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TEAM AQUA CONSOLIDATES LEAD ON PENULTIMATE DAY



MUSCAT

HM GREETINGS TO KENYA PRESIDENT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr William Ruto of the Republic of Kenya on his country's Independence Anniversary. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Ruto. His Majesty also wished the people of Kenya further development and growth. — ONA

OMAN, UK REVIEW BILATERAL RELATIONS

Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, received Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for South Asia, the Middle East and the United Nations at the United Kingdom's Office of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

The two officials reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them. They also exchanged regional and international matters of common interest and underscored the importance of backing all peaceful efforts, with the prime aim of consolidating stability in the region and the world at large.

DETAILS ON P3


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SUNAK FACES NEW DEMANDS FROM HIS FRACTIOUS PARTY

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WHAT US LEADERSHIP CAN DO FOR NATURE

P6

HM hosts dinner on SAF Day



MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, hosted a dinner at Al Alam Palace on Sunday evening on the occasion of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Day.

The ceremony comes as a felicitation by His Majesty, the Supreme Commander, to all military formations and units of the valiant Armed Forces on this glorious day.

It symbolises his Royal recognition for their great dedication in performing the sacred duty to defend the homeland, protect its security and ensure its stability and safety. It is a manifestation of the Sultan's Armed Forces' role in safeguarding the national achievements to retain Oman's status as an oasis of security, harmony and peace under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan.

The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, as well as some ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Royal Oman Police and senior military and civil officers.

— ONA
SEE ALSO P2

Oman and Tanzania trade at RO 80 million

MUSCAT: The second session of the Omani-Tanzanian Joint Committee was held at the Foreign Ministry here on Sunday. The Omani side was headed by Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, and the Tanzanian side was led by Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Tanzanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African cooperation.

At the outset of the meeting, Sayyid Badr said that the Oman-Tanzania partnership scaled new heights after the visit to Oman by the President of Tanzania Dr Samia Soloho Hassan. In particular, ties of cooperation gained impetus in the areas of energy, tourism, fisheries and the logistic sector, he added.

Sayyid Badr pointed out that trade exchange between Oman and Tanzania, which stands at RO 80 million, is undergoing steady growth. He expressed the hope that the volume of mutual investments will grow further across various domains, opening broader horizons for the private sector on both sides.

The Tanzanian minister expressed delight at visiting Oman and pride over the historical relations binding the two countries' leaderships

The holding of the second session comes to follow up the outcome of the two recent visits made to Oman by Samia Hassan Soloho, President of Tanzania, and Dr Hussain Ali Mwini, President of Zanzibar

SAYYID BADR BIN HAMAD AL BUSAIDY
Foreign Minister

and peoples. She stressed the importance of exploiting investment opportunities and voiced her keenness to follow up what was agreed upon during the visit of the President of Tanzania to Oman in June 2022.

Sayyid Badr told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the holding of the second session comes to follow up the outcome of the two recent visits made to Oman by Samia Hassan Soloho, President of Tanzania, and Dr Hussain Ali Mwini, President of Zanzibar.

HM CONFERS AL NUOMAN ORDER ON UAE AMBASSADOR

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Sunday conferred Al Nuoman Order, First Class, on Mohammed Sultan al Suwaidi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Sultanate of Oman, in appreciation for his efforts in serving bilateral relations. The order was handed over by Sayyid Khalid bin Hilal al Busaidy, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, when he received the UAE ambassador at his office on Sunday. — ONA

Rains to continue in more areas today

ZAINAB AL NASSRI
[@zainabalnasseri](#)

Several areas in the Muscat Governorate received heavy to moderate rains on Sunday, causing water logging in some areas and traffic snarl-ups in the affected areas.

According to Oman's Met office, rains will continue on Monday in the coastal areas and parts of the governorates of

North and South Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, and South Al Batinah.

The Omani Meteorology office said there were chances of cloud formation due to which rain will continue on Monday in parts of the Musandam Governorate and the coasts of the Sea of Oman, especially Muscat, Al Sharqiyah South and Al Batinah South, and in parts of Hajar Mountains.

It also said in a bulletin that the

activity of the northwest winds would continue, with dust rising in the desert and open areas, as the horizontal visibility goes to the low levels.

"There will be a noticeable drop in temperatures in most of the governorates in the Sultanate of Oman with sea waves rising up to three meters on the coasts of Musandam Governorate, the Arabian Sea and the coasts of the Sea of Oman," the Met office said.



HIS MAJESTY HOSTS DINNER ON SAF DAY

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, hosted a dinner at Al Alam Palace on Sunday evening on the occasion of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF) Day.

The ceremony comes as a felicitation by His Majesty, the Supreme Commander, to all military formations and units of the valiant Armed Forces on this glorious day. It symbolises his Royal recognition

for their great dedication in performing the sacred duty to defend the homeland, protect its security and ensure its stability and safety. It is a manifestation of the Sultan's Armed Forces' role in

safeguarding the national achievements to retain Oman's status as an oasis of security, harmony and peace under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan. The ceremony was attended by the Deputy

Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, as well as some ministers, commanders of the Sultan's Armed Forces (SAF), Royal Oman Police and senior military and civil officers. — ONA





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Boost to bilateral ties with Syria

MUSCAT: Gen Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office, received in his office on Sunday Dr Idris Maya, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Sultanate of Oman.

The ambassador also expressed his appreciation to the Sultanate of Oman for enhancing means of bilateral cooperation and for Oman's stable balanced political stance in international relations.

During the meeting, the two sides touched on areas of cooperation between Oman and Syria. They also discussed several regional and international matters of mutual interest.

— ONA

Oman-Tanzania review relations in logistics, ports and energy



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, received on Sunday Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The meeting comes within the framework of the Tanzanian Minister's visit to Oman to head her country's side in the joint Oman-Tanzania committee meetings. The two sides reviewed areas of cooperation in economic and investment fields, especially in the sectors of logistics, ports and energy. They also discussed several regional and international matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Khalid bin Hashel al Muselhi, Head of the Minister's Office Department and Saud bin Hilal

The two sides also discussed several regional and international matters of mutual interest

al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Republic of Tanzania.

It was also attended from the Tanzanian side by Stephen Byabato, Deputy Minister for Energy, Fatma Rajab, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Mwana Kamis, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, and Abdallah Abasi Kilima, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to the Sultanate of Oman. — ONA

Envoys of UAE, Turkey, Italy bid goodbye



MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister received, separately Mohammed Sultan al Suwaidi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Sultanate of Oman, Ayse Sozen Usluer,

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Sultanate of Oman and Federica Favi, Ambassador of the Italian Republic to the Sultanate of Oman, to bid them farewell at the end of their tour of duty.

Sayyid Badr expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the ambassadors in enhancing relations between Oman and their respective countries. He also wished them success. — ONA

Oman, UK review bilateral cooperation

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, on Sunday received Lord Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for South Asia, the Middle East and the United Nations at the United Kingdom's (UK) Office of Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.

The two officials reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them. They also touched on joint business, investment and culture programmes aimed to enhance cooperation and serve the two countries' mutual interests.

They also exchanged regional and international matters of common interest and underscored the importance of backing all peaceful efforts, with the prime aim of consolidating stability in



the region and the world at large.

VISITS OHRC: Tariq Ahmad of Wimbledon, also visited the Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and met with Shaikh Abdullah bin Shuwain al Hosni, Chairman of OHRC (pictured).

The OHRC chairman briefed the guest on the tasks of the OHRC in Oman and its relation with regional and international

organisations in the field of human rights.

The guest expressed his delight in visiting the OHRC. He also affirmed the importance of cooperation and coordination in matters related to human rights cases. The guest welcomed further cooperation between OHRC and authorities concerned with human rights at the UK. — ONA

Job Opportunities

A leading Joinery Workshop and Fitout Company looking to recruit the following positions:

Joinery Workshop Incharge

Qualification & Experience:

- Bachelor / Diploma Degree in same field.
- Min. 10 years experience in Gulf/Oman as Joinery Workshop Incharge
- Oman driving license
- with NOC immediate joining

Joinery Estimator

- Bachelor / Diploma Degree in same field.
- Min. 10 years experience in Gulf/Oman in same field.
- Oman driving license
- with NOC immediate joining

Joinery Draftsman

- Diploma in same field.
- Min. 5 years experience in Oman in same field.
- Experience in preparation of detailed joinery drawings.
- with NOC immediate joining

Note: salary as per the experience and Qualification.

Eligible candidates are requested to email their CV to:
jobsmuscat86@gmail.com

Cruise ship anchors at Salalah Port

MUSCAT: Salalah Port on Sunday received Italian cruise ship 'Costa Toscana' with 3,616 passengers onboard, of them 2,356 are tourists from various nationalities.

The tourist programme of 'Costa Toscana' included tours to major archaeological, tourism and historic landmarks in the Governorate of Dhofar, besides visiting beaches and traditional markets in Salalah. — ONA



TENDER NOTICE

Oman Development Bank is the leading player in financing projects that add value to national development and providing facilities for micro, SMEs and major ventures.

Oman Development Bank seeks tenders for the following services from reputed vendors which specialized in providing such services and procurements :

	Tenders	Location	Tender Ref No	Tender Fees
1	Postal Services	HO & Branches	1/2023	0
2	Natural Pure Water	HO	2/2023	0
3	Supply Office Equipment	HO & Branches	3/2023	29
4	Supply Office Furniture	HO & Branches	4/2023	16
5	Centralized CCTV monitoring solutions	HO & Branches	5/2023	50
6	Vehicles	HO & Branches	6/2023	60
7	Cleaning Services	HO & Branches	7/2023	65
8	Security, Fire Alarm, TA systems fire extinguisher &	HO & Branches	8/2023	10
9	Air Freshening services	HO & Branches	9/2023	0
10	Elevator Maintenance services	HO & Branches	10/2023	0
11	Air Conditioning Maintenance Services	HO & Branches	11/2023	10

- Interested vendors may obtain tender documents from the Head Office of the bank (Ground Floor) located in MBD Area near the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Investment Promotion on any working day (Sunday to Thursday) between 8 AM and 2 PM on payment of non-refundable tender fee. Vendors should enclose scan copy of bank guarantee submitted.
- The Tender enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to Administration Services unit, Oman Development Bank SAOC, should be submitted to the reception at Grand Floor by 2:00 PM on or before 22/12/2022.
- Interested vendors should remit the stated tenders fees as per as the below bank details.
- Oman Development Bank SAOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the offers, extend the tender closing date, modify tender document(s) or cancel the tender without assigning any reason. Tender Committee's decision shall be final and binding.

Bank Name: Oman Development Bank
Bank Account: 000-10121129300-45
Bank Name: Bank Muscat
Corporate Branch
Swift Code: BMUSOMRXXXX

OMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SAOC

Post Box 3077, PC 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman. 24726920 h.balushi@odb.om odb.om



Sultan’s Armed Forces Day marked



MUSCAT: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO) on Sunday marked the Sultan’s Armed Forces Day, which falls on December 11 every year. The event was held under the patronage of Sayyid Saud bin Hilal al Busaidy, Governor of Muscat.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the military salute was given to the chief guest and the Royal Anthem was played. Various military and musical shows were staged during the ceremony.

The chief guest also pinned



long service and good conduct medals on several RAO personnel in appreciation of their sincere efforts in serving the country and their dedication in performing the national duty.

