm competing teams made their way back to the club house to enjoy a buffet dinner and

refreshments while eagerly waiting for the competition results announcement.

A team from Ireland represented by Trevor Grainger and Gordon Mooney secured the top spot with a score of 48 stableford points with a second place going to a team of Jas Dhanju and Atulya Sharma representing India who scored 46 points.

In third place was a team from Oman represented by Haider al Lawati and Suhail al Junaidy who scored 44 points winning on countback from a team of Terence and Michelle Shelby representing South Africa who also scored 44 points.

Simon Walker, Ras Al Hamra Golf Club Captain, thanked Omantel for their support in promoting golf in Oman and at the club.

The captain thanked all participants who took part in this inaugural event which will now become a monthly fixture at Ras Al Hamra golf club with different formats played every month.

Special thanks to the golf operations and F&B teams at the club who put considerable effort to ensure the success of the event.

Changan Oman launches UNI range

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment LLC (AGAE), which is part of Bahwan International Group, has launched Changan auto’s luxury model range – UNI in Oman. Positioned as futuristic and fashionable, the UNI range features progressive design and smart technologies offered only in luxury brands.

Changan UNI range of automobiles is devoted to creating a new experience with highly technological and sporty exterior design coupled with avant-garde interiors. For a luxury model to be ‘sporty at a glance’, the UNI range adopts a short overhang and long axle design, adding the sporty feeling to a luxury range.

This improves the overall handling of the UNI range having high agility and high-speed stability when driving. The UNI range has adopted pure, precise and agile exterior design elements. The hidden door handle design blends in with the body, making it simple and sophisticated.

The UNI family’s classic



borderless grille design is combined with the narrow, sharp headlamps on both sides for an intense look. The aerodynamic airship-shape spoiler improves driving stability and fashionable in aesthetics.

The space battleship gear shift knob has a sporty design, giving the user a sense of exploration in every trip.

Equipped with IACC system, the UNI range can achieve L2 autonomous

driving having features of FCW+AEB+LDW+LAS+TJA+AEB+LCDA. UNI range is equipped with four high-definition wide-angle cameras giving 360-degree view around the vehicle in real time to park your vehicle safely.

The UNI range adopts a simplistic yet avant grade interior design. It uses an asymmetrical design in the instrumentation and centre console as well as bright colours that create technically

dynamic interiors.

It adopts the Intelligent Cockpit Interaction System which appears to be two screens staggered on the surface, but internally they are connected as one have a high-resolution display and adaptive backlight control to protect the eyes from fatigue to the max while reading and driving.

The UNI range features newly designed seats with fuller side wings which also provide more reliable support and confidence when cornering. The wireless charging provides ultra-fast charging with wide-range compatibility.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, “We are delighted to bring the futuristic and fashionable luxury model range UNI to Oman. The range offers commanding road presence, superb capabilities, and solid performance.” Further with 6 years or unlimited kms manufacturer’s super warranty (whichever is earlier) on UNI series range (UNI-T, UNI-T Sport, UNI-K Models) is more compelling to own.



Al Mouj Muscat creates ideal location for SMEs to thrive

VALUE CREATION: Al Mouj Impact campaign sets out how Oman's premier lifestyle community's support for SMEs is contributing to Oman's diversified growth

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

Al Mouj Muscat has contributed to significant sustainable socio-economic growth as Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex (ITC), with the award-winning lifestyle destination creating targeted support that has benefited 150 Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

As SMEs form the backbone of the economy and contribute 15 per cent to GDP, the Sultanate of Oman recognises as a key driver for growth. Small businesses create job opportunities as well as

diversification in the economy, an essential factor in ensuring that an economy remains robust.

The partnership behind Al Mouj Muscat, between Majid Al Futtaim, Omran and Tanmia, is committed to Oman's vision of long-term sustainable expansion and its support for SMEs has had a notable effect, details of which are set out in its Al Mouj Impact campaign.

In total, 150 SMEs are now connected to Al Mouj, with a blend of location and support from the organisation creating the ideal conditions for enterprise to flourish.

The lifestyle destination attracts over 3.9 million visitors each year, and with 8,000 residents, the location has very high footfall. Al Mouj also offers businesses access to regional and international markets as it is connected to all major transport networks.

The ITC has also invested in



“Al Mouj understands enterprise and partners with businesses so that entrepreneurs can succeed.”

AISHA AL KHAROUSI
Owner, Junoon Kanga

world-class amenities, such the Gold Anchor Marina, which creates opportunities for local businesses to set up businesses that serve the growing tourism sector.

There are now 30 SMEs operating within Al Mouj with a further 120 utilising trading platforms it supports, such as pop-up markets like Muscat Eats and Souq Es Sabt.

Adding to this, Al Mouj provides access to investment and training, such as in customer service and booking systems for sea tour operators. Its strategy is to support companies as they establish their offer and grow.

Aisha al Kharousi, owner of fashion brand Junoon Kanga, recognises the impact that this support has had: “Al Mouj understands enterprise and partners with businesses so that entrepreneurs can succeed.”

“With 85 shops and outlets

already operating here, its lifestyle, retail and leisure offering drives considerable footfall. Add to that the opportunities that it creates through including SMEs in its own marketing and its year-round calendar of events, and Al Mouj is the place to do business.”

Nasser al Sheibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, said: “From our inception, Al Mouj set out to have a positive socio-economic impact on Oman.

