

HM greetings to Zambia President

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Hakainde Hichilema of the Republic of Zambia, on his country's Independence Anniversary. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes to President Hichilema and the people of his country further progress and prosperity. – ONA



P12

KOHLI PROPELS INDIA TO STUNNING LAST-BALL WIN OVER PAKISTAN



P15

FALL IN REFINERY PRODUCTS AND PETROLEUM INDUSTRIES



P20

WHEN THE LOVE OF PHOTOGRAPHY MEETS WITH PASSION FOR ADVENTURES



MUSCAT

OMAN TO ATTEND WORLD PEACE FORUM

Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Dr Mohammed bin Said al Maamari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, left for Italy to take part in the International Meeting on Peace to be held in Rome from October 23-25 with the participation of a number of leaders. The participants will discuss ways of enhancing the principles of dialogue, co-existence and encourage the values of peace between the peoples of the world. — ONA

Oman-Bahrain ties to grow

TRADE EXCHANGE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES CROSSES \$840 MILLION

MUSCAT: Thanks to the Royal directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and his brother King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Omani-Bahraini relationship has now reached its zenith and became a model of fraternal relations between nations.

In addition, the Omani-Bahraini relationship is growing steadily due to the common keenness to foster cooperation to realise the aspirations of the two friendly peoples.

According to the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), the number of Bahraini citizens living in the Sultanate of Oman reached 893 citizens by the end of September this year. Besides, there were 85 Bahraini students studying in higher education institutions in Oman by 2021. There are 110 Omani nationals working in Bahrain.

The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain were



historically linked by economic relations as the trade caravans and commercial ships loaded with copper and other goods set out from Majan to Dilmun

Oman-Bahrain relationship derives its strength from the common denominators between the two countries, the most important of which are the strategic geographical location, common culture, shared history and traditions.

The relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain is consolidated by the presence of Oman-Bahrain Business Council whose efforts contributed to increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries to RO 323.3 million by the end of 2021 from the figure of RO 156.7 million seen in 2017.

The Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain have many economic and tourism enablers that encourage more partnerships as the two countries' visions Oman Vision 2040 and Bahrain 2030 involve ambitious aspirations towards economic diversification thus opening investment opportunities in the sectors that support these goals.

US official hails Oman's role in bringing regional peace and security

MUSCAT: Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs of the United States of America (USA), underscored the central role played by the Sultanate of Oman in backing endeavours to achieve regional security and peace.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), she added that her visit to Oman comes within the context of consultation and discussion of a range of topics and bilateral issues of regional dimension.

She said that the advanced relations between the two countries and issues of common concern were discussed during meetings with Omani officials.



pearlreif.com

Invest in Progress

The Pearl REIF

Initial Public Offering of 208,137,400 Offer Units at a price of 112 Baizas per Offer Unit (including Offer Expenses of 2 Baiza per Offer Unit)

Offer Closes: 30 October 2022





اللؤلؤة Pearl
صندوق الاستثمار العقاري
Real Estate Investment Fund

Pearl Real Estate Investment Fund (REIF) is a closed ended Shariah compliant fund in Oman providing you access to invest in income generating real estate assets within the country.

- Attractive Dividend Yield of 9.2%*
- Strong Promoters: OIA and Omantel
- Reputed Tenants: Omantel and Lulu Group
- Long term lease agreement
- Open to Omani and non-Omani investors, including non-residents
- To be listed and traded on Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX)
- Minimum investment as low as OMR 112

Promoters



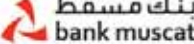
Investment Manager and Issue Manager



How to Apply
Applications only through E-IPO

Subscribe easily through the mobile banking app / online banking channels of Collecting Banks or through Brokers. Investors can also apply by completing the application form on the Muscat Clearing & Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om) and submitting it to the Collecting Bank/ Broker.

Collecting Agents



Disclaimer: This does not constitute an offer to sell or an invitation by or on behalf of the Fund to purchase any of the Offer Units. For further information please refer to the Prospectus. *Average Distributable Profit to unitholders from 2023-2030 / Offer Price. Subject to the conditions specified in more detail in chapters 10 (Risk Factors) and 13 (Dividend Policy) of the Prospectus.



Beyond traditional diplomacy



SAMUEL KUTTY

[@samkuttyvp](https://twitter.com/samkuttyvp)

The brotherly relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain are a solid example of bonds of love, common interest, and aspirations of the peoples of the two countries for a brighter future.

The relationship that is rooted in history and is linked through the ages, is cohesive and not limited just by agreements, as it is a fabric of brotherhood, history, language, religion, and common Arab destiny.

Further strengthening is the wise leadership in the two countries which provides confidence in advancing the brotherly relations to broader horizons making them distinguished and sobriety at various levels.

Reinforced by this fruitful cooperation, the talks between His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa in Manama, are expected to pave new ways in promoting and developing prospects for joint

FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE RELATIONS IS THE WISE LEADERSHIP IN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH PROVIDES CONFIDENCE IN ADVANCING THE BROTHERLY RELATIONS TO BROADER HORIZONS MAKING THEM DISTINGUISHED AND SOBRIETY AT VARIOUS LEVELS

cooperation in all fields.

As pointed out by Sayyid Faisal bin Hareb al Busaidy, Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to Bahrain, the visit and talks will be a window for establishing more bilateral projects to achieve their common goals. This on the other hand will consolidate relations between them and push them towards development and cooperation in line with Oman Vision 2040 and Bahraini Economic Vision 2030.

"The visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to Bahrain and his scheduled meeting with His Majesty King Hamad will bolster joint action and promote relations in diplomatic, economic, cultural and scientific fields, with the two countries set to sign a number of memoranda of understanding", affirms Sayyid Faisal.

The relations between Oman and Bahrain have gone through

many prominent milestones that contributed to their consolidation and advancement.

The establishment of the joint committee between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain embodies the keenness of the two countries to develop bilateral relations in all fields and bring them to the highest levels of coordination and cooperation.

The committee is an important platform for providing feedback to the joint efforts within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council, reaching the strategic objectives set by the GCC leaders to achieve coherence and integration among the countries and peoples of the region.

During the seventh session of the Joint Committee held in Manama, the two countries signed a number of memoranda of understanding in addition to

the decision on making efforts to promote bilateral cooperation in all political, security, economic, trade, industrial, judicial, and development fields of cooperation.

The MoUs included one in the field of diplomatic studies, research and training, and cooperation in the fields of electricity and renewable energy between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Also included was a memorandum of Understanding between the Consumer Protection Authority in the Sultanate of Oman and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism in the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of consumer protection.

There have been many mutual official visits, the last of which was

the visit of Shaikh Khalid bin Hilal al Maawali, Chairman of Majlis Ash'shura in June this year. These visits and meetings are a means for exchanging information and experiences, and a window for establishing bilateral projects to achieve their common goals in all fields, which consolidate relations between them.

Recently, the two countries' chambers of commerce held a series of meetings on forging Omani-Bahraini partnerships.

The relations between the two countries do not stop at the limit of traditional diplomacy, but rather go beyond it to broader and more comprehensive horizons represented in various types of diplomacy, including cultural diplomacy.

The keenness of the two sides to build cultural bridges was manifested in the first edition of the Bahraini-Omani Fine Arts Exhibition held in the second week of October in Manama representing a unique cultural passion and bringing together the culture and heritage of the two countries through the creativity of the artists of the two countries.





f Follow us on facebook:
omanobserver



A new chapter in bilateral ties

KABEER YOUSUF
@kabeeryousef

The bilateral relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain are entrenched in history and both seafaring nations share many matters of common interest since times immemorial.

The approach of goodwill, strong interdependence, and historical relations are well established and strike deep in history, as the Omani-Bahraini relations are among the oldest relations that link two countries, and they are deep-rooted and continuous in nature since the civilisations of Majan and Dilmun.

While Oman was earlier known as 'Majan', Bahrain was known as 'Dilmun', later 'Tylos' by the Greek, and 'Mishmahig' by Persian.

Just as His Majesty is beginning the two-day tour of the 'Land of Two Seas' Omani-Bahraini Friendship Society, an association functioning for enhancing the socio-cultural ties and bilateral relations of both countries is upbeat as a new chapter will be engraved in the annals of history.

"At the present time, the Omani-Bahraini relations are at the height of their era and a well-established model for international relations, as this strong relationship is based on what binds the two brotherly peoples of historical relations, bonds of love and kinship ties. That the relations between the two brotherly countries occupy an advanced position in all fields," Rudeina bint Amer al Hajariya (pictured), Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Society told the Observer.

The two-day visit is one of a



OMANI-BAHRAINI FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO BROTHERLY COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTAL FIELDS

series of previous visits between Their Majesties, the leaders of the two brotherly countries, where its importance comes to the continuation of that existing and continuous cooperation in all fields, and certainly the areas of joint cooperation between the two countries will continue in the economic, scientific, health, and public life fields that are in the interest of people of both countries.

Rudeina further said that the existing relationship between the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain has culminated in many successes between the governmental and private sectors, stressing that with the recent launch of the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Society, the Society has been contributing to strengthening relations between the two brotherly countries in various developmental fields.

"It came to form a new bridge

of love and brotherhood as the meetings reflect the level of interdependence and fraternal relations that unite the two brotherly peoples, and to have an active role in various youth, sports, cultural and social programmes. We hope that the meetings also help increase trade exchange between the two countries, opportunities for direct and indirect investments, tourism and other fields that strengthen relations between the two peoples, the two brothers, and further identify ways of enhanced cooperation in many fields."

The main objectives on which the Omani-Bahraini Friendship Society was built are focused on developing and strengthening relations between the two countries in the cultural, social, economic, and scientific fields, besides enhancing youth and sports activities, through organising social meetings and seminars, lectures, art and science exhibitions, publishing timely updates on bilateral relations in newspapers and magazines, advertisements on radio and television programmes, organising press conferences and coordinating with the concerned authorities in both countries, in addition to promoting the cultural and literary heritage between the two countries through film and theatre screenings, and organising literary and cultural events, and issuing periodicals.

The Society also publishes materials, in addition to organising trips and mutual visits at all levels for researchers, scientists, and artists between the two countries, and promoting tourism activities in the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Bahrain through advertisements related to the activities of the Society.

OMAN, BAHRAIN RELATIONSHIP GROWS STEADILY

FROM PAGE1

The two countries are economically linked by shared investment with 876 firms investing in trade, construction, transport and other services. Oman Bahrain Investment holding, currently under foundation, is expected to boost investments in both countries especially in food security as well as the other sectors targeted by Oman Vision 2040 and Bahrain Vision 2030.

Omani business executives interviewed by the newspaper said they aspire to develop trade and investment relations with the Kingdom of Bahrain particularly in key sectors that include the logistics sector, manufacturing, fisheries, mining and tourism all of which have received wide attention.

Oman-Bahrain Friendship Association (OBFA) is the driving force of the relationship between the two brotherly countries. The OBFA undertakes the task of enhancing cooperation and exchange of expertise in various fields and taking the relations to new levels of strength

through its social and economic contributions. It is hoped that the OBFA will further contribute to fostering bilateral cooperation on all levels. The association seeks to develop relations in the cultural, social, economic, sports and scientific fields. The OBFA regularly organises social events, seminars, lectures, arts exhibitions, cultural and heritage events with the aim of promoting tourism in both countries.

Eng Ridha bin Juma al Saleh, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), said: "His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik is making great and unrelenting efforts to strengthen Oman's relations with many countries in all political and economic fields. During his visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Majesty the Sultan will discuss with his brother His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, King of the sisterly Kingdom of Bahrain, means of enhancing the political, commercial and economic relations, in addition to strengthening cooperation and investments between the private

sectors in the two countries.

"This visit is a good opportunity to discuss ways of boosting trade exchange between the Sultanate of Oman and Bahrain, and raising joint investments. The statistics indicate that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries crossed \$840 million by the end of 2021, an increase of more than \$300 million from 2020. The volume of capital invested between the two countries and registered in the Sultanate of Oman exceeded RO 566 million by the end of 2020 while the number of Bahraini companies registered in the Sultanate of Oman reached (876) companies," he said.

Mustafa Ahmed Salman, a businessman, said that the Sultanate of Oman is tied by a historic and solid relationship which resulted in a broad economic cooperation in key sectors that contribute to the development of both countries. As a result of these excellent economic relations, the volume of trade exchange between the two countries has grown exponentially.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUCTIONS



Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.A.O.C) hereby announces auctions as mentioned in the following table:

Auction No.	Material for Sale	Last Date of Buying	Preview Date	Last Date of Submission
Re-float 02/2022	Selling of Scrap Materials at Saih Al Khirat Power Station - Dhofar Governorate	31/10/2022	2/11/2022	7/11/2022
04/2022	Selling of obsolete Spare Parts and other Scrap Materials at Rural Areas Electricity Company (TANWEER) Warehouses in Muscat Governorate and Dhofar Governorate	31/10/2022	To Be Determined	14/11/2022

In accordance with the following conditions:

- Interested and Specialized Companies in scrap activities and have official registration with Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion may obtain the auction documents from Procurement & Contracts Department, against non-refundable payment of RO. 50/- (Rial Omani One Hundred Only) for each set of documents. The fees of the auction shall be deposit on Tanweer account 0423010783090041 – Bank Muscat and for more information please contact via email address i.e. tender.purchase@tanweer.nama.om, or call us on phone number: 24250824.
- Offers should be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of Minor Tender Committee, Rural Areas Electricity Company (S.A.O.C), marked with the auction number and subject. Other marks or reference whatsoever should be printed on the envelope. The identity of the bidder should not be revealed and should be submitted before 1:00 P.M. on the assigned date for submission of the auction.
- The buyer must pay the complete amount of his offer within **Two Weeks** of such notification by deposit or certified cheque.
- The buyer must transfer all the material and clean the location within **One Month** from the date of client notification for taking the materials. If the buyer does not transfer the materials purchased within the specified period, the same will be confiscated by the company. Such confiscated materials will be released to the buyer upon payment of demurrage charges to be calculated by the Seller.
- Rural Areas Electricity Company has the right to accept or reject any offer without giving reasons.
- Preview of the material to be determined later during the formal working hours.

For more information please call: 80077787



AL SAHWA SCHOOLS

Al Sahwa Schools wishes to invite experienced **Omani Nationals only** to apply for the position of **Arabic Support for Learning Teacher**. Candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in Education.
- Have at least 3 years of experience teaching the Arabic Language in Secondary Schools.
- Be familiar with conducting observations and assessments.
- Have knowledge of and ability to develop an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) based on assessment of needs
- Be able to effectively implement and review the IEP/Learning plans in consultation with all Stakeholders

All Candidates need to be able to communicate in English.

Interested candidates should submit their application through the school's website www.alsahwa.edu.om under the careers section with the exact title of the job. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 3rd of November 2022**.

Looking for job, car, flat and furniture? Check out the Observer classified page. It's where buyers meet sellers.



Tanweer
P.O Box 1166, P.C. 133, A'seeb, Sultanate of Oman
Tel: +968 24250800, Fax: +968 24250892
info@tanweer.nama.om | www.tanweer.om





Nothing to worry
about respiratory
virus: MoH

VINOD NAIR
@vinot_nair

Respiratory virus activity is usual at this time of the year and is nothing to worry about, the Ministry of Health (MoH) assured on Saturday, adding that there has been a clear increase in cases infected with respiratory viruses recorded in the Sultanate of Oman, while cases of Covid-19 are still at low levels. There is no truth to what is rumoured about the presence of a new mutant in the Sultanate of Oman, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, health experts have said that the annual flu vaccination is a protection for the individual and his family.

Dr Abdullah al Qayudhi, a consultant in infections and immunity at the Directorate General of Disease Control at MoH, said that winter is a suitable season for the increase in the activity and reproduction of many respiratory viruses, such as influenza virus, rhinovirus, and respiratory syncytial virus.

The Director General for Disease Control and Surveillance said that Covid-19 positive cases have been reported in small numbers over the past few weeks, but there has been an increase in the cases of seasonal influenza and added that rumours on the presence of a mutated virus for Covid-19 are false.

He said most respiratory viruses (RSV) currently prevalent in the Sultanate of Oman are influenza viruses, and sometimes more severe than Covid viruses. "Covid cases continue to exist at very low levels in the Sultanate of Oman."

Al Qayudhi said that microbes multiply in general and they need several important factors for reproduction such as air temperature, humidity, and availability of food. Viruses spread faster in poorly ventilated indoor spaces.

Regarding the concern and apprehension among some about the spread of viruses, the doctor stressed that respiratory viruses spread naturally at this time of the year, and the symptoms of cold and fever are frequent.

"This is what we witness annually from an increase in the activity of respiratory viruses during this time of the year and there is no need to worry", he added.

In regard to the situation of children whether they are more vulnerable to disease or not, the doctor said that respiratory viruses often spread among children in schools and nurseries, because it is not possible to control the behaviour of children and ensure their commitment to preventive measures. "Also, in children who are less than a year old, their immune systems are often in the process of developing, and therefore; more susceptible to viral infections. Annually, there is a group of children infected with respiratory viruses that need to be admitted, whether in regular hospital wards or intensive care, and this year is no different from previous years."