The ceremony was attended by commanders of the Sultan’s Armed Forces and other military and security units. It was also attended by several high ranking officers and officials from government department, shaikhs and dignitaries of the Governorate of Muscat, retired officers and RAO personnel. — ONA

Defence Ministry, SAF issue postage stamps



MUSCAT: A ceremony was held on Sunday to mark the issuance of postage stamps by the Ministry of Defence and the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) in cooperation with Oman Post. The event marks the Sultan’s Armed Forces Day.

The ceremony began with a visual presentation on Oman Post, highlighting the national role and the evolution of postage stamps in Oman. This was followed by a display on the historical stages of establishment and development of postage stamps at the Ministry of Defence and the SAF and the symbolic value that the stamps signify.

On behalf of the Ministry of Defence, the postage stamps issue was signed by Dr Mohammad bin Nasser al Zaabi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence, and Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultan’s Armed Forces, and Nasser bin Ahmed al Sharji, CEO of Oman Post and Asyad Express.

The ceremony was attended by Dr Ali bin Amer al Shidhani, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology, SAF officers and officials from Oman Post. — ONA

Inbound passengers at Oman airports up by 168 per cent

MUSCAT: Statistics issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) show that international flights that made connection via Oman’s airports grew to 55,814 by the end of September 2022, as compared to 26,636 international flights during the corresponding period in 2021.

According to the NCSI, the number of arriving and departing passengers via Muscat International Airport, Salalah Airport and Sohar Airport (including transit passengers) saw a 168 per cent increase to 6,969,976 by the end of September 2022, while the number of departing passengers grew by 120 per cent compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

The overall number of flights (internal and international — arrivals and departures put together) via Muscat International Airport grew by 113.6 per cent to 47,939 as at the end of September 2022. These flights carried as many as 5,975,726 passengers, compared to 2,373,363 passengers during the corresponding period in 2021. Salalah Airport registered a 82.8 per cent increase in number of flights (local and international) to 6,674 flights by the end of September 2022.

In a breakup, the NCSI’s figures show that the number of international flights via Salalah Airport surged by 221.2 per cent, while internal flights grew by 39 per cent to 3,857, compared to 2,774 during the corresponding period in 2021.

Sohar Airport registered 585 international flights in number of flights (departures and arrivals) by the end of September 2022. The number of passengers onboard these flights stood at 55,243.

Duqm Airport posted a 4.7 per cent increase in local flights (arrivals and departures) to stand at 490 flights by the end of September 2022, compared to 468 flights during the corresponding period in 2021. There, the number of passengers grew by 42.4 per cent from 33,919 by the end of September 2021 to 48,290 by the end of the corresponding period in 2022.

— ONA

Panel discuss ways to boost healthcare



STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, DEC 11

The Supervisory Committee of the Investment Laboratory for Health Sector met senior officials of the Ministry of Health, members of the technical advisory committee, central team, and laboratory members.

The meeting touched upon the investment goals in the health sector, aiming to promote investments in the medical industries, improving health services, and promoting health and public enablers.

The meeting also addressed several recommendations, including the best partnership ways between the public and private sectors and developing a unified strategy for the investment challenges and opportunities in the health sector.

The investment laboratory for the health sector involved 97 participants from the private sector, other relevant public authorities, and institutions, as well as leading health institutions.



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5

Russia says Minsk deals failure led to Ukraine offensive

MOSCOW: Russia launched what it calls a special military operation in Ukraine because its concerns around peace accords between Kyiv and Russian-backed separatists were ignored, Russian news agencies quoted the Kremlin spokesman as saying on Sunday.

President Vladimir Putin last week bemoaned the failure to implement the Minsk agreements - ceasefire and constitutional reform deals between Kyiv and Russian-backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine brokered in 2014 and 2015 by Russia, France and Germany, at the outset of the conflict with Ukraine.

Both Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of violating the deal.

Asked by a journalist whether Russia understood that it was being "deceived" over the Minsk accords,



A Ukrainian service member stands atop an armoured personnel carrier, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, on a road in Kherson region, on Sunday. — Reuters

spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "Over time, of course, it became obvious.

"And, again, President Putin and our other representatives

constantly kept saying this," the Tass news agency quoted Peskov as saying. "But this was all ignored by the other participants of the negotiation

process.

"This is all precisely the precursor to the special military operation."

— Reuters

No survivors in Jersey blast: rescuers

JERSEY: Rescuers in Jersey said on Sunday after an all-night search that there was no hope of survivors from an explosion that flattened a three-storey apartment block.

At least three people were confirmed killed in the blast early on Saturday in the Channel island's port capital St Helier, following a suspected gas leak.

"We have three confirmed fatalities and it's fair to say we expect to find more," police chief Robin Smith told a

news conference, saying that around 12 residents remained unaccounted for.

"It is with sadness that I am confirming that the search-and-rescue operation has been moved to a recovery operation," he said.

The next phase involved a "meticulous and painstaking search of the debris" which could take weeks, Smith said, adding that a gas leak was the "likely" cause.

— AFP



Sultanate of Oman سلطنة عُمان
وزارة التراث والسياحة
Ministry of Heritage and Tourism

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Tender No.	73/2022/MHT/HQ-50	Tender Name	Constriction of Dabba Archeological Visitor Center at Musandam Governorate
Fees of Tender Documents (Non-refundable)		120 O.R	
Tender Document Sales End Date		26/12/2022	
Last Date for Bid Submission		17/1/2023	
Grade		International and excellent grade companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board and their registration is valid.	
E-Tendering Portal		https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om	

- International companies and institutions that are not registered in the Sultanate can participate in international tenders through the E-tendering portal of the Tender Board at the following link: (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) Provided that it registers under the regulations in force in the Sultanate within thirty working days from the date of being notified of the acceptance of its bid.
- Bids are submitted that fulfill the technical conditions and specifications, accompanied by a tender bond from a local bank not less than (1%) of the bid value, valid for (90) days from the date of its submission.
 - Any bid that does not meet the required tender bond will not be considered
 - The Ministry shall not be obligated to accept the lowest or any other bids
- The bid submission period starts after the end of the inquiry period shown in the e-tendering system, until the last date for submitting bids before (10:00 am, Oman time).

Support and inquiries	For more information, related to the tender, kindly communicate through the website of the e-tendering system: https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om
	For inquiries related to the technical support for the e-tendering system, kindly communicate through etenderhd@ita.gov.om or 24402200
For further information	Email : sotic@mht.gov.om Phones : 22088348 - 22088085

Sunak faces new demands from his fractious party

LONDON: British Conservative politicians on Sunday launched two campaigns to address concerns about the direction of the party and the government, the latest challenge to new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's attempts to unite a fractured party.

The Conservative Party has already ousted two prime ministers in 2022 - Boris Johnson and Liz Truss - and trails the opposition Labour party in the polls by double digits, with another national election expected in 2024.

Sunak became prime minister in October when Truss resigned after less than two months.

Her chaotic tenure was fatally damaged when her fiscal plan for unfunded tax cuts lost the confidence of markets.

Sunak has reversed those plans and instead raised taxes, reassuring financial markets, but upsetting some Conservative lawmakers.

"In the recent budget, the government decided to tax the British public at levels not seen since the end of the Second World War," a group of 40 Conservative lawmakers wrote to finance minister Jeremy Hunt on Sunday.

"We need to be



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

able to reassure our constituents, who are worried about the cost of living crisis, that every penny of taxpayers' money spent on their behalf provides value for money and is not wasted."

The group, which calls itself Conservative Way Forward, said it would publish a report on Monday outlining 7 billion pounds (\$8.58 billion) of "waste" that could be shed, allowing the government to cut taxes or spend more on frontline services.

Sunak's first six weeks as prime minister have been calmer than his predecessor's, but restive backbench lawmakers have already forced policy concessions on house-building targets and onshore wind farms.

He is also having to deal with the impact of surging energy bills, a cost-of-living crisis, and industrial action set to disrupt hospitals and transport in the run-up to Christmas.

— Reuters



شركة المجموعة العمانية الدولية ش.م.ع
OMAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP SAOC



خدمات المرافق والمنشآت
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Oman International Group SAOC

We, the Board of Directors of Oman International Group SAOC (the "Company") hereby invite the shareholders of the Company to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held at the Al-Rawahy Complex, 4th Floor, Wattayah, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on Tuesday, 27 December 2022 at 11.00 am, and if the quorum of the meeting is not complete, then the second AGM is determined to be held on Sunday, 1 January 2023 at 11:00 am in the same previously mentioned location to consider and to approve the following agenda:

Agenda for the Meeting

- The consideration and approval of the Report of the Directors for the financial year ended 30 September 2022.
- The consideration and approval of the financial statements and auditors' report for the year ended 30 September 2022.
- The approval of the final dividend.
- The consideration and approval of the Board of Directors' remuneration and sitting fees for the financial year ended 30 September 2022.
- The consideration of a sitting fee for the Board of Directors for the next financial year ending on 30 September 2023.
- The consideration and approval of related party transactions which were entered into by the Company with third parties during the year ended 30 September 2022.
- The consideration and the approval of related party transactions, which are expected to be concluded during the year ending 30 September 2023.
- Electing new board members for the company. A Candidate who wishes to nominate himself shall fill the MOCI's Standard Application Form in this regard, and submit it to the Head Office of the Company prior the AGM of two working days.
- The approval of the appointment of the auditors of the Company, and to determine the auditors' remuneration for the financial year ending on 30 September 2023.

In accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, a shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the meeting convened by this Notice is entitled to authorise another shareholder to attend the meeting and vote on his/ her behalf at the meeting.

If you wish to appoint a proxy, please complete and submit the attached proxy form to the Company's office.

To prevent delay in starting the meeting, shareholders are required to arrive about half an hour before the scheduled time for starting the meeting.

For further information, please contact our Group Chief Finance Officer, Mr. Govind Negi on telephone no. 99389485 or our Finance Manager, Mr. Louis D'Souza on telephone no. 24576911.

Chairman

Auditors

Legal Adviser



Tender Announcement

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

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of Tender Document	Last date for Tender Submission	Tender Document Price (non-refundable)
264/2022	Renting (4) four-wheel drive vehicles	Companies specialized in the field of car rental services, equipment and tools registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the Excellent, First or Second Degree	Monday 2-1-2023 02:00 PM	Sunday 22-1-2023 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>). On Monday 12/12/2022.
- ❖ 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

They are disenabled not disabled

Yes, it is human’s instinct to look abnormally to people with unusual shape, appearance or expression! Though such people are called “disabled”, this doesn’t mean that they should be looked at with inferiority and disgrace. Possibly, they are created differently in the look and feel sometimes, but those people with disabilities should always be accorded similar respect like other humans around us. If truth to be told, studies and history proved that many of the disabled are more talented and mentally superior than some normal and healthy people.

