

HM GREETES GERMAN PRESIDENT

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Steinmeier. He also wished the people of Germany continuous progress and growth. **-ONA**



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HM SENDS WRITTEN MESSAGE TO EMIR OF QATAR

DOHA: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a written message to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar dealing with fraternal relations between the two countries and their people. The message was handed over by Najib bin Yahya Al Balushi, Oman's Ambassador to Qatar when he was received on Sunday by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar. The two sides discussed several matters of common interest during the meeting. **-ONA**

Photo >A6



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ROYAL DECREES

HM the Sultan issues three Royal decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Sunday issued three Royal decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. 60/2022 on delegating climatic affairs specialisations to the Environment Authority from the Civil Aviation Authority.

Article (1) delegates climatic affairs specialisations to the Environment Authority from the Civil Aviation Authority, as per the annex attached to this decree.

Article (2) states that all allocations, assets, rights, obligations and holdings of climatic affairs shall be transferred from the Civil Aviation Authority to the Environment Authority.

Article (3) states that employees of the Civil Aviation Authority who are specialised in climatic affairs shall be transferred to the Environment Authority, along with their same financial grades.

Article (4) replaces the phrases "Civil Aviation Authority" and "Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Civil Aviation Authority", and "Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority", where

ever they might occur in laws and Royal decrees related to climatic affairs with the phrases "Environment Authority" and "Chairman of the Environment Authority", as per prevailing circumstances.

Article (5) cancels the annex of climatic affairs specialisations attached to the Royal decree No. 85/2020 and cancels all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (6) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree 61/2022 endorses Oman's joining the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Article (1) approves the Sultanate of Oman's joining the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, in accordance with the version attached to this decree, subject to the reservation about the provisions of clause (1) of Article (23) of the above-mentioned convention.

>A4

OMAN-JORDAN RELATIONS TO EXPLORE WIDER HORIZONS



High-profile talks

scheduled to be held during the official visit of the Jordanian King to Oman

MUSCAT: Relations between the Sultanate of Oman and Jordan assume significance due to their deep-rooted historical ties.

These relations are set to accomplish more strategic goals under the two countries' wise leaderships—His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The high-profile talks scheduled to be held during the official visit of the Jordanian Monarch to Oman, with effect from Tuesday this week, set a new milestone for bilateral cooperation and coordination on issues of common concern. The discussions are aimed to serve the interests of the two countries' peoples.

Since diplomatic exchange took place in 1972, the two countries'

Jordan King to visit Oman on Tuesday

MUSCAT: King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of Jordan will begin an official two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman this Tuesday, according to a statement issued by the Diwan of Royal Court on Sunday.

The statement reads as follows: "Stemming from the well-established relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will begin an official two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman



starting from Tuesday, 4 October 2022. The visit comes within the framework of cooperation and coordination between the two leaderships

to achieve further progress and growth that serve the two countries' peoples and meet their aspirations.

During the visit, the two monarchs will exchange views and discuss matters on enhancing joint Arab action, besides touching on the regional and international developments. May the Almighty Allah bless the leaderships of the two countries with success for the welfare and prosperity of their peoples and the Arab and Muslim nations!"

— ONA

OMAN Oman, UAE agree to fast-track rail project

2 The Board of Directors of Oman Rail and Etihad Rail discussed the implementation plans, including technical studies and architectural designs. **>A6**

MARKET MSX index records marginal decline

3 In line with the rest of the GCC stock markets, Oman's benchmark Muscat Securities Exchange (MSX) witnessed a decline during September 2022. **>B1**

34°
MUSCAT

MERCHANT SHIP

Oman ship rescues 19 from sinking vessel

MUSCAT: Asyad Group's vessel, Wadi Bani Khalid, collaborated with the Indian Coast Guard to rescue 19 crew members of 'MT Parth', a ship that was sinking off the coast of Ratnagiri in India.

The ill-fated merchant ship, measuring 102 meters long and carrying 3,911 tonnes of bitumen was in transit from the city of Mangalore in the Indian state of Karnataka to the port of Khor Fakkan of the Emirate of Sharjah on Sea of Oman.

MT Parth drowned 41 nautical miles west of the Ratnagiri coast. As soon as the Wadi Bani Khalid ship received the distress call, it responded immediately and rushed to rescue the crew of the sinking ship, in the face of such harsh navigational conditions as



sea turbulence and strong winds. Spokesperson of the Indian Coast Guard explained in a press release that while on regular patrols in the area, the guard received a distress call from 'MT Parth' and immediately sent a request for assistance to nearby commercial ships. Asyad Group's Wadi Bani

Khalid ship quickly responded by providing a helping hand, ensuring that all the sinking ship's crew was rescued and transported to receive necessary medical care and take other necessary official procedures.

Commenting on the incident, the captain of Wadi Bani Khalid ship said: "After we received the distress call, we headed towards the nearest safe distance from the sinking ship and began lowering the rescue boat. The crew members who were asked to jump into the water and swim away from the stricken ship as soon as possible, were all saved into the rescue boat." He said that the crew's ongoing training has played a significant role in providing various rescue services that meet the highest maritime HSE standards. **-ONA**

Oman officials, fans shocked at football tragedy in Indonesia

A4



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MONDAY COLUMN

Disabled people are never invalid



Saleh Al-Shaibany

I was waiting for my family in a busy car park when a posh vehicle pulled up not very far away from me. It was an admirable car but it was not just its price tag that attracted my attention. It was the decision of the driver to park on a disabled space that made me stop and watch. I expected him to come out on a wheelchair or on crutches but the man walked quite normal towards the entrance.

It was one of those moments that I wished I was a policeman. I don't need to tell you that he was a perfectly healthy man. The only problem with him was a deranged attitude that many selfish people are guilty of. A wicked thought did pass my mind though. I resisted the temptation of slashing a couple of his expensive tyres just to send a clear message. There was nothing I could do but stay calm and wait for my family to turn up. That night, as I recalled the incident, I thought such people don't care a hoot about disabled people. Thinking about it now casts my thoughts to a relative who lost the use of his limbs after a sudden stroke. It might sound cruel but his own family have given up on him. He still has a lot to give though not in the same way he used to. The worst that could happen to people in his situation is to think that life has suddenly decided to turn its back on



NEED UNDERSTANDING, NOT SYMPATHY: Disabled people don't need our sympathy but our understanding. If they don't get that then they become difficult and may never come to terms with their disability.

them. To them, time stands still and every passing day is a carbon copy of the previous one where personal anguish rules all the time. When one becomes invalid, many of the decisions they would have made are taken by people who look after them. Just like the man in that parking lot, disabled people get used to see their feelings trampled down. It is not a pleasant feeling but it is the one that they learn to accept.

It is very sad to see a once able person imprisoned in a shell of self-pity. It is not a physical prison but a mental one when the mind shuts out everything. We all grow up to taste just one freedom, the one we learned by taking that first step that would lead us to full independence.

I don't want to contradict myself but disabled people are never invalid. They may not be able to do most physical activities but they are never incompetent. This is the first thing that comes to our mind

when we see a person on a wheelchair. The expression in our faces says it all. We think, "poor fellow, I hope this does not happen to me."

The message is often transmitted and decoded by the disabled person. They start to retreat inward and feel useless. An unseen and imagined world is the only place where they can have their own rules and in their own terms. They lose the will to survive on their own. Why? Simply because we choose to treat them as a useless. That way, we banish them from the physical world. Disabled people don't need our sympathy but our understanding. If they don't get that then they become difficult and may never come to terms with their disability. We hold the key of their peace of mind. We owe them that much because most decisions that matter now are taken by people who look after them. That hurts a lot because the future is uncertain and the road to their recovery is nowhere near.



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Oman officials, fans shocked at football tragedy in Indonesia

Football fans and officials expressed deep anguish and sorrow at the tragedy that occurred in Malang, East Java in Indonesia on Sunday

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The tragedy during a football match in Indonesia that left at least 125 fans dead has left Oman shocked.

Football fans and officials expressed deep anguish and sorrow at the tragedy that occurred in Malang, East Java in Indonesia.

The tragedy occurred at an Indonesian football stadium when thousands of angry home fans invaded the pitch and police responded with tear gas that triggered a stampede, according to local police authorities on Sunday.

The tragedy on Saturday night in the eastern city of Malang and left over 180 injured, was one of the world's biggest sporting stadium disasters.

Arema FC fans stormed the pitch after their team lost 2-3 to Perse-



baya Surabaya on Saturday night.

Leading the tributes to the Indonesian Football Association and the people, Hilal al Sinani, CEO of Oman Football Association, said: "I am shocked beyond words to hear about the loss of so many fans. My deepest condolences to the people of Indonesia and my counterparts at the Indonesia Football Association."

Sinani said that "football is a game to enjoy and we want fans to

come in large numbers and enjoy."

"What has happened is a terrible tragedy and we need to know the reasons for this unfortunate incident that has taken the lives of hundreds. The game of football is to make people happy and not suffer. I pray that such incidents never happen," he added.

Sinani said that OFA takes lot of safety measures while organising all leagues and "we are careful and alert all the time when we have

large gathering of fans."

"My heart goes out to the people of Indonesia," said Hilal.

Termining it as "one of the deadliest sports events in the world," Talib Hilal, Oman national beach soccer team coach, said: "We used to hear about such tragedies many decades ago. Safety measures have been raised but this stampede at an Indonesian stadium is a shocking incident."

"It is very sad. What happened is

not football. Fans rampaging on the pitch is not a good sight and the result is such an unfortunate tragedy. FIFA should take strong action and a proper investigation should be done to avoid such a repeat.

"Football is a game to enjoy where families and fans come in large numbers. Fans should enjoy and not get aggressive and violent based on a result. Win and defeat is part of the game. I hope we never see such a tragedy again."

Yousuf Al Wahaibi, Seeb Club vice-president, said: "It is a very sad day for football. To hear so many lives gone during a match is shocking. My deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones.

"Football is a game and to win or lose is part of it. Fans should realise it. We have a large fan base but we always urge them to keep their emotions in check during a match."

Qasim Al Balushi, a football fan, said: "It is shocking to find such a large number of fans die. FIFA and the national football association should find out the reasons for the cause. If fans are to be blamed then it is a lesson for fans across the world to behave and follow rules inside a stadium."

The president of the world soccer body, FIFA, called the deaths at the stadium "a dark day for all involved in football and a tragedy beyond comprehension," while President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation into security procedures.

Indonesia's football associa-

tion, known as PSSI, suspended the premier soccer league Liga 1 indefinitely in light of the tragedy and banned Arema from hosting football matches for the remainder of the season.

Here is a look at some of the major disasters in football stadiums over the last 20 years:

January 2022, Cameroon

At least 8 people died and 38 were injured in a stampede at the Yaounde Olembe Stadium before Cameroon's Africa Cup of Nations last-16 game against Comoros.

February 2012, Egypt

Fans rioted at the end of a match between Al Masry and Al Ahly in the city of Port Said. At least 73 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured.

March 2009, Ivory Coast

At least 19 people were killed during a stampede at Abidjan's Felix Houphouet-Boigny stadium before a World Cup qualifier against Malawi.

May 2001, Ghana

At least 120 people were killed in a stampede at Accra's main football stadium when police fired tear gas at rioting fans

April 2001, South Africa

At least 43 people were crushed to death when fans tried to force their way into Johannesburg's huge Ellis Park Stadium midway through a South African league match.

ROYAL DECREE

<FROM A1 Placements, appointments in the diplomatic corps

Article (2) instructs the departments concerned to deposit the aforementioned convention's Accession Document in accordance with its provisions, without prejudice to the above-mentioned reservation.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Appointments

Royal Decree No. 62/2022 conducts placements and appointments in the diplomatic corps.

Article (1) transfers the following to the general diwan of the Foreign Ministry:

1. Yousef Issa Ali Al Zedjali, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation.
2. Sheikh Juma Hamdan Hassan Al Malik Al Shihi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
3. Sheikh Ahmed Hashil Rashid Al Maskari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam.
4. Kifaya Khamis Miyah Al Ra'eesi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Kingdom of Spain.
5. Munthir Mahfoudh Salim Al Manthri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of the Philippines.
6. Dr. Ahmed Salim Mohammed Ba'Omar, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Italian Republic.
7. Sheikh Hamad Saif Abdulaziz Al Rawahi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of India.
8. Mubarak Salim Ali Al Zak-

wani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of South Africa.