Al Qayudhi said when there are only mild symptoms of a cold, it is recommended to take fever and cold medicines from pharmacies, but when there are severe respiratory symptoms and difficulty in breathing, it is advised to go to the nearest health centre for examination by the medical team.

Rousing reception for Shabab Oman II

LATEST
TOUR

196
DAYS

16,805
NAUTICAL MILES

DROPPED
ANCHOR AT
25
PORTS

18
COUNTRIES

SAILED
THROUGH
30
TERMINALS

63
TRAINEES
ONBOARD

172,235
VISITORS



MUSCAT: The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) organised an official reception for the vessel (Shabab Oman II) at Port Sultan Qaboos here on Sunday, after the sail ship's return from an international tour during which it participated in races and festivals.

During the tour, Shabab Oman II visited many international ports and marinas as part of its sixth international voyage themed "Oman, the land of Peace" to the European continent.

The voyage was made in implementation of the Royal orders of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Supreme Commander of the Armed

Shabab Oman II is Oman's envoy of friendship and peace that roams world countries, offering strong presence for Oman through its active participation in all the international festivals

Forces. The ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Taimour bin Asaad al Said, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Central Bank of Oman (CBO).

FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE

The ceremony was attended by ministers, SAF commanders, members of the State Council, senior officers of the SAF and other military and security departments, governors, ambassadors accredited to Oman and military attaches at the embassies of Arab and friendly countries.

Shabab Oman II is Oman's envoy of

friendship and peace that roams world countries, offering strong presence for Oman through its active participation in all the international festivals.

During its latest tour, which lasted 196 days and covered a distance of 16,805 nautical miles, the vessel dropped anchor at 25 ports in 18 countries. It sailed through 30 terminals, with 63 trainees onboard.

As many as 172,235 visitors boarded Shabab Oman II, which organised several mobile exhibitions while on the move. Along the way, Shabab Oman II participated in the Long Sail Ship Races and bagged many prizes. — ONA

Oman's maritime forte on display

BRINGING
FORTH
THE EVENTFUL
PAST TO THE
FORE,
AS MANY
AS
15
COUNTRIES
WILL
REPRESENT
WITH
100
EXHIBITORS
WHICH WILL
BE VIEWED BY
ALMOST
10,000
VISITORS
OVER THE
FOUR DAYS
OF THE
EXHIBITION

KABEER YOUSUF
@kabeeryousef

THE Sultanate of Oman's rich maritime history and the influence of the long seafaring tradition on its culture and relations with other countries will be on display at the Oman Maritime Exhibition and Conference 2022, which opens today at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center (OCEC).

Titled 'Oman Maritime Confex 2022', the three-day expo to be held under the auspices of Dr Saud bin Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources (MoAFWR), will act as a true reflection of the bonds that Oman shared with its neighbours that solidified the strong foreign relations Oman is enjoying today.

The old trade relations that Qalhat in Al Sharqiyah used to enjoy with Kutch in India some more than 4,500 years ago have evolved to be an indispensable bond of relationship today

"The Oman Maritime Conference 2022 and Exhibition aims to embody the cultural and maritime heritage of the Sultanate of Oman, and to communicate and exchange between representatives of the sectors of maritime logistics, supply chains, port management, fish farming and maritime marketing," organisers from the ministry told the Observer.

The conference, organised by the Omani Business Development Center under the patronage of MoAFWR, will also focus on the importance of the sea, being a sustainable natural resource, which can be benefited from and optimised for the advancement of the various economic sectors.

It will also highlight the comparative advantage of the strategic location of the Sultanate of Oman by enhancing the participation of the private sector and

small and medium-sized enterprises.

Oman boasts of nearly 3,000 kilometres of coastline. The Sultanate of Oman is one of the countries that follows maritime activities that are historically bequeathed to the modern generation and the major ports in Muscat, Suhar and Salalah play an important role in underlining Oman's time-tested maritime heritage.

TRADE RELATIONS

The old trade relations that Qalhat in Al Sharqiyah used to enjoy with Kutch in India some more than 4,500 years ago have evolved to be an indispensable bond of relationship today. Many places in Oman, such as Suhar, Samad al Saiyal, Masirah, Khasab, Muttrah, Muscat, and Samharam in Dhofar are all preserving the identities of its rich maritime heritage.

Andrei Shgakov, a Russian scientist has aptly mentioned Oman in his travelogues that the 'Omanis were the first nation to cross the waters of the Indian Ocean, and they did so long before the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Persians, Indians, Greeks and Romans, and he makes it a point to mention that the Omani ships had priority in discovering many countries and islands of the Indian Ocean.

Bringing forth the eventful past to the fore, as many as 15 countries will represent with 100 exhibitors which will be viewed by almost 10,000 visitors over the four days of the exhibition.

There will also be art shows, competitions and a seafood court, besides specialised parallel workshops dedicated to several topics related to maritime during the course of three days.



Oman’s role ‘central’
in promoting
regional security

FROM PAGE1

The US official said that her country aspires to further develop the bilateral relations between the two countries and expand the level of cooperation to cover areas of climate, education, culture and science, in addition to enhancing economic, trade and investment relations.

She also commended the Omani benign efforts in relation to the situation in Yemen. She dubbed such efforts as ‘irreplaceable’. She added that Oman’s partnership, endeavours and diplomacy are ‘quite critical’ on the same issue. Within the same context, the US official added that the Omani efforts have been central to US successful efforts together with regional partners and the United Nations (UN). She reiterated the good efforts of Tim Lenderking, US Special Envoy to Yemen, to foster truce of two months and to keep extending it.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs said that she visited the National Museum of Oman. She expressed her admiration of the exhibits depicting the deep, long, historical relationship between the US and Oman, which goes back to 1833. — ONA

Royal Office Minister receives
US Assistant Secretary of State



MUSCAT: General Sultan bin Mohammed al Numani, Minister of the Royal Office, received at his office on Sunday Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs of the United States (US).

The guest expressed her thanks and appreciation for the Sultanate of Oman.

The two sides explored aspects of enhancing cooperation between the two countries. They also reviewed

the march of relations binding Oman and the US in all fields and means of promoting them to achieve mutual interest. The two sides also touched on several regional and international matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador of the United States of America to the Sultanate of Oman.

MEETING WITH SAYYID BADR
Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al

Busaidy, Foreign Minister also received Barbara Leaf.

The two sides discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries and means of promoting them. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern. Emphasis was laid on backing all efforts to consolidate pillars of security and stability in the region and the world at large.

— ONA



First GCC cybersecurity
exercise inaugurated

RIYADH: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, took part on Sunday in the meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Cybersecurity, held in Riyadh, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

The Omani delegation was headed by Eng Said bin Hamoud al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The meeting discussed a number of topics on the agenda. It also inaugurated the first GCC cybersecurity exercise.

— ONA

Oman, KSA review cooperation
in transport and logistics



RIYADH: Eng Said bin Hamoud al Maawali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, met here on Sunday with Eng Saleh al Jasser, Minister of Transport in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA).

This came on the sidelines of Al Maawali’s participation in the

meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Cybersecurity.

The two sides explored areas of cooperation in the field of transport and logistics. They also discussed several matters of common interest and means of enhancing them in the interest of the two countries. — ONA

ANNOUNCEMENT



Name : HINDURAO TUKARAM
R/C No. : 66676523
Nationality : Indian
Profession : Room Service Supervisor
Sponsor : Oman International Group SAOC

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Hindurao Tukaram** is no longer employed at **Oman International Group SAOC (OIG)**. The company does not bear any responsibility for his actions whatsoever.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Name : SHRIDHAR MARDA SALIAN
R/C No. : 60492678
Nationality : Indian
Profession : Operations Manager
Sponsor : Oman International Group SAOC

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Shridhar Marda Salian** is no longer employed at **Oman International Group SAOC (OIG)**. The company does not bear any responsibility for his actions whatsoever.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Name : FRANCIS CRASTA
R/C No. : 62355289
Nationality : Indian
Profession : Room Service Supervisor
Sponsor : Oman International Group SAOC

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Francis Crasta** is no longer employed at **Oman International Group SAOC (OIG)**. The company does not bear any responsibility for his actions whatsoever.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Name : SAJI DANIEL
R/C No. : 64030349
Nationality : Indian
Profession : Room Service Supervisor
Sponsor : Oman International Group SAOC

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Saji Daniel** is no longer employed at **Oman International Group SAOC (OIG)**. The company does not bear any responsibility for his actions whatsoever.

ANNOUNCEMENT



NAME : KRISHNA KUMAR LUXMANSINGH
R/C No. : 117870745
Nationality : Indian
Profession : Room Service Supervisor
Sponsor : Oman International Group SAOC

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Krishna Kumar Luxmansingh** is no longer employed at **Oman International Group SAOC (OIG)**. The company does not bear any responsibility for his actions whatsoever.

ANNOUNCEMENT



Name : ILIYAS AHMAD
R/C No. : 65794455
Nationality : Indian
Profession : Room Service Supervisor
Sponsor : Oman International Group SAOC

This is to inform all concerned that, **Mr. Iliyas Ahmad** is no longer employed at **Oman International Group SAOC (OIG)**. The company does not bear any responsibility for his actions whatsoever.

Looking for job, car, flat and furniture?
Check out the Observer classified page.
It's where buyers meet sellers.

Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Defence
ENGINEERING SERVICES

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Defence invites Contractors/consultant specialized in the under mentioned works and registered with the Govt. Tender Board and Ministry of Defence to participate in the following tender.

Tender No.	Tender Name	Contractors Grade	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Submission Date	Tender Price (RO)
28/2022	Electromechanical Services at SEEB Air Base and ANSAB Camp	Excellent - penalized in HVAC system	3 rd November 2022	5 th December 2022	260/- RO
31/2022	Building Works - Salalah	First and Above	3 rd November 2022	5 th December 2022	215/- RO

*For more information about the above Tenders please visit gate number (14)

- Tender Documents (Electronic Tender Document) can be obtained from the Tender office, Gate No: 14, Muaskar Al Murtafa'a after payment of the tender fee indicated above.
- The Payment should be made electronically by using SMART CARD, VISA CARD and VISA ELECTRON. Sunday to Thursday (0900 - 1300 Hours).
- The Bid to be accompanied by Tender Bond in the value of (1%) of the bid value in the form of a Bank Guarantee or Certified Cheque issued by a local bank and addressed to HE the Chairman of the Tender Committee.
- Bids are to be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to HE the Chairman of Tender Committee and marked with Tender Number and Name. Name of Bidder or any other marks should not be printed on the envelopes.
- Bids to be deposited in the Tender office at Gate No: 14 Muaskar Al Murtafa'a before 1300 hours on the assigned day for submission of the Tender.
- We would like to draw your attention to the importance of adherence to the submission date, request and any queries related should not be submitted to MODES fourteen days prior to submission of offer & that queries must be on electronic (Microsoft word).
- You are requested to submit the following items within your tender submission, failure to submit the required information may result a disqualification of your offer without any further notification.
 - Percentage of Omanisation within the company supported by an authenticated certificate from the Ministry of Manpower (Updated Copy).
 - Detailed priced breakdown to be specified as per scope of works and drawings.
 - Full set of stamped drawings and documents, Tender Form and Tender Bonds to be submitted as hard copy and others documentation shall be as **SOFT COPY (USB)** in two separate files:
A. Financial (b111 & 2 separated file from b113).
B. Technical files.
 - Confirmation of site visit.
 - All addendums and circulars.
 - List of sub-contractors/suppliers and their acceptance letter to this project.
 - List of current and executed projects for the last Five years.
 - Valid Registration Certificates from Tender Board.
 - Financial Statement for the last Three years.

Respiratory Care
Week kicks off

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Directorate General of Specialised Medical Care, Respiratory Care Department, celebrates Respiratory Care Week, which falls on the last week of October of each year. The celebration this year came under the theme: "Excellent Skills... Exceptional Care".

The celebration, this year under the theme: "Excellent Skills... Exceptional Care, was held under the auspices of Dr Fatma bint Mohammed al Ajmiyah, MoH Under-Secretary for Administrative, Financial and Planning Affairs. Around 70 health workers from various specialisations and respiratory therapist specialists participated in the event.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
ROYAL HOSPITAL
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TENDER

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF ROYAL HOSPITAL INVITE SPECIALIZED COMPANIES TO SUBMIT TENDER

TENDER NO.	DESCRIPTION	LAST DATE FOR COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENT	CLOSING TIME/ DAY/DATE	ELIGIBILITY	TENDER FEE (NON- REFUNDABLE)
2694/2022/ MOH/ DGRHP-122	SUPPLY OF SURGICAL ITEMS (VASCULAR) FOR ROYAL HOSPITAL	13/NOVEMBER/2022	BEFORE 10 AM ON TUESDAY 06/DECEMBER/2022	SPECIALIZED COMPANIES REGISTERED WITH TENDER BOARD	25 RIALS

- All Specialized and interested Companies registered with Tender Board on the above mentioned Grade may obtain Tender documents from the E. Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- Tenders should be submitted on line on the given website signed and sealed. The Tenderer should enclose scan copy of Bank Guarantee or a certified Cheque issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee before one day of date submission.
- The Original Bank Guarantee should be submitted to the office of Director of Finance-Royal Hospital one day before the submission date for all Tenders.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.

(<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
Any Clarification, you may contact via
Telephone: 24166670
Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om



Iran’s nuclear agency says email server hacked

TEHRAN: Iran’s Atomic Energy Organisation said on Sunday an email server of its subsidiary was hacked in a “foreign” attack aimed at drawing “attention” amid protests over the death of Mahsa Amini.

A group called Black Reward on Friday issued an ultimatum on Twitter, threatening to release documents on Tehran’s nuclear programme unless all “political prisoners, prisoners of conscience and people arrested in the recent protests” were released within 24 hours.

Material on social media said to be released by the group on Saturday included a short clip from a purported nuclear site in Iran, as well as documents containing agreements, maps and payslips.

The nuclear agency acknowledged in a statement that a hack had targeted its subsidiary, the Atomic Energy Production and Development Company, but downplayed the importance of the documents.

“Unauthorised access by a source originating from a specific foreign country to the email system of this company led to the publication of the content of some emails on social media,” it said in a statement.

These emails contain “technical messages and normal and daily exchanges”, it added.

“The purpose of such illegal efforts, which are made out of desperation, is to attract public attention, creating media atmospheres and psychological operations,” the statement continued. — AFP

XI SECURES HISTORIC THIRD TERM AS CHINA’S LEADER

BEIJING: Xi Jinping secured a historic third term as China’s leader on Sunday and filled his inner circle with close allies, achieving after a decade in power complete dominance over the ruling Communist Party.

The party’s Central Committee elected Xi as its general secretary for another five-year term, bringing the country back towards one-man rule after decades of power-sharing among its elite.

“I wish to thank the whole party sincerely for the trust you have placed in us,” Xi told journalists at Beijing’s Great Hall of the People after the closed-door, rubber-stamp vote was announced.

Xi, 69, was also reappointed head of China’s Central Military Commission, keeping him in charge of the People’s Liberation Army.

He is now all but certain to sail through to a third term as the country’s president, due to be formally announced during the government’s annual legislative sessions in March.

Sunday’s developments cement him as the most powerful leader since Communist Party founder Mao Zedong.

In a wide-ranging acceptance speech on Sunday, Xi made signature remarks celebrating China’s rise as a global power and its success under his rule.

“The world needs China,” Xi said. “After more than 40 years of unflagging efforts towards reform and opening up, we have created two miracles — rapid economic development and long-term social stability.”

Six of Xi’s proteges and allies were also unveiled on Sunday alongside him as members of the



A combination picture shows Chinese leaders Xi Jinping, Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, and Li Xi meeting the media following the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, in Beijing. – Reuters

Politburo Standing Committee — the party’s apex of power that rules the country.

Li Qiang — a former chief of staff for Xi who oversaw a gruelling two-month Covid lockdown in Shanghai this year — was named as number two in the Standing Committee.

This means he is likely to take over as premier from Li Keqiang, a former Xi rival who will retire next year.

Close aide Ding Xuexiang and Guangdong party chief Li Xi, a longtime confidante of the president, were among other allies named in the Standing Committee.

“The new Politburo Standing Committee confirms decisively that Xi has consolidated power at the top of the Communist Party to an extent unseen since the Mao era,” said Neil Thomas, a senior China analyst at Eurasia Group.

“Xi has installed allies onto all seven seats of the Communist Party’s top decision-making body, allowing him to dominate the political system for the foreseeable future.”

Alfred Wu Muluan, a Chinese politics expert at the National University of Singapore, said: “It is all Xi’s people, signalling he wants to rule even beyond a third term.”

Xi abolished the presidential two-term limit in 2018, paving the way for him to govern indefinitely.

Xi was swiftly congratulated on Sunday by some of China’s allies, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The United States offered no immediate response. — AFP

Kim congratulates Xi’s reelection

SEOUL: North Korea’s leader Kim Jong Un sent a congratulatory letter to Xi Jinping on his reelection as China’s leader, saying he hoped to further develop their ties, state news agency KCNA reported on Sunday.

“The 20th Congress of the CPC offered a significant landmark for the Chinese party and people in propelling the historic process of

the Chinese nation’s great prosperity under the banner of the socialist idea with the Chinese characteristics in the new era,” Kim said in the letter.