In this respect, nobody shall never undervalue any human being no matter how he/she looks like; being a person with disability doesn’t mean being disqualified from having access to every aspect of life. Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn’t mean he/she lacks vision. Those people are very humble, but inside them comes the real value; unique talents and creativity. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, “The best among you are those who have the best manners and character”

It has been said that there is no greater disability in society than the inability to see a person as more. Therefore, one has to see the person first, not the disability even if you haven’t spent time with someone who has a disability. Perhaps, you might feel unsure about how to best approach a disabled person; just make sure it might be a very confronting experience. If you feel struggling with any interaction, try and put yourself in their shoes and remember how would you want to be treated? It is important to remember that people living with a disability are just like us; they all have their own personal identity. They feel the same emotions as we do and experience romantic relationships. They also have special interests, hobbies, goals, dreams and desires too. The fact is that persons with a disability does not want to be defined by their abilities, but by who



Abdulaziz Al Jahdhami aljahdhami22@gmail.com

An author, columnist, creative writer, translator and a communications professional

they are as a person. You don’t need to change your personal behaviour when interacting with someone who has a disability. Just speak at your usual pace, volume and tone. All you need is to take the time and discover more about a person behind the disability. Ask yourself what makes him smile? What would make his day happier? How he does and manages things in his day-to-day life? You may be surprised by what you discover when you ask the questions. These insights can help you find a better way to find a better and creative way to spend the day together. It is strange why some people get it wrong when it comes to dealing with disabled people! Yes, they are different, but in a way that their ability to do things is limited unlike healthy people. However, the world is blessed with many renowned disabled inventors, scientists, actors and others more.

The American lecturer and creative author, Helen Keller, sets a great a good example of creative disabled people. Though both blind and deaf, she travelled all over the world fighting for improvement in education and the life of the physically handicapped people.

She never thought her disability as an obstacle, but as a challenge to bring the best out of her. Another example is Thomas Edison, the great inventor, who was having a learning disability until he was 12 years old. “A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles”, said Christopher Reeve, who played Superman character in the 70s and 80s. However, in 1995, he was paralysed from the neck down after a horse-riding accident. He then was active in raising awareness and lobbying for research into spinal cord injuries. Always remember that living an independent life is extremely important to everyone. When a person with a disability seeks your support, this doesn’t mean that each decision he/she needs to make will be difficult for them.

ONE HAS TO SEE THE PERSON FIRST, NOT THE DISABILITY EVEN IF YOU HAVEN’T SPENT TIME WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS A DISABILITY

VOLCANIC ERUPTION



Fuego volcano, as seen from Alotenango, a municipality in Sacatepequez department 65 km southwest of Guatemala City, erupts on Sunday. – AFP

What US leadership can do for nature

In his narration for the Netflix series Our Great National Parks, former US President Barack Obama describes a sloth as harbouring “an entire micro-kingdom” in his fur. “Researching him will help fight cancer, malaria, and antibiotic-resistant superbugs,” he notes, before concluding that, “This sleepy sloth might just save us all”

These striking lines reflect how dependent we are on nature for our survival and well-being. And what the sleepy sloth and countless other species of fauna and flora are telling us is that the interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and climate change have become an existential threat.

An existential threat means that we do not have the luxury of time. Since 1970, global wildlife populations have declined by around 69 per cent, on average. In North America alone, wild species populations decreased by 20 per cent between 1970 and 2018. This trend will continue if we don’t act now. What we do today will determine whether future generations can be safe in the knowledge that their livelihoods, climate, health, prosperity, and habitat are not at stake.

The United States, for its part, is home to a vast array of ecosystems and an astonishing variety of wild



Russ Feingold

The writer is a former US Senator from Wisconsin (1993-2011)

plants and animals. There are an estimated 200,000 native species on its territory, representing 13 per cent of species worldwide. Its breathtaking landscapes stretch from lush forests to frozen tundra and subtropical rainforests, including in 63 protected national parks.

The US is also a global political and economic heavyweight. And, as the world’s largest donor country, international development is a major component of its influence in world affairs.

This month, the world’s eyes will turn to the Convention on Biological Diversity’s (CBD) crucial COP15 conference in Montreal. The hope is that these talks will produce an ambitious final agreement on the “post-2020 framework,” which aims to protect at least 30 per cent of the planet by 2030 (30x30).

COP15 is also an ideal moment for the US to leverage its substantial soft power on behalf of global efforts to build a “nature-positive” future in which we have not only halted but also reversed nature loss. Although the US itself is not a party to the CBD — owing

to bipartisan divisions and opposition from various interest groups — its heavyweight status affords it ample opportunities to contribute, including by influencing the debate over the final language of the framework.

Moreover, the US can help build partnerships, influence key decision-makers, and create new incentives for conservation efforts around the world. It can advocate stronger incentives for country-specific commitments to achieve the most urgent

conservation goals. It can help to secure the financing and funding pledges needed to support low- and middle-income countries’ efforts to achieve global conservation goals and protect their local ecosystems.

And it can integrate conservation into its international-development policies, thus helping to offset the cost of biodiversity conservation in these countries. Despite the US’s three-decade-long failure to ratify the CBD, it

has recently demonstrated that it is still capable of implementing bold, game-changing policies.

The Biden administration’s “America the Beautiful” initiative aims to conserve 30 per cent of American lands and waters by 2030, in line with the global 30x30 target that will be negotiated at COP15.

This initiative aims not only to accelerate a shift toward biodiversity conservation, but also to put the rights of local communities, indigenous peoples, and tribal nations at the centre of protected-area measures.

In the same vein, the Biden administration recently appointed Monica Medina as the first-ever Special Envoy for Biodiversity and Water Resources – a move that signals America’s commitment to tackling biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. Under Medina’s guidance earlier this year, the US joined the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People.

Back in 1964, the US Department of the Interior published The Race for Inner Space, a special report warning that the “conservation clock is ticking too fast to be turned back.”

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There are an estimated 200,000 native species on US territory.

This Sulphur Spring is perfect for your Skin and Soul

BY ARWA AL HASHIMI

This Saharan country, the Sultanate of Oman, is blessed with ecological diversity that gives you the chance to countless activities. Sulphur springs are very popular in Oman and especially in Al Sharqiyah Governorate. Locals and tourists usually go to those springs to relax and also to make use of their wonderful healing benefits for skin and other body parts.

Qa'bt spring is one of the most important and highly recommended to- visit springs in Oman. It is located in the village of "Mass" in the Wilayat of Dima W'attayeen in North Al Sharqiyah. It attracts tourists, adventurers, and lovers of rocky nature and mountain walks. The road leading to spring crosses through valleys and mountains and has some slopes in a journey full of suspense and excitement that takes 45 minutes on foot. The tourist enjoys the walk passing through some slopes, running water and rocky nature to finally reach the spring that has a unique view.

When you reach the spring you will be captivated with the wonderful colours it reflects and the beautiful turquoise water ponds emanating

from it. Those ponds consist of a large amount of sulphur, and some solid sulphur pieces that you can see at the top of the water.

Sulphur springs are considered one of the most important treatment methods used for bathing to treat musculoskeletal, rheumatic and skin diseases. This happens when the hydrogen sulfide passes through the skin and through the mucous membranes of the stomach, upper airway, and bronchial tubes. The hydrogen sulfide has a strong role in the biochemical reactions of the body. It has the Ability to penetrate the skin and mucous membrane. Thus, it can work at the cell level, whether in the skin or in the internal organs of the body. So the sulphur water that is rich in hydrogen sulfide has the ability to treat disorders of the internal organs. Additionally, Sulphur also contains protein, which is a major structural component of the outer layer of our skin. It is necessary in the process of forming the insulin and helps treat arthritis.

Along with its amazing therapeutic benefits, Qa'bt sulphur spring plays a big role in Oman tourism with other springs that people visit during the year. They are highly recommended for spending recreation time and enjoying the wonderful scenes.

READ

BEES A HONEYED HISTORY

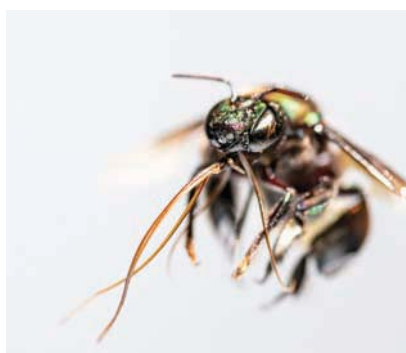
BY JOHN KEATS

Bees explores different methods of beekeeping and uncovers the debt that humans owe this vital species.



SCIENCE

Bees of solitary and itinerant species that arrive in search of a place to reproduce and pollinate the flowers in the process. — AFP



MUSIC

As hip-hop prepares to turn 50 in 2023, US rapper Nas wants to make sure the world understands its history, relevance and influence. —AFP





INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



AROUND THE WORLD

FASHION

Back in vogue: crisis-hit Venezuela vamps up fashion industry



WITH A SERIES OF vibrant evening dresses and urban futuristic metallic ensembles, designers at a Venezuelan fashion week sought to revive an industry in the doldrums after years of economic turmoil.

Venezuela, known for a love of style and pomp often seen in its myriad beauty pageants, had not held a fashion week for almost two decades until the industry event was revived earlier this year.

The second edition of that event wrapped up this weekend in the industrial northern city of Valencia, with top designers such as Angel Sanchez — who has dressed stars such as Meryl Streep, Sandra Bullock and Beyonce — parading their creations on the runway.

It was the first time in 10 years that Sanchez, 62, who has appeared at New York Fashion Week and Madrid Fashion Week, held a show in his native Venezuela. He told AFP it was “the perfect opportunity to reconnect with my country, with my work and with colleagues.”

“I believe that Venezuela has always been a leader in fashion. I remember when I started 35 years ago, we emerging talents had fashion weeks, so I am happy to see the concept is back.”

Restarting the Venezuelan event in which designers present their latest collections was the brainchild of Venezuelan model Romina Palmisano, who returned to the country in the past year to try to revive the neglected fashion industry.

“At an economic level, Venezuela is a country facing an uphill battle in every way, from manufacturing to purchasing supplies,” said Palmisano, who acknowledged the economic difficulties, but is convinced of the fashion industry’s potential.

After years of hyperinflation and a currency in free fall that plunged Venezuelans into misery and pushed more than six million to flee the country, the ravaged economy has shown signs of recovery.

The de facto dollarisation of the economy and easing of price controls have allowed businesses and merchants to increase imports, resulting in a greater variety of products on offer and new shops opening up selling clothes, shoes and more.

Sanchez said that holding a fashion week was crucial to “give space for the fashion world to recover at a professional level.”

At the fashion week, his classic, elegant evening dresses were each named after one of his famous clients.

The Italian-Venezuelan designer Giovanni Scutaro created an “ode to Spain” with his most recent collection’s flamenco vibes, which he carried off via black and red colours, pleats, jackets and hats.

Scutaro said Venezuela is a “noble country with capable people. People like fashion, this is not a country that rejects fashion. It is a country that really invests a lot in its physical appearance

— AFP

ART

Turner Prize for sculptor's works exploring Windrush and Covid



SCULPTOR VERONICA RYAN has been named the winner of Britain’s prestigious Turner Prize 2022 for her work which honours the Windrush generation and explores the Covid pandemic.

The Montserrat-born British artist, 66, was awarded the annual £25,000 prize for the “personal and poetic way she extends the language of sculpture” through found and usually forgotten objects and crafted materials.

Frankie Goes To Hollywood singer Holly Johnson presented the award at a ceremony at St George’s Hall in Liverpool on Wednesday. Ryan was recognised for two projects.

One was her commission by Hackney Council to make the first permanent public sculpture in the UK to honour the legacy and contributions of the Windrush generation.

The so-called Windrush generation of Caribbeans arrived in the UK a few years after the Second World War to help rebuild the nation depleted by six years of conflict.

On a street in Hackney, north-east London, the three-piece marble and bronze work, Custard Apple (Annonaceae), Breadfruit (Moraceae) and Soursop (Annonaceae), recognises tropical fruits which are widely grown in the Caribbean and the Americas.