Part of that is our commitment to creating an eco-system for enterprise, where local talent can thrive, where employment opportunities will be created, and where the next generation of successful businesses can grow.”

Established in 2006, Al Mouj Muscat has delivered significant socio-economic benefits, including growth in the tourism sector, job creation, development, foreign direct investment as well as in the SME sector.

Food and Hospitality Oman to be held on Sept 26–28

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

The 15th edition of Food and Hospitality Oman (FHO) will be held from September 26–28, 2022, at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre, Muscat.

FHO is Oman's biggest event for the food and hospitality industry that takes pride in being the most popular, networking and business-centric event platform for the food and beverage, agriculture and fisheries, food processing technologies, kitchen and catering equipment, hotel supplies and equipment, and restaurant and cafe segment industries.

With over 250+ international companies participating from India, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, UAE, and United



Kingdom, the event is set to bring together more than 5,000+ business professionals from across Oman and the Middle East region.

The exhibition aims at enhancing the growth and development of the food and hospitality industry, which contribute largely to Oman's GDP.

According to the GCC Food Industry, Oman is expected to witness the fastest growth in food consumption in the GCC region, with an annualised rate of 4.2 per cent between 2020 and 2025.

Higher investments by the Sultanate of Oman towards agricultural projects that aim to

use smart techniques in addition to hydroponics, aquaponics, and advanced technologies in irrigation and fertilisation are helping the country in increasing domestic production to significant levels.

Such measures are likely to boost demand for home-grown commodities in the future.

Ashley Roberts, General Manager, CONNECT – the Organiser of FHO states, “We are confident that the business opportunities offered at FHO will foster positive meaningful engagement in the food and hospitality industries, and that will support economic growth. With FHO, we present the right platform to network and gain insights into the evolving food and hospitality sector in Oman.”

Buraimi University students win honours for innovative research



BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

In a new scientific achievement for students of University of Buraimi at the regional level, a student research team from the Civil Engineering Programme consisting of four students, namely, Manar al Farsi, Shouq al Wahibi, Aisha al Masoudi and Shouq al Jabri won third place in the 9th Abu Dhabi University Bachelor's Research Competition in the UAE out of 320 projects submitted by 50 universities.

The team's project was entitled “Salt Concrete from Palm Ash”, and was supervised by Dr Ahmed Salaheddine Nasif, Associate Professor at the College of Engineering.

In this project, the team partially replaced cement with palm ash in concrete production, with seawater as a complete replacement of fresh water in the mixing process.

The team concluded that 5 per cent of cement replacement with palm fronds in conjunction with the complete replacement of pure water with seawater achieves an increase of more than 84 per cent in final compressive strength of concrete after 28 days more than that acquired by ordinary concrete mixed with seawater.

Thus, this helps to use seawater to mix concrete without affecting its final compressive strength. This project has provided a promising environmental solution to get rid of palm waste and reduce the cement used, reducing pollution from the cement industry, as well as saving fresh water used in the concrete mixture.

A similar achievement was scored by another student team from the Civil Engineering Programme, which received the best research paper award at the 11th National Symposium on Engineering Final Year Projects at Nizwa University.

The team consisted of four students, namely, Aseela al Naqabi, Lamia al Miqbali, Balqees al Shaibani and Buthaina al Badi.

The winning research paper provided an environmental solution for the disposal of medical waste. Medical waste is considered hazardous, toxic and even deadly, because of its high potential to transmit diseases. Incineration is the main treatment of medical waste; however, the disposal of incineration products continues to pollute the environment.

Bottom ash and fly ash are the main outputs for the treatment of medical waste by incineration.

Additionally, this research studied the effects of partial replacement of ordinary Portland cement in concrete with treated medical waste.

It found that replacing 7.5 per cent of cement with fly ash of medical waste earns concrete more than 87 per cent of the compressive strength after 7 days of treatment in fresh water, and after 28 days, concrete reached more than 110 per cent of its compressive strength.

These two research projects are part of a series of outstanding research done by civil engineering students at University of Buraimi under the supervision of Dr Ahmed Salaheddine Nasif, Associate Professor at the College of Engineering.

Oman to host 34th conference of General Arab Insurance Federation

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, JUNE 7

The Capital Market Authority (CMA) has announced that the Sultanate of Oman will host the General Arab Insurance Federation's Conference in 2024. It will be jointly organised by the CMA and the Omani Insurance Association.

The conference is the most important event of the Arab insurance industry as it brings together more than 2,500 participants from Arab and global insurance companies. In addition to being a forum for businessmen and top leaders of the Arab insurance market and those interested from different countries of the world, and will discuss key issues and topics related to the development of the insurance industry at the regional and international levels.

Muscat's selection as a venue for the 2024 forum came on the sidelines of the participation of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Capital Market Authority and the Omani Insurance Association, in collaboration with the Oman



Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the meeting of the General Assembly of the General Arab Insurance Federation and the accompanying 33rd conference in Algeria, which is titled “The new situation and its repercussions on the insurance industry” and discussed the most important challenges and opportunities of the Arab Insurance market.

Ahmed bin Ali al Maamari, Vice-President for Insurance Sector, welcomed the Sultanate of Oman's hosting of the 34th session of the General Arab Insurance Federation Conference, which is held every two years, as it

reflects the confidence of the Arab and global insurance markets in the Omani insurance sector as it adds great economic value to the sector which will be the focus of attention by Arab insurance companies and an opportunity to highlight the capabilities and prospects of the insurance market, both in its legislative and digital infrastructures, which are witnessing a remarkable development recently.