“I, together with you, will shape more a beautiful future of the DPRK-China relations meeting the demand of the times and lead the endeavours for its realisation so as to continue to powerfully propel the socialist cause in the two

countries.”

DPRK stands for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, North Korea’s official name.

China’s Xi Jinping secured a precedent-breaking third leadership term on Sunday and introduced a new top governing body stacked with loyalists, cementing his place as the country’s most powerful ruler since Mao Zedong.

Meloni takes over as Italian PM, urges fractious allies to unite

ROME: Far-right leader Giorgia Meloni took office on Sunday as Italy’s first woman prime minister, calling on the fractious members of her coalition government to unite as they face looming crises on several fronts.

Four weeks after her post-fascist Brothers of Italy party won general elections, Meloni formally assumed office in a handover ceremony with outgoing premier Mario Draghi, before gathering her cabinet.

“We must be united, there are

emergencies the country is facing. We have to work together,” the 45-year-old told her ministers during their first meeting, lasting half an hour.

The new government is the most far-right in Italy since World War II, and takes power at a time of soaring inflation and an energy crisis linked to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

It has already been rocked by tensions within Meloni’s coalition, which includes Matteo Salvini’s far-right League party and former



Italy’s new Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni holds the cabinet minister bell handed to her by Italy’s outgoing prime minister during a handover ceremony in Rome. – AFP

premier Silvio Berlusconi’s right-wing Forza Italia.

Meloni was forced this week to repeat her unwavering support for Ukraine and Western sanctions against Russia after Berlusconi was recorded defending President Vladimir Putin.

The prospect of a Eurosceptic, populist government taking the helm of the eurozone’s third largest economy has already sparked concern among Italy’s allies, particularly in the EU.

European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen said on Saturday she had a “good first call” with Meloni, saying she looked forward to “constructive cooperation”.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany said he wanted to keep “working closely together with Italy in EU, Nato and G7” — a sentiment Meloni reflected in responses to congratulatory messages on Twitter.

A spokesman for French President Emmanuel Macron meanwhile left open Sunday the

possibility that he will be the first foreign leader to meet Meloni, as he headed to Rome and the Vatican for a pre-planned visit.

Meloni and her 24 ministers were sworn in on Saturday before President Sergio Mattarella and she declared her intention to get “straight to work”.

On Sunday Meloni joined outgoing prime minister Draghi, a former European Central Bank chief who took over in February 2021, for a formal handover of power. — AFP

SHORT TAKES

CAIRO

Saudi crown prince not attending Arab summit

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will not attend the Arab summit to be held on November 1 in Algeria, in compliance with a doctors’ recommendation to avoid travel, the Algerian presidency said in a statement. Prince Mohammed expressed his regret for not attending the Arab summit, in a phone call with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the statement said.

The Saudi foreign ministry later issued a statement on the telephone conversation between the



two leaders but did not mention that the Crown Prince was not attending the summit. Arab heads of state are expected to convene for their upcoming 31st summit to be held in Algiers on November 1-2.

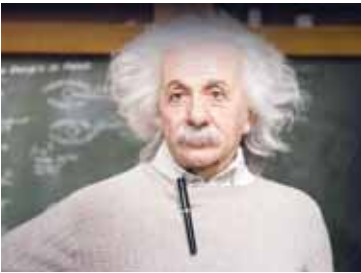
TEL AVIV

Work on new Einstein museum approved

Israel is planning to build a museum dedicated to physicist Albert Einstein (1879-1955), after the government approved the \$18-million project on Sunday.

The museum is to be built on the grounds of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the university said. Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.

The project, led by the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Heritage and Hebrew Univer-



sity, includes the construction of a unique building on the university’s Safra Campus at Givat Ram to house the full Einstein archives, the university said.

MOGADISHU

3 dead in ongoing attack in south Somalia hotel

At least three people have been killed in an ongoing attack in a hotel in southern Somalia on Sunday, police and a witness said.

“Terrorist attackers stormed Hotel Tawakal this afternoon and there is ongoing fighting inside the building now between the security forces and the terrorists,” police officer Abdullahi Ismail said. “There are fatalities and three civilians were confirmed dead but it is very difficult to say the exact number of the casualties now.” “This is not a government target,” he added. “It is



just an ordinary, civilian-frequented hotel.” Witness Farhan Hassan said: “A suicide bomber drove a vehicle onto the entrance of the hotel before the gunmen entered the building.



omanobserver.com/podcast

world

OMANDAILYOBSERVER

MONDAY | OCTOBER 24 | 2022

7

In brief

■ KHARTOUM



THOUSANDS PROTEST TRIBAL CLASHES IN SUDAN'S SOUTH

Thousands of protesters gathered in front of army headquarters in the Sudanese city of Damazin, protesting recent ethnic clashes in the country's south that have killed 200. Protesters "tried to enter the army headquarters" before "setting fire to the state government building," resident Abdel Qader Ibrahim said by phone from Damazin, the capital of Sudan's southern Blue Nile state, which borders Ethiopia and South Sudan.

At least two hundred people were killed in two days last week, after clashes broke out over reported land disputes between members of the Hausa people and rival groups. —AFP

■ VATICAN CITY



POPE FRANCIS SIGNS UP FOR LISBON WORLD YOUTH DAY

Pope Francis made official his participation at World Youth Day in Lisbon next year, the largest gathering of young Catholics that had been postponed because of coronavirus.

The event, begun by pope Jean Paul II in 1986, usually takes place every three years but was moved from this year to 2023 due to the pandemic.

"There, I have registered," the pope said, tablet in hand, standing with two young people from Portugal at the window overlooking St Peter's Square, where he delivered his weekly Angelus prayer.

The pontiff said he had registered "as a pilgrim" for the event. — AFP

■ MADRID



SHEEP HEAD FOR WINTER PASTURES IN SPAIN

Sheep replaced cars on the streets of Madrid as shepherds following ancient herding routes led their flocks through the centre of the Spanish capital to southerly pastures for winter grazing.

Locals and tourists lined the route and watched as thousands of sheep walked through the city, the bells around their necks providing a noisy soundtrack.

The annual event was revived in 1994 as part of Madrid's annual Fiesta de la Trashumancia, after the Spanish parliament recognised the traditional routes shepherds used to herd their livestock.

— Reuters



Rescuers work at a site of a residential building heavily damaged by a Russian missile attack in Mykolaiv. — Reuters

Russia strikes homes in south Ukraine

MYKOLAIV: Under pressure in the south of Ukraine, Russia fired missiles and drones into Ukrainian-held Mykolaiv on Sunday, destroying an apartment block in the ship-building city near the front and warning the war was trending toward "uncontrolled escalation".

Mykolaiv lies roughly 35 km northwest of the front line to occupied Kherson, the southern region that is the target of a major offensive by Ukrainian forces to retake territory Russia captured soon after the February 24 attack.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who Russian nationalists have blamed for Moscow's setbacks in the war, discussed the "rapidly deteriorating situation" in calls with his French and Turkish counterparts, the ministry said.

Shoigu said Ukraine could escalate with a "dirty bomb," conventional explosives laced with radioactive material, without

Russian minister says Ukraine may use 'dirty bomb' as missile smashes into Mykolaiv apartment block

providing evidence.

Ukraine does not possess nuclear weapons, while Russia has said it could protect Russian territory with its nuclear arsenal.

In one conventional Russian attack on Sunday, a missile strike wiped out the top floor of an apartment block in Mykolaiv, propelling shrapnel and debris across a plaza and into neighbouring buildings where windows buckled and walls cracked. Cars were crushed under the rubble.

No fatalities were reported.

"After the first blast, I tried to get out, but the door was stuck. After a minute or two, there was a second loud blast.

Our door was blown into the corridor," said Oleksandr Mezinov, 50, who was awoken from his bed by the blasts.

Ukraine shot down 14 Russian "kamikaze" drones over Mykolaiv overnight, regional governor Vitaliy Kim said on Telegram.

The drones are designed to explode on impact and have hammered Ukraine's energy infrastructure this month. Kim said Russia also attacked with S-300 missiles, one of which hit the five-storey apartment building.

Russian troops have withdrawn from parts of the front in recent weeks and occupation authorities are evacuating civilians deeper into Russian-held territory before an expected battle for Kherson, the regional capital on the west bank of the Dnipro river.

Kherson is a gateway to Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014. — Reuters

Hurricane Roslyn hits Mexico's Pacific coast

PUERTO VALLARTA: Hurricane Roslyn made landfall on the west coast of Mexico on Sunday as a powerful Category 3 storm, the US National Hurricane Center said, as communities braced for damaging winds, a dangerous storm surge and flash flooding.

The storm hit the central Nayarit state around 5:30 am packing estimated maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometres per hour, the NHC said.

Just hours before hitting the Mexican coast, Roslyn was downgraded to a Category 3 storm on the five-tier Saffir-Simpson Wind Scale, with the NHC predicting "rapid weakening" after landfall.

"Roslyn is expected to produce a life-threatening storm surge with significant coastal flooding in areas of onshore winds" through Sunday, the NHC said, adding that near the coast "the surge will be accompanied by large and destructive waves."

It warned as well of damaging winds and heavy

rains that could cause flash flooding and landslides.

Authorities have declared a precautionary alert in the Pacific coast states of Jalisco, Colima, Nayarit and Sinaloa.

Victor Hugo Roldan, director of civil protection in Jalisco, told reporters on Saturday that several hundred people had been evacuated from the town of La Huerta, close to the hurricane's expected path.

Most went to relatives' homes, while some went to shelters, he said.

Jalisco, which is slated to get up to 25 centimetres of rain in some spots, set up shelters in the cities of Cabo Corrientes, La Huerta and the tourist resort of Puerto Vallarta.

Businesses in the resort town began to close on Saturday afternoon on officials' recommendations. Residents rushed to make last-minute preparations, though by late on Saturday afternoon some tourists were still lounging on the beach or unsuccessfully searching for open bars and restaurants. — AFP



Fishermen upload an outboard motor to a pickup as Hurricane Roslyn approaches tourist zones along Mexico's Pacific coast in Nayarit state, Mexico. — Reuters

Boris Johnson battling to win support for comeback bid

LONDON: Boris Johnson was fighting on Sunday to get enough support to make a shock return as Britain's prime minister after prominent figures on the right wing of the Conservative Party coalesced around the man once accused of betraying him, Rishi Sunak.

Sunak, the 42-year-old former finance minister, confirmed on Sunday he would enter the competition to replace Liz Truss, vowing to tackle the country's "profound economic crisis" with "integrity, professionalism and accountability".

"I want to fix our economy, unite our party and deliver for our country," said Sunak, the man accused by Johnson's supporters of ending his previous three-year spell in office.

Sunak who quit the cabinet in July, triggering an unprecedented ministerial rebellion against Boris Johnson.

The declaration from the clear front-runner throws down the gauntlet to Johnson, who returned from a holiday in the Caribbean



Britain's Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt leaves the BBC studios in central London.

— AFP

to try to secure the backing of 100 lawmakers to get onto Monday's ballot.

During his previous time in Downing Street he was supported by many of the different factions in the party, including those on the right who spearheaded Britain's departure from the European Union.

This time, however, many previous backers have told Johnson he should step aside, noting that the country needs stability after Truss's chaotic

Sunak declares fresh bid for British Prime Minister

six-weeks in power sparked turmoil on financial markets, hitting the value of the pound.

Johnson is also still facing a privileges committee investigation into whether he misled parliament over Downing Street parties during Covid-19 lockdowns.

He could be forced to resign or be suspended from office if found guilty.

"This isn't the time for Boris's style," Steve Baker, an influential lawmaker on the right of the party who is backing Sunak, told Sky News on Sunday.

"I'm afraid the trouble is because of the privileges vote, Boris would be a guaranteed disaster."

Britain has been thrust into yet another leadership battle after Truss was forced to quit when her radical economic policies drove up borrowing costs and mortgage rates at a time of surging energy and food bills. — Reuters



ROYAL OMAN POLICE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MEDICAL SERVICES

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

ROP/DGMS/PR/35/2022
19 October 2022

We hereby invite you to submit your quotations from registered manufactures/approved suppliers with MoH for our requirements of Pharmaceutical, Surgical, Lab and Dental consumables for year 2023.

The tender documents and specifications can be obtained from the office of the Director General of Medical Services, Royal Oman Police in Qurum, from 24 October – 08 November 2022 upon receipt of non-refundable fee for the respective tender as follows:

Pharmaceuticals	: 350 RO
Surgical Consumables	: 250 RO
Lab Consumables	: 150 RO
Dental Consumables	: 150 RO

Kindly submit your offer in 2 hardcopies and 1 electronic softcopy on a memory stick (flash drive), all in a sealed envelope to the office of the undersigned by 12:00 pm on or before 2nd December 2022.

Note: For further inquiries, the tender documents will be available with the Procurement Department.

‘Learn to unlearn so you can relearn’



By Hyesha Barrett
@coach_hyesha

The writer is a master life coach and NLP practitioner

Part and parcel with being an adult comes our hard wired belief that things should go a certain way. The way which has been ‘learnt’ whether passed down through the generations or due to our conditioning, thoughts and evidence collected over a period of time. Alvin Toffler said: “The illiterate of the future are not those who can’t read or write but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” In our rapidly evolving world, the wisdom of unlearning and welcoming new thought patterns, habits and perceptions is ever more relevant. It’s the unlearning of our old patterns that frustrates us, not the learning itself. Learning to unlearn

is extremely testing. This is why so many people fall off the bandwagon and end up doing the same thing, the same way even though it might not be fulfilling their desires nor core needs. When we willingly put ourselves in a position of learning, we are much more open and receptive to seeing through the eyes of a beginner, so our mindset of growth expands. It’s the close-mindedness that puts on those blinkers and narrows our path to just seeing and doing things that we know. However, when you remove those blinkers, the path widens to a much more expansive perspective. It’s the way we have coped thus far, so our survival skills and outlook plays a massive part on how

TO SUCCEED TODAY,
A CONSTANT STATE OF
ADAPTATION IS NEEDED.
UNLEARNING OLD RULES
AND RELEARNING NEW ONES
ARE WONDERFUL SKILLS TO
ADOPT

we live our lives. Understanding that sitting in the comfort of our seats, doing the things “the way we have always done them” is a learnt skill, a deep habit. Events we have experienced throughout our lives, routines we have created on our journey, patterns of beliefs and conditioning of the mind have shaped our

learnings. Giving gratitude to them and allowing ourselves to unlearn will bring about an array of new experiences. Remember change is always difficult at first, the learning, messy in the middle, the unlearning and glorious at the end, the relearning. When you unlearn you tear down old beliefs, shift old habits, deconstruct to reconstruct, your vulnerability is your strength and your mistakes are your power. After unlearning, this is when you start to relearn and the flexibility of your adaptability skills will increase ten fold. Relearning requires patience, compassion, grace and celebration. These stages are the agents for constant transformations. It’s an

inside out job which takes time, rawness and tenderness. The quality of your life depends on how you play it out. To succeed today, a constant state of adaptation is needed. Unlearning old rules and relearning new ones are wonderful skills to adopt. Familiarising them to your lifestyle will strengthen the suppleness of your mindset and your adaptability quota will elevate. Once you experience the benefits of these phases, you’ll be able to manoeuvre through them with ease and comfort. Acclimating no longer feels daunting and so shifting through change where unlearning used to be intimidating, can now be enjoyable.