She was also recognised for her new body of work Along A Spectrum, which explores perception, history

and personal narratives, as well as the psychological impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Works produced for the exhibition included pieces cast in clay and bronze; sewn, tea-stained and dyed fabrics; and bright neon crocheted fishing line pouches filled with a variety of seeds, fruit stones and skins.

The jury praised the “noticeable shift” in her use of space, colour and scale both in the gallery and public spaces.

Born in Plymouth, Montserrat in 1956, Ryan has exhibited across the world and was made an OBE for services to art earlier this year.

Fruit, seeds, plants and vegetables are recurring sculptural objects in her installations, representing displacement, fragmentation and alienation. The three other shortlisted artists — Heather Phillipson, Ingrid Pollard and Sin Wai Kin — were all awarded £10,000.

The jury praised all four nominees for their “strong and varied presentations” which they felt had all “pushed the boundaries of material exploration through unravelling the complexities of body, nature and identity”.

Helen Legg, the director of Tate Liverpool and co-chairman of the Turner Prize jury, told the PA news agency that the jury thought it was the right time to recognise Ryan’s practice as they felt she was “making the strongest work” of her career.

She said: “The jury felt that they had an exceptionally strong shortlist but it came

down to the fact that it felt as though now was a really vital time for Veronica’s practice.”

“The jury spoke about how you could feel in the exhibition that this was a practice in a constant state of development, that she was experimenting, that there was this compulsion to make that she has.”

“She’s making constantly when she’s travelling, when she’s in the gallery, when she’s at home, and that you could feel that vitality in the work.”

Legg added that Ryan’s work makes many references to the history of sculpture and spans a variety of themes which allows for personal interpretation.

She said: “She’s interested in psychology and migration, loss, trauma, movement, nurture, there’s a lot in there about mother-daughter relationships.”

“And all of those threads seem to be interconnected in her practice so it’s very difficult to say ‘Veronica Ryan’s work is about this’ because it’s about many things and it’s about all of those things brought together.”

A free exhibition of the four shortlisted artists is being held at Tate Liverpool until March 19 2023.

This year’s Turner Prize collection is being held at Tate Liverpool to mark 15 years since the award was first held in the city.

Tate Liverpool was the first gallery outside London to host the prize in 2007 when it helped launch the city’s year as European Capital of Culture.

— dpa

OF BOOKS, LIFE, AND POP CULTURE



Rasha al Raisi

World Cup mania

WHEN QATAR announced hosting the World Cup, I nagged my brother about attending as we missed many World Cups before for excuses that included long distance and Islamophobia. I even signed up with the Fifa website to make sure that I know when the ticket sale starts. Once they were on, my brother booked us tickets to watch Japan (his favourite team) Vs. Spain match but kept complaining about how hectic it would be as we didn’t get a hotel confirmation. I was in two minds of who to support as we were booked to sit with the Japanese yet my heart was with the team of my Segunda Patria. Every time I teased my brother with the song “Yo soy Español” my brother would smile and tell me that I’d change my mind once I meet the Japanese supporters. So, On the 1st of December, we left in the afternoon and arrived an hour and fifteen minutes later. The place was crowded with thousands of spectators, especially from Latin America. The official songs were playing everywhere in a loop as if we were caught in an endless nightmare.

There were three other matches that day, including Germany Vs. Costa Rica that was at the same time as ours. The metro ride to the stadium was a smooth one and allowed me to meet the supporters from both teams. It was pure East Vs. West attitudes. While the Japanese in their elaborate costumes and make-up — took the time to thank all their foreign supporters and pose for pictures and videos, the Spanish gathered in groups of their own and did what they do best: act like typical Spaniards. They looked baffled noticing all the none-Spanish-looking people carrying their flags or wearing their football shirts: weren’t they enough to support their own compatriots? This was the deciding factor of who I was going to support. The match was played on the humongous Khalifa

International Stadium. Before taking our seats, there was a Japanese man who kept bowing respectfully before giving out a blue balloon-shaped plastic bag to his fellow citizens. They were trash bags that the Japanese spectators would later use to clean their section of the stadium (while the rest of the world shamelessly took videos of them instead of helping).

The Japanese cheerleaders kept drumming away like Energiser bunnies throughout the game while the rest of the supporters sang their lungs out: “O Nippon!” As for the Spanish with their “Red Tide” flag hanging on one side, they contributed three rounds of Mexican waves that were fun at first but distracting by the end. Watching a live game is a confusing experience as everything seems to be happening at the same time: the match played, the cheering, the score of Germany Vs. Costa Rica game, the instant ranking of teams based on their performances and waiting for goals to be checked by VAR. At the first half of the game and after securing their only goal, the Spaniards followed the Brazilian school example of faking injuries and wasting time rolling on the ground. However, in the second half the Japanese managed to score two consecutive goals within the first ten minutes that sent the Spaniards into a panic mode. The game ended with 2-1 score and a happy ending for both teams as they qualified to the round of 16. After the exciting game, the Japanese coach and his team came out to salute their supporters. We left to the airport and had a 7-hours wait before flying home. Though exhausting, yet a once-in-a-life-time experience that’s truly worth it.

Rasha al Raisi is a certified skills trainer and the author of: The World According to Bahja. rashabooks@yahoo.com



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Asyad to strengthen Oman’s crewing industry



JOMAR MENDOZA
@JmObserver

The Sultanate of Oman, as a maritime nation, plays an important role in assuring the stability of global logistics, Dr Ibrahim al Nadhairs, CEO of Asyad Shipping and Drydock Services, said on the sidelines of The Maritime Standard Tanker Conference 2022 held recently in Dubai. Al Nadhairs was one of the lead speakers at conference, where optimism about the future of the maritime industry was the key theme.

“Oman is historically a maritime nation and it is time for us to revive that history and make sure to highlight the potentials of Oman in the maritime industry,” Al Nadhairs said.

Asyad, the logistics arm of the government of Oman, plays a major role in promoting Oman through its interests spanning shipping, port operation and management, dry ports, postal express and logistics as well as in the transportation industry. “Part of the national mandate to enforce this requirement is basically to make sure that the local industry is equipped with the right tools and expertise to provide the private sector. And with that we are working with a local SME to establish a crewing industry in Oman where our local (Omani) crew will come from this manning agency,” he said.

“What we do in Asyad is basically to provide them with the expertise and give the support they needed to produce the best quality of Oman crew,” he added. Before the pandemic, there were less than 200 Omani seafarers working as officers on board Asyad ships, with about 150 Omani cadets currently being trained to become ship officers.

“For now, we can accommodate only a small number of Omani crew. There are so many graduates from the International Maritime College Oman, which we cannot accommodate. So what we will do is to train these graduates onboard our ships, give them the right training and expertise and hopefully these manning agencies can put them onboard international ships,” he added.

Marafiq spends \$600m on water and electricity services in Duqm

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, DEC 11

Marafiq has spent nearly \$600 million to provide electricity and drinking water services to industrial, commercial and residential facilities in the Special Economic Zone, Eng Abdullah bin Mohammed al Hashemi, Marafiq Executive Director said.

Al Hashemi said that Marafiq plays an important role in providing basic public services for major investments in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm to ensure the growth and prosperity of the region as a global trade centre, in compliance with the Oman Vision 2040.

The executive director also said that the water transmission and distribution project has been assigned to the fish industries zone in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, with a financial cost of \$6.5 million, and it is expected to be completed at the end of 2023.

MSX Index crosses 4,800-point mark

QASIM AL MAASHANI
MUSCAT, DEC 11

The MSX30 Index of Muscat Stock Exchange continued its rise to break the 4,800-point barrier as trading levels soared to new highs on Sunday, December 11, 2022. The MSX30 Index gained 25.5 points to close at 4809.65 points, up from 4784.15 points from the previous trading session.

According to MSX figures, the total market value increased 0.208 per cent to RO 23.74 billion. The value of share purchases by non-Omani investors on the stock exchange amounted to RO 437,000 or 19.29 per cent of the total, while the value of share sales amounted to RO 76,000 or 3.34 per cent. Net non-Omani investment increased by RO 361,000 or 15.95 per cent. According to Amor Ahmad, Head of Brokerage at Ahlibank, the continued growth of the MSX30 Index makes the Omani bourse the second best performing market in the Gulf this year.

“With the improvement of the international classification of the Sultanate of Oman, as well as the recovery witnessed by the economic sector, it may be one of the most important reasons for investor confidence in trading,” Ahmad said, noting that the telecommunications



THE TOTAL MARKET VALUE INCREASED 0.208 PER CENT TO RO 23.74 BILLION. THE VALUE OF SHARE PURCHASES BY NON-OMANI INVESTORS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE AMOUNTED TO RO 437,000 OR 19.29 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL, WHILE THE VALUE OF SHARE SALES AMOUNTED TO RO 76,000 OR 3.34 PER CENT. NET NON-OMANI INVESTMENT INCREASED BY RO 361,000 OR 15.95 PER CENT.

and banking sectors witnessed the largest share of trading. The outlook for the MSX will continue to remain bright, the official stressed.

“It is likely that the positive market performance will continue with the approach to the end of the year and the expectations of positive results for the fiscal year 2022,” said Ahmad.

“The performance of the Muscat Stock Exchange is likely to be positive during the next year 2023, supported by the performance of the listed companies and the possibility of raising the credit rating of the Sultanate of Oman to

investment levels. This is in addition to expectations that oil prices will remain within the safe limits of the budget, supported by inflation for the coming periods,” he stated. In comments to the *Observer*, Ahmad added that the regional markets are expected to perform better next year.

“If we look at their performance this year, they did not actually reflect the huge revenues and financial surpluses as a result of high oil prices. This is particularly so with the Saudi and Dubai markets, whose performance we expect to be better next year.”

Marubeni targets launch of Oman green ammonia project in Q1 2028

CONRAD PRABHU
MUSCAT, DEC 11

Japanese integrated trading and investment business conglomerate Marubeni says its green ammonia project, planned in Salalah Free Zone in Oman’s Dhofar Governorate, is slated for commercial launch in the first quarter of 2028.

Tokyo-headquartered Marubeni is the lead developer in a multinational consortium that seeks to set up ‘SalalahH2’ – a 1 million tonnes per annum capacity green ammonia project that will use a combination of solar and wind-based renewable energy to power the multibillion dollar venture.

Consortium partners include OQ Alternative Energy (part of Oman’s integrated energy company OQ Group), German-based global industrial gases giant Linde, and UAE based multidisciplinary engineering business Dutco.

Recently, Hydrom – the state-owned orchestrator of Oman’s green hydrogen industry – designated SalalahH2, among other green hydrogen projects announced before the unveiling of the National Hydrogen Strategy on October 23, 2022, as ‘Legacy



“We have very strong capability across the full value chain from production of the green electrons and green molecules, to shipping the product to the end-user customers.”

SULE ERKOÇ
Senior Lead Project Developer,
Marubeni

Initiatives’. As many as six green hydrogen project proposals have

labelled as ‘Legacy Initiatives’.

They will be mapped out against the qualification criteria set out by the government for the development of hydrogen ventures in Oman.

According to a high-level executive of Marubeni, the SalalahH2 Project – already two years in the making – is in a strong position to deliver on its project plans in alignment with the government’s broader strategy for the green energy sector.

“It’s been almost two years that, as a consortium we are developing the SalalahH2 project. We have spent a considerable amount of time and effort, which has taken us to an advanced project development stage,” said Sule Erkoç (pictured), Senior Lead Project Developer – Marubeni.