Sayyid Nasser bin Salem al Busaidy, Chairman of the Omani Insurance Association, added that expressed his happiness with Sultanate of Oman's hosting the conference in its next session,

Terms don't kill deals, people do

Acquisitive companies are starting to get the deal jitters. Thoma Bravo has made good on promises to buy and sell dozens of companies since it was founded in 2008. Yet on Monday, the private equity firm said it had renegotiated its initial \$10 billion purchase of software developer Anaplan. The same day Elon Musk officially threatened to walk away from his \$44 billion buyout of Twitter.

Current market conditions offer clues for Anaplan's new price. The company and Thoma Bravo released a joint statement that they agreed to lop \$2.25 a share off a \$66 bid. The specific reason for renegotiating was vague but the Nasdaq Composite Index is down 13% since the day the deal was announced.

Though Thoma Bravo had drummed up private financing, valuations are in flux as interest rates rise and credit markets become less welcoming. O t h e r company shares are below their offer price. On Monday, cybersecurity firm Mandiant's stock was trading at about 5% below Alphabet unit Google's purchase price of \$23 a share.

Musk's move with Twitter has less to do with immediately changing market conditions, though they aren't exactly helping the deal either. In a letter to the social network, Musk's lawyer said the Tesla boss hasn't received information about Twitter's fake and spam accounts, which he described as a breach of the merger agreement.

Musk has plenty of other reasons to want out. Tesla shares have fallen nearly 40% since he disclosed his Twitter stake. That company needs his attention. And Twitter similarly looks less valuable with Nasdaq's decline.

Merger agreements only go so far when one party starts to get cold feet. During the onset of Covid-19, pacts proved they weren't ironclad. Simon Property abandoned its deal to buy Taubman Centers, and LVMH re-traded its deal for Tiffany, among others.

If a buyer decides that they want to walk away, the seller can go to court and try to force a deal, or renegotiate. If prospects were looking up for the seller, or the market in general, they might take their chances on the merger agreement's strength.

But in a financial world wracked with uncertainty, boards are more likely to display a stiff upper lip, take what they can get and move on.

Musk's move with Twitter has less to do with immediately changing market conditions, though they aren't exactly helping the deal either



'LET-US' PAY MORE FOR LETTUCE

Syed Hyder from a stall at Melbourne's Queen Victoria Market holds an iceberg lettuce on Tuesday, with the local price soaring by as much as 300 per cent in recent months. Fried chicken chain KFC said that high lettuce prices in Australia have forced it to switch to a cabbage mix in burgers and other products, prompting customers to complain the result is less than "finger lickin' good". - AFP

Calls increase for staff to return to office



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BANKS, IN PARTICULAR, ARE KEEN FOR STAFF TO BE BACK DESPITE THE PREFERENCE OF MANY MEMBERS OF STAFF TO CONTINUE WORKING FROM HOME

With life gradually getting back towards normal and people having begun to follow their usual daily routine, following the pandemic, staff are being encouraged to return to offices after working from home had practically become the norm.

Banks, in particular, are keen for staff to be back despite the preference of many members of staff to continue working from home. Investment bank, Jefferies has called on its senior bankers to return to the office to help mentor those in the junior ranks after a prolonged period of working from home.

The investment bank has asked its senior bankers to return "enthusiastically and with purpose" in a bid to help its "abandoned" juniors learn the ropes. It is also encouraging "critical mass days" within its offices, as part of its efforts to improve mental health among its employees.

"Many of our mid-level and junior colleagues are justifiably feeling abandoned", a letter from Chief Executive Rich Handler and President Brian Friedman said. "They need to be in your physical presence and be exposed directly to your experience, perspective and humanity. They need to learn the nuances of what makes every

senior person successful, and they need to be able to emulate positive role models."

Jefferies has so far avoided imposing top-down company-wide edicts to unwind remote-working arrangements, though some of its rivals have largely had dealmakers working from the office full-time for months now, according to people familiar with the matter. However, the letter has called on its senior dealmakers to make "some sacrifice" by returning to the office more regularly.

"They need to spend time at lunches and dinners with you and your clients. They need to be in person when pitches happen", the letter said.

They need to see a big trade or deal get executed in a truly collaborative manner on the trading floor. They need to be told real-time when they make a mistake and how to anticipate and correct it. Basically, they need every single thing that you and the two of us needed when we were in their shoes.

"Now we need you not only to return to the office but do so enthusiastically and with purpose to give back to those who have worked so hard to support you these past few years. They need this from you, and we cannot do it without all of you."

Meanwhile, Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon said last month that getting staff

back to the office could take years, as in person attendance at the bank's premises remains between 15pc and 60pc. In an interview with CNBC, the boss of the US investment bank said his campaign to get more employees to work from the office is still a work in progress.

Attendance has been uneven across different regions. Attendance is higher in European offices than in the US, Solomon said, while 100pc attendance has been reported at Goldman's offices in Asia.

"We want people to generally come together", Solomon said. "It's going to take some time; behaviour shifts take time generally, and I think over the course of the next couple of years, our organisation will generally come together. Solomon said his campaign to get staff to return to the office was "never a binary" as recent media reports suggested. "It's been portrayed sometimes as much more dogmatic than it is."