Sudan still mired in crisis a year since latest coup

ABDELMONEIM ABU IDRIS ALI

One year after a military coup derailed Sudan’s transition, the country remains mired in deepening political and economic turmoil that observers say poses threats of even greater instability. The northeast African nation’s latest coup took place on October 25, 2021, when army chief Abdel Fattah al Burhan removed a key civilian bloc, the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), from its role as the head of a transition to full civilian rule. The short-lived transition, which followed the ouster in 2019 of president Omar al Bashir, was fragile and overshadowed by deepening political divisions and a chronic economic crisis inherited from Bashir’s three decades in power. “The primary target of the coup was achieved, which is to grant the military institution a veto power over politics in Sudan,” said Sudanese analyst Magdi el Gizouli of the Rift Valley Institute. “But the move has greatly harmed the country.” Burhan initially billed his coup as a move “to rectify the course of the transition”, but instead the situation worsened. Near weekly anti-coup protests have been countered by force that has killed at least 117 people, pro-democracy medics say. And a broader security breakdown nationwide has left hundreds dead in bouts of ethnic violence. Western governments have suspended crucial aid, and economic hardship means millions face “acute food insecurity” and children forced to abandon schooling. Government employees, traders and civil servants have all staged strikes against the worsening living conditions. This month, Finance Minister Gibril Ibrahim called on the World Bank to resume aid urgently, saying Sudan’s “poorest citizens” were being harmed. Sudan still has no prime minister since the January resignation of Abdalla Hamdok, who was ousted in last October’s coup before being reinstated weeks later. No political initiative aimed at rescuing the country has made significant headway. In July, Burhan pledged to step aside and make way for factions to agree on a civilian government, but civilian leaders dismissed this as a “ruse”. The military has since urged civilians to agree on a government, but divisions among civilian groups have deepened. Some groups say talks should be held with the military, while others insist on “No partnership, no negotiation, no legitimacy”. — AFP

Ukraine rations power and warns of lethal winter, despite war gains

MEGAN SPECIA, MONIKA PRONCZUK AND MATTHEW MPOKE BIGG

THE WORSENING
HARDSHIP WITHIN
UKRAINE COMES
AMID SIGNS
THAT ITS
BATTLEFIELD
SUCCESSSES COULD
CONTINUE
AS RUSSIA
STEPPED UP ITS
BOMBARDMENT
OF UKRAINE,
FOCUSING
ON CIVILIAN
INFRASTRUCTURE
DEEP INSIDE THE
COUNTRY

Russian attacks on the Ukrainian power grid forced nationwide power cuts last week, deepening the misery of a people facing winter without enough light or heat, while Ukraine’s president accused Moscow of planning to blow up a dam, which would cause catastrophic flooding and knock out more power supply. The government ordered Ukrainians to minimise electricity use from 7 am to 11 pm, after 10 days of concerted missile and drone attacks on utilities that have left civilians struggling with rolling blackouts and scattered shortages of clean water. Ukrainian and United Nations officials have warned of a deadly humanitarian crisis for civilians in the coming cold months. Speaking remotely by video to European Union leaders, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that “we have information” that Russian forces had mined the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam on the Dnieper River, a claim that could not be verified or refuted. If the dam were destroyed, he said, towns would be inundated and “hundreds of thousands of people could be affected.” In an overnight address, Zelenskyy, who has said that one-third of Ukraine’s power stations have been knocked out, pleaded with his people to forgo using high-energy devices and to be conscious of every bit of power consumption. The national electric utility, Ukrenergo, said on Thursday that the grid had suffered more attacks in 10 days than in the previous 7 1/2 months of war, and urged Ukrainians to charge their phones and flashlights before 7 am. Kyiv, the capital, replaced most of its electric trams with buses and told businesses to limit lighting on signs and screens, the mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said. On Thursday night, the city was noticeably darker than usual, with only a few streetlights to help pedestrians and motorists find their way, and Kyiv’s



Ukrainian operators pilot a drone while working as artillery spotters near the Russian-occupied city of Donetsk in Eastern Ukraine. main energy provider, Yasno, posted a schedule of staggered, planned blackouts by neighbourhood. But the worsening hardship within Ukraine came amid signs that its battlefield successes could continue. Russia has stepped up its bombardment of Ukraine, focusing on civilian infrastructure deep inside the country — an apparent attempt to break the country’s ability and will to fight — rather than on the front lines, where its military has been losing ground for more than a month. It has said the bombing campaign is retaliation for the October 8 attack that badly damaged the Kerch Strait Bridge linking Crimea to southern Russia, a key supply route for Moscow’s forces in southern Ukraine. In the southern city of Kherson, Russian authorities said that they had evacuated 15,000 civilians and planned to relocate up to 60,000, in what some Ukrainian officials and Western analysts described as a sign that the Russian military may be preparing to abandon the city. The city lies on the Dnieper downstream from the Kakhovka dam, and could be flooded if the dam were damaged. Kherson was the first important city captured by Moscow’s forces shortly after they invaded in February, but a Ukrainian counteroffensive has made their hold on it increasingly tenuous. Nearly all the Russian-controlled territory is east of the Dnieper, but Kherson sits on the river’s western bank, and Ukrainian forces have destroyed the bridges linking it to reinforcements and supplies. Russian authorities appeared to be preparing the public for a possible retreat from parts of the Kherson region, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a research group based in Washington. US officials said last month that Russian commanders had recommended retreating across the Dnieper, but that President Vladimir Putin had refused to allow it. A British intelligence report said there was evidence that the Russian authorities were considering a withdrawal from the western bank of the Dnieper, a view supported by US intelligence analysts. But at the same time, Russia is increasing its military presence in Belarus, north of Ukraine, raising the spectre of a new offensive from that direction, the Ukrainian military warned on Thursday. When Russia attacked on February 24, it sent forces southward from Belarus hoping to swiftly capture Kyiv, but the offensive failed and the Russians withdrew from that part of the country. — New York Times

Never be a fake boss!

To be a boss is a dream knocking on many people's minds and attracting their interest! Properly, such dream might come true to some people while it remains as a much-awaited dream for many others. Like all other dreams in one's life, this dream requires a lot of hard work and sacrifice to achieve it! Not many people have the honour and pride to be called a boss! However, always with authority comes responsibility, a fact that most bosses are unaware of unfortunately.

Yes Boss! Thank you Boss; such provoking statements are the ones that please them and inflame their feelings of pride and self-arrogance too.

However, they are not aware of the big consequences and challenges behind the responsibility of being a boss.

To most of them, it is just a matter of getting the position and the package with the post. Then, they start pretending to be a man of a mission who talks nothing, but business and chasing their own dreams and interests!

Do you believe those kind of people deserve to be given the position? Does the word 'Boss' suits such personalities?! Do you believe that they would be good leaders to their teams? Probably no! As their only concern is serving their personal interests and getting their wishes made a reality, responsibility will be the last point in their list of priorities.

Exactly, this is what will happen as tasks and responsibilities will be prioritised based on their personal preference.

Accordingly, such bosses, if they could be called so, how would be leaders?!

How will they be able to lead their teams who need more of guidance, advice and management as well! Probably, they will be misleading their teams instead; careless and unprofessional bosses for sure.

They will break the team and demotivate members.

In such cases, employees will play the role of a leader to their own bosses



Abdulaziz al Jahdhami aljahdhami22@gmail.com

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

AS IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT NO MAN WILL MAKE A GREAT LEADER WHO WANTS TO DO IT ALL HIMSELF, OR TO GET ALL THE CREDIT FOR DOING IT. THUS, NOBODY CAN WHISTLE A SYMPHONY. IT TAKES A WHOLE ORCHESTRA TO PLAY IT

who cannot even lead themselves! Unfortunately, some organisations are today hiring similar employees as managers, directors or even in higher positions. Some of those are considered decision-makers whose decisions, judgements or assessment could affect the business of an organisation. Regardless of the nature or size of the business or organisation, what matters is that such people are like a harmful virus to the entity and its staff alike.

Therefore, the more those fake bosses stay in an organisation, the more they can harm the whole business. They could spoil work environment, employees relations, team spirit and business reputation too. Such bosses make nothing to their employers, but an infected organ in a body, which should be immediately removed to avoid the disease spreading to other parts of the body. Ideally, this is the best solution to protect the safety and health of any organisation having such bosses.

Undoubtedly, there are lot of issues which irritate employees every single day at work.

Not necessarily that those issues are related to their bosses, rather they could be related to work load, stressed environment, ill-management and many others that should be given some attention and taken to the consideration of the top management.

Otherwise, employees will lose interest and will be forced to leave. Hence, it will definitely affect their daily performance and overall productivity at work. Generally, it will affect revenues of the company.

Being a boss is a big burden on you; it is your responsibility to pave the way to your team instead of misleading them in the wrong direction.

All what your team needs is some trust, transparency, proper guidance and inspiring teamwork.

Leaders are those who always empower others.

As it has been said that no man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it. Thus, nobody can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.

LOTUS BLOOMING!



A farmer is seen with lotus flowers in a reservoir ahead of Diwali festival in Bhopal, India, on Sunday. – AFP

In British leadership race, speculation over Johnson-Sunak deal

In Britain, former prime minister Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak were said to be locked in talks late into the evening as speculation mounted over whether the pair could strike a deal to lay the foundations for a unified Conservative government.

The moves come days after the resignation of Liz Truss from the post of prime minister after she lost the confidence of her Conservative Party members of parliament (MPs) and the public and oversaw economic turbulence.

Johnson was lagging behind his former chancellor in public support from MPs as Sunak gained a valuable ally in Kemi Badenoch on Saturday, with backers of the ex-PM challenged over claims he had reached the number required to secure a spot on the Tory ballot paper.

Sir James Duddridge, a friend of Johnson, said the former prime minister had the support of the 100 MPs required to reserve his place in the vote.

But Sunak supporter Richard Holden cast doubt on this suggestion, arguing that the equivalent number of public declarations had not been made "because they don't exist".

As the day drew to a close, neither Johnson nor Sunak had declared their candidacy, with reports suggesting the



Amy Gibbons

JOHNSON WAS LAGGING BEHIND HIS FORMER CHANCELLOR IN PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM MPS AS SUNAK GAINED A VALUABLE ALLY IN KEMI BADENOCH ON SATURDAY

pair held talks in the evening to agree on a joint ticket.

In a blow to Johnson's campaign should he decide to seek a second stint in Downing Street, International Trade Secretary and former leadership contender Badenoch threw her weight behind the ex-chancellor, insisting it was not the time for "nostalgia for the cavalier elan of 2019".

She admitted she had "on occasion" been a member of "the Boris Johnson fan club", but she said the Tories are not "organising a popularity contest", and stressed the party is "not a vehicle for anyone individual's personal ambitions".

Johnson has returned to the UK to plot a second run for the top job, in a move that has divided opinion among Conservative MPs including his former allies.

He arrived at Gatwick Airport on Saturday morning with his family after breaking off from a holiday in the Dominican Republic following Liz Truss's dramatic resignation on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an ally of former home secretary Suella Braverman said she had been personally "heavily courted" by both Johnson and Sunak and was

likely to decide who to back for the Tory leadership on Sunday.

Despite being the only candidate to declare so far, Cabinet minister Penny Mordaunt is far behind her potential rivals on public support from MPs, with just 21 to Johnson's 44 and Sunak's 113, according to a tally.

Setting out her plan to "unite the party and the country" in the Express, she warned the Tories had "let ourselves become distracted by internal disputes".

Mordaunt used her pitch to stress the need to "make Brexit work", "focus on the potential

of all our citizens" and "defend our Union and its territorial integrity", pledging her support for reforming the controversial Northern Ireland Protocol.

She insisted she is not seeking the top job for an "easy ride", and vowed to build a government which "draws from all our best talent".

Writing in the Sunday Times, Badenoch said her party must remind people that "Conservatives care about the country, not ourselves".

The International Trade Secretary suggested Sunak would bring a "disciplined approach"

to government, citing his "fiscal conservatism" and stressing that "right now, being able to say no is what we need".

She said everyone in the party will need to make "sacrifices" to prove to people the Tories can "unite".

For her, this means refraining from a second leadership bid, she said, while some will have to forsake a job in government under their preferred candidate "so that others can be brought into the tent".

Johnson's potential return has divided opinion even among his allies in the parliamentary party, including his former deputy prime minister and foreign secretary Dominic Raab.

Raab said "we cannot go backwards" and pointed out the ex-PM faces an investigation into his actions over partygate.

He backed Sunak, saying he was "very confident" the former chancellor would stand.

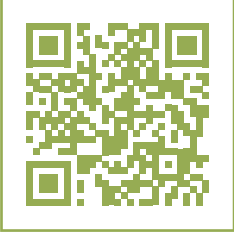
Moments after Johnson landed back in the UK on Saturday, ex-home secretary Priti Patel said he had her support - but his potential bid suffered a setback as former close allies Steve Barclay and Lord Frost urged colleagues to back Sunak. — dpa



Britain's former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Conservative MP, Rishi Sunak leaves his home in London on Saturday. – AFP

sport

Follow us on
omanobserver.om/sports



Record-setting Al Mouj Marathon captivates communities in Oman

MUSCAT: Al Mouj Muscat Marathon 2022 kicks off in just under a month, and already the running community from across Oman is firmly behind the returning event. Thousands of runners will take their place on the starting line at Al Mouj Muscat over the weekend of November 11-12, 2022 and put their fitness and determination to the test.

So far 12,000 runners have registered for this year's event, breaking the previous participation record. This year's event features five race categories, each with a different distance and designed with participants of every fitness and experience level in mind – including children, with 1km, 2km and 3km races.

The upcoming edition of the Al Mouj Muscat Marathon is also

helping to support communities across the country by donating proceeds from the 5km runs to the Environment Society of Oman (ESO) and Oman Diabetes Association (ODA). Both non profit organisations aim to make a positive difference in the community by raising awareness of the need to care for the natural environment and the health and well-being of people across Oman.

“Sport has the power to unite the community towards a collective goal. This year's event will support just some of the excellent causes in operation within the nation. We are incredibly proud to support these projects and use Oman's most iconic sporting event to raise awareness of the important programmes dedicated to maintaining Oman's natural

heritage. Together, we can make a long-term positive contribution to creating opportunities to improve people's quality of life and enhance the well-being of the communities across the country,” says Ali al Ajmi, General Manager of Sabco Sports, organisers of the event.

Nasser al Shaibani, CEO of Al Mouj Muscat, added, “Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's premier lifestyle destination, is proud to bring the community together to support Oman's most popular sporting event. This is the perfect venue for the race, and we can't wait to celebrate the dedication of the athletes, share the sense of togetherness enjoyed here every day and take part in the passion for the sport that is enjoyed by so many. We look forward to

welcoming the return of runners from across the country and visitors from around the world to experience Oman and share great moments throughout the weekend.”

Sabco Sports has also partnered with UFC Gym Oman to help runners of all ages and experience levels reach their goals. Public training sessions kicked off on Friday September 16 to offer professional advice on how to make the most of the race. The coaches have already helped hundreds of runners maximise their training, nutrition, and preparations as the first step towards a healthier and more active lifestyle. The sessions take place every Friday morning from 8-9 am until the weekend before the race.

Al Hajri emerge champions of opening round in Bidiya Sand Car Challenge

WALEED AL JAHWARI
MUSCAT, OCT 23

Hamad bin Said al Hajri emerged victorious of the first round of the Bidiya Sand Car Challenge for cars in Bidiya in the North Sharqiyah Governorate. The event was under organisation of the Bidiya Endurance Racing Club in cooperation with the Oman Automobile Association (OAA) on the “Tal Al Muzhata” field as part of the OAA races of the new season 2022-23, which is part of the tourist season in the Sharqiyah sands.

The Oman Automobile Association applies the applicable regulations and laws to provide all safety measures for drivers, in six, eight cylinder and open category. The participants are allowed to use any type of tyres with 35 as maximum size, they are not entitled to use gas, super or turbo in all categories, the driver has to wear the full sports uniform, seat belt and helmet with availability of a fire extinguisher with safety chassis from the inside, also required to install a safety guard for open top cars, the contestant allowed to remove the co-driver seat, engine cover and to change the original fuel tank, also can

change windows to reinforced plastic to reduce the vehicle's weight.

Opening round included a launch with 28 participants in the four categories. The organisers gave each car the opportunity to climb the sand hill with two attempts for each car category. The number of attendees were more than six thousand from different states and governorates.

The opening round in the modified eight cylinders category ended with racer Hamad bin Said al Hajri in the first place with a time of four seconds and 217 parts of a second.

Hamad al Yahmadi claimed the the first place award in the eight-cylinder category with a timing of four seconds and 481 parts of a second.

In the six agency cylinder category, the driver Ahmed al Shabibi achieved first place in a time of four seconds and 773 parts of a second while in the modified cars category six-cylinders, Samir bin Obaid al Hajri claimed first place with a time of four seconds and 365 parts of a second. In the open challenge category, Hamad bin Said al Hajri bagged the first place with a timing of five seconds and 207 parts of a second.



This is just a beginning, says Seeb coach Rasheed

ADIL AL BALUSHI
MUSCAT, OCT 23

Seeb capitalised on their domestic domination in 2022 by earning a crucial continental accomplishment as they were crowned AFC Cup champions after defeating Kuala Lumpur City FC 3-0 in a thrilling final on Saturday at the National Stadium Bukit Jalil. With the Asian title Seeb opened a new chapter in Oman's football history by winning their maiden AFC Cup. Seeb managed to earn four major achievements in this season (2022) including: Top-tier league crown (Omantel League), Super Cup, HM Cup championship and AFC Cup.

The Oman heroes put in a top performance to overcome the Malaysian side which enjoyed the support of thousands of fans at the at the National Stadium Bukit Jalil in Kuala Lumpur City. Seeb stars turned on the power in the both halves of the AFC Cup summit clash to score three goals by Ali al



Busaidy, Abdulaziz al Maqbali and Mohsin al Ghassani. The three goals handed Seeb the title for the first time in history.

BIG JOY

Seeb head coach Rasheed Jabar expressed his joy after leading Seeb to the first-ever AFC Cup title. He affirmed after the match that the triumph is the beginning



of a successful journey for Seeb in the near future. “ I am proud of the club players for their top show. Seeb heroes became Asian champions and managed to secure this title for the first time. I hope this is just the beginning and more will be coming soon.”

The former coach of Dhofar expressed his joy and he thanked the team. “It was more than 50 years

until approaching this moment to lift the most prestigious cup. The team worked very hard until arriving at the final match and registered the triumph in this continental competition. It was an excellent show from Seeb players,” he added in the post-match conference.

Responding to a query on the opponent missing scoring attempts, coach Rasheed said: “Paulo



Josue tested our defenders and goalkeeper a lot as he tried to score from different styles including from free kicks and from different areas. Seeb's defenders and goalie Ahmed al Rawahi proved their strength as they managed to stop the strikers and prevented any goals.”