“Therefore, we see the SalalahH2 Project Consortium very well-positioned to provide a compelling proposal to Hydrom in the third quarter of 2023. Further, as a consortium, we think that we have very strong capability across the full value chain from production of the green electrons and green molecules, to shipping the product to the end-user customers. And we intend to self-perform in all aspects

of the project.”

Speaking during the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) 2022 Conference & Exhibition, which concluded in Muscat last week, Erkoç said the upstream renewable energy component of SalalahH2 will come with around 4 gigawatts (GW) of total installed capacity, comprising around 2.1 GW of wind capacity and 1.7 GW of solar – both located in Thamrait in Dhofar Governorate.

The green electricity will be transferred via a high-voltage transmission line to a 2 GW capacity electrolyser complex to be located in Salalah Free Zone adjacent to SalalahH2’s green ammonia plants. Giving a timeline for the delivery of the project, she added: “We will be spending our next month further developing our project to prepare our proposal for Hydrom.

Following that, in mid-2024, we intend to take a Final Investment Decision (FID), followed with financial close in Q1 2025. We are planning on three years of construction, which will hopefully take us to the Commercial Operation Date (CoD) of a 1 million-tonnes per annum ammonia production facility by the first quarter of 2028.”

Oman AgroFood kicks off in Muscat



MUSCAT: Inaugurated by Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Dr Saud bin Hamoud bin Ahmed al Habsi, and in the presence of distinguished guests and media representatives, Oman AgroFood 2022 was officially inaugurated yesterday in Muscat.

Organised by International Fairs & Promotions (IFP Group) and Al Nimr International Exhibition Organisers, Oman AgroFood, the 4th International Exhibition for Agriculture, Food and Aquaculture is held from December 11 to 13, 2022 at Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

For three consecutive days, this key gathering brought together Omani and international decision-makers,

regional trailblazers, and innovative solution providers to transform the agriculture and food sectors and make the Sultanate of Oman's ambitious vision a reality.

More than 100 local and international exhibitors from Oman, Russia, Iran, India, and Saudi Arabia gathered under one roof to showcase their products, services, and solutions for sustainable farming and to foster successful partnerships with local and regional entities.

Running alongside the exhibition is a three-day certified conference showcasing the latest opportunities in the agriculture and fisheries market in Oman and discussing cutting-edge technologies and innovations from around the world.

Meethaq wins GIFA Market Leadership Award for 2022

MUSCAT: Meethaq, the pioneer of Islamic banking in Oman from Bank Muscat, has announced that it has been awarded the Global Islamic Finance Award for Market Leadership in 2022. The accolade adds to a list of prestigious awards won by the leading Islamic services provider in Oman as it celebrates its 10th anniversary in the Sultanate of Oman.

The Global Islamic Finance Awards honours the best in the Islamic financial industry worldwide and are one of the top accolades for the global Islamic banking and finance sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Ahmed al Lawati, Assistant General Manager — Meethaq Corporate Banking, said: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank Cambridge IFA for recognising Meethaq at the recently-held Global Islamic Finance Summit and Awards.

Meethaq is well known for its continuous efforts to offer the best value propositions and services aligned to the needs of its growing family of customers in the Sultanate of Oman as well as the latest global financial trends.

We also extend our sincere appreciation and support to all our valued customers for their strong confidence and belief in Meethaq, and hope to



facilitate the achievement of their dreams through innovative and customer-centric services and features in the future too." It is a matter of great pride for Meethaq that it has been able to establish the largest Islamic branch network in Oman consisting of 12 branches in Muscat and 12 branches across other governorates with ongoing plans to further develop the network in the coming months.

In addition to its branch network, Meethaq also has a dedicated network of over 40 ATMs/CDMs and provides free access to about 800 Bank Muscat ATMs and CDMs across the country. Meethaq customers can

also benefit from the world-class Mobile and Internet banking facilities as well as access to a state-of-the-art call centre, which is easily reachable at 24656666.

With its innovative Sharia-based products, Meethaq extends support to all key economic sectors and is well positioned to provide sustained Islamic financial expertise promoting the good of the society as a whole. In addition to offering a full suite of Islamic banking products and services for its retail customers including savings accounts, current accounts, home finance, auto finance, debit / credit cards, Mobile and Internet banking and SME & corporate customers including

current accounts, working capital, short term and long-term facilities. Meethaq has heavily invested in its staff, systems and controls to ensure its services and products are delivered in a professional, segregated and Sharia-compliant manner.

As the leader in the Islamic banking industry in Oman in terms of branch network, products and services, IT infrastructure, human resources and financing retail, SME's & Corporates customers since its launch in 2012, Meethaq has a strong track record of winning many prestigious local, regional and global awards for its outstanding achievements in Islamic banking.

National Finance extends partnership with Sharakah

MUSCAT: Through its partnership with Sharakah, National Finance, the leading diversified non-banking finance company in Oman, successfully completed a series of 'Calculate it Right' workshops for small and medium enterprises to help them enhance their financial management and planning skills.

The initiative was carried out under 'Imtidad', the company's independent wing for Corporate Social Responsibility for the Fourth consecutive year. The sessions covered various aspects of financial management, such as project costs and sales assumptions. About 184 participants attended the five workshops that were held in Musannah, Sur, Nizwa, and Muscat.

Following the feedback



gathered from the participants, National Finance and Sharakah have extended their partnership to launch a new initiative that will help six local micro and small enterprises improve their businesses. The programme, which is known as the SME Growth Programme, will provide them with a comprehensive package of financial management and marketing strategies.

Spanning over a period of

12 months, the companies will identify areas where the local businesses can improve their operations and make them more profitable. They will then implement effective strategies and procedures to improve their business.

Ali bin Ahmed Muqibal, CEO of Sharakah said, "We are pleased to extend the collaboration with National Finance. We believe that the new programme will equip business owners with the necessary skills set in financial management and planning. To assist these small businesses, Sharakah will deploy its Business Performance Monitoring Tool, an industry-standard monitoring tool, along with other tools such as the Risk Assessment to help improve the overall business profitability."

Alizz Islamic Bank wins award for Manar Alizz programme

MUSCAT: Alizz Islamic Bank recently won the Best Islamic Banking Awareness & Outreach Programme Award for the umbrella programme 'Manar Alizz' at the Islamic Banking and Finance Forum 2022 which was organised by Alam al-Iktisaad Wal Aamal under the auspices of HH Sayyid Faher bin Fatik al Said at the Crowne Plaza Muscat in the presence of officials and Islamic banking experts. The Award was received by Mohammed al Ghassani, Assistant General Manager and Chief Consumer Banking Officer, on behalf of the Bank.

'Manar Alizz' is Alizz Islamic Bank's umbrella programme to raise awareness of Islamic banking and it comes as part of the bank's strategy to serve various segments both inside and outside the Sultanate of Oman such as researchers, university and educational institution students, various stakeholders and the public in general.

On the other hand, 'Manar Alizz' aims at building cognitive awareness of Islamic banking as well as the role of Islamic banks' role in developing a sustainable economy, providing researchers and learners with important knowledge of Shariah-compliant banking procedures in general and



Islamic banking in Oman in particular, attracting researchers and learners from outside the Sultanate of Oman to learn about Islamic banking in Oman, educating the various sections of the society about the Islamic banking products, urging banking innovation, enabling the banking experts to have their respective cognitive contributions and accomplishing other objectives in the best interests of the society.

Lexus unveils exclusive benefits across the range

MUSCAT: Customers interested in owning a Lexus can now benefit with service 3 years / 30,000 kms (Whichever is earlier) and 1 year free registration. Campaign is valid up to December 21, 2022 (Conditions apply). Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

Owning a Lexus is indeed a fulfilling experience. One that begins with a visit to the showroom and continues all along the ownership period. Enthusiasts have an inspiring range of luxury Lexus vehicles to choose from. It includes, the NX which is equipped with two powertrain options.

A newly developed inline 4-cylinder, 2.4 L turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 6,000 RPM and is paired to an 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic

transmission (8AT). The NX is also available with hybrid-electric system that combines two power sources consisting of a 2.5-litre petrol engine and two electric motors producing 240 hp. The hybrid-electric system is paired to a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission. The front wheel drive Lexus UX is powered by a high-efficiency 2.0 litre, four-cylinder engine, which is coupled with a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission.

The pioneering five-seat Lexus RX350 is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 that is paired to an eight speed automatic transmission. The RX is also available in a 3-row 7-seater option. Also available is the Lexus RX450h, a hybrid version featuring



a 3.5-litre Atkinson-cycle engine.

The powerful Lexus GX460 is perfect for families who seek no-holds-barred adventure on their days off, yet also desire an easy-driving, comfortable and versatile luxury SUV for the work week. The Lexus GX460 features a 4.6L engine that provides outstanding power and

responsive performance.

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OMAN DAILY Observer Classified Section

Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230
m.alrahdi86@yahoo.com

Ali al Maashari: 99639264
ali.almaashari@omandaily.com

Saad al Rashdi
95919344

94501166
24649593
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Notice for Annual General Meeting 2022

The Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Social Club, Salalah branch, Oman will be held on Friday, 10th March 2023 at 9:00 PM in BSC, Salalah office.

Agenda:

- Recitation of Verses from the Holy Quran.
- Address by the Chairman.
- Annual General Report by the General Secretary.
- Presentation of Accounts.
- Election of the Executive Committee for the period of 2023-2025 (Board of Directors).

Schedule of Elections: (during office time)

1. Renewal of membership	From 01 st Dec 2022 to 28 th Feb 2023
2. Collection of Nomination paper	From Wednesday 1 st March to Friday 3 rd March 2023
3. Submission of Nomination Paper	From Saturday 4 th March to Sunday 5 th March 2023
4. Withdrawal of the candidature.	Monday 6 th March 2023
5. Display of final list of the candidates.	Wednesday 8 th March 2023
6. Polling Vote	Friday 10 th March 2023 at 9:00 AM in BSC Salalah Office
7. AGM Proceedings	Friday 10 th March 2023 at 9:00 PM in BSC Salalah Office

Note: Members with six months older with valid memberships (who cleared club fees up to 28/02/2023) are eligible to attend the AGM & members exceeding ONE YEAR membership (who cleared club fees up to 28/02/2023) status can contest in election. All are requested to keep their membership & resident card with them to attend the Voting & AGM.

OMAN DAILY Observer

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Please Contact with our Team:

Head Office

Mohd Al Rashdi
99841230
m.alrahdi86@yahoo.com

Ali Al Maashari
99639264
wadi.almeeh@yahoo.com

Salalah Office

Bakhit Al Shihri
92998577
bakhit.omandaily@gmail.com

Nizwa Office

Abdullah Al Abri
99429094
nizwaofc@omandaily.net.om

Suhar Office

Musalam Al Saidi
99429192
sohardaily@outlook.com

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HIS MAJESTY ADMINISTERS OATH TO NEW MINISTER

UN HAILS OMAN'S SUPPORT FOR PEACE IN YEMEN

NEW YORK: António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, has commended the role of the Sultanate in supporting international efforts to establish security and peace in Yemen.