JPMorgan's Jamie Dimon has also repeatedly called for staff to be present in the office. He has challenged employees over their wide insistence on working from home, saying they would suffer the consequences of not learning well enough. In April, however, the bank said that just 50pc of JPMorgan's employees would work in the office full-time.

New financial conditions, same climate calculus



BRETT FLEISHMAN

The author is head of finance campaigns at 350.org

In its most recent assessment, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change offered a comprehensive outline of what it will take to keep global warming below 1.5°C, relative to pre-industrial levels, in line with the 2015 Paris climate agreement. The bottom line is simple: Greenhouse-gas emissions must peak by 2025.

To achieve that goal, financial flows must rapidly be redirected from fossil fuels toward renewable energy. In its Net Zero by 2050 report last year, the International Energy Agency made clear that, "There is no need for investment in new fossil-fuel supply in our net-zero pathway."

But fossil-fuel financing has continued. JPMorgan Chase, a bank that uses IEA modelling and data for its own "net-zero" commitment, ended up supplying the fossil-fuel

industry with \$61.7 billion last year. And this year, Russia's war in Ukraine has caused fossil-fuel stocks to surge, even while equity markets overall approach bear territory.

Despite the rapid growth of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing, it is well known that leading financial institutions remain major funders of the climate crisis, bankrolling coal plants, oil pipelines, gas infrastructure and other emissions-generating projects around the world.

But now that the financial sector's annual general meeting (AGM) season has started, shareholders have an opportunity to demand more robust climate policies and de-carbonisation strategies from financial institutions and institutional investors.

Because commercial banks'

ownership is structured through publicly traded shares, AGMs allow shareholders to leverage their relative influence over the institution's investments and policy decisions. They are also an opportunity for civil-society groups to call attention to an institution's practices and demand change.

Climate-change activists have a strong business and financial case to make. Between the war in Ukraine, soaring energy prices, and hopes to sustain a post-pandemic economic recovery, there are numerous incentives to accelerate investment in renewables. Such investments would drive the post-pandemic recovery, create widespread job opportunities, and increase returns for investors.

Moreover, notwithstanding the recent energy-price spikes, fossil-fuel investments continue to pose an enormous risk to financial

institutions. As the energy transition progresses, fossil-fuel assets will lose their value and become stranded. Since the start of the pandemic, many banks, pension funds, and global investment houses have started pulling away from fossil-fuel investments for precisely this reason.

It started with BlackRock CEO Larry Fink's surprising annual letter to CEOs, in which he singled out climate change as a key risk-management issue. A few days later, BlackRock announced that one of its fastest-growing sustainability funds will stop investing in tar sands, one of the dirtiest fuel sources on the planet.

We know that shareholder activism works. Last year, co-filers from 350.org Japan, Kiko Network, Rainforest Action Network, and Market Forces proposed a climate resolution at the AGM of Japan's

largest bank, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, which has some \$3.1 trillion in assets and is the world's third-largest lender to the coal industry.

The resolution sought to inform investors of the risks associated with the bank's continued financing of fossil fuel, and it called on the bank to adopt a strategy aligned with the Paris climate agreement's targets.

Over the following months, the bank released a carbon-neutrality declaration, an updated business plan, and a revised environmental and social policy framework.

Similarly, following engagement between shareholders and investors at HSBC's 2021 AGM, the bank announced in March that it will phase down fossil-fuel financing on a schedule aligned with a 1.5°C target, as well as update its oil, gas, and coal policies by the end of 2022.

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INDIAN male, 29, seeking job in operations handling in interior design and fit-out industry, 5 years of experience as fit out operation and procurement manager. 1 year Oman experience as logistics coordinator. Available in Oman, can join immediately. Contact: 78361915, email: wassimsayed303@gmail.com

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INDIAN male (MBA Finance) having 7 years experience in Oman in accounts, looking for suitable position. Currently in Oman. Contact 77220864.

INDIAN male graduate Executive Secretary/ Stenography/ Oman DL and Muscat experience available. Contact 79256679.