9. Eng. Imad Hamoud Salim Al Abri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federative Republic of Brazil.
10. Saleh Mohammed Ahmed Al Sagri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
11. Yousef Said Mohammed Al Amri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Article (2) transfers Badr Mohammed Badr Al Manthri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Lebanese Republic, and appoints him as Oman's Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It also transfers HH Sayyid Nizar Al Julanda Majid Al Said, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Indonesia, and appoints him as Oman's Ambassador to the Italian Republic.

Article (3) appoints Maithaa Saif Majid Al Mahrouri as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany; Talal Sulaiman Habib Al Rahbi as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil; Hilal Abdullah Ali Al Sinani as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia and Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Said Al Sa'eedi, as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic.

Article (4) grants the following the designation of "Ambassador" and appoints them as stated below:

1. Plenipotentiary Minister Abdulghafar Abdulkarim Issa Al Balushi as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
2. Plenipotentiary Minister Saif Nasser Rashid Al Bada'ei as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
3. Plenipotentiary Minister Ahmed Ali Said Al Rashidi as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
4. Plenipotentiary Minister Mahmoud Hamad Nasser Al Hassani as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation.
5. Advisor Mohammed Abdullah Awadh Al Nahdi as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus.
6. Advisor Hamoud Salim Abdullah Al Tuwayah as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Russian Federation.
7. Advisor Irma Said Mohammed Al Kathiri as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.
8. Advisor Ru'aa Issa Ashraf Al Zedjali as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium.
9. Advisor Sayyid Faisal Hareb Hamad Al Busaidi as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.
10. Advisor Omar Said Omar Al Kathiri as the Sultanate of Oman's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain.
- Article (5) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. -OMA

NIZWA HEALTH CITY

WHO reviews UTAS Nizwa's healthy living programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Dr. Hafedh bin Saeed Al-Rahbi, Dean of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences Nizwa branch received a delegation from the World Health Organization recently.

The delegation visited the Sultanate in conjunction with the project to assess Nizwa Health City's bid for recognition within the system of healthy cities globally.

The Nizwa Healthy Lifestyle Project is one of the health projects launched by the Wilayat of Nizwa to instill the concept of healthy living and environmental health to the community.

It adopts the vision of the Nizwa City Health office's project to implement health programmes anchored on community participation with government and private sectors, and aims at achieving substantial success in promoting health and the adoption of a healthy lifestyle among the members of the community.

This project targets reduction of health, environmental and social risks while achieving sustainable development in the state by spreading culture, health, and social environment awareness, identifying health challenges related to lifestyles for all ages, improving the physical, social and economic environment affecting health, contributing to research and studies related to promoting community health, and attracting and empowering volunteers to achieve the health city's goals.

The presentation was delivered by the key administrators of the University, headed by Dr. Hafedh bin Saeed Al-Rahbi himself.



The delegation was given a brief explanation about the University's academic system, academic disciplines, academic levels, and student enrolment levels. In addition to these, a briefing about the technology and technical equipment being used by the academic departments was also presented.

Dr. Hafedh bin Ahmed Ambusaidi, Assistant dean for Student Affairs-UTAS-Nizwa, was also in the meeting and presented about the role of the University in the holistic development of its students, including but not limited to their intellectual, cultural, psychological, social, and health development, and how these programs relate to the principles and values of the Nizwa Healthy Lifestyle Project.

The University's role in designing the on-the-job training programme, as well as the activities of the entrepreneurship and innovation department was also highlighted in the meeting.

Suleiman bin Ali Al-Harthi, Chairman of the Industrial Relations and Community Service Committee (ICLC), presented an overview of the University's activ-

ities in serving the local communities in the governorate.

Suleiman gave a detailed orientation about the number of training programmes and workshops, which cover various sectors, especially civil, voluntary, sports teams, and other public and private institutions.

Suleiman's presentation also included a discussion about the School Students Enrichment Program which currently is on its third edition for the academic year 2021-2022.

The head of the University's volunteer team, Abham, talked to the delegation about the activities of the University's internal and external team, which targets university students and its external stakeholders.

At the end of the presentation, the delegation visited the University's facilities to get them acquainted with the University's academic departments i.e. Information Technology, Business Studies, Engineering and the English Language Center. They also visited the laboratories and workshops of the engineering department and the English Language Centre.

TRADE

<FROM A1 Volume of Oman's exports to Jordan in 2021 grew by 22.4%

During the first six months of 2022, total Omani imports from Jordan stood at OMR6.7 million.

The volume of Omani exports to Jordan in 2021 grew by 22.4 percent to OMR26.4 million, compared to OMR21.6 million in 2020. During the first six months of 2022, total Omani exports to Jordan during the first six months of 2022 stood at OMR15.5 million.

The statistics showed that the volume of Jordanian investments in Oman as at the end of 2021 stood at OMR230.4 million.

Cultural cooperation between Oman and Jordan covered a range of activities, including the signing

of the cultural and educational accord in 1976 and the signing of executive programmes in the same fields between the two governments for the years 2002-2004.

The two sides also signed a number of agreements with civil society institutions, the last of which was a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Arab Thought Forum and the Omani Cultural Club.

The two countries also established the Omani Studies Unit at "Al al-Bayt University" in Jordan in 1998, following a generous grant from the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said.

Cultural cooperation between Oman and Jordan also features in the form of intellectual and literary forums between the Omani and Jordanian writers. This is in addition to the two countries' shared activities during book fairs in Muscat and Amman.

As many as 3,500 Omani students pursue their higher education in Jordan.

The visit of King Abdullah II of Jordan to Oman will deepen the fraternal ties and strengthen commercial exchange and cooperation in the fields of tourism, scholarly and cultural specialisations.

-OMA





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NEW LOOK

NEW LOOK





Programme on principles guiding state policy starts

The programme is being attended by 50 directors general and state officials of equivalent ranking

Muscat: Acting in cooperation with the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Labour on Sunday started a five-day programme on fundamental principles guiding state policy.

The programme, the 7th in a series, was opened at the Diplomatic Institute by Dr. Mahad Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour. It is attended by 50 directors general and state officials of equivalent ranking.

Sayyid Salim bin Musallam Al Busaidi, Human Resources De-



Inaugurated: The programme, the 7th in a series, was opened at the Diplomatic Institute by Dr. Mahad Said Ba'Owain, Minister of Labour. -ONA

velopment Undersecretary at the Labour Ministry, said that this 7th edition of the programme features many visions for improving performance and developing tools of institutional action.

Multi-faceted concepts

The programme reflects the major efforts exerted by the Ministry of Labour, the Foreign Ministry and other institutions to forge a true partnership based on multi-

faceted concepts serving the public interest, said Sayyid Salim bin Musallam Al Busaidi, adding that the programme marks a turning point in national action.

-ONA



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ROYAL HOSPITAL

First 'Vnotes' surgery conducted

MUSCAT: A team from the Royal Hospital's obstetrics and gynaecology department conducted Oman's first successful surgery using the new technique of "Vnotes".

Dr. Thuraya Rashid Al Rawahi, Senior Consultant, Oncology Surgery, at the Royal Hospital, said that "Vnotes" (vaginal natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery) has been used for uterus and ovary resection.

Dr. Thuraya told Oman News Agency (ONA) that "Vnotes" is the latest technology in gynaecologic surgery using the body's natural openings, like the vagina.

"The process is fast and does



not involve any external cuts. After a short period of mild pain, the patient reverts to normal life, escaping the complications of traditional surgeries," Dr. Thuraya confirmed. -ONA

MINISTRY OF HERITAGE

Pact inked for Wusool system



MUSCAT: The National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) has signed a Memorandum of Operation (MoO) to operate "Wusool System" for the management of electronic documents at the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.

This came as part of the first phase of the "Wusool System" project, which is to be installed in 20 government departments in partnership and cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The MoO was signed by Salim Mohammed Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism and Hamad Mohammed Al Dhawani, Chairman of the NRAA.

The project constitutes a cornerstone initiative of digital transformation in the government sector. Besides enabling government departments to electronically manage their informational records—applying the latest global practices in the field, the new system will furnish a streamlined, secure environment for the data. -ONA

ANNOUNCEMENT



This is to inform all concerned that **Mr. Balaji Ramesh** holder of Indian Passport No. **T5765763** Resident Card No. **123511321** has resigned from our company **Mass International Co. LLC.** from 28.09.2022. Therefore, all the concerned are requested to stop dealing with the above named in favor of the company.

If anyone is dealing with him, it is at their own risk and company will not take any responsibility hereafter.



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Oman, UAE agree to fast-track rail project

The inaugural meeting was held only two days after the signing ceremony of the joint venture agreement



DUBAI: The Board of Directors of Oman Rail and Etihad Rail discussed the implementation plans, including technical studies and architectural designs, as well as environmental studies of routes, the business model and commercial affairs of the joint venture at its first meeting on Sunday.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of fast-tracking the execution of the project.

The Board also committed itself to adopting the highest global standards of security, safety and sustainability throughout the development of the network, which will extend for 303 km, to provide safe and fast passenger transport and freight services.

The network will contribute to the growth of the two countries' national economies and will improve the efficiency of supply chains whilst facilitating cross-border trade by linking commercial ports to the railway network.

The inaugural meeting was

held only two days after the signing ceremony of the joint venture agreement which took place during the visit of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the Sultanate of Oman.

The Board of Directors comprises Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Suhail Mohammed Faraj Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, Sheikh Nasser Sulaiman Al Harthy, Acting Vice President of Operations Affairs at Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Asyad Group, Said Al Zaabi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Etihad Rail Mobility, Eng. Abdulrahman Salim Al Hatmi, CEO of Asyad Group and Eng. Shadi Malak, CEO of Etihad Rail.

The Board members commended the wise leadership of the two countries for their unwavering support and strategic vision towards enhancing cooperation

and joint action between the two countries across various fields. They also praised the leadership's guidance and direction in the establishment of the joint venture to build and operate a railway network connecting Sohar Port with the UAE National Rail Network, as it is an extension of the longstanding collaboration between Oman and the UAE.

The two countries seek to create new prospects in infrastructure, transport, and logistics industries by connecting the two countries via rail in a manner that promotes trade and social cohesion.

The Board of Directors also appointed Eng. Ahmed Al Hashemi as CEO of the company and Eng. Mohammed Zahran Al Mahrouqi as Deputy CEO.

Suhail Mohammed Faraj Al Mazrouei, UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure, said that establishing the joint venture in line with both leaderships' directives for achieving sustainable development by elevating the trans-

port and infrastructure sectors to higher levels, will support economic and commercial growth.

"The joint railway network will advance the land transport system between the two countries in line with the best-in-class criteria and standards, providing safe, reliable and sustainable transportation which, in turn, will further facilitate connectivity between industrial and commercial centers and cement the longstanding social cohesion between the two countries."

In his turn, Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, said: "The strategic initiative to develop a railway network between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates would cement the strong brotherly ties between the two countries and would also reflect their joint efforts to achieve social and economic integration."

"Through this partnership and the logistics progress it will bring about, various economic and trade activities will reap several benefits, creating new opportunities and providing high-quality transport solutions that will contribute to establishing a connection between Sohar and the Free Zone, with vital economic and industrial zones in the UAE," he added.

The USD3 billion railway network will contribute to the growth of the two countries' national economies and improve the efficiency of supply chains, besides facilitating cross-border trade by linking commercial ports to the railway network.



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HM THE SULTAN SENDS WRITTEN MESSAGE TO EMIR OF QATAR

The message was handed over by Najib bin Yahya Al Balushi, Oman's Ambassador to Qatar when he was received by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar. -ONA



HISTORIC TIES

'Oman values Jordanian people's contribution in Sultanate growth'

MUSCAT: Sheikh Hilal Marhoun Al Ma'amari, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Jordan, has said that "the deep-rooted relations between the two countries earn a special significance under the wise leaderships of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

In a statement to ONA, the ambassador pointed out that Oman-Jordan relations lasted for decades and were further consolidated and developed during the reign of the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the late King Hussein bin Talal.