“Our players began the match strongly and managed to score from the beginning. It is not easy to score

three goals against a well-organised team but Seeb players broke that due to their proper tactical playing system,” Jaber concluded.

On the other hand, Seeb Club captain Eid al Farsi was awarded the AFC Cup 2022 Most Valuable Player award. The former national team player played a major role in leading Seeb to their maiden AFC Cup title.

Finest arrangements in place for Fifa

KABEER YOUSUF
DOHA, OCT 23

Elaborate and fault free arrangements are in place to welcome fans from across the globe as Doha got into the football fever just as nearly one month is left for the Fifa world cup, a first to be held in the Middle East region.

The preparations that began a duode annum after the GCC country was awarded the right to host the 2022 version of the game, saw stadiums being built, metro system opened and initiated 5-lane highways al aimed at making sure the global fans get the best out of the tournament.

Speaking to the Observer, Akbar al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways which is the flag bearer of the nation, said spotless and immaculate arrangements are in place and efforts are on to carry passengers from across the continents.

“We have been working like oiled machines to make the great opportunity a truly memorable one for the football fans from all over the world. Apart from direct flights, arrangements with other carriers to bring in passengers from everywhere are



in place,” Akber al Baker said on the sidelines of the IATA World Financial Symposium (WFS) held

in Doha. Hundreds of shuttle services, services by code sharing airlines,

and other transit and direct services connecting the GCC, the region, and the continents as a

whole are in place. “We are all prepared to showcase the sports, culture, and

tradition of Qatar to the world during the most sought after event of the decade,” he added.

An apex body called ‘Qatar Supreme Committee’, is in charge of delivering the World Cup in its fullest form and to run the show faultless.

There are seven vast stadiums which are well connected by highways and Metro system ready to host the matches during the one month tournament to nearly 1.5 million fans. The World Cup final will be held at Lusail Stadium on December 18.

Dozens of hotels, ranging from five stars to smaller ones catering to people from all the walks of life, have been constructed ever since the first announcement of Doha hosting the event came out some twelve years ago. Additionally, sleeping pods which are charged per hour and, aiming at the premium class, Banana Island, an exclusive VVIP stay are currently in offer, according to the sources which spoke to the Observer.

In addition, hundreds of tents, campsites and portacabins are all set up across the breadth and width of Qatar all ready to welcome the guests to the world's largest sports fest.

■ OOC CORPORATE OHF IN ORGANIZING SOLIDARITY COURSE FOR COACHES



MUSCAT: Oman Olympic Solidarity launched Course for Handball Coaches, organised by Oman Handball Federation (OHF) in cooperation with Oman Olympic Committee (OOC), with the support of International Olympic Solidarity and the supervision of International Handball Federation, started on Saturday, and will continue until October 29. 20 learners participated in the course according to the conditions set by International Handball Federation, which is that the trainee obtains a training certificate (D), and the participants who pass the current course will be able to obtain a training certificate (C) approved by International Handball Federation. The Egyptian international lecturer, Effat Rashad Shaker, as lecture in the course and assisted by Zuhair Samha, the refereeing expert at Oman Handball Federation. The course includes many theoretical and practical lectures in the main hall of Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher.

Oman golfers head East

MUSCAT: Oman National Team player Azaan al Rumhy will be making his 8 th appearance in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championships (AAC) when they are played at the Amata Spring Country Club in Thailand later this month.

As Oman's leading player in the World Amateur Golf Rankings (WAGR) Azaan received his invitation to compete against the region's top amateur golfers in the event which was created in 2009 as a joint initiative to develop the game by the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation, the Masters Tournament and The R&A. A dream invitation to play in two of the four 'major' Championships, the Masters Tournament and The Open is extended to the winner each year.

Over the event's 13-year history it has served as a springboard to some of the world's current top players. AAC participants have gone on to win 23 PGA Tour tournaments, highlighted by Hideki Matsuyama winning the 2021 Masters and Cameron Smith winning The Open Championship this year.

Participating in any championship requires preparation, and for the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship with invitations to The Open and the Masters Tournament on the line, that preparation is even more important. For several participants in this year's AAC in Thailand, including Azaan, that preparation included a trip to one of two AAC Academies held in 2022.

The AAC Academy concept was created following the 10th anniversary of the AAC in 2018. While catered to fit specific player needs, the AAC Academy focuses on key areas such as sport psychology, strength and conditioning, swing analysis, short game instruction and technical swing improvement. This year, an AAC Academy was held at Amata Spring Country Club, the host course of the 2022



AAC, and in Dubai.

When asked about this year's AAC Azaan said “I am looking forward to competing in the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship once again, Amata Springs is a course that I have been fortunate to play in the past and it will test many of the players. My goal is to play well and to make the cut. I have been working hard to prepare for the event and thoroughly enjoyed the AAC Academy programme in Dubai in September. I am hoping to have my best AAC and improve my amateur ranking. I must thank Augusta National, The R&A, and the Asia Pacific Golf Federation for giving us this fantastic opportunity.”

Also heading to Thailand are Junior National Team squad members Adam al Barwani and Avi Hamlai who will both be participating in the 88 th SINGHA Thailand Junior World Golf Championships held at Royal Hua Hin Golf Course. Adam is in good form having just returned from the Pan Arab Golf Championships in Tunisia where he led the Oman Under 15's team to a 4 th place finish, with himself also finishing 4 th in the individual tournament.

Dramatic end gives United a point

ANDY JALIL.
LONDON, 23 OCTOBER.

In a remarkable fightback Manchester United drew level at 1-1 playing away at Chelsea. Late in injury time Casemiro's looping header, his first goal for the club, brought a fair result to this intensely contested match.

Asked how important it was in the club's season to score that late equaliser, a relieved Manchester United manager, Erik Ten Hag said: “Of course it was a big moment to get that point and it was a well-deserved point. But it doesn't have any matter with Case's (Casemiro's) goal in this case. Because it's more important to have the right culture, the right standards and values which you have to live by.”

He added: “So for the longer term, they are always more important, and in the end they will bring you the right position. That's why I'm happy at this stage of the season with this point, when you are capable to fight back like we did. We did it last week against Omonia Nicosia to get the win and we did it today after being down. We showed resilience and that is a really big thing for big teams, to have that in your capabilities. And that is



what Casemiro is bringing into this team.”

United dominated possession in the first half. Marcus Rashford unleashed a firm drive which was smothered by Kepa Arrizabalaga. He then made a diving save, pushing out a dipping right foot shot from Rashford.

Chelsea had chances and

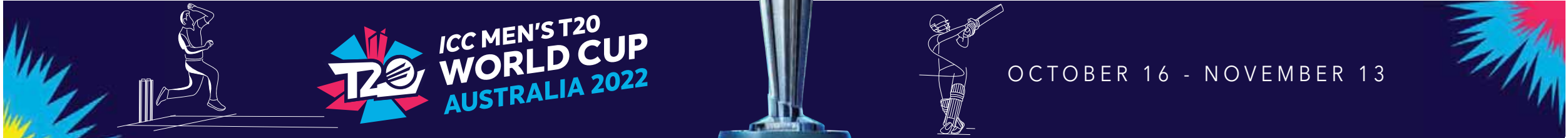
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang should have done better with at least two of them. In the 41st minute he failed with a chance for a header from a cross by Ben Chilwell and two minutes later he couldn't make use of a through pass by Raheem Sterling.

The best chance for United came on the stroke of half-time

but Antony shot wide with only the goalkeeper to beats. After the break Chelsea had long spells in United's half. Their pressure eventually paid off with an 87th minute goal. Chilwell took a corner from the left and as Armando Broja rushed in, substitute Scott McTominay wrestled him to the ground.

Jorginho took the spot kick and sent David de Gea the wrong way to Chelsea's delight. It was the 87th minute and there wasn't much time left. But six minutes injury time were added and with just two minutes left United sent the ball into the box and Casemiro rose for a looping header to which Kepa got his fingertips only managing to push it against the post but when the ball fell it bounced inches over the line to stun the Chelsea players and their fans.

Chelsea manager, Graham Potter said: “We're disappointed of course to concede late but over the course of the game I think a point's about right. We didn't do enough to win. We were sort of nearly there and lacked the last bits. It's an area where we can say we can do better. But the spirit, togetherness, effort and personality of the players was amazing.”



Kohli propels India to stunning last-ball win over Pakistan

MELBOURNE: An unbeaten 82 from Virat Kohli led India to a stunning last-ball win over Pakistan to supercharge their bid for a first Twenty20 World Cup crown since 2007 in front of 90,000 fans at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday.

The world number one Indians restricted their fierce rivals to 159-8 and scraped home by four wickets after a remarkable final over, with superstar Kohli the hero.

It looked to be going badly wrong for India as they struggled to just 45-4 off 10 overs, halfway through their chase.

But Kohli and Hardik Pandya (40) launched an incredible fightback with a century stand that left India needing 16 off the final over from a nervous Mohammad Nawaz, who peppered it with wides and no-balls to help them to their target.

I HAVE NO WORDS

“It’s a surreal atmosphere, I have no words, no idea how that happened,” said Kohli. “I am really lost for words. Hardik believed we can do it, if we stayed till the end.”

Victory was critical in a group that includes South Africa, Bangladesh and qualifiers Zimbabwe and the Netherlands, with only the top two making the semi-finals.

India have largely dominated Pakistan since the late 1990s but had lost two of their three previous clashes including by 10 wickets in the group phase at last year’s T20 World Cup and the recent Asia Cup.

But India had been in good recent form, winning home series against Australia and South Africa, riding on the success of their batting line-up.

“Those two guys (Kohli and Pandya) are experienced. Staying calm and taking the game deep was very critical. Good for our confidence,” said India skipper Rohit Sharma. “We were in no position to win this,” he admitted.

A deflated Pakistan captain



Babar Azam also paid tribute to Kohli.

CREDIT TO VIRAT

“Our bowlers bowled really well. We had a chance, we tried to stick to our plans. But credit to Virat Kohli.”

Few sporting rivalries match the passion of India-Pakistan and the atmosphere was electric as Pakistan got off to a stuttering start after being sent in to bat with captain Babar Azam out lbw for a golden duck to Arshdeep Singh.

Azam reviewed, but it was plumb in front, with Singh’s swing causing more carnage in his next over when Mohammad Rizwan (4) top-edged a rising ball to Bhuvneshwar Kumar at fine leg.

Shan Masood survived a narrow run out appeal as he and Iftikhar Ahmed worked to rebuild the innings.

They reached 60-2 at the halfway mark before Ahmed accelerated when the slow bowlers came on, hitting Ravi Ashwin for six then plundering three more in one over from Axar Patel.

Ahmed reached his half-century before Mohammed Shami trapped him lbw, sparking a collapse with Pandya snaring Shadab Khan, Haider Ali and Mohammad Nawaz in the space of 19 runs.

India also had a horror start with KL Rahul out in the first over to Naseem Shah, dragging the ball

onto his stumps, then Ahmed took a blinding catch at slip to remove skipper Sharma (4) off Haris Rauf.

That brought Suryakumar Yadav, arguably the best T20 batsman in the world, to the crease but he only lasted eight balls, caught behind for a whirlwind 16 off Rauf as the Pakistan fans roared in celebration.

When Patel was run out in the next over, India were reeling at 31-4.

Kohli started slowly but finally found his groove and with Pandya launched a fightback, hitting three sixes in one over off Nawaz.

They still needed 60 runs with five overs remaining. With 28 needed off the last eight balls, Kohli smashed two sixes off Haris Rauf to leave 16 from the final over.

In a breathless final over, Kohli hit another six off a no-ball, then ran three byes after being bowled off the free hit that followed and seeing the ball run away to third man.

The chaos left two runs needed off two balls. Dinesh Karthik was then stumped down the leg side as he stumbled out of his ground.

Another legside delivery was cleverly left alone by new batter Ashwin to be signalled as a wide.

With the scores level and one ball remaining Ashwin calmly lofted the winning run over the off side to spark wild celebrations.

— AFP



Mendis powers Sri Lanka to big win over Ireland



HOBART: Disciplined bowling and an unbeaten half-century by Kusal Mendis powered Sri Lanka to a nine-wicket hammering of Ireland in their opening Super 12 match at the Twenty20 World Cup on Sunday.

Asian champions Sri Lanka restricted Ireland, who qualified for the second round by knocking out two-time champions West Indies, to 128-8 in Hobart.

Spinners Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga took two wickets each after Ireland chose to bat first.

Mendis then powered his side past their 129-run target with a second successive half-century, off 43 balls, hitting a six to win with five overs to spare.

Mendis, a wicketkeeper-batsman, smashed five fours and three sixes in an unbeaten stand with Charith Asalanka, who made 31, to hand Sri Lanka two points with a good net run-rate.

“Really happy the way we played. That is the kind of cricket we want to play,” skipper Dasun Shanaka said.

Shanaka praised Mendis. “He is being consistent and playing according to situation most of the time. That’s why he has improved. It is high-class batting,” said Shanaka. The island nation have turned around their fortunes after being stunned by Namibia in their first-round opener but bounced back to advance to the Super 12.

Pace bowler Lahiru Kumara

took a wicket with his first ball, bowling Ireland skipper Andy Balbirnie for one with the batsman paying the price for attempting an audacious ramp shot.

Stirling hit some boundaries to steady the Irish innings but partner Lorcan Tucker played one onto his stumps off Theekshana.

Stirling kept up the charge to get a four and six off Chamika Karunaratne and survived a reprieve on 28 after Kumara dropped a catch in the deep.

But Stirling did not get away from Bhanuka Rajapaksa who took a good running catch at widish long-off to give Dhananjaya de Silva a wicket in his first over, the ninth of the innings.

Tector hit back in a 47-run

partnership with George Dockrell, who made 14 and played despite being Covid positive, in his effort to up the scoring but Sri Lanka kept chipping away from the other end.

Theekshana broke the stand as he bowled Dockrell and after Binura Fernando denied Tector his fifty the batting caved in.

“We knew they (Sri Lankan spinners) would be a big threat. There wasn’t a whole lot of spin, but enough to challenge the stumps and bat,” said Balbirnie. “We wanted to get 160 or so.”

Hasaranga struck twice in the 19th over with his leg spin as a noisy contingent of Sri Lankan supporters celebrated with drums and music. — AFP

business

MUSCAT
STOCK
EXCHANGE
4,417.498



Follow us on
omanobserver.com/business

Banking Services
Made Special
to Suit Your World

BankDhofar provides you with a host of innovative products, services that are specially designed to suit your needs and exceed your expectations

For more information:
<https://bit.ly/BankdhofarEng>

Al Riadah Priority Banking Services

Al Riha Special Banking Services

Ladies Banking Services

Youth Banking Services

Expat Banking Services

Children Banking Services

BankDhofar

بنك ظفار

the best bank for you

24/7/365 | www.bankdhofar.com

OMAN TARGETS \$140 BILLION INVESTMENT IN GREEN HYDROGEN INDUSTRY

New era: Sultanate of Oman announces 2050 Net-Zero commitment and unveils ambitious green hydrogen strategy

QASIM AL MAASHANI
MUSCAT, OCT 23

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, unveiled on Sunday its ambitious Green Hydrogen Strategy – an initiative that envisions an estimated \$140 billion in investment in a new low-carbon energy industry.

The Ministry also formalised the established of a new hydrogen-centric energy company, HYDROM, that will oversee the country's vision for the growth of a green hydrogen based energy future. The announcements came at a media briefing held under the auspices of Eng Salim bin Nasser al Aufi, Minister of Energy and Mineral, in which he underlined Oman's new climate commitment and its ambitious green hydrogen strategy. Under the leadership



of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Oman has committed to reaching Net-Zero Emissions in 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement's objectives of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. To lead its transition towards a green economy, His Majesty has mandated the creation of

Oman Sustainability Centre. The centre will be the leading body undertaking the supervising and follow-up plans and programmes of carbon neutrality.

Eng Al Aufi said "Oman is committed to decarbonise and help the world decarbonise. The pathway to net-zero is an opportunity for Oman to create economic value, increase industrial competitiveness and attract investments to help diversify and strengthen the country's economy.

Follow-up Unit stated: "The vision is to create effective, balanced, and resilient ecosystems to protect and sustain Oman's natural resources in support of the national

economy. This will be done by setting targets, a measurement mechanism and a follow-up methodology for the initiatives and projects helping to achieve net-zero emissions."

Eng Abdulaziz al Shaithani, Director General Renewable Energy and Hydrogen said: "Oman aims to become one of world's leading green hydrogen hubs. Over the last few months, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals has developed an ambitious green hydrogen strategy and defined the structure of the green hydrogen sector. The development of the green hydrogen economy will provide a strategic opportunity for Omani and international companies to participate and collaborate in driving local and global energy security, economic diversification and much needed climate change mitigation."

Al Shaithani said green hydrogen related investments will unlock immense investment opportunities across the value

chain. It includes opportunities in the manufacture of solar panels, wind turbines, electrolyzers, hydrogen-derived products, storage and transportation, water desalination and other components. Oman's investments alone will encompass about 3 million solar panels, approximately 10,000 wind turbines, 5,200 electrolysis units and about 180 GW of renewable energy production capacity.