Classifieds

WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2022 DHUL QAADA 8, 1443 AH

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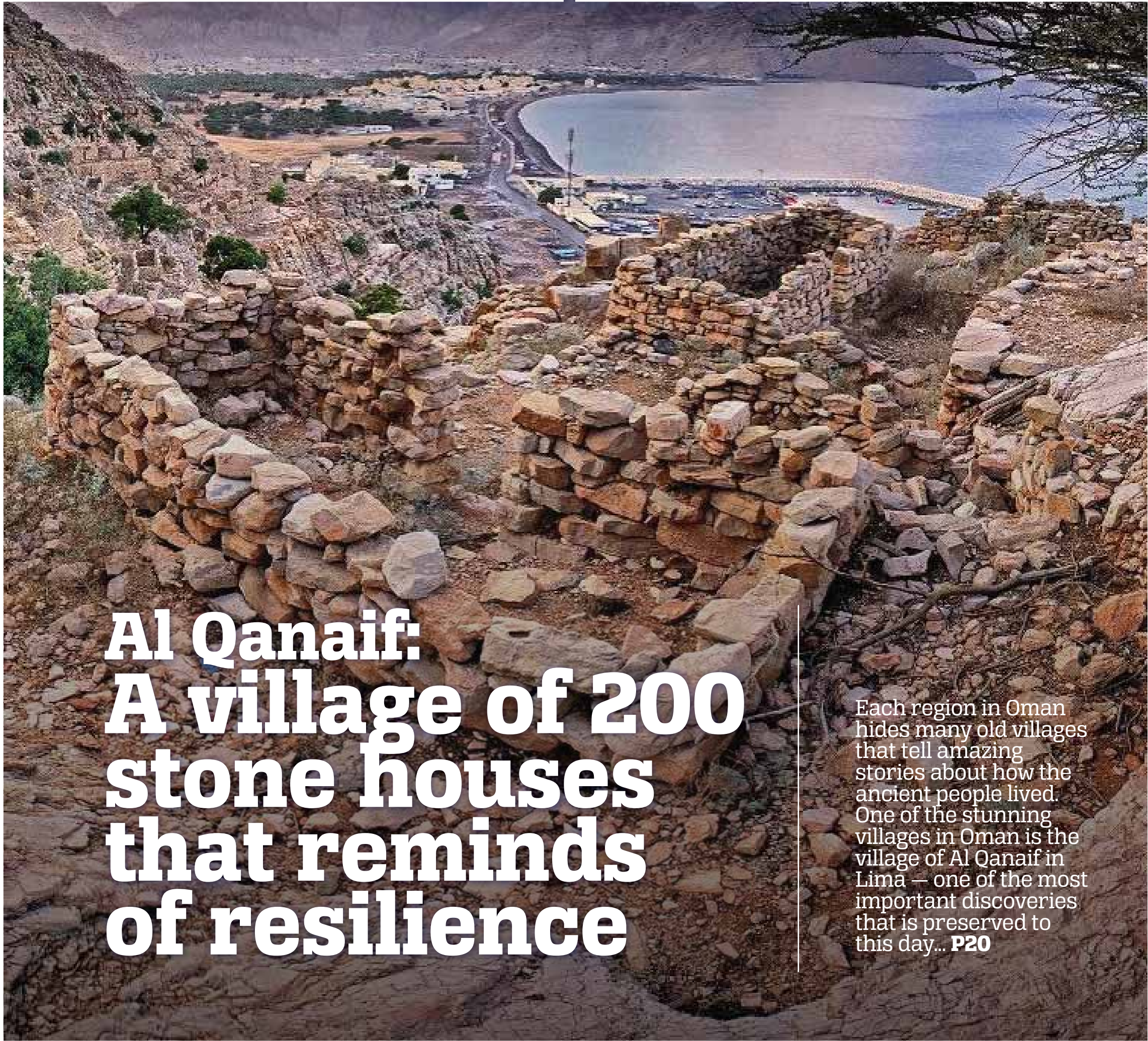
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Al Qanaif: A village of 200 stone houses that reminds of resilience

Each region in Oman hides many old villages that tell amazing stories about how the ancient people lived. One of the stunning villages in Oman is the village of Al Qanaif in Lima — one of the most important discoveries that is preserved to this day... **P20**

Jennifer Lopez and Jack Black honoured at MTV Movie and TV Awards

JENNIFER LOPEZ and Jack Black were given special honours at the 2022 MTV Movie & TV Awards.

British talent including Daniel Radcliffe and Sophia Di Martino were also recognised at the annual ceremony, which honours fan favourite son both the big and small screens.

This year's ceremony took place at the Barker Hanger in Santa Monica, California, and was hosted by High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens.

Lopez was given the generation award and Black was honoured with the accolade for comedic genius.

The actress and singer read out "a different kind of list" of thank yous

including "disappointment and failure" as she accepted her award.

"You're only as good as the people you work with, and if you're lucky they make you better. And I have been very lucky in that regard," she said, becoming visibly emotional.

"Thank all those people who give me this life, who broke my heart... thank you to disappointment and failure... and my children for teaching me to love."

She added: "I want to thank all the people who told me, to my face or when I wasn't in the room, that I couldn't do this."

"I really don't think I could have



done this without you."

Black bounded onstage dressed as a panda to accept his prize.

The actor and comedian performed a forward roll and danced around the stage as a pyrotechnic display blasted.

"Comedy genius are you kidding, for what?" he said, accepting the award from actress Awkwafina.

"It's ridiculous, I don't deserve it but I will take it. Thank you, MTV."

He added: "This is for all the school of rockers and all the Tenacious D disciples."

Clips of Black's films were played for the audience before his appearance, including from School Of Rock in which he declares that Rock 'n' Roll was killed by MTV.

Spider-Man: No Way Home was named as best movie, with star Tom Holland being awarded the prize for best performance in a movie.

Euphoria was announced as best show, and Zendaya was awarded the prize for best performance in a show.

Accepting the prize for Best Villain for his performance in The Lost City alongside Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum in The Lost City and thanked his parents for "having the foresight" to make him British.

The ceremony featured DJ music from rapper Snoop Dogg and performances from Diplo and Swae Lee, who teamed up for a musical tribute to Elvis Presley.

Sophia Di Martino took home the first award of the night at the MTV Movie and V Awards - best breakthrough performance - for her role in Disney's Loki.

She thanked audiences for "letting her character into her imaginations" and her family for "always being there".

The actress later returned to the stage to accept the award for best team on behalf of the cast of Loki.