"Cooperation between the two countries was and is still tangible in educational, cultural and military spheres. This has been the outcome of the participation of the Jordanian community in Oman since the dawn of the blessed renaissance led by the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos," said Al Ma'amari, who valued the contribution of the Jordanian community to Oman's development, notably in cultural, educational and media sectors. "This relationship is de-



veloping and growing in all sectors, most significantly in the economic sector," said Al Ma'amari, who spoke about the availability of opportunities that can be utilized by the private sector on both sides, especially in the fields of investment, health, mining and tourism.

Speaking about cultural cooperation between the two countries, the ambassador said, it started upon the establishment of the Omani Studies Unit at "Al al-Bayt University" in Jordan. This is in addition to the two countries' organizing joint programmes on the sidelines of exhibitions and

cultural extravaganza and the exchange of visits by official and community delegations.

These events boost cultural communication, said the ambassador, who affirmed that the Omani literature is present in Jordanian festivals and universities. "We have seen poets and writers from both sides communicating via culture and literature platforms," the ambassador explained. As many as 3,500 Omani students pursue their education in Jordan, with 1,000 expected to graduate during the Academic Year 2022-2023, said Al Ma'amari. -ONA

MODEL RELATIONS

'Jordan strives to cement ties with Oman in economic field'

MUSCAT: Amjad Al Quhaiwi, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Sultanate of Oman, said that the two countries share model relations based on their deep-rooted historical ties.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), Al Quhaiwi pointed out that fraternal relations gain further strength and continuity under the wise leaderships of King Abdullah II of Jordan and His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik.

Al Quhaiwi underscored the significance of ongoing coordination between the two countries on various regional and international issues, with the objective of unifying political visions in a manner that serves the interests of the two countries and the cause of Arab nation.

"Jordan views with optimism and confidence its relations with Oman during the reign of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik who is keen on utilizing the outcome of bilateral relations



for common benefits, as well as enhancing the Arab action. Oman is progressing with confidence—moving from success to success—and the future is promising," said Al Quhaiwi.

He added that credit goes to the late King Hussein bin Talal and the late His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said for establishing these bilateral relations, based on grounds of goodness, love and peace—more than 50 years ago. The two leaders navigated the two countries prudently during hard times and developed them

into icons of progress and prosperity that set a model in the region, he pointed out.

Al Quhaiwi explained that the exchange of official visits always lend strong impetus for cooperation in political, economic, cultural, social and other fields. He hoped that the visit of King Abdullah II to Oman will constitute a positive shift forward in meeting the aspirations of the two countries' peoples. The visit bears tangible signs of cooperation between the two countries, he added. The ambassador stressed the need to activate the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed by the two sides. "We always pin hopes on communicating with the departments tasked with investment affairs in the two countries, with a view to expanding economic cooperation and establishing partnerships to promote commercial exchange. We hope that these aspirations would be realized via the Oman-Jordan Business Council," said Al Quhaiwi. -ONA

EAST JAVA PROVINCE

At least 125 killed after 'riots' at football match in Indonesia

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities said on Sunday that 125 people, including two police officers, died and more than 100 more were injured after violence broke out following a football match in the East Java province.

East Java police chief Nico Afinta said 34 people died in the stadium, and the rest died either on their way to the hospital or at the hospital where they were being treated.

The number of those who died at the stampede was revised down to 125 on Sunday from as high as 174 as data was cross-checked by officials and hospitals.

More than 300 people were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment after the unrest Saturday night that police characterized as "riots."

Afinta said he expected the number of deaths to rise since the condition of some people being treated at hospitals was deteriorating.

Children killed
The head of DW's Asia Pacific Bureau in Jakarta, Georg Matthes,



said 17 children were among those killed. He said regional police had criticized the Indonesian Football Association for negligence in not informing security forces that the procedures at a soccer match for using tear gas are different from those at demonstrations.

FIFA, the international governing body of football, specifies that firearms or "crowd control gas" cannot be carried or used by stewards or police.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo ordered authorities to thoroughly reevaluate security at football games and said the incident ought to be the "last soccer

tragedy in the nation."

Clashes broke out after angry fans stormed onto the football field after the host team, Arema FC, was defeated in the game Saturday night. Arema FC lost 3-2 to Persebaya Surabaya, the first loss to their bitter rival in more than two decades. Both are teams from the East Java province, and the game took place at the Kanjuruhan stadium in the Malang district.

Afinta said police responded to the violence by firing rounds of tear gas into the stands after two police officers were killed.

People panicked and hundreds tried to run out of an exit gate at

that time, leading to chaos.

Some people suffocated, and 34 were trampled to death at the stadium, Afinta said.

The Football Association of Indonesia (PFFI) said it was suspending the football league for a week and launching an investigation into the incident.

Arema FC was also banned from hosting home games for the rest of the season, the PFFI said.

Safety regulations under scrutiny
Indonesia's chief security minister, Mahfud MD, said in an Instagram post that 42,000 tickets were issued for the game Saturday when the stadium has a capacity of 38,000 people.

Police officials in East Java are yet to respond to media questions on whether they're aware of the FIFA regulations. Indonesia's human rights commission is also set to investigate security at the football ground, including the use of tear gas by police officials. -nw

TRACTOR-TROLLEY MISHAP

Tractor trolley carrying pilgrims overturns killing 26 people in India

KANPUR: The death toll in the Kanpur road accident in Uttar Pradesh, where a tractor trolley carrying pilgrims overturned, rose to 26 on Saturday.

The incident took place in the Ghatampur area of Kanpur district on late Saturday evening.

The tractor trolley carrying devotees was returning from Unnao. Following the accident, the police rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation along with the locals.

The injured were sent to the community health centre immediately for treatment. Five injured have been referred to Kanpur Hallet Hospital.

"A total of 26 people have lost their lives and others are injured. The pilgrims were returning from Chandika Devi temple in Fatehpura. The injured people have been sent to Hallet hospital. The investigation is underway. Rescue work has been completed," said Vishak G Iyer, District Magistrate, Kanpur.

Further details into the matter are awaited. Meanwhile, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next kin of each of the deceased while the injured would be given Rs 50,000, said the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones. Prayers with the injured.

The local administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected," tweeted the PMO.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the senior officers have been instructed to reach the spot immediately.

"The road accident in Kanpur district is very heart-wrenching. The District Magistrate and other senior officers have been directed to reach the spot immediately and conduct relief and rescue operations on a war footing and make arrangements for proper treatment of the injured. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured," tweeted CM Yogi. -ANI



Savvy Games Group is a games and esports company founded to drive the long-term growth and development of esports

RIYADH: Saudi Crown Prince, Chairman of Board of Savvy Games Group, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz unveiled the Group's strategy. Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted HRH the Crown Prince as saying: "Savvy Games Group is one part of our ambitious strategy aiming to make Saudi Arabia the ultimate global hub for the games and esports sector by 2030". "We are harnessing the untapped potential across the esports and games sector to di-

versify our economy, drive innovation in the sector and further scale the entertainment and esports competition offerings across the Kingdom". Fully owned by PIF, Savvy's strategy is to drive growth by investing in the electronic games industry and esports with a unique long term investment horizon and long dated capital, creating more opportunities for participation and strengthening partnerships in the games industry, as well as improving the user experience. The launch of the Savvy

Games Group's strategy will enable and support the recently announced national gaming and esports strategy, as Savvy will invest in several local and international programs and infrastructure in order to provide training, education and entrepreneurship opportunities, as well as attract international companies to Saudi Arabia through investments and partnerships that will contribute to providing skills, knowledge transfer and building capabilities in the whole ecosystem. It will also establish 250 games companies in the Kingdom, which will create 39,000 jobs, and raise the sector's GDP contribution to SAR 50 billion by 2030. Savvy's investments will be based around four key pillars: enhancing returns, local impact, leaving a global footprint and expanding, leading to international games investing, generating sustainable returns and enabling creators across the entire value

chain. Savvy will accelerate talent in the Kingdom and catalyze Saudi Arabia's unique geographical location to build the dominant global hub for games and esports. As a part of Savvy's investment strategy, the group is set to invest SAR 142 billion across four programs each with specific objectives; SAR 50 billion has been earmarked for the acquisition and development of a leading game publisher to become a strategic development partner. SAR70 billion will see Savvy make a series of minority stake investments in key companies that support Savvy's game development agenda. SAR 2 billion in diversified investments in industry disruptors to grow early-stage games and esports companies. As well as SAR 20 billion invested into mature industry partners who add value and expertise to Savvy's portfolio. -SPA

LUXURY PATROL CARS

First electric vehicle joins Dubai Police fleet of luxury patrols



DUBAI: The Dubai Police General Command has added to its fleet of luxury patrol cars the first electric SUV vehicle, Hongqi E-HS9, from ONEROAD Automotive Company. Major General Khalil Ibrahim Al Mansouri, Assistant Commander-in-Chief for Criminal Investigation Affairs, announced the official launch of the Hongqi E-HS9 from Mrs Jojo Zhang ChengLing, Executive Vice President of ONEROAD, at the Dubai Police Officers Club in the presence of Maj. Gen. Saeed Al Malik, Director of the General Department of Transport and Rescue, and a group of officers and employees from both sides. Maj. Gen. Al Mansouri reaffirmed that Dubai Police is always keen on promoting the safety and security of the Emirate, as well as maintaining its position as one of the world's safest destinations. "Through adding supercars within its fleet of luxury patrol vehicles, Dubai Police enhances the security presence of police officers across essential tourist destinations, including the Burj Khalifa, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard, JBR, etc.," he explained. "Dubai Police has always sought to add the most efficient, flexible and latest models of vehicles to its fleet to deal with various situations. These electric vehicles would improve traffic police per-

Maj. Gen. Al Mansouri reaffirmed that Dubai Police is always keen on promoting the safety and security of the Emirate, as well as maintaining its position as one of the world's safest destinations.

formance and help achieve Dubai Police's strategic objective of maintaining roads safety and security," Al Mansouri added. The Hongqi E-HS9 is the first fully sports utility vehicle of the Hongqi brand with the functionality of an SUV. The E-HS9 can sprint from 0 to 100 km/h in 5.0 seconds. The battery can be charged from 0-100% in about 6 to 8 hours. The E-HS9 electric vehicle can travel approximately 440 km on a charge. The metallic painted E-HS9 looks modern and stylish in a simplistic way. It has multiple advanced and modern screens. All of the screens in the car can realize information synchronization. -WAM

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timesofoman.com

SAUDI ARABIA ADVANCES IN EDUCATION AND KNOWLEDGE INDICES IN THE WORLD DIGITAL COMPETITIVENESS RANKINGS 2022

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made significant progress in education and knowledge indices in the World Digital Competitiveness Rankings 2022 report released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD). It has risen 13 positions on the global knowledge index from the previous year, reflecting the interest of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and his Crown Prince in the education process and providing all components of support for education in order to transform into a knowledge-based economy. »

AL WASL TO BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE IN SPECTACULAR STYLE ON SATURDAY

DUBAI: Al Wasl will be brought back to life in spectacular style on Saturday, with visitors set to enjoy a magical and masterful display of stunning visuals and stirring music as the sun sets. »

ANNOUNCED

Kuwaiti Cabinet submits resignation to the Emir

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Government has submitted its resignation to His Highness the Emir Shaikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, a senior official announced on Saturday. The announcement was made by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Oil, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and the Acting Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs, Dr. Mohammad Al-Fares, following an extraordinary cabinet session, held at Seif Palace, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Minister al-Fares said in a statement to KUNA following the special session, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Shaikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, that the cabinet had referred its resignation to His Highness the Amir following declaration of the parliamentary elections' results, in line with Kuwait Constitution. He added that the ministers had adopted a draft decree calling on the National Assembly to hold the first regular session of the 17th legislative term on October 11. It was also referred to His Highness the Emir. -BNA

ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION

International Astronautical Federation elects first Saudi female to leading position

PARIS: The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) announced that the representative of Saudi Arabia Eng. Mishael Al Shamimari has been elected to the position of vice-president of the IAF, after securing the votes of 14 international candidates. As the Saudi representative, Al Shamimari's success in winning the votes of the Federation members is attributable to her vision for the development of the global space sector, Saudi press agency (SPA) reported. The IAF's membership is made up of more than 400 representatives of institutions and organisations around the world. -SPA

**Board of Directors
Indian Schools, Sultanate of Oman**

TENDER FOR PRINTED NOTE BOOKS

Board of Directors-Indian Schools, the Apex body of 21 Indian Schools in the Sultanate of Oman, invites tenders for supplying printed note books for the academic year 2023-2024 from companies that have been in the field for years and have the capacity to fulfill large requirements from various Indian schools across Oman. Companies that are in a position to supply the required order latest by 15 January 2023 need to place tenders. Details of the requirements can be obtained from the office of the Board of Directors located at Indian School Muscat (phone: 24784386 or email to info@indianschoolsoman.com) from 04 October to 13 October 2022. Tenders are to be submitted by 17 October 2022 before 2 pm in a sealed envelope marking "Printing of Note books", addressed to The Board of Directors, Indian Schools Oman, PB 2470, PC 112, Ruwi, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman.