Eng Mazin al Lamki, Chief Executive Officer of Energy Development Oman, added: "We are delighted to announce the new brand identity of HYDROM, a fully owned autonomous subsidiary of EDO. Working in tandem with the ambitious Government plans, HYDROM will leverage the Sultanate of Oman's location and abundant solar and wind resources to produce green hydrogen and support the government's drive to reduce the carbon footprint and achieve the decarbonisation targets."

State-owned HYDROM subsidiary launched

QASIM AL MAASHANI
MUSCAT, OCT 23

To lead the country's ambitious green hydrogen strategy, the Government has established HYDROM, a fully owned autonomous subsidiary of Energy Development Oman SAOC. Regulated by the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MoEM).

HYDROM's mandate includes the delineation of Government-owned land areas and the structuring of associated large-scale world-class green hydrogen projects, managing the process for their allocation to developers as well as facilitating



the development of common infrastructure and connected ecosystem industries and hubs in close collaboration with the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ).

On November 6th, HYDROM will be opening a first public bid round aimed at awarding the first land blocks by 2023 to meet the 2030 production target.

Dr Firas al Abduwani Acting Managing Director of HYDROM said: "We at HYDROM look forward to working with international partners to build the future of energy.

The bid round we announced today is the first of its kind globally and we are convinced it will help accelerate the development of the green hydrogen industry in Oman and globally."

OFSEC
OMAN FIRE, SAFETY & SECURITY EVENT

25-26 October 2022
Time: 10am to 6pm, Hall - 2
Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre
Muscat, Sultanate Of Oman

ORGANIZED BY
WPS
WHITE PAPER SUMMITS

OMAN'S ONLY AND MOST COMPREHENSIVE EXPO & SUMMIT ON FIRE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

OFFICIAL SUPPORTER
CIVIL DEFENCE AND AMBULANCE AUTHORITY

STRATEGIC PARTNERS
ICT & SECURITY PARTNER
ooredoo
al hua

POWERED BY
NAFFCO
White Paper Summits

LEAD SPONSOR
BRISTOL
ROSENBAUER
WatchNET

PLATINUM SPONSORS
MIF
White Paper Summits
PROBIK
WPT

SUPPORTERS
madayn
NFFPA
iosh
HSE
Solutions

GOLD SPONSORS
AL KHODRY GROUP HOLDING LLC
tes
h
FIREX

ASSOCIATE SPONSOR
Bahwan International Group
RAY
SIA
WatchNET

REGISTER TO ATTEND WWW.OFSECEVENT.COM - FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT: +968 9622 8475

WHY VISIT

- Source best solutions to suit your business requirements
- Network with key industry professionals
- See first-hand live interactive demonstrations
- Compare and contrast prices, specifications and product variants

*** STRICTLY A B2B TRADE EVENT (FAMILIES, CHILDREN & STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED)**

تواصلات
MWASALAT

Tender Announcements

"Mwasalat invites professional firms for the following tenders:

1	T-25-2022 Maintenance Works of MWASALAT Institute Building.	Tender Fee	26,250 include VAT 5%. Free for Riyada Card holder.
2	T-33-2022 Call of agreement for Supply & Installation Windscreen External Protection Film for MWASALAT Buses.	Tender Fee	Free
3	T-43-2022 Supply and Installation of Fence Railing & Shore Side Power Supply at Shanna Port.	Tender Fee	26,250 include VAT 5%. Free for Riyada Card holder.

The Tender documents may be shared by email during official working hours between 9:00A.M - 2:00 P.M.
Tenderers are requested to share commercial registration (CR) & business card through email tenders@mwasalat.om and tender number as the subject of email.
All Participating SMEs holding Riyada Card are exempted from Tender Fee & Tender Bond.
Payments can only be made through bank transfer or credit/debit cards using POS machines.

"Mwasalat"
Head Quarter, Ghala Tel: +968 1551
P.O.Box 911, Al Khwair, PC: 133, Sultanate of Oman

For more information please send to: tenders@mwasalat.om

Fire, safety and security expo starts tomorrow

MUSCAT: The 6th edition of OFSEC — Oman’s only and most comprehensive exhibition on fire, safety and security — will take place on October 25 and 26, from 10am-6pm at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. The event will be inaugurated by HH Sayyid Azzan bin Kais al Said.

OFSEC 2022 will bring together over 70+ exhibitors from over 10 countries who will showcase their avant-garde solutions, latest technologies, cutting edge innovations, cost-effective products and services to meet the requirements of governments, businesses, industrial and commercial entities, aviation, construction, infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing, oil and gas and utilities sectors.

OFSEC is designed to meet the needs

of the local, regional and international markets by linking practitioners, suppliers, distributors and manufacturers from the fire, safety and security industry, with key decision makers from the government and private sectors making it a definitive networking platform, where new projects and partnerships are initiated and visionary objectives are implemented.

This event also aims to create synergy and strengthen the collaboration between the authorities and the industries. The event will lay foundation and be the gateway to the current and future market trends in the fire, safety and security sectors, for the industry professionals to communicate, share ideas, identify solutions, to operate effectively and efficiently and stay abreast with the latest global trends.



OFSEC will confluence and strengthen local and international business engagement and encourage investment. The OFSEC Summit will feature an expansive line-up of 30+ stellar speakers, case studies, panel discussions, unique presentations providing access to a wealth of industry leading knowledge, sharing best practices and experiences, spotlighting trends, information exchange, insights and outlooks with actionable takeaways.

The summit is the definitive meeting place facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue with power packed networking opportunities among C-Level executives, leading industry experts, decision makers, policy makers and government officials from across the value chain to foster collaboration, discuss current challenges, business opportunities, develop market

strategies, share knowledge and identify solutions aimed at shaping the future of fire, safety and security.

The key reasons to visit the event:

- Source best solutions to suit your business requirements
- See first-hand live interactive demonstrations
- Discover edge-cutting and innovations developments
- Compare and contrast prices and specifications product variants
- Meet specialist exhibitors from local, regional & international leading companies

OFSEC is officially supported by Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority of Oman. The strategic partners are OPAL — Oman Society for Petroleum Services and SSS — Security and Safety Services.

Omantel backs GCC telecoms’ drive towards Open RAN

MUSCAT: Omantel, the leading provider of integrated telecommunication services in the Sultanate of Oman, has expressed its full support to the adoption of Open Radio Access Networks (RAN), a totally new approach to building mobile networks that seamlessly connect smartphones and devices to the Internet and other users.

Omantel is an active member of the joint GCC Consortium that seeks to accelerate the early adoption of Open Radio Access Network (Open RAN) solutions in the operators’ networks with a robust regional ICT ecosystem.

The consortium has published a whitepaper that sets out the challenges of deploying Open RAN in brownfield networks, such as interoperability, operational complexity, cyber security, performance, and TCO issues.

It also addresses potential opportunities, mainly 5G prospects, disaggregation, the path to 6G, and Automation.

Dr Ali al Hashmi, General Manager of Network at Omantel, said, “Omantel shares the GCC operators’ view that Open RAN development is rapidly accelerating towards a point of maturity with major performance enhancements and

capabilities, in particular for LTE and 5G technologies and beyond. Omantel has been playing a major role in contributing to the tech and telecom industry not just in Oman, but in the GCC. Our strong support to this project reflects Omantel’s strong position as the main enabler for the future of tech and telecom in Oman.”

Historically, RAN has undergone a series of developments in the network architecture. Starting with traditional RAN, it progressed to centralised RAN (C-RAN) and virtualised RAN (vRAN), until the dawn of Open RAN. The first three were vendor lock-in, while Open RAN architecture provides openness and lays the foundation for 6G and future RAN.

Open RAN technology enables the creation of all software and hardware components of the RAN to be built to industry-wide specifications, ensuring interoperability between each component.

Open Interfaces allow operators to select hardware from variety of suppliers to mix and match during deployment. This gives operators wide options to choose from available options, specifications and eventually achieve optimised costs and timelines.

200 Omani families to benefit from 2022 Bank Muscat’s Tadamun programme

MUSCAT: In line with its commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility and community service, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, and the Ministry of Social Development, are currently implementing the landmark Tadamun programme for the tenth consecutive year.

A joint team has started distributing household appliances to social welfare families across different governorates in the Sultanate of Oman. In 2022, the bank aims to support about 200 social welfare families across Oman by distributing over 800 household appliances including air conditioners and refrigerators.

At present, appliances are being distributed to families in several wilayats across Muscat. It is particularly noteworthy that the Tadamun programme has so far benefitted 1,880 families since it was first launched in 2013.

Speaking on the occasion of this year’s Tadamun programme, Talib bin Saif al Makhmari (**pictured**), Head, Community & Media Relations, Bank Muscat, expressed his happiness at the continuation of the landmark programme for the 10th consecutive year. He said that Tadamun has been strengthening the role of the bank in the field of social responsibility over the years and the total number of beneficiaries has now crossed



10,000, which by itself is a major milestone. He pointed out how Bank Muscat has been a pioneer of sustainability in Oman and has worked steadfastly to partner and support the community in different initiatives so as to contribute to overall progress and development. The bank’s CSR programmes continue to create a positive impact on Omani society, which is a translation of its vision to “serving you better, everyday.”

This year’s programme is being implemented in cooperation with specialists from the Ministry of Social Development, who received applications and finalised

the list of families entitled for the benefits.

Talib al Makhmari extended his sincere appreciation and gratitude to officials from the ministry, volunteers from the bank and other partners for their support and cooperation in continuing this long-running programme successfully. Bank Muscat is proud of its ongoing and continuous partnership with the Ministry of Social Development over the years on a number of initiatives and programmes including the Tadamun programme.

Bank Muscat, which is Oman’s leading financial services provider, runs over 10 long-term social responsibility projects including Green Sports, Al Wathbah SME Academy, the Maliyat financial literacy programme and Irshad financial coaching, which are all aimed at supporting different segments of Omani society.

Spanish trade mission to arrive this week

MUSCAT: The Economic and Trade Office of the Spanish Embassy in Muscat has announced that a trade mission from Spain is due to visit the Sultanate of Oman during October 25 – 27, 2022. The six-member delegation represents Spanish companies led by the Spanish Federation of Healthcare Technology Companies (FENIN).

During this visit, the Spanish companies will establish trade business relationships through the introduction of several products like: Dental implants and dental prostheses CAD/CAM components; Soapy sponges and mittens for daily personal hygiene; High quality oral care products; Lighting solutions supplies for the healthcare sector; Disposable medical devices and diagnostic products; and Packaging for medical products and sterilisation processes.

“The visit seeks to continue to build on the close bilateral relationships that exist between Oman and Spain. During the visit, the representatives will meet potential distributors and agents. Local companies interested in meeting the Spanish companies of this Trade Mission may contact the Trade Office of the Embassy of Spain at mascate@comercio.mineco.es. Muscat,” the Embassy said in a press statement.

Toyota unveils exciting campaign with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Now own any of your favourite Toyota vehicle and get exclusive benefits. Service from 2 years/20,000 kms up to 4 years / 40,000 kms (whichever is earlier) and insurance 1 year or cash gift in lieu of insurance RO 125 to RO 450. Customers owning any Toyota during the campaign get a chance to Scratch & Win prizes like iPhone13, Dell laptop and fuel cards.

Apart from this walk-in to any Toyota showroom and get a chance to win prizes like JBL Sound Bar and Samsung Galaxy Watch 5. Social Media fans who follow Toyota Oman on Instagram can get a chance to win one out of 5 Apple Airpods. The campaign is valid until December 21, 2022. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary



between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.)

Toyota has a fantastic range in Oman. Customers can visit

any showroom and experience a wide range that includes the Land Cruiser, Hilux Adventure, all-new Yaris, Camry and more.

The pride of the land — the Land Cruiser is a symbol of strength,

durability and reliability. Rugged yet luxurious, the Land Cruiser delivers high-end performance and advanced off-roading capabilities and safety features.

Every Toyota Hilux Adventure

comes with high-end features that start with the mighty 4.0 litre V6 engine packing a mighty punch with 235 HP & 38.3 Kg-m torque. It has an auto disconnect differential to keep the tempo going.

The all new Toyota Yaris promises a dynamic driving experience thanks to its four-cylinder engine that is equipped with 16-valve DOCH and dual VVT-I.

The stylish Camry is available in two engine options. The 2.5 Litre engine delivers 204 HP & 243 Nm torque & 3.5L engine delivers 298 HP & 356 Nm torque. Camry is also available in the 3.5L sports edition that adds to the thrill. The Camry’s interior is stylish and impressive. The dash design has a sporty, cockpit-like feel, while treating both the driver and the

front passenger to wider visibility. Specifications of vehicle imported from Toyota Motor Corporation are as per the GSO Conformity Certificate applicable to the model/grade. Parameters such as vehicle weight, dimensions & fuel economy could vary from the GSO Conformity Certificate due to fitment of dealer installed accessories. Pictures and colours shown may differ from actual specifications.

For the latest press releases, test drive requests and more, please visit www.toyotaoman.com, www.youtube.com/toyotaoman, www.facebook.com/toyotaoman, and instagram.com/toyotaomanofficial/. For any further details & to ascertain availability of stocks, please visit your nearest Toyota showroom.



How to start your digital marketing agency



STEFANO VIRGILLI
stefano@virgilli.com

The author is a member of the International Press Association

I was contacted by Issa, a young Omani entrepreneur who asked for my opinion on the topic of online digital marketing agencies as a business. This column is to share my advice with all those that have toyed with this idea.

One benefit of starting a digital marketing agency is you do not have to have a brick-and-mortar business presence. The first step in setting up a successful remote marketing agency is investing in the right tools that will help you connect with your team and collaborate.

As your agency grows, you may want to create your own digital marketing team and hire experts, but if you are starting with no experience and no money, it is essential that you learn to do these tasks on your own. Before you begin serving clients (as a freelancer or agency with a focus on digital marketing), you should get some experience working for either a well-established agency or your own site.

It is not surprising, therefore, that many digital marketing agencies started hiring remote employees in order to address the shortage of talent.

Many of the US-based digital marketing agencies that were studied reported hiring remote employees at lower-cost locations; not necessarily abroad, but smaller cities away from Muscat.

Often talented Omani choose not to live in the capital city. Commenting could be time consuming, so remote employment could be a great opportunity to balance work and lifestyle.

Most of the digital marketing

agencies seemed to also agree that remote workers are more productive. Digital agencies save money on their offices and employees costs by hiring remote workers. Some others agencies ask that their remote employees be available at similar hours to the office in which they are normally employed. That guarantees a stable income for the employee while granting great flexibility.

As a strategy for finding top remote employees, some companies implement the same types of technologies workers will be using in their jobs throughout their recruitment process. With these tools, an agency can continue to reap the benefits of working remotely.

In addition to investing in better collaboration and communication tools for our staff, any digital remote agency makes sure that all employees are equipped for a telecommuting essential environment. The more comfort is provided to the remote employees, the higher is the reliability of real time support.

One of the hardest aspects of building a digital agency is making sure that you are managing team members efficiently. Some of my entrepreneur friends that have owned digital marketing agencies have a hybrid setup, in which a local team would operate from one central office, but it is strictly to serve as a liaison with the (remote) clients, while allowing sales and marketing teams to collaborate together in a nurturing environment.

Even though you do not have a brick-and-mortar office, you still might need to incorporate your remote agency and seek specific licensing. With a remote digital agency, the only start-up costs you will need to cover are buying your own laptop — which you probably have already — and paying to create your website.

I would recommend that if you have some tech confidence you manage your own website instead of outsourcing that crucial part of your business outreach.

Fall in refinery products and petroleum industries in 9M 2022

JOMAR MENDOZA

@JmObserver

The total refinery products and petroleum industries in the Sultanate of Oman fell by 4.5% at the end of September compared to the same period last year, and auto fuel production fell by 15.9%.

According to figures released by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI), production of M91 — the more popular of Oman's two main motor fuel grades — fell 0.6 % to 9.8 million barrels compared to 9.9 million barrels at the end of September, while its sales increased by 50.8% with 9.6 million barrels compared to 6.3 million barrels during the same period last year. Meanwhile, its exports recorded a decline of 71.2% to 1.1 million barrels.

Production of premium M95 however, increased by 8.8% with 11.4 million barrels compared to 10.4 million barrels during the same period last year, while its sales fell slightly recording 9.4 million barrels compared to 9.5 million barrels last year. The good news, however, its exports increased by 93.1% to a record 2.7



million barrels.

The output for diesel — the dominant fuel source for heavy vehicles, construction machinery and diesel-powered gensets in remote parts of the country — saw a 14.8% decline of 23.2 million barrels compared to 27.2 million barrels for the same period last year. Its sales, however, rose by 11.2% registering 11 million

barrels compared to 9.9 million barrels last year. Exports fell by 32.9% to 11.6 million barrels compared to the same period last year with 17.3 million barrels.

Jet fuel production stood at 5.7 million barrels, up 32.6% by the end of September compared to 4.3 million barrels for the same period last year, and sales rose 106.2% to 2.2 million barrels, compared with

1 million barrels for the same period last year.

LPG (cooking gas) production also fell 14.9% to 4.7 million barrels down from 5.5 million barrels for the same period last year, while sales rose by 7.5% to 5.9 million barrels compared to the same period, which recorded 5.5 million barrels, while exports fell by 90.6% to 36,900 barrels.