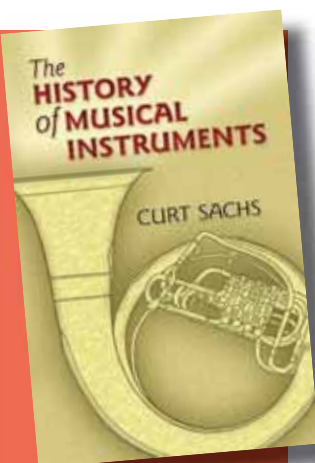
She joked: "I don't have any room in my suitcase for these, I don't know how I'm going to take them home." -- dpa

READ

THE HISTORY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BY CURT SACHS

Images of musical instruments begin to appear in Mesopotamian artifacts in 2800 BC or earlier. Beginning around 2000 BC, Sumerian and Babylonian cultures began delineating two distinct classes of musical instruments due to division of labor and the evolving class system.



ROYAL AFFAIR

A new photo released on Monday by Prince Harry and Meghan Markle showed their daughter Lilibet celebrating her first birthday in a backyard picnic over the weekend.



AUCTION

A rare 1679 violin made by renowned Italian craftsman Antonio Stradivari is headed for auction next month where it could fetch up to \$11 million.





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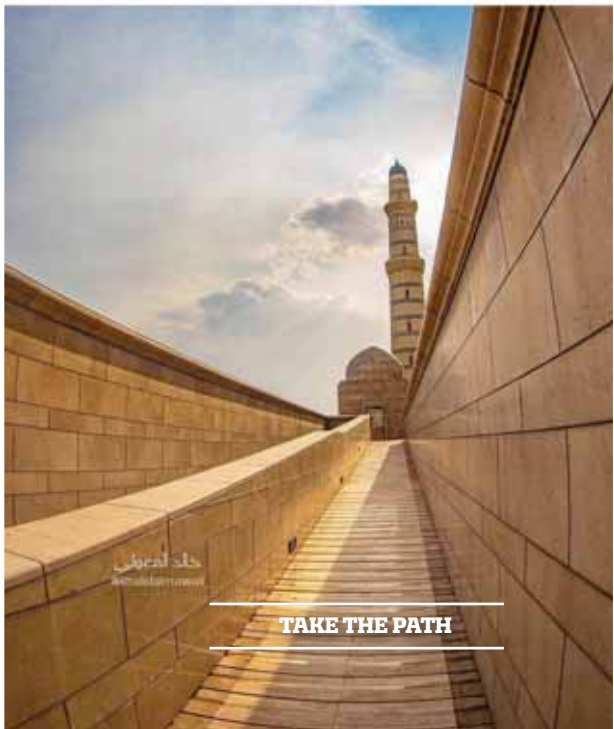


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AROUND THE WORLD

ENTERTAINMENT

Paramount sued over 'Top Gun: Maverick' copyright



THE HEIRS OF an author whose article inspired the 1986 film "Top Gun" have sued Paramount Pictures for copyright infringement, according to court documents.

Three decades after the blockbuster original, which was based on Ehud Yonay's 1983 magazine article "Top Guns", Paramount released a sequel last month that has topped North America's box office.

In their complaint filed on Monday to a California court, Shosh Yonay and Yuval Yonay, the writer's widow and son who live in Israel, allege that the story's copyright was returned to them in 2020, "but Paramount deliberately ignored this, thumbing its nose at the statute."

"The Yonays contend and Paramount denies that the 2022 Sequel, like the 1986 Film, is derived from the Author's Story," the complaint reads.

The Yonays are seeking to prevent Paramount from distributing its sequel, as well as unspecified damages.

A spokesperson for Paramount told multiple news outlets on Monday that the claims were "without merit."

"We will defend ourselves vigorously,"

"Top Gun: Maverick" picks up the story of the now-graying US Navy pilot Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, played by Tom Cruise, as he trains young aviators for a mission to attack a nuclear facility in a rogue state.

The 2022 action drama soared to a second huge showing in North American theatres this weekend, taking in an estimated \$86 million.

That number placed it among the top 10 highest-grossing second weekends in domestic box office history. It took in \$151 million last weekend.

The film — whose release had been delayed two years by the Covid-19 pandemic — notched \$124 million for the first three days of the Memorial Day weekend in May, despite not playing in China or Russia.

It was Cruise's first opening to top \$100 million. The Paramount/Skydance film has earned \$257 million abroad, the latest sign of Hollywood's recovery from a bleak pandemic period. — AFP

ENTERTAINMENT

The 'predatory' global economy of looted antiquities



THE CHARGING of the Louvre's former director in an antiquities trafficking investigation has shone a light on a vast, transnational criminal problem that remains fiendishly difficult to target.

Ancient burial grounds around the world have increasingly become "open-air supermarkets" for everyone from petty thieves to organised criminals, said Vincent Michel, professor of archaeology at the University of Poitiers in France.

He describes a "sophisticated chain" stretching from sites in unstable places such as Iraq, Syria and Libya — but also many other parts of the world — via transit countries to auction houses and private collectors in Europe and the United States, and increasingly Asia and the Gulf.

It is an illicit trade that "serves mafias, drug traffickers and terrorist groups, abusing collectors and museums with complete impunity", said Michel.

The ex-director of the Louvre in Paris, Jean-Luc Martinez, was charged last week over the purchase of a pink granite stele depicting the pharaoh Tutankhamun and four other historic works for eight million euros (\$8.5 million) by the museum's branch in Abu Dhabi.