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Arsenal sound out warning with derby win, Liverpool draw again

Although the game was level 1-1 at half-time after Harry Kane's penalty cancelled out Thomas Partey's opener for Arsenal

LONDON: Arsenal sounded out a warning that they have to be considered serious title candidates in the Premier League this season with a 3-1 win at home to Tottenham on Saturday.

Although the game was level 1-1 at half-time after Harry Kane's penalty cancelled out Thomas Partey's opener for Arsenal, Mikel Arteta's side dominated after the break.



A defensive mix-up allowed Gabriel Jesus to put Arsenal back in front four minutes into the second half, and their task was made easier in the 61st minute when Tottenham right back Emerson was sent off for a bad challenge.

Granit Xhaka assured the points for Arsenal with a powerful shot in the 68th minute and they now have a four-point lead at the top of the table, as Manchester City will play neighbors Manchester United on Sunday.

Leandro Trossard scored a hat-trick for Brighton as Roberto de Zerbi began his rein as coach with a 3-3 draw away to Liverpool.

Brighton started magnificently and only fine work by Liverpool keeper Alisson stopped it from be-

ing more than 2-0 after 17 minutes, as Liverpool's defense struggled with Brighton's excellent attacking play.

Roberto Firmino pulled a goal back for Liverpool before the break and then equalized 10 minutes into the second half, and an own goal from Adam Webster after some poor keeping from Roberto Sanchez put Liverpool ahead.

The game still had one last surprise when Trossard found space at the far post to equalize with seven minutes left to play.

Conor Gallagher was a hero on loan at Crystal Palace last season, but he broke his former club's hearts with a 90th-minute winner for Chelsea to give Graham Potter a win in his first league game in charge.

Odsome Edouard put Palace ahead after just seven minutes, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang equalizing in the 38th minute, and the game looked set for a draw before Gallagher's winner.

Newcastle had a surprisingly easy 4-1 win away to Fulham, who were down to 10 men after just nine minutes when Nathaniel

Chalobah was sent off for a late challenge.

Callum Wilson put Newcastle ahead just two minutes later and the visitors ran riot with Miguel Almiron scoring a screamer to double their lead. Sean Longstaff side-footed home from close range and Almiron added a fourth, before Bobby Reid headed home a consolation for Fulham.

Bournemouth and Brentford drew 0-0 in a result that means Bournemouth are unbeaten in four games since sacking Scott Parker, while Everton scored two quick goals through Conor Coady and Dwight McNeil in the 52nd and 54th minutes to come back for three points away to Southampton, who had taken a 49th-minute lead from Joe Aribo.

In the day's last game, West Ham beat Wolverhampton 2-0 thanks to goals from Gianluca Scamacca after 29 minutes and Jarrod Bowen in the 54th minute. The result takes David Moyes' team to 15th, while leaving Wolves 18th in the table. **Xinhua**

WORLD CUP DIVISION - 2 ASIA QUALIFIER

Singapore and Hong Kong reach semis in U19 World Cup qualifiers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Singapore and Hong Kong registered convincing victories over Thailand and Qatar respectively to assure themselves of a spot in the semifinals of the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Division - 2 Asia Qualifier at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) grounds on Sunday.

In the Group B action, Hong Kong wrapped up the proceedings early in the day against Qatar as they raced to an eight-wicket win while Singapore posted an emphatic 167-run win over Thailand.

With two successive wins for both Singapore and Thailand, the game between them on Tuesday will decide the group topper.

The winner of Group B will take on the loser of Monday's Group A match between Oman and Bahrain while the loser of Thailand and Singapore match will face the winner of Group A match in the semifinals.

At the OCA 1 ground, Singapore elected to bat first and the batters made merry as they scored 248/6 in 50 overs.

Last match centurion, Sidhant



Srikanth continued his rich vein of form as he hammered an unbeaten 72 off 80 balls. His inning was studded with five boundaries and a maximum. Vihaan Maheshwari was the other half-centurion with a solid 52 off 79 balls. Handy contributions from Pratham Somani, Aaryan Modi, Pranav Maheshwari and Abhuday Chhajer, helped Singapore reach a formidable total. Wiraphan Ngowhuad was the most successful bowler (2/41). Chasing a tough target, except for Thailand skipper Chaloe-

wong Chatphaisan, none of the other batters could stay at the crease. Except for Chatphaisan's 51, none could reach double digits as they were bowled out for 81 in 33.4 overs.

Singapore captain Jeevan Santhanam was the pick of the bowlers with 4/25. Equally impressive was Adwitya Bhargava, who claimed 3/6 in 4.4 overs.

Man of the match Sidhant Srikanth said, "Going into the match, which was a must-win game for us, I feel that we performed very well under pressure. We are look-

ing forward to the next game and the semis. We would like to finish on top of the table and then win the semis to qualify into the Division 1 Qualifier. If we play to our potential, we can beat any team here."

Vora, Bhagwat shine for Hong Kong Hong Kong's Darsh Vora ran through the Qatar top-order to leave them reeling at four for three in just 4.2 overs. The early collapse never allowed Qatar to bounce back as they were bowled out for 123 in 40.1 overs.

Tailender Luqman Mehmood top-scored with 24 to help his team cross the 100-mark. Captain Jack Joseph made 22 and was one of the three victims of Aarush Garg, who took 3/18. Hong Kong were never in trouble in reaching the target as they chased it down in 27 overs for the loss of two wickets - the openers - who fell to Aryan Surani in the same over.

Parth Bhagwat and Ansh Doshi then shared a 101-run third wicket partnership to lead the team to victory as they scored 127/2.

Doshi was unbeaten on 39 off 51 deliveries while Bhagwat's knock of 61 was laced with ten boundaries.

LA LIGA

Robert Lewandowski fires Barcelona to hard-fought victory



MADRID: Barcelona eked out a 1-0 victory away at Real Mallorca in the Spanish La Liga Santander.

Robert Lewandowski was the hero once again, with the Polish striker scoring for a sixth league game in a row in the first half of the match.

The game started with Barcelona struggling to break down Real Mallorca's back five, but Lewandowski unlocked it with a superb goal, stepping inside and curling a powerful effort into the far corner.

Barcelona, though, couldn't

kill off the game and Real Mallorca performed well, with Jaume Costa having their best chance of the first half as he was able to reach a cross from just a few yards out, but Marc-Andre ter Stegen made a reflex save.

In the second half, Barcelona didn't create much in attack and they were left to hold on.

Real Mallorca pushed and pushed and had a couple of half chances for Vedat Muriqi, before Ter Stegen had to get a foot to a Lee Kang-in shot in the 90th minute to maintain the clean sheet. **ONA**

THAILAND GP

Oliveira wins as Bagnaia slashes Quartararo's points lead

BURIRAN: Miguel Oliveira has mastered the rain again! Just as he did in Round 2 in Indonesia, the Red Bull KTM Factory Racing pilot took victory in ultra-challenging conditions in the Thailand Grand Prix.

The Ducati Lenovo Team claimed second and third at the Chang International Circuit, with Jack Miller giving it his all in a bid to make it two Moto GP race wins in a row but coming up just 0.730 seconds short, and Francesco Bagnaia taking a precious podium.

Johann Zarco of Prima Pramac Racing clinched fourth when he held off Marc Marquez of Honda Team at the chequered flag after 25 unbelievable laps.

Indian fans can catch action from Moto GP 2022 season live on Eurosport. The same can be streamed on



discovery+ app.

For Bagnaia, the good news continues. He is now just two points behind World Championship leader Fabio Quartararo with three races to go after the Monster Energy Yamaha Moto GP rider finished 17th and scored a 'zero'. Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing) also regained ground, although he is still 20 points in arrears of Quartararo after serving a Long Lap Penalty and finishing 11th.

After so much talk about weather

on Friday and Saturday, the rain finally arrived on Sunday afternoon - in a big way.

The torrential falls led to a delay of almost an hour before the premier class race finally got underway, and it was still very wet when riders eventually took the start. Marco Bezzecchi (Mooney VR46 Racing Team) launched well from pole position but he and fellow front qualifier Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) went well wide as the field ran into Turn 1, and there was almost contact between the Ducati riders.

Bezzecchi still emerged with the lead, from Bagnaia and Miller, with Martin fourth and Marc Marquez fifth, but Quartararo had been shuffled back from fourth on the grid to 11th in the traffic.

It got even worse for the French-

man when he had a big moment on the paint exiting Turn 4 and dropped another six spots. Not only had Aleix Espargaro got ahead of him having inherited 11th, Bagnaia had assumed the live Championship lead.

Bezzecchi was almost a second up at the end of Lap 2 but had been issued a position drop penalty for the manner in which he went off and rejoined at speed at the opening corner.

That put him in an awkward situation considering how close the factory Ducatis were to each other behind him, especially when Miller overtook Bagnaia on Lap 3, but he managed to serve the penalty - and no more - a lap later at Turn 3.

Meanwhile, Luca Marini crashed at Turn 9 having not long moved up to the fifth position,

while Oliveira had hauled his way to fourth.

The Portuguese rider overtook Bagnaia for third at Turn 9 on Lap 5 and then went under Bezzecchi for second at Turn 3 on Lap 6, a move which Bagnaia capitalised on by passing the VR46 pilot for third as they sped towards Turn 4.

Marquez soon relegated Bezzecchi another position, despite the rookie's best attempts to hit back, while Aleix Espargaro had just moved into the top 10 when he was issued a Long Lap Penalty for early contact with Brad Binder of Red Bull KTM Factory Racing.

As #88 closed the gap to #43 at the front of the field, Aleix Espargaro took his medicine on Lap 10 and rejoined in 14th - but was still five positions ahead of Quartararo. **ANI**



MSX INEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,572.82 points, up by 0.98 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.47 per cent at 484.10 points. Bank Dhofar, up 4.23 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 5.88 per cent, was the top loser.

MSX index records marginal decline in September 2022

However, the decline in the MSX30 index was the smallest in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at 1.2 per cent to close at 4,528.3 points, a new report said

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In line with the rest of the GCC stock markets Oman's benchmark Muscat Securities Exchange (MSX) witnessed a decline during September 2022, according to a new report.

"However, the decline in the MSX30 index was the smallest in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) at 1.2 per cent to close at 4,528.3 points," Kuwait-based investment, strategy & research firm Kamco Invest, said in its "GCC Equity Markets Monthly for September 2022."

"Similarly, the MSX Sharia index showed a marginally stronger monthly decline of 1.58 per cent during September-2022," the report further added.

Consistent gains over the previous three months before September 2022 pushed the MSX 30 Index to the number two position in the GCC in terms of year-to-date (YTD) 2022 returns that reached 9.7 per cent at the end of September-2022.