MUSCAT: Before His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Dr. Saad bin Hamoud bin Ahmed al-Hadi, Chairman of the Supreme Court Sayyid Khalifa bin Said bin Khalifa al-Busaidi, and Chairman of Administrative Judiciary Court Sheikh Ali Mukharrem bin Abdullah bin Hattar, took the oath of office at Al Barakati Palace on Thursday. SEE ALSO P2

STAY APART AND BREAK THE CHAIN

SAMUEL RUFFY

MUSCAT: The frequent orders and forced agencies by the authorities to follow social distancing guidelines are failing to stop the spread of the virus.

NEW RO 50 BANKNOTE FROM THIS MONTH

MUSCAT: To mark the 50th anniversary of the Omani Renaissance and in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Omani Renaissance, the Central Bank of Oman (CBO) issued a new 50 Omani banknote, which will begin circulation this month.

SOME PEOPLE, NOT FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING WORKS

and as some cases, it is necessary to police the behaviour of other people as well," said Ahmed al-Wahidi, who stopped his car to

CMA appoints temporary board for Raysut Cement Company

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) issued a decision to immediately dissolve the current board of directors of Raysut Cement Company and appoint a temporary board of directors, based on experience, competence and independence. The new board is headed by Hamdan bin Ahmed al Shaqsi and comprises of Majid bin Sultan al Touqi, Dr Ali bin Amer al Ghaithi, Ahmed bin Saud al Zakwani and Mubeen Jalil Yasin Khan as members. The decision also states that the term of the board shall last for three years.

The CMA said in a statement that the new board of directors of Raysut Cement Company will assume the tasks of organising and restructuring the firm to ensure the stability of its financial position. The board will also deal with the reasons that led the company to conditions that prompted such action. The new board enjoys all powers and assumes all tasks and responsibilities stipulated in the Commercial Companies Law, bylaw of public shareholding companies and the Articles of Association of the company, according to the statement.

The CMA would like to assure the investors and shareholders in Raysut Cement Company and the firm's dealers that the tasks of the temporary board will expire as soon as it completes its mission by leading the company to a stable position.

The temporary board will also deal with all observations that the CMA detected during its recent internal audit operation. Thereafter, the shareholders will elect a permanent board of directors as usual.

Through supervision and regulatory tasks, the CMA seeks to establish a positive investment environment in which all perform the tasks and duties entrusted to them and bear all the consequences arising therefrom. The action seeks to consolidate confidence in investment in the capital market in a climate of responsibility, integrity, disclosure and transparency. It does not tolerate any practices that are not based on these principles and do not follow the standards of good governance.

The CMA will not hesitate to take all measures entrusted to it by law to ensure the correct application of approved laws and procedures.

This statement stems from the tasks authorised to the CMA under the Commercial Companies Law and the Securities Law for protecting investors and maintaining the stability of the capital market. The action undertaken by the CMA emerges as an immediate measure to deal with the causes of risk that prevail at Raysut Cement Company and compromise the interests of the firm's shareholders and all other parties, according to the statement. — ONA



Bright future for green hydrogen ecosystem in Oman: Shell



BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, DEC 11

Oman Shell successfully concluded its participation as principal sponsor of the second edition of the Green Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition Oman (GHSO) on Wednesday, at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC).

The three-day event, which took place from December 5 – 7, provided a unique platform for international and Omani energy industry stakeholders to engage, network and unlock new partnership opportunities in an endeavour to develop this new sector in Oman.

The summit also saw three speakers from Shell presenting their views on the future of hydrogen in Oman, namely – Paul Bogers, Shell's Vice President

GEOGRAPHICALLY, OMAN HAS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE WHEN IT COMES TO DEVELOPING GREEN HYDROGEN, AND HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE HYDROGEN ECONOMY. WITH THE POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP GREEN AND BLUE HYDROGEN ON A COMMERCIAL SCALE, HYDROGEN WILL PLAY A BIG ROLE IN DECARBONISING HEAVY INDUSTRY.

of Hydrogen, Tom Clarke, Oman Shell's General Manager, Commercial and New Business Development and Basil Elzein, Integration Manager at Oman Shell.

Oman's leading platform for green hydrogen, the GHSO Conference and Exhibition focused on the nation's plans and strategies to develop a world-class

industry that will meet the energy needs of the Sultanate of Oman's future low-carbon economy, and enable Oman to become a major global supplier of the alternative clean fuel.

Speaking on the future of green hydrogen and its relevance in Oman, Paul Bogers, Vice President of Shell Hydrogen, said, "The momentum behind the development of hydrogen has been growing in recent years, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

More countries are embracing its potential and we are particularly excited about recent developments in the Middle East and Oman in particular.

Geographically, Oman has a competitive advantage when it comes to developing green hydrogen, and has an important role to play in the hydrogen

economy. With the potential to develop green and blue hydrogen on a commercial scale, hydrogen will play a big role in decarbonising heavy industry."

Commenting on Oman Shell's participation in the Green Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition Oman, Walid Hadi, Senior Vice President and Country Chairman of Oman Shell said, "We are excited to participate in the second edition of the Green Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition Oman as principal sponsors. At Oman Shell, we see this summit as a platform for pivotal discussions on sustainable development, and the way forward to achieve Oman and Shell's 2050 Net-Zero ambitions. We see a bright future for the development of a green hydrogen ecosystem in Oman, and we look forward to sharing that success with the world."

Pact signed to support Lean Six Sigma training in Oman

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, DEC 11

Well-known Omani HR development company Rikaz Global Institute for Consulting and Training has signed a cooperation and partnership agreement with the Dutch company Lean Six Sigma. The agreement was signed by Said al Ismaili, Director General of Rikaz Global Institute, and Zeljko Rakic, Chief Operating Officer of Lean Six Sigma.

The signing of this agreement comes with the aim of helping institutions to develop their business, speed, and efficiency of performance, and to apply

a unified methodology that leads to reducing differences and variations in products and processes, as quality management elements are used to create a distinguished infrastructure of expert workers in the institution.

Six Sigma certification is a management methodology that aims to develop performance at work, as it relies on an integrated set of techniques, methodologies, and tools.

Each of its projects implements a set of sequential and specific steps to achieve certain goals such as reducing the time cycle and waste or increasing profits and customer satisfaction. In

addition, Six Sigma helps business development if the organisation wants to reduce costs and risks, increase customer satisfaction, improve process efficiency, as well as enhance organisational flexibility and improve decision-making strategies at the same time.

The selection of the Rikaz Global Institute for Consulting and Training to implement this methodology is in line with the institute's strategy assist local institutions to implement this system in their work and obtain accreditation certificates for these systems.

Rikaz Global Institute is a

leading organisation in the field of training, human resource development, and consulting here in Oman since 2007.

It is an ISO 9001-certified institute and has a proven track record of distinguished clients and relationships with local and foreign clients.

The institute offers solutions to develop management skills and automate governments and the private sector with high-quality standards for the services provided, and numerous long-term training plans are being implemented for ministries, organisations, and companies with a global reputation.

All girls team wins first place at Green Hydrogen Summit

HIBBA AL KINDI
MUSCAT, DEC 11

An all girls team won first place at the student awards at the Green Hydrogen Summit in Muscat. The team took part in the Energy Future Leaders Programme, a global programme aimed at showcasing and supporting green energy projects.

The winners were awarded by Minister of Energy and Minerals, Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, and Oman LNG CEO Hamed al Numani. Rawan al Shezawi, Arwa al Farsi, Zuhoor al Rashdi and Reem al Abri presented their research paper entitled "Hydrogen

Production from Sewage Treatment Plants."

"Our research is about resource recovery, we needed to re-utilise the resources that are wasted from sewage treatment plants. There are two main sources, the treated effluent and sludge. Sludge is the waste that comes out after the treatment process," explained Al Rashdi.

The team of environmental engineers offered two solutions to utilise the waste.

"First they can produce green hydrogen from utilising the wasted treated water, and second they can produce biohydrogen produced from the biological processes of the bacteria available in the



sludge," elaborated Al Rashdi. The winners expressed their gratitude and joy after receiving first place. "It feels amazing, we are so happy. We are so proud of what we did, we worked a lot and we are so proud," exclaimed Al Rashdi. The German University of Technology graduates participated with their undergraduate thesis.

"This is a great chance for us to introduce our project and our idea to many companies, especially the energy companies," shared Al Abri. The team was chosen from 50 initial global and local entries, which were later scaled down to 10 entries. All 10 teams were given the chance to showcase their projects during the conference.

Programme leader, Intisar al Busaidy explained the important role the initiative plays in the world of clean energy. "The power of the green hydrogen energy sector lies mainly in research and development. The future leaders programme focuses on enabling students in the energy transition phase while also providing them with a platform to showcase their research."

Winners of the programme will receive further support to develop their ideas.

"Some of the ideas will proceed into becoming final products, while some of the ideas will require more research development," explained Al Busaidy.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 12 | 2022 | JUMADA AL ULA 18 | 1444 AH



WALID REGRAGUI

MOROCCO INSTILL NEW

H

ANUROOP ATHIPARAMBATH
DOHA, DEC 11.

MOROCCO head coach Walid Regragui said his team has established that Arab or African teams can reach the last four stage of the World Cup.

“We achieved something, we made history. We put an African team as one of the best four teams in the world. We were among the eight best,” Regragui told reporters after stunning former Euro champions Portugal 1-0 to storm into the semifinals of the Qatar 2022 World Cup.

“I’m very proud of that because our players made an extraordinary performance.”
The coach, nicknamed ‘Mr Avacado Head’ due to the shape of his head, said it was a tough encounter.

“We had a plan, but Portugal gave us a lot of trouble. It would be arrogant of me to say that we changed the game today.” “We also didn’t do too well against Spain. We play from the heart. We know that we need to fight against the talents of Portugal.” Regragui said his team is evolving as one of the best teams in this World Cup.

“And today we had heart, and I think that we are becoming the best team at this World Cup, and we are showing the whole world that everything’s possible in life.”

He said the players and the support staff have worked hard to reach this level.

“You can have less talent, less quality, and less money, but if you have hope, work hard, fight and believe, you’ll be able to do anything. Today, the guys are proving... and as I said, be careful, it’s not a miracle.” “We played Croatia, Belgium, Spain and Portugal. We conceded 0 goals against them all. It’s not a miracle, it’s hard work,” the 47-year-old said.

INSTILLING NEW BELIEF

Regragui said it was his pre-tournament priority to instill a self-belief among the players to make an impression in Qatar.

“When I travelled, three months ago, I used to spend my life on the plane. I spoke with everyone, [Hakim] Ziyech, [Sofyan] Amrabat, I said: “Don’t go to this World Cup to play only three games, put that in your mind because it’s very important.”

“The guy who only comes here to play three games in the World Cup and have fun can’t come with me. That message was spread around the team, and in my country now.”

“Then it reached the continent. For that, football is the best sport in the world.”

On a query on goal-scorer Youssef En-Nesyri, Walid said he had always believed in the capability of the Sevilla player. Selection of En-Nesyri, who was out of form before the World Cup, had evoked heavy criticism from the home media in Morocco.

TOP SCORER

“I always believed in him, fortunately, I did, because even the Moroccan media heavily criticised me when I defended him, and when I selected him for the World Cup squad. “That’s football, I knew that very well, I accepted the critics then, and told the lad: ‘You don’t play in Sevilla for nothing, we’ll help you and you’ll help us back in the World Cup. Today, he’s Morocco’s top scorer in the history of the World Cup, he gave his response on the pitch.

“That’s what I said, the answer is always on the field, for me as a coach, for him as a player. This will give us lessons in the future. When managers make choices... it’s your job as well.”