Martinez, who has strongly denied any wrong-doing, is accused of turning a blind eye to fake certificates of origin for the pieces, a fraud

thought to involve several other art experts, according to French investigative weekly Canard Enchaîné.

Such allegations are far from a rarity in the art world where the value of looted antiquities is thought to reach into the "tens or even hundreds of millions of euros" per year, according to Michel.

He trains police, judges and customs officials to help counter the trade but resources are notoriously limited in the sector, and he has called for deeper public awareness and a more concerted interdisciplinary fight.

"This transnational crime feeds a predatory economy that undermines our national security. It is also an irreversible attack on heritage because a looted object, taken out of its context, loses all scientific value," Michel said.

GLOBAL REACH

The Covid-19 pandemic has only deepened the challenge. Egyptian authorities say the number of illegal digs jumped massively in recent years to hit 8,960 in 2020.

Looters use metal detectors to hunt gold, silver and bronze items, often stored in perfect condition in tombs thanks to the arid climate.

But the problem is not limited to poorer countries.

France has seen an uptick in looting from archaeological sites, said Xavier Delestre, who works for the regional cultural authorities based in

Marseilles.

He said high-value items were often laundered through so-called "freeports" — tax haven storage sites with minimal oversight in places like Geneva, Luxembourg and Singapore — emerging with false backstories.

Lower-value items ended up on social media and online stores.

Almost undetectable

Michel said counterfeiters are "incredibly ingenious" when it comes to masking the illicit origin of items, creating documents with a careful mix of false and true information, fabricating false export permits or purchase invoices — even Unesco certificates.

Once reintroduced into the legal market, "a looted item is almost undetectable," he added.

Internet sales have made it even harder for law enforcement officials to trace criminals and keep a handle on the problem.

A 2019 report by US counter-trafficking organisation ATHAR tracked 95 Arabic-language Facebook groups specialising in antiquities trafficking, with a total of nearly two million members.

"Facebook offers a veritable digital toolbox for traffickers to utilise, including photo and video uploads, live streaming, disappearing 'Stories', payment mechanisms, and encrypted messaging," the report said. — AFP

LIFE AT THE ACADEME



Dr Zainab al Ajmi
zeinbf@moe.om

Attention to learning processes: How students learn

LEARNING WAS defined by Unesco as a "process that brings together personal and environmental experiences and influences for acquiring, enriching or modifying one's knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, behaviour and world views".

As students develop their own strategies to engage in the teaching-learning process, the way students learn it's an important thing for the instructor to consider. The quality of students' learning is what will determine the likelihood of success of any teaching scheme. Chiefly, all learning theories aims to assist students in becoming self-directed learners and provide an explanation of such learning principles, and for this reason, it's important for the instructor to have familiarity with learning theories.

On the basis of findings in cognitive psychology and pedagogy, learning theories have been developed over the past decade. There are eight essential learning theories examined that seem to have held sway in education.

"The major concepts and theories of learning include behaviourist theories, cognitive psychology, constructivism, social constructivism, experiential learning, multiple intelligence, and situated learning theory and community of practice (Unesco, 2022). Furthermore, "several modern teaching methodologies address real-world tasks as part of the learning experience. Some authors have already noted how "such tasks are typically associated with a very high cognitive load, which makes it more important than ever to take the limited human-processing capacity into account." (Roda, 2005).

According to (Saunders & Wong, 2020) learning theories describe the processes through which learning occurs, providing teachers with a basis to

develop their methods that lead to better learning. Furthermore, these theories explain the processes that students engage in as they make sense of information, and how they integrate that information into their mental models so that it becomes new knowledge. In Addition, learning theories also examine what motivates people to learn, and what circumstances enable or hinder learning.

On the other hand, learning theories are applicable at several educational levels, across different populations and settings, it provides guidelines to develop exercises, assignments, and lesson plans that align with how students learn perfectly.

However, students believe in their own ability to learn best. That is, once students understand their learning process, they can change their thinking style to acquire information and knowledge and make logical paths between new information and their existing knowledge. on the other hand, all students do not learn in the same way, nor do all of them learn at the same time, each classroom contains a range of students who have a predictable set of needs.

To understand students learning needs, learning theories might help align instruction with student readiness. Obviously, adult learners have needs that differ from younger learners.