In terms of sectoral performance, all three reported segments closed in the red during September-2022. The Industrial Index, the previous month's largest monthly gainer, registered the largest decline during the month at 4.6 per cent followed by Services and Financial indices with month-



ly declines of 3 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively, the Kamco Invest report said.

In terms of company performance, SMN Power Holding topped the gainers' list with a gain of 21.4 per cent. Dhofar International Development and Al Ahlia Insurance followed as the second and third largest gainers with 12.7 per cent and 9.8 per cent share price increases, respectively. Al Ahlia Insurance has recently appointed a new CEO who has received the necessary regulatory approvals. On the decliners side, Al Hassan Engineering Company reported a decline of 45.5 per cent followed by Dhofar Generating Company and Raysut Cement Company with declines of 20 per cent and 16.7 per cent, respectively.

The trading activity showed a steep decline during September-2022 after witnessing gains in August-2022. The monthly value of shares traded reached the lowest level since the start of the year to reach OMR44.4 million against OMR77.7 million during August-2022, a fall of 42.8 per cent. The monthly volume of shares traded also reached its lowest level since the start of the year at 184.7 recording a decline of 41.2 per cent as compared to 314.3 million shares during August-2022.

Bank Muscat topped the monthly value traded chart for the second consecutive month with trades at OMR25.2 million followed by Galfar Engineering and Bank Dhofar with total trades at OMR17.5 million and OMR14.4 million, respectively. In terms of volume of trades, Bank Muscat again topped with 14.7 million shares followed by OmanTel and Galfar Engineering with volume at 3.3 million shares and 2.9 million shares, respectively.

In terms of investor participation, the value of shares bought by non-Omanis investors reached OMR8 million recording 17.4 per cent growth. Comparatively, the value of shares bought by Omanis reached OMR40 million recording an increase of 82.6 per cent. In economic news, Oman's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) jumped 32.4 per cent during the first half of 2022 registering the fastest economic expansion in more than 10 years, according to official Omani data. The Sultanate's nominal GDP reached OMR20.3 billion (\$52.7 billion) during the first half of 2022 as compared to OMR15.3 billion (\$40 billion) in the first half of 2021. The strong growth in the nominal GDP was broad-based as key sectors registered robust expansion during the first half of 2022. The Sultanate's hydrocarbon GDP surged 70.9 per cent to reach OMR6.9 billion (\$17.9 billion) during the first half of 2022 up from OMR4.6 billion (\$12 billion) during the corresponding period of 2021 mainly led by the year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in crude oil price. Comparatively, Oman's non-oil GDP recorded 14.9 per cent y-o-y growth during the first half of 2022 to reach OMR13.1 billion (\$34 billion).

Dubai Financial Market (DFM)
The DFM General Index reported losses for the first time in three months during September-2022. The benchmark witnessed a 3.0 per cent decline to close the month at 3,339.2 points. The index witnessed consistent gains during the middle half of the month but suffered most of the decline during the last part of the month.

Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange
Abu Dhabi witnessed the second-smallest decline in the GCC during September-2022 following gains during the previous two months. The FTSE ADX index was down by 1.3 per cent during September-2022 to close at 9,750.8 points. In terms of sector performance, only two out of the ten sector indices witnessed a positive monthly gain while the remaining eight indices' sectors suffered a monthly fall during September-2022. The Real Estate index recorded the biggest monthly fall among the indices with an 11.9 per cent decline mainly on the back of Eshraq Investments' 17.6 per cent decline during the month.

SIXTH-GENERATION WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

Saudi Arabia (Tadawul)
The Saudi Stock Exchange reported the second-biggest monthly decline in the GCC from September-2022 led by a global sell-off triggered by persistent worries about interest rates with inflation being a key focus for investors.

The Saudi bourse hit its lowest closing level in almost 10 months on 26-September-2022 at 10,909.18 points but consistent gains during the last three trading sessions pulled the index up above the 11,000 mark to close at 11,405.3

STATISTICS

Bahrain Bourse
After witnessing two consecutive months of gains, the Bahrain Bourse recorded a decline in line with the rest of the GCC markets from September-2022. The index closed the month at 1,882.0 points registering a fall of 1.9 per cent, the third smallest in the GCC during September-2022.

Qatar Exchange
The Qatar Stock Exchange reported the third-biggest m-o-m decline during September-2022. The index closed the month at 12,695.3 points registering a decline of 5.4 per cent. Qatar All Share Index also reported a decline of 5.3 per cent, indicating a broad-based weakness in the market. With the decline during September-2022, the YTD-2022 returns for the QE 20 index were slashed to 9.2 per cent, the third highest in the GCC after Abu Dhabi and Oman.

INDIA WILL TAKE LEAD IN 6G: TELECOM MINISTER

India will take lead in 6G: Telecom minister

NEW DELHI: A day after the launch of 5G mobile services in India, Telecommunication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said India will take a lead in 6G as it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's desire to take a global lead the sixth-generation wireless technology.

Telecommunication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was also present during the launch of 5G, along with industrialists-- Mukesh Ambani, Kumar Mangalam Birla and Sunil Bharti Mittal.

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said the rollout of 5G in the country was a very big confidence booster to India's aspirations for growth and added that the enthusiasm surrounding the launch is truly empowering.

Vaishnaw also emphasised that most important study groups for the future development of 5G and sixth-generation (6G) mobile systems under the International Telecommunications Union are now being chaired by Indian delegates.

Chief of the telecom sector on Saturday showed solid unity behind the Prime Minister's vision of revolutionising the sector through 5G technology. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal and Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla joined PM Modi at the launch of 5G services.

6G is the sixth generation mobile system standard currently under development for wireless communications technologies supporting cellular data networks. It is the planned successor to 5G and will likely be significantly faster. Like its predecessors, 6G networks will probably be broadband cellular networks, in which the service area is divided into small geographical areas called cells. -ANI

Hotel revenues in Oman surge 107% to top OMR108 million in August

MUSCAT: The revenue of 3-5 star hotels in the Sultanate of Oman by the end of August 2022 recorded a surge of 106.9 per cent to stand at OMR108.334 million compared to the same period in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSD).

The number of guests in the 3-5 star hotels increased by 34.2 per cent till the end of August 2022. The occupancy rate in those hotels went up by 22.4 per cent by the end of August 2022 to stand at 42.5 per cent compared to 34.7 per cent during the same period in 2021.

The number of GCC guests recorded a significant growth rate of 1250.9 per cent going from 7,874 guests by the end of August 2021 to reach 106,371 guests by the end of August 2022, followed by European guests, who recorded a rise of 615.9 per cent from 26,400 guests by the end of August 2021



to reach 189,008 guests by the end of August 2022.

However, the number of Omani guests declined by 14.9 per cent from 556,035 by the end of August 2021 to 473,232 by the end of August 2022.

The number of American guests by the end of August 2022 stood at 35,803, comprising an increase of 201.5 per cent compared to the same period in 2021, while the number of guests from the African continent stood at 5198, constituting a surge of 101.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2021.

Moreover, the number of Asian guests went up by 40.2 per cent from 91,273 to the end of August 2021 to reach 127,995 guests during the same period in 2022. -ONA

BE'AH

ahlibank with Synergy Consulting to offer advisory on IWTF Phase 2

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Environmental Service Holding Company (be'ah), the state-owned waste management operator in Oman, announced that ahlibank with Synergy Consulting will act as financial advisers on Phase 2 of its Industrial Waste Treatment Facility (IWTF) in Sohar, Oman.

The financial advisory engagement will see ahlibank and Synergy Consulting, developing a detailed financial model and

commercial feasibility analysis to ensure sound implementation of IWTF Phase 2. The services provided by the reputable bank & prestigious consulting agency will ensure appropriate funding and alignment with the strategic and operational objectives set by be'ah.

With the second phase of the IWTF project being implemented, be'ah aims to create an integrated treatment facility to manage and treat industrial and non-industrial hazardous wastes in Oman. The new facility will provide advanced

waste management capabilities that enable the implementation of be'ah's waste sector strategy. Moreover, this crucial project will help Oman capture its full potential for industry development and diversification, by providing increased waste management capacity, to the highest standards, in Oman.

The IWTF project was designed to be implemented in phases, with phase 1 already operational and consisting of three engineered landfills, one solidification plant and several storage facilities. As

envisaged, Phase 2 will comprise an incineration plant with an annual capacity of 30,000 tonnes and a physical/chemical treatment facility with an annual capacity of 10,000 tonnes.

The coming edition will be an important addition to be'ah's strategic assets and enable it to meet the expected demand of the Sultanate's growing industrial base and create a sustainable and robust waste management sector aligned with the targets of Oman Vision 2040.





MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Bank Dhofar, up 4.23 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 5.88 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,572.82 points, up by 0.98 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.47 per cent at 484.10 points. Bank Dhofar, up 4.23 per cent, was the top gainer while SMN Power Holding, down 5.88 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 411 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.23 million, with more than 10.98 million shares changing hands. Out of 42 traded securities, 15 advanced, 15 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, Domestic investors were net sellers for OMR45,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR37,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR8,000

worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,262.1 points, up 0.63 per cent. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Bank Muscat, Takaful Oman, Al Batinah Development Company and HSBC Bank Oman were up by 4.23 per cent, 2.79 per cent, 2.38 per cent, 2.13 per cent, and 1.96 per cent respectively.

Prices of Global Financial Investments, Oman Arab Bank, Oman United Insurance, Al Sharqia Investment, and Al Madina Takaful were down by 3.45 per cent, 2.34 per cent, 2.07 per cent, 1.25 per cent and 1.15 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,236.12 points, up 0.27 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Oman Cables Industry, Gulf Mushroom Products, Oman Cement, and Galfar Engineering were up by 3.38 per cent, 2.78 per cent, 1.17 per cent, 0.67 per cent, and 0.61 per cent respectively. -United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES									
Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %			
MSX 30 INDEX	4,573.56	4,528.34	4,572.82	4,528.34	44.48	0.98			
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,265.34	7,224.12	7,262.09	7,216.93	45.16	0.63			
Industry Index	6,249.89	6,212.73	6,236.11	6,219.25	16.86	0.27			
Services Index	1,636.84	1,622.38	1,628.48	1,624.41	4.07	0.25			
MSX Shariah Index	485.95	483.64	484.10	481.84	2.26	0.47			
MSX TR INDEX	5,768.32	5,711.29	5,767.39	5,711.29	56.09	0.98			
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,602.36	7,559.23	7,598.97	7,551.71	47.26	0.63			
SERVICES TR IDX	1,699.71	1,684.69	1,691.03	1,686.80	4.23	0.25			
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,486.34	6,447.77	6,472.04	6,454.54	17.50	0.27			

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,983,350	3,230,516	411	23,216,858,922	15	15	12	42

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	PAR VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000003796	1,312,870	770,866	47	0.576	0.580	0.576	0.580	0.574	0.006	2.787	0.580	0.588	0.590	0.100	2,214,387,133
OM0000001706	6,000	8,880	2	1.480	1.480	1.480	1.480	1.440	0.040	2.778	1.480	1.300	1.480	0.100	132,756,000
OM0000003026	733,720	668,880	17	0.900	0.912	0.880	0.900	0.880	0.020	2.273	0.900	0.892	0.904	0.100	675,000,000
OM0000003968	372,334	154,002	11	0.414	0.420	0.410	0.418	0.410	0.008	1.951	0.418	0.402	0.418	0.100	272,094,888
OM0000003281	24,000	2,256	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	24,314,209
OM0000001152	17,328	1,906	3	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.001	0.917	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000001749	297,758	88,336	5	0.286	0.300	0.286	0.300	0.298	0.002	0.671	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	99,261,813
OM0000001533	138,334	45,927	15	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.000	0.000	0.332	0.332	0.332	0.100	221,897,321
OM0000002168	169,115	67,646	15	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	88,000,000
OM0000000176	145,983	36,486	13	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.100	31,224,490
OM0000007407	60,000	2,880	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.045	0.048	0.100	10,667,520
OM0000001483	908,825	243,565	27	0.268	0.268	0.268	0.268	0.270	-0.002	-0.741	0.268	0.243	0.268	0.100	435,753,623
OM0000000398	465,000	47,895	9	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.103	0.104	-0.001	-0.962	0.103	0.094	0.103	0.100	472,776,416
OM0000002440	99,135	7,832	5	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.080	-0.001	-1.250	0.079	0.079	0.079	0.100	7,110,000
OM0000002226	9,000	2,264	5	0.286	0.288	0.280	0.280	0.284	-0.004	-1.408	0.280	0.281	0.281	0.100	17,157,196
OM0000001087	4,800	1,363	1	0.284	0.284	0.284	0.284	0.280	-0.006	-2.069	0.284	0.278	0.310	0.100	28,400,000
OM0000003125	62,000	3,478	4	0.059	0.059	0.056	0.056	0.058	-0.002	-3.448	0.056	0.056	0.056	0.100	11,200,000
Total	17	4,826,202	2,154,572	183											