“You know, I always believed in Youssef, because of the energy bursts he gives. That’s why he plays in Sevilla, any coach would love to have Youssef En-Nesyri on his team.”

“He always works for the team, as Oliver Giroud does for France. Some players are like this. “He’s raised in Morocco, in the Moroccan league. He was made in Morocco, he’s really the example to follow.” Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou, who was picked as the man of the match, said this squad has given a new winning mentality for the coming generation.

“We’ve come to change the mentality, our insecurity while playing big teams. We showed that Moroccan players can compete against anyone in the world.”

“I think the most important thing is that we’ve managed to change that mentality and the generation after us will know that Moroccan players can do all this,” Bounou, who made an important save off a Cristiano Ronaldo shot, added.

Selection of EN-NESYRI, who was out of form before the World Cup, had evoked heavy criticism from the home media in Morocco.

“I always believed in him, fortunately, I did, because even the Moroccan media heavily criticised me when I defended him, and when I selected him for the World Cup squad. “That’s football, I knew that very well, I accepted the critics then, and told the lad: ‘You don’t play in Sevilla for nothing, we’ll help you and you’ll help us back in the World Cup. Today, he’s Morocco’s top scorer in the history of the World Cup, he gave his response on the pitch.



YOUSSEF EN-NESYRI

P
E

FOR ARAB, AFRICAN TEAMS



FRANCE EDGE ENGLAND TO MOVE INTO SEMIS

France's forward Olivier Giroud celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the quarter-final football match between England and France. – AFP

ANUROOP
ATHIPARAMBATH
DOHA, DEC 11

Defending champions France moved into the semifinals of the Qatar World Cup 2022 after surviving an England onslaught to register a 2-1 win at the Al Bayt Stadium on Saturday.

France will meet Morocco -- who stunned Portugal 1-0 in an earlier quarterfinal -- in the semifinal on Wednesday.

Oliver Giroud netted the winner in the 78th minute after England pulled level in the 54th minute through a penalty by Harry Kane. Kane missed England's second penalty of the match in the 84th minute as France hung on for a win.

France went ahead in the 17th minute when Aurelien Tchouameni unleashed a long ranger from the corner of the England penalty box to beat goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

In a counter-attack from France, Kylian Mbappe rode the challenge from Declan Rice as he switched to the right, and Griezmann pulled it back to Tchouameni who fired through Jude Bellingham's legs and into the bottom-left corner to give France lead 1-0.

In the 53rd minute, England earned a penalty when Bukayo Saka was brought down in the box by Tchouameni. Captain Harry Kane made no mistake as he placed the ball to the right side corner of France goalkeeper



France's Aurelien Tchouameni celebrates scoring their first goal.

Hugo Lloris in the 54th minute as England pulled level 1-1.

Pickford came down to push away an effort from Adrien Rabiot to deny France in the next moment.

England earned a free kick on the counter attack in 18th minute after a foul on Saka but Luke Shaw's shot went straight into France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

In the 28th minute, Jordan Henderson powered a long ranger which was brilliantly saved by Lloris for a corner. The corner kick was scrambled away by the French defence to avert any danger.

Griezmann picked up a yellow card in the 43rd minute.

The second-half began with Dembele getting a yellow and

followed by a screamer from Giroud just put over the bar by Pickford.

In the 70th minute, Henderson's freekick was headed by Harry Maguire to just miss the target.

Full capacity crowd of 68, 895 were present at the Al Bayt Stadium to cheer both the teams.

Pickford produced another sensational save and the joy didn't last long as France went up again with a powerful header by Giroud in the 78th minute. The French striker, who was picked as the man of the match, got in front of England defender Maguire to cash in on Griezmann's great cross.

England got a penalty in the 83rd minute after a VAR

decision. Mount Mason was pushed down by France defender Theo Hernandez.

Kane blazed the kick above the bar and into the stands as France kept the lead 2-1.

Substitute Marcus Rashford took the last-moment free kick for England and it missed the target narrowly to land on the roof of the outside net.

France saw their first chance when Oliver Giroud failed to connect a cross from Ousmane Dembele at the right flank in the ninth minute.

In the next minute, a move started with Dembele finding Greizmann who could deliver a pass to Giroud but the diving header went to the safe hands of Pickford.



France coach Didier Deschamps celebrates after the match as France progress to the semi finals. – REUTERS

FRANCE RIDE ON ‘QUALITY WITH LUCK’ TO OVERCOME ENGLAND

ANUROOP
ATHIPARAMBATH
DOHA, DEC 11

FRANCE manager Didier Deschamps said his team's quality combined with a bit of luck helped them go past an excellent England side in the late quarterfinal at the Al Bayt Stadium on Saturday night.

"We came up against an excellent team tonight. They were very technical, played with so much intensity," the World Cup-winning coach told reporters after the match.

"Even if we were always in the game, I regret that we gave them chances, such as the penalties we conceded. They missed the second one, luckily for us."

"But without taking any credit away from my team, we knew how to do things right. We were able to create some dangerous chances before scoring the second."

Deschamps admitted that luck was also key in getting through.

"There was actually a brilliant piece of play where Ousmane [Dembele] set up Olivier [Giroud], and [Jordan] Pickford saved splendidly.

"Our quality was probably not enough to win tonight, but luck was on our side."

He said the experience of French players also was crucial in managing the difficult game.

"We're experienced too, even if the England team has experience as well. Our collective experience comes handy in tournaments like the World Cup. This allowed us to manage the situation."

Deschamps said France could have avoided conceding two penalties.

"We could have done some things better, but if we didn't do certain things well, it was because England didn't allow us. They were also very dangerous from set-pieces until our game," he said.

You must also be able to cope under pressure and avoid committing fouls. We could have done without giving two penalties away and another two or three free-kicks outside of our box."

"But they're so talented, fast, lively and powerful that we had no choice but to rise up to the challenge, and that's what we did. We've got our reward, I don't want to take anything away from

our performance."

At the Al Bayt Stadium in Qatar, France rode on an Olivier Giroud winner after England captain Harry Kane missed a late penalty to seal a 2-1 win and book a spot in the semifinals against Morocco on Wednesday.

Giroud, who passed Thierry Henry to become France's all-time top goal scorer earlier in the tournament, said Les Bleus had to be at their best to beat England.

"This goal tonight, the 53rd, is even better [than equalling Henry]. Just before I had a chance, I should have hit harder and scored," Giroud said. "I thought I might get another chance, and when it came to me it was an unbelievable feeling to score."

"You need to keep believing. [Antoine Griezmann] gave me a super ball, it's so good for the team, it's awesome."

"We knew the potential of this young England team. They have everything, but we played a solid game, we tried to hurt them on the break. We went for it with all our mental strength."

France, who became the first defending champions to reach the semifinals again in 60 years, will be favourites on Wednesday.

Deschamps said Morocco — the first African team to reach the semis, deserve a lot of credit.

"We will prepare for the next game thoroughly. Morocco deserve praise," Deschamps said. "Maybe they were not expected in the semis, but they conceded only one goal and then, seeing them here is not a surprise at all."

Southgate Proud
England manager Gareth Southgate said he takes pride in the players' performance, adding that he is unsure whether to continue in the role after the World Cup exit.

The 52-year-old is under contract until 2024 and the Football Association are keen for Southgate to continue.

"The energy it takes through these tournaments is enormous. I want to make the right decision, whatever that is for the team, for England, for the FA."

"I wanted to focus totally on this tournament and to approach it in the way that we have. I think we have given a really good account of ourselves to the rest of the world. But, in the end, only one team wins and we wanted to win. Tonight we have just fallen short."

FAN



England fans react after being eliminated from the World Cup. – REUTERS



England fan looks dejected after the match as England are eliminated from the World Cup. –REUTERS



French fans in New York City celebrate as they watch the Quarter-final match. – AFP



England fans react to France's second goal as they watch a screen showing the quarter-final football match between England and France, at Depot Mayfield in Manchester. – AFP



French fans in New York City celebrate as they watch the Quarter-final football match between England and France. – AFP



Z O N E



Morocco's supporters celebrate after their country's win of the football match between Morocco and Portugal, in the capital Rabat. – AFP



England fans react during the England and France match. – REUTERS



An England supporter cheers before the start of the quarter-final football match between England and France. – AFP



Supporters cheer ahead of the start of the quarter-final football match between England and France. – AFP

France's supporters cheer before the start of the quarter-final football match between England and France. – AFP

French soccer fans celebrate the final whistle as they gather in a bar in central London to cheer on their country as they take on England in their World Cup Quarter-final in London, Britain. – REUTERS





Team Aqua consolidates lead in penultimate day of the 44Cup Championship Tour finale

MUSCAT: Team Asyad Shipping, Oman Sail's entry into the 44Cup finale at Al Mouj Muscat, began to show their skill on the third day of their first ever experience of the race. However, low winds brought this progress to an abrupt halt.

The Omani team led round the starboard leeward gate mark, a few seconds after Artemis Racing had led around the port mark. After tacking on to starboard, the Omanis dug into a major lift as they crossed the breadth of the course and by the time they had returned to the starboard layline they were in the lead.

"It was good, but it went wrong at the top mark. We just tried to hang on until the end after that," said Musab Al Hadi. "It was great. It was exciting. We were just trying to keep it cool. If we can



AbdulAziz Al Shidi

just continue matching the other boats."

Ultimately only one race could be held, with the north-northwesterly wind never exceeding 6-7 knots. Enough for the nimble RC44 owner-driver one designs to make this speed both upwind and downwind, but a tricky day for both race officials



Team Asyad Shipping

and the nine 44Cup teams alike.

It was Chris Bake's Team Aqua that led onto the run. Anticipating the breeze going right, they were quick to gybe and so held their advantage to the finish.

Team Aqua tactician Cameron Appleton commented, "The race was really tricky with a lot of decisions and a lot of thought

going into positioning. For us it was a really solid race in the end, but there were a lot of up and downs, trying to balance out the whole fleet versus the wind. We got ourselves out to the right when the breeze went right and so we were able to lead on to the last run. It went heavily our way, and we are really happy that it did."

Abdulaziz al Shidi, Race Officer, said, "We have an Omani team running the race management in the water. The team is very experienced because we have hosted many races in Oman, both here in Muscat and in Musannah. The team has grown in confidence over the past 10 years, and now we have the trust of World Sailing and classes, such as 44Cup, to be able to host major events here and manage the events with a local team."

Maria Torrijo, Principal Race Officer of the 44Cup, added, "The Omani team is very well trained and having trust in the team allows me to focus on my role. After the practice race, you can see how experienced the team is and they are very good. It has been very easy for me to manage the races.

I was relaxed when I came here. I knew Oman Sail has a very high standard and the team is used to a lot of responsibility."

Going into the final day the pointscore is showing the 44Cup's usual closeness with just one point separating the top three and eight points between the top five. Any of the top seven teams remains mathematically capable of winning.

The 44Cup Oman is organised by Oman Sail and also supported by official event partners Oman Air, Al Mouj Muscat, Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Tanuf Water, Transom Catering, environmental partners Environment Society of Oman (ESO) and UN Clean Seas, and the new EQ range from Mercedes-Benz Oman.

Aisha only Arab umpire at ITTF World Youth tourney in Tunis

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, DEC 11

Oman's blue badge umpire, Aisha al Saidi, took part at the ITTF World Youth Championships 2022 which concluded on Sunday in Tunisia after seven days of thrilling action. The globe's best U19 and U15 table tennis players competed from December 4-11 in Tunis city. Aisha was the only Arab woman umpire to officiate the matches.