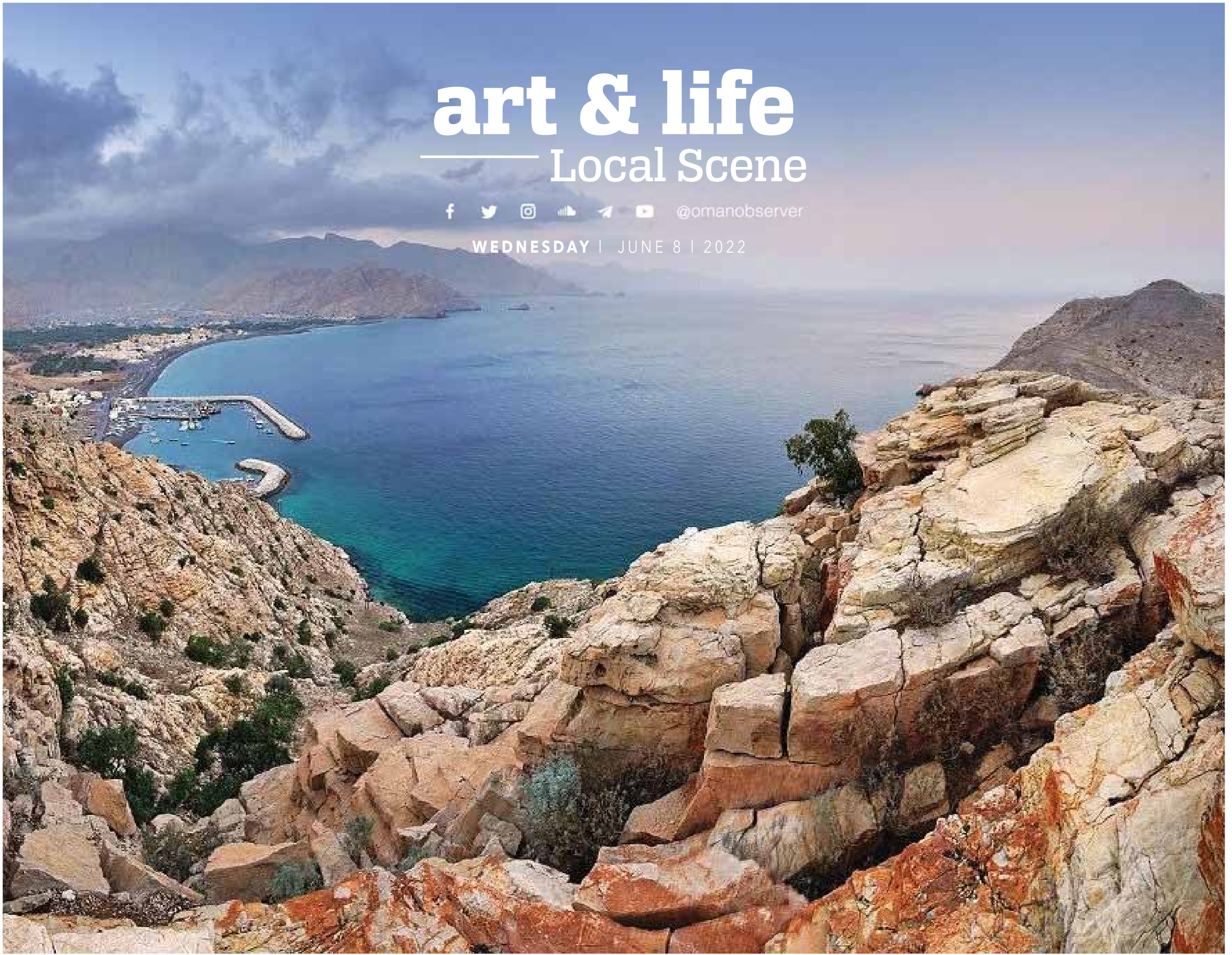
To conclude, all theories attempt to describe the factors that enable the learning process. Considering the importance of learning theories, these theories are guidelines, not rules should instructors have to strictly adhere to one of them, but they might combine these theories in a dynamic framework that resonates with their teaching styles, develop instruction sessions that lead to better learning, create lessons, and activities that enhance the understanding of students.

art & life

Local Scene

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WEDNESDAY | JUNE 8 | 2022



Al Qanaif: A village of 200 stone houses that reminds of resilience

By Arwa Al Hashimi
Photos by Ibrahim al Busaidi

To enjoy Oman as a country, one should have natural inclination and fascination for its long history. While the country offers many beautiful natural wonders, it is history that provide it context and meaning.

Each region in Oman hides many old villages that tell amazing stories about how the ancient people lived. If one studies these discoveries well, one can tell that all throughout its long history, Omani families ensured to create a comfortable life for their com-

the past decades preceding the age of the blessed Renaissance, where they endured harsh conditions that are completely not similar to those of the other villages around.

One who sees this village finds it firmly established on a semi-rocky slope surrounded by large trees from all sides, with narrow lanes and small houses paved with the hands of its residents from Lima.

Ahmed al Shehi, a Lima resident, said that they still have fond memory of the archaeological village of Al Qanaif, which flourished in their childhood, as monuments that are still lofty despite the circumstances that led to the abandonment of its landmarks more than 50 years ago.

He shared that the village has consisted of more than 200 houses made of stone and unique built as these dwellings were made to face the rain flowing from the mountains in addition to the wadis surrounding Lima at the time. It has all the facilities, there are basements, water basins, storage areas for dates, wheat and fish of all kinds, and other facilities such as mosques and a sitting area for the council for the people of the village. It was created by the people to be a fortified shield in the face of the harsh conditions. They also created hidden roads known only to the residents of the village.

The village tower is one of the most recognisable structure in the village. It has stood tall in the face of threats that the village received from time to time, especially those coming from the sea. While it still battles the elements to this day, the tower together with what remains of the old village is a testament to the ingenuity of the Omanis and while it has already been abandoned, it serve as a great reminder that the people of Al Qanaif can withstand any hardship.

munity using materials found around them and mother nature gifted them with.

One of the stunning villages in Oman is the village of Al Qanaif in Lima, Khasab, in Musandam Governorate. It is one of the most important discoveries that is preserved to this day, its historical features still being enjoyed not just by experts studying in the filed of archaeology but even by the people.

Al Qanaif village reflects the life that ancient people were accustomed to during