Parallel Market																
OM0000000254	BANK DHOFAR	952,000	138,046	6	0.145	0.148	0.145	0.148	0.142	0.006	4.225	0.148	0.145	0.148	0.100	443,460,013
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	105,473	32,160	18	0.296	0.310	0.296	0.306	0.296	0.010	3.378	0.308	0.302	0.306	0.100	36,720,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	20,000	860	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.001	2.381	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.100	10,750,000
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	1,000	45	2	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.045	0.043	0.048	0.100	65,817,066
OM0000002986	AL BATINAH DEV.	10,000	480	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.001	2.128	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	1,440,000
OM0000000137	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,133,000	175,795	12	0.154	0.156	0.154	0.156	0.153	0.003	1.961	0.156	0.156	0.156	0.100	312,048,795
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	579,117	151,869	41	0.260	0.265	0.260	0.260	0.257	0.003	1.167	0.260	0.258	0.257	0.100	10,817,370
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	1,278,655	212,095	31	0.166	0.166	0.165	0.166	0.165	0.001	0.606	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.100	33,695,750
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	88,078	9,648	15	0.109	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.109	0.110	0.100	19,846,545
OM0000001598	MUSCAT FINANCE	20,000	1,260	3	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.100	19,350,218
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	148,300	11,959	8	0.080	0.081	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.081	0.100	16,200,000
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	459,603	44,342	9	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.090	0.097	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000004669	SHARGIYAH DESALIN.	818	100	1	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.000	0.000	0.122	0.122	0.122	0.100	11,931,864
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	217	9	1	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.041	0.037	0.043	0.100	29,290,660
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	9,666	580	2	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.056	0.060	0.100	28,271,183
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKT.	122,000	107,360	6	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.880	0.884	-0.004	-4.452	0.880	0.840	0.880	0.100	83,600,000
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	10,000	930	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.094	-0.001	-1.064	0.093	0.093	0.098	0.100	18,600,000
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	51,390	4,446	10	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.086	0.087	-0.001	-1.149	0.086	0.085	0.087	0.100	15,050,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	15,020	1,070	10	0.067	0.081	0.067	0.073	0.074	-0.001	-1.351	0.073	0.073	0.074	0.100	4,562,500
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	80,000	100,000	15	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.128	-0.003	-2.344	0.125	0.122	0.128	0.100	208,676,250
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	49,250	1,777	8	0.039	0.039	0.036	0.036	0.037	-0.001	-2.703	0.036	0.035	0.036	0.100	24,284,947
OM0000004735	SEWBOOP SALLAAH	10,001	610	3	0.061	0.065	0.061	0.065	0.067	-0.002	-2.985	0.065	0.060	0.065	0.100	62,047,177
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	149,550	28,453	13	0.190	0.192	0.190	0.190	0.198	-0.008	-4.040	0.190	0.190	0.190	0.100	38,000,000
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	95,000	3,040	4	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.034	-0.002	-5.882	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.100	6,388,339
Total	24	6,108,138	1,026,935	222												

ECONOMIC WATCH

China's fiscal revenue rebounds as pro-growth policies pay off

BEIJING: China's fiscal revenue and tax revenue were both on the mend after a months-long decline, a sign of pro-growth policies taking hold. The country's fiscal revenue grew 5.6 per cent year on year in August after a slipping streak that started in April, while tax revenue edged up 0.6 per cent, the first increase since March, official data showed.

Economic recovery

The upturn in fiscal revenue is a result of economic recovery, Li Chao, chief economist of Zhesang Securities, was quoted as saying in an interview.

In addition to policy-backed growth, analysts also cited the completion of a large-scale value-added tax (VAT) credit refund, reducing the burden on tax revenue.

The country launched the large-scale VAT credit refund campaign

in April to ease the financial burden on taxpayers. From the beginning of this year to Sept. 20, the country had refunded 2.2 trillion yuan (about \$309.9 billion) of VAT credit and approved deferred payments on 632.6 billion yuan of taxes and fees, according to the State Taxation Administration.

Market entities have been among the major beneficiaries of the tax relief.

Taxation data showed that sales revenue of companies across China rose 5.2 per cent in August from a year ago, up 2.1 percentage points from July.

In the first eight months of the year, tax revenue totalled some 11.32 trillion yuan, down 12.6 per cent year on year, data from the Ministry of Finance showed. Excluding the impact of the VAT credit refunds, revenue grew 1.1 per cent from a year earlier.

Domestic consumption tax increased 8.7 per cent from the same period last year, while revenues from personal income tax and corporate tax climbed 8.9 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively.

Tax reduction

The purchase tax on automobiles dropped 30.5 per cent year on year in the first eight months, as the government decided in late May to halve the car purchase tax for certain passenger vehicles. The move has led to tax reduction totalling over 23 billion yuan from June to August, which analysts say has helped spur consumption.

Export tax rebates increased by 207.8 billion yuan, or 18.2 per cent, to 1.35 trillion yuan in the January-August period over last year. It has helped bolster foreign trade growth, according to Xie Wen, an official with the administration.

For the rest of the year, extended policies to support market entities including tax payment deferrals and VAT credit refunds could weigh on tax revenue, according to analysts.

The country has allowed micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and self-employed households in the manufacturing sector to defer the payment of certain taxes and fees worth around 440 billion yuan till the end of the year.

Manufacturing sector

The manufacturing sector is expected to receive another 32 billion yuan of VAT credit refund in the last four months of this year.

To underpin economic fundamentals in the fourth quarter, China has pledged more efforts, including making full use of the policy-backed and development-oriented financial instruments to expedite infrastructure construction. -Xinhua

SAUDI PORTS AUTHORITY

MoU signed to develop new Saudi ports management systems

RIYADH: The Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) and Saudi Company for Exchanging Digital Information (Tabadul) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop new Saudi ports management systems as part of their endeavours to lead the change of the future of the commercial movement and guarantee competitiveness and realise sustainable growth at Saudi ports.

The MoU aims at expanding and doubling services provided at Saudi ports from their current number of 46 to 150; empowering modern and emerging technologies according to the best international practices, mainly technologies related to geographical borders and the Internet of Things; and providing safe, quick and advanced services to beneficiaries in the fields of payments

and billing with the use of the latest applications FinTech.

The MoU also stipulates re-engineering procedures and operations at Saudi ports, ensuring the level of its conformity to international standards, enhancing their connection to global ports, facilitating the application of smart gates and applying modern emerging technologies that are directly and indirectly related to the Saudi ports management systems.

This is part of the Smart Ports initiative that Mawani has launched to apply modern and advanced automation technologies in a way that realises plans for digital transformation in the logistical sector, in line with the goals of the National Transport and Logistics Strategy to instil the status of Saudi Arabia as a global logistical hub. -SPA

WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT

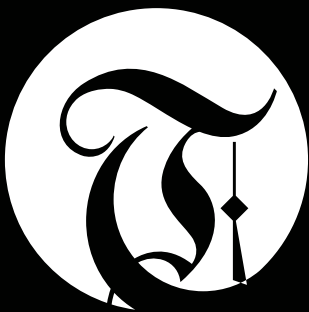
Report addresses how governments can create more systematic approach to skills training

DUBAI: A report released by the World Government Summit Organisation identifies how today's employers fail to get the desired skills from employees due, in part, to the rapid rise in the use of technology and automation in the industry. The report highlights that the skills gap leads to inefficiencies in the current market, a problem that can be solved through the collaborative efforts of the government, businesses, and educational institutions.

The report, launched in partnership with leading advisory firm PwC Middle East – appraises the current employment market and identifies shortcomings that hinder businesses and institutions from achieving their utmost performance. It is informed by the undeniable reality that the business environment is subject to change, and technology has been one of the major transformations impacting business operations in both the 20th and 21st centuries.

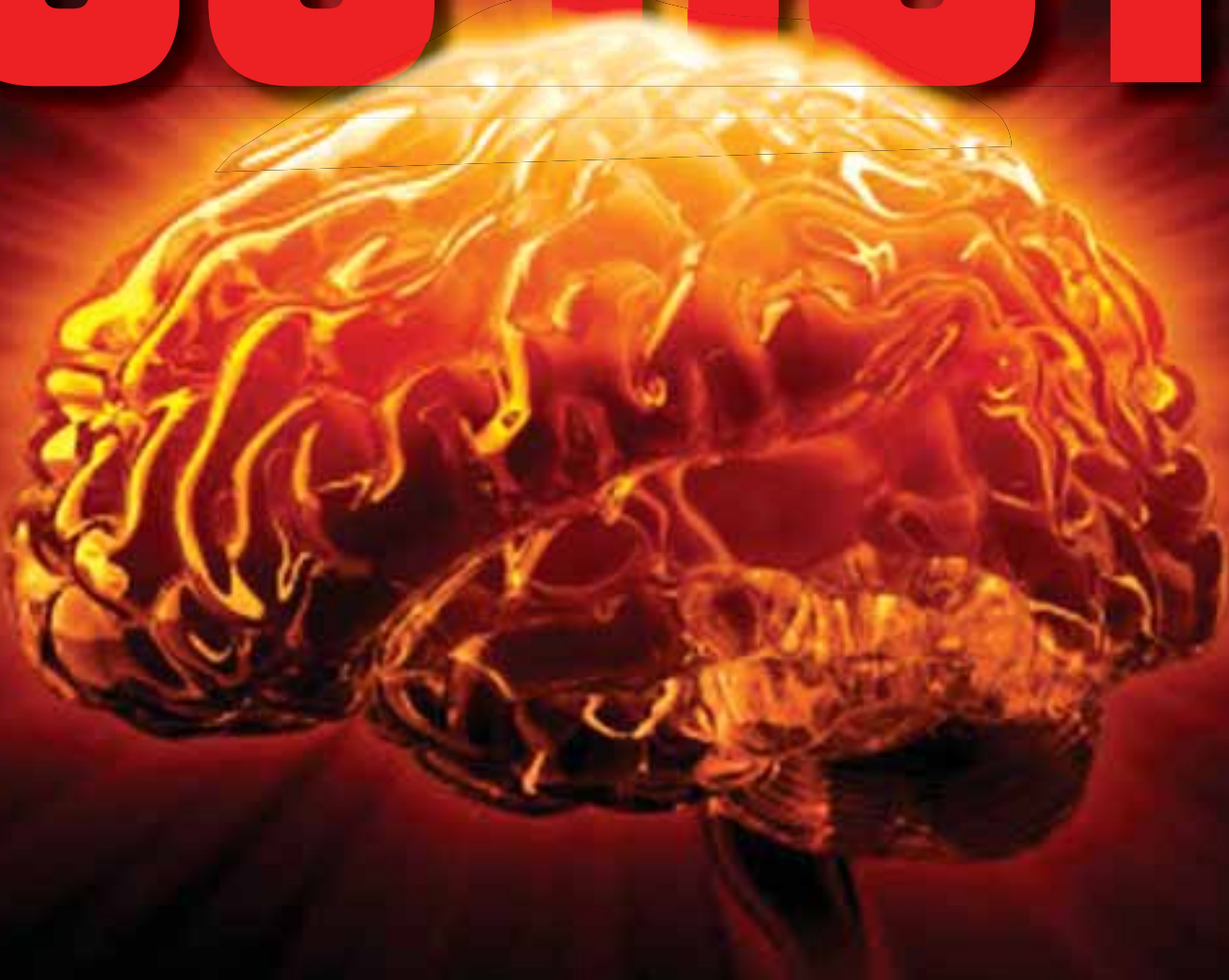
The 'Future of Work and Education: how governments can create a more systematic and rigorous approach to skills training' report acknowledges that it is necessary to create a Skills Development

HEAT WAVES THAT SWEEP ACROSS CONTINENTS ARE BECOMING MORE COMMON, AND CREATURES THAT DWELL IN WATER ARE SUFFERING DANGEROUSLY HIGH TEMPERATURES



LIFESTYLE

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE BRAIN WHEN IT BECOMES TOO HOT?