Al Saidi, who hails from Saham, officiated a series of games in the event including in group stages and final rounds.

The championship witnessed events in singles, mixed doubles and teams category in different age groups with a total of 14 titles up for grabs. The event was held at Salle Omnisport de Rades in Rades.



As many as 300 players from both categories representing 33 countries took part in the championships.

France, China, USA, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, India, Peru, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Thailand, South Korea, Sweden, Chinese Taipei, Spain, Australia and hosts Tunisia were represented in the world event.

The Chinese duo of Lin Shidong and Chen Yuanyu, managed to clinch the U-19 boys double title after beating Japan Hayate and Belgium Adrien 3-1 in the final match.

In the girls category, Japanese pair Miyuu Kihara and Miwa Harimoto lifted the trophy and bagged the gold medal as they won against French players Charlotte Lutz and Prithika Pavade.

In team competitions, China team players dominated to grab the boys title after they defeated Poland 3-1 in a thrilling final match while the Chinese girls were crowned champions after they beat France in the final. China also proved their top show in the U-15 competitions as they dominated in most of the games including teams competitions for boys and girls.

■ THE 4TH EDITION OF BARKA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BARKA CHAMPION LEAGUE - BCL
4TH EDITION - QUARTER FINALS
ON FRIDAY

 BARKA RIDERS	VS	 NEW XI
 EAGLES CRICKET CLUB	VS	 SUMUKHAS XI
 SABCO	VS	 BILLAH CRICKET CLUB
 PROLINE KNIGHT RIDERS	VS	 KINGFISHERS CRICKETERS

Barka Champions League (BCL) organised its Fourth edition of cricket tournament- 16 overs-a-side played every Friday morning across the region (Suhar / Barka to Muscat), total of 44 teams participated in the tournament which was divided into four groups of 11 each. Each team in a group played against one another on a round-robin basis & 16 teams played pre-quarterfinal last week and 8 teams qualified for the quarterfinal which will be held on December 16, 2022.



England's wicketkeeper Ollie Pope (R) celebrates after the dismissal of Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq (L) during the third day of the second cricket Test match between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium in Multan yesterday. – AFP

Pakistan fight back after England set stiff second Test target

MULTAN, Pakistan: Pakistan's Saud Shakeel and Imam-ul-Haq hit fighting half-centuries on Sunday to foil England's seam and pace attack and set up an exciting finish to the second Test in Multan.

Set a challenging 355 runs for victory, Pakistan ended the third day at 198-4, needing another 157 with two full days remaining.

With reverse swing helping the fast bowlers, England derailed Pakistan's start of 66 without loss with three wickets for just 17 runs.

But Haq (60) and Shakeel (54 not out) led a remarkable 156-minute fightback during their stand of 108 for the fourth wicket before Jack Leach had the former caught at slip three overs before stumps.

Haq, who came in at number five instead of opening the innings following hamstring treatment, hit seven boundaries.

Allrounder Faheem Ashraf, promoted to number six, was three not out as Pakistan chased a series-levelling win after losing the first of three Tests by 74 runs in Rawalpindi.

England assistant coach Marcus Trescothick said he thought Haq's wicket shifted the balance in his team's favour.

"I think it was a really important wicket because with the partnership they put together they were building to a nice place," he said.

"Hopefully we put ourselves in a position to win the game."

Still, Pakistan batting coach Mohammad Yousuf saw the balance at 50-50.

"Players are confident that they



Pakistan's Saud Shakeel celebrates after scoring half century (50 runs) during the third day of the second cricket Test match between Pakistan and England at the Multan Cricket Stadium in Multan yesterday. – AFP

can win this match," he said.

Pakistan can take heart from the fact that their highest successful chase was 377 against Sri Lanka

chased more than 314 in Pakistan, a target reached by the home team against Australia in Karachi in 1994.

After Pakistan's solid start, veteran pacer James Anderson bowled Mohammad Rizwan with the fifth ball after lunch for 30, before Ollie Robinson dismissed skipper Babar Azam for one.

Azam was left shell-shocked as he tried to leave a ball which came in sharply to hit the stumps.

It became 83-3 when Mark Wood bowled Abdullah Shafique for 45 with a ball that reverse-swung to hit the stump and beat a forward push.

Earlier, spinner Abrar Ahmed took 11 wickets for 234 across the two innings — the second best by a bowler on debut for Pakistan, behind Mohammad Zahid's 11-130 against New Zealand in Rawalpindi 26 years ago.

Harry Brook top-scored with 108 in England's 275 all out.

He smashed spinner Mohammad Nawaz for his 14th boundary to complete his second century of the series, having notched 153 runs in the first Test.

He also struck a six before being caught off spinner Zahid Mahmood, who took 3-52.

England resumed at 202-5 and added 73 runs before folding an hour before lunch.

Ben Stokes made 41 and added 101 for the sixth wicket with Brook before England lost their last five wickets for just 19 runs. Ahmed's second innings figures were 4-120. The final Test is in Karachi from December 17.

— AFP

Warriors cool off red-hot Celtics in NBA Finals rematch



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) dribbles the ball against Boston Celtics forward Grant Williams (12) in the fourth quarter at the Chase Center. – USA Today Sports

LOS ANGELES: The Golden State Warriors sent a strong signal on Saturday that they won't give up their NBA crown without a fight, thumping the Boston Celtics 123-107 in an NBA Finals rematch.

While the Warriors have struggled to build momentum in their title defence this season, the Celtics have streaked to the best record in the league.

But Golden State, with 34 points from Klay Thompson and 32 from Stephen Curry, were more than a match for a Celtics team that came into San Francisco riding a three-game winning streak.

"We just played these guys in the NBA Finals — you want to send a message," said Golden State forward Draymond Green, who acknowledged the Warriors were also eager to end a two-game slide.

Thompson got going early, scoring 24 points in the first half.

Curry, who connected on 12 of 21 shots from the field and had six of the Warriors' 13 three-pointers, said defence keyed the win.

"From the start we tried to defend without fouling, just make it tough for them," Curry said.

Jaylen Brown scored 31 points and pulled down nine rebounds for Boston. Jayson Tatum added 18 points and

Malcolm Brogdon chipped in 16 off the bench.

"They have so many great guys that can put the ball in the basket," Curry said. "Tatum and Brown have played amazingly high-level basketball all year."

"You've got to live with certain shots they take, but you try to make them work for it all night."

"Offensively we moved the ball, Klay got going early, but our defence connected with our offence, which is great."

Curry downplayed the idea that the victory carried special significance.

"It got us above .500," he said of a win that pushed the Warriors' record to 14-13.

Boston star Tatum also said the early season contest — some six months after the Warriors rallied to win last season's championship series — carried no special significance.

"It was one game," Tatum said. "It's not going to dictate our season. It's all about how we respond."

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said the setback could prove beneficial in the long run.

"They tested us," Mazzulla said. "That's good for us to go through."

Elsewhere, the short-handed Brooklyn Nets — led by a career-high 33 points from Cam Thomas — edged the Indiana Pacers 136-133 in Indianapolis. — AFP

Norway's Braathen wins men's opening World Cup slalom

FRANCE: Norway's Lucas Braathen won the first men's World Cup slalom of the season at Val D'Isere on Sunday as his compatriot and first leg leader Henrik Kristoffersen suffered a nightmare second run.

Braathen, 22, was second after the first leg but produced a fine second run to win in a combined time of 1 minute 38.14 seconds in what is the third World Cup victory of his career.

"One hell of a race," said Braathen.

"La Face de Bellevarde is always a challenge, it was such a tough battle."

"It was a feeling like nothing else (to win)," he added.

Austria's Manuel Feller finished

second — just as he did in Saturday's giant slalom — 0.84sec in arrears and Loic Meillard was third 0.98sec adrift.

Kristoffersen's hopes of victory evaporated early in the second leg with a series of mistakes and finished down the field in sixth.

Braathen seemed surprised by his compatriot's blow-out though he always felt he had a chance of sneaking a win.

"He's (Kristoffersen) a great technical skier, on a very technical hill. But I knew it was possible to claim the victory," said Braathen.

Victory was also the perfect antidote for Braathen after Brazil's surprise elimination from the World Cup by Croatia on Friday — he is half Brazilian.



"I don't feel crying, I feel smiling," he said.

"I cried enough that night. Glad I did some justice today in Val D'Isere!"

Two stars of the discipline did not even make it to the second leg.

France's Olympic champion Clement Noel and Austrian silver medallist Johannes Strolz, both straddled a gate on their first leg runs.

"I did not ski well," said Noel.

"It was not how I wished it to be. I am frustrated to begin the season like this."

As is his custom, runaway overall World Cup leader Marco Odermatt — winner of Saturday's giant slalom — did not race the slalom. — AFP



Croatia's Luka Modric during training. – REUTERS

Croatia in the way of Argentina’s dream of a World Cup final spot

DOHA: Argentina, led by superstar Lionel Messi, came into the World Cup as one of the favourites but they face a big roadblock in the semifinal on Tuesday with 2018 runners-up Croatia, who proved too much for the other title contenders, Brazil.

The Croats stunned the tournament favourites in the quarterfinals with a vintage performance, after going a goal down in extra-time but digging deep to bounce back and force a penalty shootout that they ended up winning.

While their elimination of the five-time world champions was largely unexpected given Brazil's form, it was still a classic Croatian achievement.

With a never-say-die attitude, even when the odds were stacked heavily against them, disciplined Croatia are now deservedly in their second straight World Cup semifinal, and

underestimating them would come at Argentina's risk.

Playmaker Luka Modric has been their driving force at the age of 37, a motivation for everyone else in the squad.

With no players suspended and no injury concerns following the return of defender Borna Sosa, Zlatko Dalic's team is brimming with confidence and ready for more.

Super-sub Bruno Petkovic, who scored the equaliser against Brazil, could earn back his starting spot over Andrej Kramaric while Mario Pasalic is expected to keep his in attack.

The Argentines, looking for their first World Cup title since Diego Maradona's 1986 team, have their work cut out.

Defenders Marcos Acuna, a starter, and Gonzalo Montiel are suspended because of

bookings, limiting coach Lionel Scaloni's options at the back. Nicolas Tagliafico could come on to replace the former but it will be a less attacking formation, with wingback Acuna having added more spark to the team.

MISSING TITLE

A question mark also hangs over veteran Angel Di Maria and his fitness, with the 34-year-old having largely been used as a substitute in the tournament despite recovering from injury.

Messi, at 35, playing likely his last World Cup, is desperate to land the one major title missing from his extensive collection but he is also carrying the weight of the nation on his shoulders.

The comparison with Maradona for the title of the greatest Argentine player of all time cannot be complete without a world title, which the late

Maradona won almost single-handedly 36 years ago.

They almost did not make the semifinals after the Dutch came from 2-0 down to score twice late in the game and force extra time and penalties in a bad-tempered encounter.

A repeat of a shootout, this time against mentally tough Croatia, must be a terrifying prospect for Scaloni's men even though keeper Emiliano Martinez rose to the occasion against the Netherlands, saving two spot kicks.

Croatia came through two shootouts and extra-time to reach the 2018 final before losing to France and have gone to penalties in both their knockout stage matches in Qatar to boast a 4-0 perfect record. Based on that statistic, another one against Argentina would most likely carry them into the final. — Reuters