Europe faces long-term pain from energy crisis

DOHA: Europe faces painful “industrial rationalisation” due to its energy crisis that risks political trouble, the head of Shell warned on Sunday, as the oil giant joined a natural gas project in Qatar.

Shell chief executive Ben van Beurden agreed a deal for a 9.3 per cent stake in Qatar Energy's North Field South project, that will play a major role in the Gulf state's effort to increase liquefied natural gas (LNG) production by 50 per cent in the next five years.

At the signing ceremony in Doha, van Beurden said European industry face taking a major hit from the energy crisis, worsened by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Europe has reduced consumption “quite effectively, quite significantly” following the loss of 120 million tonnes of Russian gas a year, van Beurden said, but “a lot of this reduction is achieved by switching off industry”.

Europe has desperately searched for quick alternatives to Russian gas, but van Beurden said Europe would need large amounts of



Ben van Beurden, chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell, speaks during the 26th World Gas Conference in Paris, in this file photo. — Reuters

LNG for decades.

“A lot of people say, turn down the thermostat, or maybe don't switch on the air conditioning,” he said. “But there is also ‘why don't we switch off the fertiliser plant that we have’ or ‘let us scale down on some petro chemicals production in general’. And that rationalisation, if it goes on long enough, becomes permanent.”

Van Beurden said there have been “some victory laps” in Europe over the way it has reduced demand, but added “some of it is actually bad news for the long term, namely

economic or industrial rationalisation.”

The Shell chief, who will retire at the end of the year, said industrial cuts could spark some “rejuvenation”, but also brought risks. “To do it at this scale, this abruptness, at a time of economic challenges in general, I think will bring quite a bit of pressure on European economies, and perhaps also a lot of pressures for the political system in Europe,” he said.

British-based Shell is the second European company, after France's TotalEnergies, to take a stake in North Field South.

Twenty-five per cent of the project has been reserved for international energy giants. Expansion across the North Field, the world's biggest proven gas reserves, is intended to increase Qatar's LNG production by 50 per cent to about 127 million tonnes a year by 2027.

Shell and TotalEnergies took stakes earlier this year in the North Field East zone. “Natural gas assumes greater importance in light of recent geopolitical turmoil,” said Qatar's Energy Minister Saad Sherida al-Kaabi as he welcomed the Shell deal. — Reuters

Poor nations face peril over elusive G-20 debt relief push

LONDON/WASHINGTON: A failure to secure meaningful progress on a debt relief for the world's poorest nations at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meeting in Washington has left policymakers, campaigners and investors frustrated.

Two years ago the Group of 20 launched the Common Framework — a mechanism designed to provide a swift and comprehensive debt overhaul to nations buckling under debt burdens after Covid-19 shock that would reach beyond temporary debt payment moratoriums.

But results have proven elusive, hampered by a combination of a lack of progress in bringing key creditors around the table and getting them to commit to joint

action, and establishing debt parametres that form the basis of talks as well as political upheaval in some of the countries.

The world's poorest countries face \$35 billion in debt-service payments to official and private-sector creditors in 2022, more than 40% of that is due to China, the World Bank found. “Time is not our friend, interest rates are up, the dollar has appreciated and the debt burden has become heavier,” IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva told a conference in London after the Washington gathering ended mid-October.

Debt restructurings can be protracted, getting a multitude of parties to agree on a shared process is no mean feat. But doubts are rife with progress



Employees arrange flags during the final preparations before world leaders gather for the official family photograph on day one of the G20 leaders summit at the convention center of La Nuvola, in Rome, in this file photo. — Reuters

having been glacial.

“It isn't a perfect instrument.

I take responsibility for that as being one of the negotiators,”

Guillaume Chabert, IMF deputy strategy chief who helped design the Common Framework during his time at the Paris Club, told a panel in Washington.

“We need a fast, quick, orderly, reliable, predictable mechanism. The Common Framework is a good start, but you need some fixes.” To Zambia, Africa's first Covid-era default in 2020, it was still unclear who will lead talks for renegotiating its nearly \$6 billion debt with China. Ethiopia's debt restructuring has ground to a halt with the country engulfed in a civil war.

Official creditors found that Chad, the first to request Common Framework treatment in January 2021, might not need debt relief after all thanks to the oil price surge, though they signalled

readiness to reconvene if needed. Especially Chad's experience could dissuade other countries from applying for relief, experts said.

Chabert said there was still a chance Chad's creditors would fail to finalise their memorandum of understanding or its biggest private creditor, commodities firm Glencore, would back out, which would effectively halt existing IMF and World Bank programmes. China's role as a lender to poorer nations and Beijing's foot-dragging on debt relief drew much ire at the Washington meeting. US officials warning this could burden dozens of low- and middle-income countries with years of debt servicing problems, lower growth and under-investment. — Reuters

WJ Towell Group Company

Quality car rentals at competitive prices.

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684
Sohar 9731 6218 Salalah 9429 9325
www.orbit-oman.com

• Fleet of 2,000 vehicles
• Choose from a wide range of brands & models
• PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available
• Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربت ORBIT
Car Rental & Lease

Classifieds

شوبين جفت Shoppinggift

GET FREE SHOPPING VOUCHER with every purchase of TallyPrime single user

Contact: Guruprasad +968 79248644, 98753781
Email: guru.prasad@asiasolutions.net
<https://www.asiasolutions.net>

ASIA SOLUTIONS
TALLY GOLD PARTNER
TALLY FOR VAT

MONDAY

OCTOBER 24, 2022

RABEE AL AWWAL 28, 1444 AH

OMAN DAILY

Observer Classified Section

Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230
m.alrahd86@yahoo.com

Ali al Maashari: 99639264
ali.almashari@omandaily.om

Saada al Rashdi
95919344

94501166
24649593
24649595

LAMASAT BUSINESS CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Accounting Services, VAT and Consultancy Services

Contact: **24571454** GSM: **95392251**

URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR SOHAR PRODUCTION COMPANY

♦ Mechanical Engineer ♦ Electrical Engineer ♦ Planning Engineer

Graduate Engineer with minimum 10 to 12 years experience required in Project Management, Design Support & Engineering in Oil & Gas and Refineries, Aluminium Industries preferred.

Send CV to: **vap1oman@gmail.com**

Driving School

Special offers for those wishing to learn driving in (Aziba - Khwair Qurum - Ruwi Al Amirat)

Contact No: 99074072

TallyPrime The Best Business Can Get

Tally CERTIFIED PARTNER

HURMUZ ACCOUNTANCY CONSULTANTS & SERVICES L.L.C.

Office 21, MIC Building, Al Khuwair, PO Box No. 264, Mina Al Fahal - 116 Sultanate of Oman - Tel: 968 2448 9222 / 9941 1762

FOR RENT

FLATS FOR RENT

- 1) Darsait, near Indian School, two bedroom flat, bath attached, hall, kitchen and guest toilet; one bedroom flat, hall, kitchen and toilet.
- 2) Al Khuwair, near Rawasco: One bedroom, bath, kitchen, AC, curtains.
- 3) Al Ghubrah near Mars Hypermarket: Two bedrooms flat with attached bath, hall kitchen and guest toilet; one bedroom flat with attached bath, hall, kitchen and guest toilet.
- 4) Al Ghubrah near Indian School: Two bedrooms flat with attached bath, hall, kitchen and guest toilet.

All flats provided with air conditioners.
Contact: 91473374, 97886085.

FLATS for rent in Darsait, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, kitchen, with small sea view. Rent RO 230 only per month. Contact 99315986

FLATS 2bhk and 1 bhk in Muntaz. Contact 99341138 and 90991079.

DELUX villa at Qurum Heights, master bedroom + 2 children rooms + guest room + dinning room + kitchen and garden + maid room. Contact: 95131385.

BUILDING of 1.500 sqm 3 stories, accommodation, store and office at Misfa. ☎99432177, 99010964.

REQUIRED

URGENT REQUIREMENT - MARKETING EXECUTIVE

A REPUTED MEI (Mechanical, Electrical & Instrumentation) contracting company based in Sultanate of Oman looking for experienced marketing executives. Candidates with minimum 5 years relevant field experience in Oman with valid Omani driving licence may forward the CV to directrecruit2022@gmail.com

ACCOUNTS OUTSOURCING

Outsource your accounts to highly qualified professionals having 25 years of experience in the field of Trading, Contracting & Construction.

Contact: **99092585**

SIT. WANTED

INDIAN female, MCom, good experience in VAT, book keeping until finalisation. Seeking suitable position and can immediately. Contact: 96974566.

PLANNING engineer, PMP. Indian male Civil Eng. Around 10 years experience in construction projects. Softwares: Primavera P6, MS Office, ERP, having Oman driving licence. Ready to join, email: engineer4planning@gmail.com, Call: 78002582.

INDIAN female (M Tech Civil Structural Engineering) having 7 years experience as Quantity Surveyor cum Quality Control Engineer, looking for suitable position. Contact: 96154505.

GENERAL manager with 16+ years experience in Oman, MBA — BE, seeks suitable placement. Contact: 94008034.

SITUATION WANTED

Well experienced Indian Finance Manager. M.com with 20 years experience in Finance, Accounts, Tax Matters and Reports. Noc and DL available.

GSM : +968 95392251

SIT. WANTED

WELL experienced in Oman project sales/showroom for building material products with driving licence, seeks job. Contact: 79443928.

INDIAN Female, MCom, Good experience in VAT, payroll, Inventory, Book keeping until finalisation. Seeking suitable position and available for join immediately. Contact. 96974566

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

MECHANICAL engineer, male, Indian, 1 years experience in ISRO, certification in SAP MM and programming. Seeking a suitable position. Contact: 77020287, email: zackariapm97@gmail.com
LinkedIn: ZackaiaPM

AL NAMANI CARGO

WORLD WIDE DOOR TO DOOR CARGO

INDIA • BANGLADESH
NEPAL • SRILANKA • INDONESIA
PHILIPPINES • AFRICA • EUROPE
USA • ALL GCC

TOLL FREE NUMBER **80066766**
www.alnamanicargo.com

FREE PICK UP 24/7

Branches : Ruwi, Hamriya, Ghala, Seet, Barka, Suwaid, Sohar

سماء الخضراء للتجارة SAMÁ AL KHADRA TRADING

SERVICES:

PIPING SYSTEMS VALVES
DRAINS INTERCEPTORS

Tel: 24501568, 24502479 • Fax: 24503566
Email: sales@samaalkhadra.com
Website: www.samaalkhadratradingco.com

HAVE A PROPERTY FOR RENT?

Advertise with us.

Contact us on: **99639264**

SERVICES

AUTOCAD/ REVIT ARCH
MEP, part/full-time. Contact
WhatsApp: 79037728.

AL SUMRI AC maintenance. We are ready to repair and install all types of Air-Conditioner within Muscat Governorate. 94301888.

RENT A CAR

Buttercup Rent A Car AMAZING OFFERS

- Rent a car for 10 days and get an extra free day.
 - Rent for one month and get 5 days free.
- All the cars are 2016 brand new special prices for public departments, companies and long-term contracts. ☎972494490.

LUXURIOUS Toyota bus 2016, air-conditioned, 30 passengers, offered for daily/monthly/annually, Muscat. Contact: 98080609, 96316269.

PEST CONTROL OMAN CO. L.L.C.

Supply of Pesticides, Gel (crocroaches), Public Health chemicals, Agriculture chemicals, Snake repellent, Rodent baits and other insect repellent from UK & USA

PROFESSIONALS in Pest Control Service, Bedbug Treatment, Rodent Treatment, Snake Treatment and Termite Treatment [Pre & Post Construction]

Tel: 24787606, 24787503
Direct Line: 24786077
GSM: 99382355, 99172309
pcomctom@omantel.net.om
P.O. Box 565, Al Wadi Al Kabir 117, Sultanate of Oman

Now get news on the go

To receive news updates from OMAN OBSERVER,

WhatsApp <your name> to 96473232

OMAN عمان DAILY

Observer

For Advertisements

Please Contact with our Team:

Head Office

Mohd Al Rashdi
99841230
m.alrahd86@yahoo.com

Ali Al Maashari
99639264
wadiameeh@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

Ycu Tube @omanobserver www.omanobserver.om



Mount Hajar Exhibition: At the crossroad of adventure and photography

It's not easy to climb a mountain like the Al Hajar Mountains which extend to 3,000 metres above sea level. The most difficult part is carrying a heavy camera to document the hardest moments with creative scenes. But Muna Khalfan, a female Omani photographer, has explored different Oman mountains and now showcases the beauty of her homeland in this exhibit... **P20**

Louvre to display Quran fragment, ancient Buddha statue from Uzbekistan

THE LOUVRE MUSEUM in Paris will display dozens of artefacts from Uzbekistan that its experts helped restore, including a 2,000-year-old Buddha statue and a fragment of an 8th century Quran, the

Uzbek government said on Friday. A total of 70 restored artefacts will be shown in the Louvre between November 23 and March 6, the state-run Culture and Arts Development Foundation

said in a statement. The Quran fragment, it said, had been stored for centuries in the village of Katta Langar and is one of the oldest copies of the Muslim holy book in existence. — **Reuters**



READ

KINGDOM OF THE FEARED

BY KERRI MANISCALCO

Emilia's quest to seek out her sister's killer and exact vengeance.



TRAVEL TALES

Picture of an "Alebrije" - a Mexican brightly coloured folk art sculpture representing a fantastical creature- taken during the Alebrijes Parade in Mexico City. — **AFP**



ANIMAL PLANET

A farmer checks on the bees working in their hive in Isokyro, western Finland. A European beekeeping congress, gathering between October 20 and 23, 2022 in France's western town of Quimper, has drawn a sombre outlook for the profession, as beekeepers confront irregular honey harvests due to ongoing factors ranging from climate change, pesticide use in farming harming the environment, and Asian hornets. — **AFP**





Literature finds unlikely social media partner in TikTok

BEST-SELLING GERMAN author Sarah Sprinz's series of young adult books has received a boost from an unlikely quarter: a community of literary enthusiasts on social media platform TikTok.

The #BookTok trend has exploded in recent times, with a growing number of readers posting reviews and engaging with writers, while authors use it to promote their works.

To some, it seems counter-intuitive – a platform known for short and often light-hearted videos is not the obvious place to encourage an activity like reading that requires deep concentration.

But videos with the hashtag have racked up billions of views, and helped to propel the popularity of some works, while bookshops are rushing to set up stands where creators can film videos.

The trend “is super important for me”, Sprinz – author of the hit “Dunbridge Academy” series, set in a boarding school in Scotland – said in an interview at the Frankfurt book fair.

“Personally for me, I believe it played a role (in my success), because I have seen a lot of videos recommending my books.”

The trend, which often sees creators post emotionally charged reviews of books, has been particularly effective in attracting a new audience of younger readers, said Sprinz.

“I think it is nice that through TikTok, a completely new, younger target audience is becoming aware of reading,” said the 26-year-old.

IMPACT ON BOOK SALES
According to TikTok – which is

owned by Chinese company ByteDance – #BookTok has received more than 84 billion video views to date on the platform, and successful genres include romance and fantasy.

“#BookTok has become the place for book recommendations and discovery as well as for sharing reviews and tapping into fan culture,” said Tobias Henning, general manager, TikTok Germany and Central and Eastern Europe.

It is also “having a real world impact on book sales globally”, he added.

One success credited to #BookTok is that of US author Colleen Hoover's novel “It Ends With Us”, which saw sales soar after it gained traction in the community.

A typical review shows a woman sobbing as she reads the novel, with music playing and a voiceover read-

ing, “I’ve never cried for so long after a book.”

With the clout of #BookTok growing, the annual Frankfurt fair, the world's biggest publishing event, has made TikTok a partner for the first time.

Several creators and enthusiasts are also in attendance.

“I mostly do (TikTok) content about books, mostly about novels, and I try to upload two videos a week,” TikTok user Sofia Reinbold, who came to the fair after reading about it on the platform, said.

The 17-year-old added she had received “feedback from people who have bought books after watching my videos”.

MULTIPLIER’ EFFECT
For Sprinz, the #BookTok phenomenon is driven by the fact that TikTok is a visual platform, allowing people to show how they feel about a book.

And people being stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic may have accelerated the trend.

“A lot of people perhaps felt a bit lonely and isolated,” she said, adding it was a good platform “to network again and find common hobbies like reading”.

She also downplayed the suggestion there was somehow a contradiction between spending more time on social media and trying to promote literature, noting that people read in different ways nowadays, including on e-books and smartphones.

But social media alone “cannot make a successful book”, she said.

“TikTok and #BookTok are a kind of multiplier, and a good opportunity to pass on recommendations for books.”

But “there must be more to it,” she said. “The book must of course be good.” — **AFP**

Ralph Lauren accused of plagiarising indigenous Mexican designs

THE WIFE OF MEXICO'S president on Thursday accused luxury American clothes brand Ralph Lauren of plagiarising indigenous designs, which she described as an appropriation of the work of the country's pre-Hispanic cultures.

“Hey Ralph (Lauren): we already realised that you really like Mexican designs,” writer and researcher Beatriz Gutierrez said in an Instagram post. “However, by copying these designs you are committing plagiarism, which is illegal and immoral.”