“It was truly quite incredible. “The whole brain lit up,” Anna Andreassen, a PhD student at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, stated (NTNU). Living species, whether fish or humans, tend to perform worse as the temperature rises. This is something that many people have certainly experienced on a very hot summer day. But what occurs inside the body when the temperature rises too high?

To find the solution, researchers at NTNU’s Department of Biology used genetic technology with neurophysiological methodologies.

“We were interested in the factors that restrict organisms’ heat tolerance.” Which creatures will thrive when the Earth’s temperature rises as a result of climate change, and why? “We decided to look at the brain,” Andreassen explains.

1. CLIMATE CHANGE CAUSING HEAT WAVES

Heat waves that sweep across continents are becoming more common, and creatures that dwell in water are suffering dangerously high temperatures. Understanding what limits survival at extremely high temperatures is critical for forecasting how organisms will respond to climate change.

“Thermal tolerance has been studied for decades and the idea that temperature impacts brain activity is not new. “What’s different is that we can now analyse the phenomenon using genetic technologies and neurophysiology,” Andreassen explains.

Researchers at NTNU in Trondheim studied newly hatched zebrafish larvae’s brain activity while progressively increasing the temperature around the larval fish.

“These fish have been genetically engineered such that when the neurons in the brain are active, they emit fluorescent light.” While the larvae swim about, we can see this light through a microscope. These larval fish have the added benefit of being translucent. “We get to peer straight into the brains of living larvae,” Andreassen explains.

2. LOSE THE ABILITY TO RESPOND

The researchers can then monitor brain activity while gradually increasing the temperature of the water in which the fish are swimming. “We’ll see how the larvae react when the weather warms up. When it gets too hot, they lose their balance and begin swimming around in circles, belly up.”

The researchers prodded the fish larvae to see how they reacted. They poked the larvae’s tails, which generally causes them to

swim. But something strange happened when they increased the temperature.

“At a certain point, the fish ceased responding to the pokes.” They were still living, but in an ecological sense, they were dead. “They wouldn’t be able to swim away from predators or make their way to colder water in that condition in nature,” Andreassen says, adding that this condition is only temporary in the small experimental fish.

“They’ll be completely fine once we get them back into cooler water,” Andreassen says.

3. HEAT TURNS OFF THE BRAIN

So far, the experiments have gone exactly as expected. They could also test whether the brain was perceiving visual stimuli by flashing light in front of the fish’s eyes. As the temperature increased, the brain ceased responding to inputs and became fully dormant. But something strange happened when they increased the temperature.

“My entire head lit up. “The closest I can describe what we saw is a kind of seizure,” Andreassen explains.

Normally, brain activity is only seen as little spots of light in certain areas of the brain. Under the microscope, the researchers could see how the fluorescent light spread out in a matter of seconds and covered the entire

brain of the microscopic fish larva. “We know that zebrafish brains have a lot in common with human brains - 70% of the genetic material is the same,” Andreassen explains.

Following that, the researchers intend to examine glial cells, a type of brain cell.

“We’re particularly interested in the activity of glial cells during heating.” These cells are critical to the brain’s oxygen delivery since they both assess the oxygen level and regulate blood flow and the oxygen supply. Because we can see that oxygen levels affect temperature tolerance, one theory is that the brain shuts down because the glial cells no longer have the ability to regulate the oxygen level.”

4. DIFFERENCES ADVANCE EVOLUTION

To get a better understanding of what happened, Trondheim researchers began adjusting the amount of oxygen in the water the fish were swimming in while changing the temperature.

“We were surprised to see that the oxygen level played a role in modulating heat tolerance.” When we introduced more oxygen, the larval fish performed better at high temperatures, had higher brain activity, and recovered from being exposed to upper thermal limits faster than the fish with low oxygen.

When evaluating the influence

of oxygen content on temperature tolerance in various animals, researchers found contradictory results.

“Being “insensitive” to changes in oxygen levels may potentially provide an evolutionary advantage as the Earth’s temperature rises.”

“The data suggest that temperature tolerance differs between species.” This could be a trait that determines whether a species can adapt to climate change or will perish as temperatures rise. Many species live in oxygen-depleted conditions where temperatures can quickly rise above ordinary. “They’ll be extremely vulnerable,” Andreassen predicts.

She uses species that live in shallow freshwater environments, rivers, or the intertidal zone as an example.

“These are habitats where substantial changes in oxygen levels can occur, frequently concurrently with temperature fluctuations.” In these settings, fish whose heat tolerance is limited by oxygen levels are more likely to struggle than fish that are not.”

Being “insensitive” to changes in oxygen levels may potentially provide an evolutionary advantage as the Earth’s temperature rises.

“Animals that can retain nerve function under low oxygen levels may be the best at withstanding high temperatures,” Andreassen says. .ANI



PRESENTS

Times
OF OMAN
**INTER-SCHOOL
QUIZ
2022**

English: Friday, 28th October 2022
Arabic: Saturday, 29th October 2022
Venue: City Amphitheater, Qurm
Time: 7:00pm, Gates open at 5:30pm

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ROUND-UP



Changan Hunter pick-up now available on low EMI offer

Outfitted with safety features and modern driving systems, Changan Hunter pick-up that comes with two engine variants – 2.4 turbo gasoline (available in manual and automatic transmission) and 1.9 turbo diesel engine (manual transmission) guarantees excellent performance

MUSCAT: Arabian Gulf Automobiles and Equipment (AGAE) has announced a low EMI offer on Changan Hunter pick-up.

Outfitted with safety features and modern driving systems, Changan Hunter pick-up that comes with two engine variants – 2.4 turbo gasoline (available in



manual and automatic transmission) and 1.9 turbo diesel engine (manual transmission) guarantees excellent performance.

Customers can now avail an exceptionally low EMI rate of OMR 154 on Changan Hunter pick-up (terms and conditions apply). EMI is calculated based on 20% down payment for 6 years loan tenure. It is subject to credit approvals from banks and applicable on vehicles purchased for personal use only.

A spokesperson for AGAE said, “We are pleased to offer a low EMI on the outstanding Changan Hunter pick-up. With the perfect powertrain Changan Hunter can take you to the highest heights or any terrain. Among positive features of the Changan Hunter is its work horse capabilities and usage. Being a heavy-duty pickup for loading, it is sturdy, spacious and of high quality, and is suitable for various load and road conditions.”

Boasting of class leading power and excellent ground clearance, it delivers an unmatched level of supremacy and capability especially for the farm and construction sector. Offering excellent seating comfort, SUV like interiors and manifold features, Changan Hunter ensures a pleasurable and comfortable drive for the passengers.

Changan Hunter’s double cabin pick-up comes with a 2.4 turbo gasoline engine producing 210hp with a 6 speed Manual (2wd & 4wd) and Automatic transmission available only in 4WD. The ‘power to perform’ Changan Hunter also comes with a 1.9-litre turbo diesel engine producing 150 hp with a 6-speed manual transmission and is available in 4 WD.

This incredible pick-up is built on a large wheelbase of up to 3180 mm, and measures 5330 mm in length, 1930 mm in width and 1835 mm in height. With capacity to

carry a substantial weight, it has a ground clearance of 230 mm and fuel tank capacity of 80 litres.

Changan Hunter is equipped with all safety and security measures and innovative driving systems that provide a smooth ride and enhanced performance. Changan Hunter Pickups are targeted to meet the needs of local commercial transporters as well small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Logistic solutions.

On the global level, Changan “Hunter” is described as a distinctive new generation of trucks that are characterized by strong capabilities and a very impressive exterior design with a practical and comfortable interior. All this is a result of the strong support of the research and development centres of Changan.

Changan Hunter 2WD manual P (Standard)

The exterior of Changan Hunter

2WD manual pick-up features 17” steel wheels, halogen headlamps, front fog lights, ORVMS - electrically adjustable and sidestep. The aesthetically designed interiors offer fabric seats.

In terms of safety, the Changan Hunter gets front airbags, rear sensors, ESP and TPMS.

The infotainment attributes includes multifunction steering wheel, 3.5” instrument cluster screen, two speakers. The rear AC outlets offer comfort.

Changan Hunter available in Gasoline 2WD manual transmission, 4WD Manual and Automatic and 4WD Diesel variants.

Changan Hunter 4WD manual & Automatic transmission includes the features of 2WD manual P (Standard) features plus other additional features. The exterior features includes 17” alloy wheels, door handles in chrome, welcome light, LED Headlamps, follow me home light, LED DRLs, ORVMS with heating and rear LED tail lamps.

The attractive interior includes leatherette fabric seats, electrically adjustable front seats, lumbar support, and rear armrest. The safety features offer rear differential lock, front side airbags, rear view camera, and rear disc brakes. It has a special feature which is the camera for right blind area which helps the driver sitting on the left side of the car to see the right side area behind the car with help of a camera fixed to give the

driver a view of that specific area.

Changan Hunter 4WD manual diesel (platinum)

The exterior of the Changan Hunter 4WD manual diesel (Platinum) includes 17” alloy wheels, door handles in chrome, halogen headlamps, front fog lights, LED DRLs. The interior has leatherette fabric seats and rear armrest. With the help of another attribute ORVMS (Outside Rear View Mirror) can be electrically adjusted and has the function of heating to prevent the mirror from fogging up. There are turn indicators on the edges of the mirrors as well.

The safety attributes include rear differential lock, front airbags, rear sensors, rear view camera, camera for right blind area, ESP, TPMS and rear disc brakes.

It has a DPF Filter which is an indicator which gets activated when the engine is being overused or damaged due to the driver's negligence. For instance, the indicator comes on when the A/C is running for a long time and the car is stationary or when the driver is driving short distances and doing constant stop-starts or if engine has dust particles. The indicator can switched off through a switch placed near the indicator.

It has a host of infotainment features such as 3.5” instrument cluster screen, 10” infotainment screen, mirror link, radio, USB, Bluetooth, 4 speakers and multi-function steering wheel.

12TH EDITION

Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards 2022 honours best performers

MUSCAT: On September 28, Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards felicitated the top corporate leaders, business performers and achievers in the Sultanate of Oman. The event witnessed the congregation of the business leaders and dignitaries who are driving the country's business and economy, and are instrumental in the nation building process.

In the 12th edition of the awards, Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahroqi, Minister of Heritage & Tourism attended the event as the chief guest. Overall, 15 top ranking MSX-listed companies were felicitated at the awards function across three categories -- large cap, mid cap and small cap --based on their performance on select financial parameters. For performances that go beyond the balance sheet, a series of special awards were also presented.

The 2022 edition was supported by some of the leading brands from the Sultanate including Ahli Bank, Taageer Finance, Oman Data Park, Tibiaan Properties, National Life & General Insurance, United GCC Fund, United Securities, Eva Clinics, Grand Spa, U Capital and UMS Digital.

In the large cap segment, Al Anwar Ceramic Tiles, ahlibank, Sohar International, Bank Mus-



cat and National Bank of Oman won. In the mid cap segment, Al Jazeera Steel Products, Al Jazeera Services, Al Batina Power, Al Ahlia Insurance and Oman United Insurance walked away with the awards. Oman Qatar Insurance, Al Maha Ceramics, United Finance, Gulf Mushroom Products and Oman Education & Training Investments won the in the small cap category.