The post shows a photo of a cardigan with colourful indigenous motifs hanging in a store. The label reads Ralph Lauren.

Ralph Lauren said it was “surprised” to learn the product was still

being sold, after issuing a directive to remove it from its channels after discovering it some months previously.

“We are deeply sorry this happened and, as always, we are open to dialogue about how we can do better,” it said in a statement.

The US fashion retailer has pledged that all new products using indigenous designs following its summer 2023 season will be created under a model of “credit and collaboration”.

Reuters found the garment currently selling online for hundreds of dollars.

“Hopefully you repair the damage to the original communities that do this work with love and not for profit,” Gutierrez added, attributing the



designs to the indigenous communities of Contla and Saltillo.

President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador has launched an intense campaign to reclaim relics of Mexico's pre-Columbian heritage since taking office in 2018, including lodging complaints against auction houses in the United States and Europe, and recovering dozens of Mexican antiques.

In July, the Mexican government also asked Chinese fashion retailer Shein to explain its use of indigenous Mayan elements in one of its pieces, causing it to remove the garment from its website.

The government has made similar complaints against France's Louis Vuitton, Venezuelan designer Carolina Herrera, Spain's Zara and US retailer Anthropologie.

—Reuters

A LOOK INTO THE ACADEME



Dr Zainab al Ajmi
zeinbf@moe.om

Finland's Successful Education System

FINLAND IS RANKED top in economic competitiveness, corruption-free governance, level of use of information and communication technologies, and best education system. The actual value of the Finnish education policy lies in the long-term objective that is providing equal opportunities for all citizens to high-quality education and training, regardless of age, domicile, economic situation, or mother tongue.

“In 1968 Finland embarked on a top-down reform of both primary and secondary education. Comprehensive school reform was implemented province by province including how local school systems would be restructured. Education in Finland is publicly financed from preschool to higher education” (Aho et al., 2006, p.9).

According to Kupiainen & Hautamäki (2009, p.16) the “Finnish education system is a mixture of state controlled or steered and relatively autonomous elements. The government determines the general objectives of education and the division of classroom hours between different subjects.

The Ministry of Education drafts legislation and government decisions pertaining to education. The National Board of Education lays out the concrete objectives and core contents of instruction in the different subjects and is responsible for the national core curriculum with its directive norms for good achievement in each (mark 8 on a scale of 4 to 10).

Local authorities are responsible for the practical arrangement of schooling and for composing the municipal curriculum based on the national core curriculum. Each school, in turn, writes its own curriculum based on both the national core curriculum and the municipal document.

The education provider is obliged to evaluate its education services and their effectiveness, and to participate in external evaluations. Basic education encompasses is the compulsory nine years, and caters for all those between 7 and 16 years, while Finnish upper secondary education is divided into the two clearly separate systems of academically oriented general upper secondary schools and vocational institutions, which prepare students for direct employment or further education in the polytechnics.

Upper secondary education is not compulsory but is attended by over 90 per cent of the age cohort. Despite the differences in the respective curricula of the two strands, both allow for access to all tertiary education via study programme specific entrance examinations. Entrance to upper secondary is based on application and basic school certificate”.

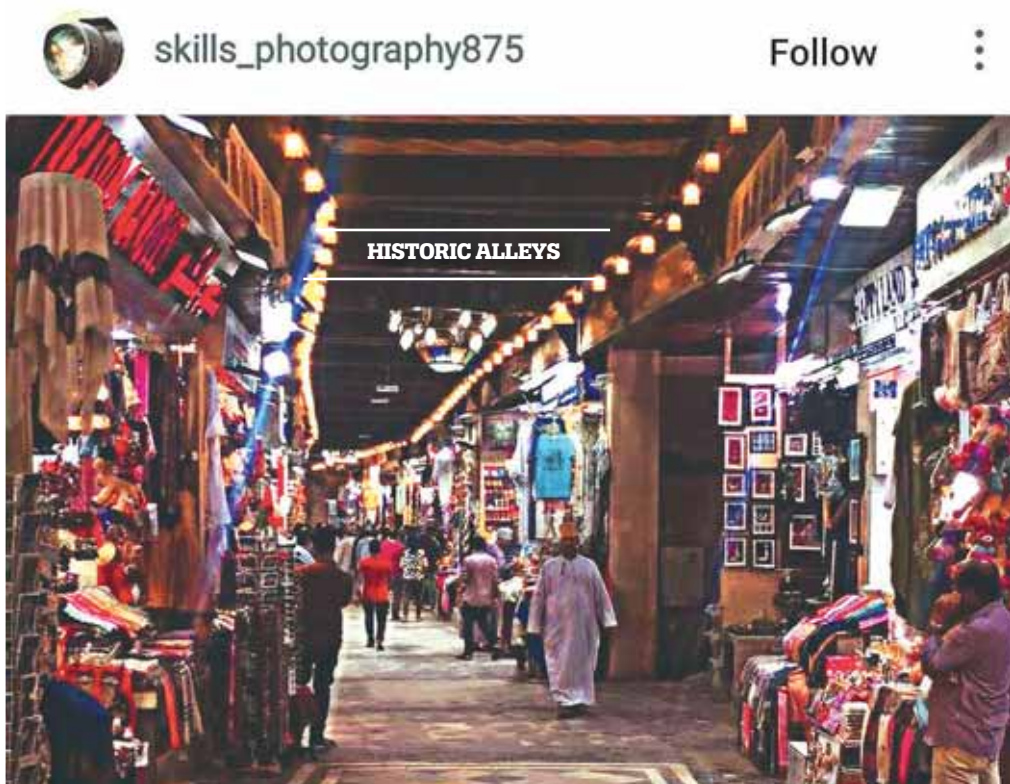
In view of the extensive education reforms of Finland, the crux of the education system is the foundation for Finnish students' success in PISA 2000, 2003, and 2006. Some analysts comment that the success of education in Finland is due to various factors including: 1. Teachers are nearly the most qualified in the world, and the requirements for becoming a teacher in Finland are set highly. Around the top 10% of applicants are successful and all of those have a master's degree. 2. Students Starting school at an older age (7 years). 3. Providing professional options past a traditional college degree. 4. More relaxed educational environment. 5. According to the OECD, students in Finland have the least amount of outside work and homework than any other student in the world, they spend half an hour a night working on stuff from school. It can be seen that Finnish students don't have tutors. 6. Equal value to all aspects of individual growth and learning: personality, morality, creativity, knowledge, and skills.

All things considered, the Finnish education system is extraordinary. Their students outperform all students in the world in most, if not all areas. Finnish students have a natural relationship between school life and leisure time, allowing them to participate in more external activities. Overall, a normal balance between school activities and normal life is the basis of any healthy society.



find us on
TWITTER
Scan the QR Code or follow us on
www.twitter.com/omanobserver

INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



SHARE A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE

We select three photos daily for our Instagram Top Picks of the Day. The rules are simple. Follow us on Instagram. Upload your photos. Tag us and use #OmanObserver and #BeAnObserver.



AROUND THE WORLD

ART

Bosnian woman marks 100th birthday by staging her own art exhibition



NADA RUDAN is most relaxed when painting, a skill she discovered at the age of 87 and culminating this summer in an exhibition of her artwork — to mark her 100th birthday.

Bosnian native Rudan says she started to paint at a late age to keep herself busy and now finds the days are often too short to fit in everything she planned to do. Her daily routine is to paint for three hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon, when she is at home.

"I don't know what boredom means, I don't know what depression means, I always find something to do," she says.

Her independent spirit, good health and love of travel help.

After her exhibition in Sarajevo in late June, Rudan left for a month's holiday on the Adriatic coast and then travelled on to Germany where her daughter lives.

"I am determined not to become a burden to my children," the mother of two, grandmother of three



and great grand mother of four children told Reuters in her spacious home in central Sarajevo, surrounded by some of her estimated 200 paintings.

"And I am calm, I don't want to be nervous, I always think first and then act," says Rudan, who made a living as a dressmaker, keeping on "selected customers" until she was 85.

"I am still in a good health, my hands are stable, my eyes serve me well," she says, adding that she rarely wears glasses when painting.

She speaks fondly about frequent travels with her children and grandchildren over the past decades. After her husband died in 1999, Rudan visited the United States, central America and numerous European countries, and those journeys inspired many of her paintings, such as a volcano in Hawaii or pyramids in Mexico.

She visited Hollywood at the age of 95, and was allowed to enter the theatre where the Academy Awards ceremony takes place. "That was such a treat!"

Rudan likes to paint nature most of all and uses acrylic colours "because they don't smell".

She considers herself an "amateur" rather than a "true artist", but is very proud that all her family, friends and neighbours came to her exhibition.

"You have to be positive in life and hope for the best, there will always be a solution," says Rudan, who survived both World War Two and the 1992-1995 siege of Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb forces. — Reuters

LOCAL SCENE

Friendship recognises Omani women of substance



By Kabeer Yousuf

IT IS THE TRUE, selfless service to society in particular and humanity in general that makes a person different from the rest. Such deeds often go unnoticed or are less celebrated but an international association of Oman and France has identified and honoured by an international joint organisation.

Omani women who have made an impact in the society and have inspired the youth were honoured with the 'Inspirational Women of Oman'

port the needs of the centres and the clients. She never stops. She has been well appreciated by her patients and their families because she extends her support to them for many more reasons than just the rehabilitation at the hospital.

Nadia al Ma'shari is a name synonymous with literacy programmes for women in her house, then she organised free school for kids for the last 14 years. Since 2007 after Ghonu, she started a group of women in Sidab to help families in need. There are more than 100

women's role and contribution to the community.

"The purpose of this panel is to encourage other women to follow their own passion, to believe in themselves and to support each other inside the woman community and to further contribute to the nation-building process," a spokesperson from the Association told the Observer.

The panel comprised four women who have made their presence felt with their yeoman service to society. Yuthar bint Mohammed bin Musallam al



awards in commemoration of Omani Women's Day by the Omani French Friendship Association at a glittering ceremony held at the Hormuz Grand hotel.

Noora Said Juma al Zadjali, Senior staff nurse and clinical instructor at Al Masaara hospital and Nadia al Ma'shari, widely known as Um Jarah, founder of an Orphan Charity group called 'Sadaqit Yateem al Khairi' were honoured by the international friendship.

Noora has been working in the field of drug addiction awareness for the past 19 years. She organises scientific symposium on addiction rehabilitation, conducts lectures and workshops to health care professional in different organisation, provides educational training for staff and clients to raise awareness in drug addiction. She communicates with charities to sup-

port the needs of the centres and the clients. She never stops. She has been well appreciated by her patients and their families because she extends her support to them for many more reasons than just the rehabilitation at the hospital.

The event, which was held under the auspices of Her Highness Sayyida Hujaijah al Said, Chairperson of the Association for the Welfare of Handicapped Children and Veronique Aulagnon, French Ambassador, Sulaiman al Harthy, Chairman of the Omani French Friendship Association and CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank honoured two deserving women at the fourth edition of OFA's Inspirational Women of Oman ceremony attended by nearly 100 guests.

A speech and video highlighting their achievements in different fields gave a kickoff to the event followed by a panel discussion, which focused on

Rawahiyah, Founder and Honorary Life President at Oman Cancer Association (OCA), Sabah bint Mohammed al Bahlanayah, CEO of the Association of Early Intervention for Children with Disability and Member of State Council, Dr Lamya Adnan al Haj, Associate Professor at Sultan Qaboos University, and Sayyida Dr Shariffa bint Khalid bin Qais al Said, Educational Expert at Ministry of Education, and moderated by Rachel George, TV presenter and content creator.

OFA is a non-profit organisation registered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and fully supported by the French Embassy. It aims at strengthening the bilateral relations between French and Omani business and social communities active in the Sultanate of Oman, said the spokesperson.

OF BOOKS, LIFE, AND POP CULTURE



Rasha al Raisi

The Book of Daniel

IN JULY 1950, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg — an American couple of Jewish ancestry — were arrested by the FBI for espionage and passing top-secret information to the USSR that helped them build their bomb. However, many believed in their innocence and that the sentence was too harsh; especially for Ethel who was only an accomplice and a mother of two. Protests and demonstrations sparked in Europe and America in their favour, with famous figures of the time voicing their concern such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Einstein and Frida Kahlo.

Pope Pius XII appealed to president Eisenhower to spare the couple which never happened. In March 1951, they became the first American civilians to be executed for the charge of espionage. Twenty years after their execution, American writer E L Doctorow published a book loosely based on the lives of the Rosenbergs.

The novel is called *The Book of Daniel* and is mostly narrated by the son Daniel who — along with his younger sister Susan — was a witness to the events that led to the capture, trial and execution of their parents Paul and Rochelle Isaacson. Like the Rosenberg's, the Isaacson were also of Russian-Jewish ancestry and part of the Young Communist League USA.

Daniel is the narrator of the story and keeps moving from the present to the past (flashbacks) and from the first person to the third person, which confuses the reader at the beginning till he/she gets the hang of it. The childhood of Daniel and Susan was a rough one. They lived in poverty as their father's job barely made ends meet.

In their flat, his parents' communist comrades always met and discussed their views and hopes for a better world. It's also the place where they were arrested by the FBI and jailed. With the help of a family friend who's a lawyer, the siblings were placed in an orphanage before being adopted by the Lewins, a young couple who were sympathetic with their parents' case.

However, their childhood trauma takes its toll on them as adults with Suzan's suicide attempt and Daniel's life mission of trying to find the truth. As the narration keep moving forwards and backwards, the reader can't help but empathies with Daniel and feel how the case had affected — and still affecting — him emotionally.

Doctorow's genius is demonstrated in Daniel's childhood perspective: the attention to details that only children are capable of and trying to make sense of the adult's complicated lives and situations. As both children grow the historical background changes, from the McCarthyism of the 50's to the Hippie movement that marked the 60's and 70's.

We witness the rise and fall of different political parties along with famous figures that marked each era such as African American singer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson. Although the novel has an open ending, the real story of the Rosenberg children doesn't. In 2016, Michael and Robert Meeropol — surnamed after their adopted parents — launched a petition campaign calling to president Obama to formally exonerate their mother Ethel for her wrongful conviction and execution but with no luck. Nonetheless, they're more hopeful that Biden's administration would consider their petition more favourably.

I read the Arabic version of the book that was translated by Reem Dawood, an Omani translator who's considered one of the best Arab females in her area. As with all her books, Reem's translation is seamless and her exceptional mastery of Arabic language increases the joy of reading. *The Book of Daniel* is a rich reading experience that reflects life as it is: harsh with a gleam of hope. Highly recommended.

Rasha al Raisi is a certified skills trainer and the author of: *The World According to Bahja*.



art & life

Local Scene

f t i y l v @omanobserver

MONDAY | OCTOBER 24 | 2022



Mount Hajar Exhibition: At the crossroad of adventure and photography

By Mai al Abri

Muna Khalfan carried her camera in her backpack and went adventuring and exploring Oman with her lens that featured the different corners of nature, the harmony of colours, the diversity of terrains and the different shades of beauty. It's not easy to climb a mountain like the Hajar Mountains which extend to 3,000 metres above sea level. The most difficult part is carrying a heavy camera to document the hardest moments with creative scenes. It is more astonishing that the adventurer is an Omani female who combined the love of adventure and the passion for photography at the same time. This woman decided to celebrate Omani Women's Day this year in her own way by opening the first-of-its-kind art exhibition that shows both the strength of a woman and the beauty of her homeland. Muna's exhibition "Mount Hajar Adventures" is a result of a massive effort and previous long planning to make it finally see the light. "The idea of this exhibition occurred to me in 2020. I follow lots of international photographers and magazines that pushed me to think of something out of the box. The challenge here is that you got to be medically and physically fit more than the adventurers themselves to catch the most perfect scenes," she shared. Shooting outstanding adventure photography necessitates balancing photography with involvement, as well as combining good camera technique with an attentive observation of events as they occur. Your reward will be dramatic photographs that

vividly depict the tale of your trips. When out exploring, you will encounter different circumstances that will necessitate particular planning for the items you carry and your shooting tactics. Determine environmental threats to yourself and your equipment before embarking on many of these outdoor photo adventures. Safety is your top priority, both for you and the individuals you're shooting. No photograph is worth putting yourself in danger for. When preparing your camera for hiking or riding, you should prioritise weight and bulk. When determining what camera equipment to carry, attempt to anticipate the most crucial photo moments to capture while on the route. Muna displayed 40 photographs taken in 18 different locales throughout 26 experiences. The photographs highlight the beauty of Omani nature as well as the refinement of the art. The visitors to the exhibition in Art & Soul Gallery in the Waterfront-Muscat get a chance to imagine walking among the deep valleys and to experience free climbing. The themes of the exhibition include also mountain hiking, canyoning, Deep Water Solo, rock climbing, and portraits. Muna believes that genders are equal when it comes to creativity. "borders are fake lines that we made up and believed on, explains Muna. "There is no such thing called "impossible". Everyone and every woman, in particular, can achieve the impossible whenever persistence is there" The exhibition runs until October 31 at Art & Soul Gallery, waterfront – Muscat. You can follow the photographer on Instagram: @Muna.khlfan