An array of special awards were presented to the winners for achievements that go beyond the regular financial parameters. The CEO of the Year Award was presented to Ahmed Al Musalmi, CEO of Sohar International. Areej Mohsin Haider Darwish, Chairperson of MHD ACERE was pre-

sented the Business Woman of the Year Award. Mustafa Ahmed Salman, CEO of United Securities was felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Business Leader of the Year Award was presented to Asma'a Al Maraghi, Co Founder & MD of TM Done. The Digital Transformation Leader of the Year Award was given to Eng. Maqbool Al Wahaibi, CEO of Oman Data Park and the Oil & Gas Services Industry Leader of the Year Award was presented to Eng. Musallam Al Mashaani, CEO of Al Baraka Oilfield Services.

The Telecom Entrepreneur of the Year Award was presented to Pradeep Tripathi, Chairman of GPT Group International. Entrepreneur of the Year Award was

presented to Alya Ahmed Sulaiman, Founder of Grand Spa. The Emerging Business Leader of the Year Award was presented to Hiba Al Kiyumi, Founder & CEO of Eva Clinics and the Healthcare CEO of the Year Award was given to Sameer Al Awam, CEO of Muscat Eye Laser Center.

Among other special awards, the Talent Management Initiative of the Year Award was presented to ahlibank. Leasing & Finance Company of the Year Award was presented to Taageer Finance while Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was bagged by Sohar International and Real Estate Company of the Year Award was presented to Tibiaan Properties.

The Award for Outdoor Advertising Solutions Company of the Year was presented to Mubashir, followed by the Insurance Company of the Year Award that was presented to Oman Qatar Insurance. Global Education Services was bestowed with the Education Company of the Year Award. The Award for E-commerce Company of the Year was presented to TM Done. The winner of Eye Care Center of the Year Award was Muscat Eye Laser.

UNPARALLELED SHOPPING EXPERIENCE



Nesto Group opens its 100th outlet at Miyah Mall, Sharjah

DUBAI: Nesto Group, one of the most renowned names in the region's retail industry celebrates the iconic milestone of a hundred, with its 100th outlet opening at Al Nahda, Sharjah.

Nesto now has a diverse chain of 100 outlets operating across GCC and India with a presence in UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia.

A part of the prestigious Western International Group, Nesto has set new standards for accomplishments with unique business strategies and attributes its growth to its unwavering emphasis on convenience and accessibility by providing customers with top-notch products of world-class brands at competitive prices. This has established Nesto not only across multiple countries in the GCC but also in the hearts of hundreds and thousands of customers in just a few years.

Today, Nesto stands apart from its competitors by offering customers a relaxing and rewarding shopping experience in thoughtfully designed retail spaces that they cherish and wishes to relive time and again. “A complete shopping experience under one roof”. This has led to high preferences for the brand's offerings by customers from various nationalities under wide-ranged product categories.

The 100th outlet, Nesto Miyah Mall, is located in Al Nahda Sharjah, which strategically lies between Sharjah and Dubai, offering residents the best of both worlds. Widely recognized for its

leisure spots, sport-themed central park, reputable schools, and commercial areas, the area is also a popular favourite for freehold apartments in the Emirate. The new Nesto outlet has a 6 Lakh sq. ft. shopping area designed on five floors with each section curated in aesthetically pleasing themes to offer customers a refined shopping experience.

The hypermarket offers fresh produce, grocery, hot food, fresh meat and fish, roastery, baby care, home needs, furnishings, lifestyle range, stationery, electronics and so much more. The new Nesto emerges as a fashion hub offering the latest and most sustainable collections for men, women, and kids of all ages. Women can now have their ethnic attire sorted with the Ethnic wear zone having extensive collections of traditional wear at Miyah Mall.

There is also a food court opening soon with an assortment of restaurants catering to the unique tastes of customers. Offering kids of all ages numerous entertainment options to choose from, the mall will also be opening a large play area with an exhilarating gaming zone in the coming days.

The inauguration was done by Western International Group Chairman, K.P. Basheer and Managing Directors Siddique Palollathil, Jamal KP and Directors Nawas Basheer, Noufal KP, AthifKP, and Fayiz Basheer, in the presence of Dejem Group Chairman, Ayaedh Hussain and other prominent figures in the industry.

RECOGNITION

United Securities’ chairman and CEO honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

MUSCAT: United Securities’ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Mustafa Ahmed Salman – has won the coveted ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his ongoing contribution and leadership to the industry, at the Alam Al Iktisaad Awards that were held under the auspices of Salim bin Mohammed Al Mahroqi, the Minister of Heritage and Tourism.

The Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards felicitate top corporate leaders, business performers and achievers.

A leader and passionate advocate for the Investments and Securities industry in Oman, Mustafa Ahmed Salman has demonstrated a tireless commitment to the sector for decades. He is known for his efforts in bringing the private sector, as well as regulatory and legislative leaders together, to strengthen the investment products and services industry.

“When you give back to an in-



dustry that has given you so much, there is nothing more rewarding,” said Mustafa Ahmed Salman. “I am passionate to continue being a part of a solution that makes the investment and securities sector a better place. My family, my team at United Securities, and our customers inspire me every day to do more and be better. I am grateful to be a part of this industry and

honoured by Alam Al Iktisaad’s recognition which I am delighted to share with my team.”

Mustafa has been a Director at the MSM, National Pharmaceutical Company, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Muscat Depository & Securities Registration Co. and the Chairman of Majan Glass Company.

At present, besides his ongoing

role at United Securities, Mustafa is Honorary Consul to the Australian Government for the Sultanate of Oman and is Director at United Insurance Company and Al Sharqiyah Desalination Company. He is a Committee Member of the Oman Saudi Investment Committee, OCCI, and the Omani French Association. That's not all, Mustafa is also the Treasurer of the Omani Society for Intellectual Property and the Chairman of the Omani Securities Association. He is also the owner of construction and real estate development companies.

As one of the Oman's largest financial investment advisory and securities businesses that has a proven track record in outperforming benchmarks, United Securities provides clients with expert advice, innovative solutions, outstanding execution and comprehensive access to the Omani, GCC and other capital markets such as the United States.



ROUND-UP



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ahlibank wins ‘Best Performing Company in the Large Cap’ award

Having won the award in the same category consecutively in 2018 and 2019, the 2022 award further affirms ahlbank’s growing strides in Oman’s banking horizon

MUSCAT: Endorsing its consistent growth in the banking horizon of the Sultanate, ahlbank was recognised as the ‘Best Performing Company in the Large Cap’ at the Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards 2022, held on September 28.

Hana Mohammed Al Kharusi General Manager, Corporate Banking received the award on behalf of the bank.



Having won the award in the same category consecutively in 2018 and 2019, the 2022 award further affirms ahlbank’s growing strides in Oman’s banking horizon. The current year has seen it augment its financial performance over the same period last year,

achieving an increase of 18.6% in the second quarter.

Organised by Alam Al-Iktisaad, the red-carpet event unfolded in the presence of Salem bin Mohammed Al-Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism, who presided as the chief guest, with

Shaikh Salim bin Mustahail Al Mashani, Vice Chairman of Muscat Overseas Group, as the host of the evening. The attendees included business leaders, CEOs and senior government officials from a cross-section of industries and government bodies, as well as key

decision-makers from the world of business and economy.

Congratulating her team for the coveted award, Hana Mohammed Al Kharusi General Manager – Corporate Banking, called it a crowning glory for the Bank, which has, in recent times, won accolades from both local and regional platforms for its consistent performance.

“Every award that we win corroborates our success as the fastest growing bank in the country. It fulfils our nurtured ambition to be the most preferred bank. We have not only sustained our upward growth trajectory with innovative products and services, but we have also aaced our performance metrics with figures that narrate our story; this award is an acclamation of our strong status in the banking sector. It has paved our banking path with greater customer acquisition as well as customer retention,” she stated.

Further, thanking the organisers for their meticulous survey in finalising the nominees for each category and choosing the right candidates for different sectors, Al Kharusi added, “I would like to commend the organisers for their time and patience in conducting such

a significant assessment of various segments of the industry. Alam Al-Iktisaad has set a benchmark with its annual awards ceremony, establishing standards for excellence in financial performance. We are grateful for this honour, and we pledge to continue following sustainable business practices and creating newer avenues to meet our customer’s requirements.”

Instituted to recognise and felicitate top performers in the industry, the event awarded winners based on a highly qualitative performance survey. A total of 67 companies were assessed on a merit scale, of which the top 15 were honoured for their personal growth and contribution to the nation’s economy. ahlbank was chosen as the winner among the top five companies listed in the Large Cap category.

As part of the Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards ceremony, 15 top-ranking companies received coveted trophies across three categories - large cap, mid cap, and small-cap. Special awards were also presented to chosen companies, initiatives, and corporate leaders for achievements that go beyond the balance sheet.

FESTIVE SEASON

Kalyan Jewellers announces Diwali offers on gold, precious stone and diamond jewellery

MUSCAT: With the advent of India’s peak festive season, Kalyan Jewellers, one of the most trusted and leading jewellery brands, has announced a new offer this season across Oman - ‘This Diwali with Kalyan’ for its patrons across the country.

Staying on course with Indian traditional jewellery trends for the festival season, Kalyan Jewellers has announced a ‘one-of-its-kind’ offers for customers to get maximum value on their jewellery purchases, across categories – from gold and diamonds to uncut and precious stone jewellery.

The new offer allows patrons to get cashback up to OMR 10 on every purchase of gold Jewellery worth OMR 500. The customers will also be able to get cashback of OMR 20 on every purchase of precious/uncut jewellers worth OMR



500. On purchase of diamond jewellery worth, OMR 500 customers will get up to OMR 50 cash back.

Talking about the offers, Ramesh Kalyanaraman, Executive

Director, Kalyan Jewellers said, “We are delighted to announce the launch of our Diwali celebrations with unique offers on our extensive range of jewellery. At Kalyan

Jewellers, we understand the emotion and sentiment of our customers linked with their festivals and jewellery, which is why we strive to provide maximum benefits to our patrons on their festive jewellery purchases by providing them great offers.”

‘This Diwali with Kalyan’ offers can be availed by customers until November 20 at all Kalyan Jewellers’ showrooms across the country.

The jewellery retailed at Kalyan Jewellers goes through multiple purity tests and patrons also receive the Kalyan Jewellers 4-Level Assurance Certificate which guarantees purity, free lifetime maintenance of ornaments, detailed product information and transparent exchange and buy-back policies. The certification is part of the brand’s commitment to offering the very best to its loyalists.

SPECIAL OFFER

Bank Muscat’s Al Jawhar referral scheme gets excellent feedback from customers

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat’s mega referral campaign for Al Jawhar Privilege banking has been making huge waves with large numbers of customers enthusiastically signing up to take advantage of the special offer.

Earlier this year, the bank launched the Al Jawhar referral scheme, which is open to all Privilege Banking customers till 31 December 2022 and provides a chance to earn up to OMR5,000 by referring friends and family members to join the leading Privilege Banking services in the Sultanate of Oman.

Speaking on the occasion Abdulnasir Al Raisi, General Manager – Personal Banking, said: “Bank Muscat is delighted with the excellent all-round response to the Al Jawhar referral scheme with its guaranteed rewards for all existing Al Jawhar customers as well as new customers. Exist-



ing customers can earn an incentive of RO 50 for every successful referral for a maximum of 100 referrals. All new referrals who successfully open and maintain their Al Jawhar account will also win OMR50 each. Hence, this scheme is a win-win proposition for both existing customers as well as their family and friends. We welcome

all eligible customers to try out the unmatched rewards and features of Al Jawhar Privilege banking and also get rewarded in the process.”

The incentives will be credited on a quarterly basis into the accounts of both referrer and the referee on successful completion of a three-month eligibility period.

Designed to elevate Privilege Banking to unparalleled heights, Al Jawhar opens a world of opportunities with a number of services and facilities that makes the banking experience truly rewarding for its exclusive clientele.

Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the ‘Visa Offers Mena’ app on their smartphones. They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of OMR800. Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders offers

access to 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat and Salalah airport. Cardholders are eligible for a complimentary Dragon Pass and a ‘Meet and Greet’ service with 15 per cent discount at over 450 global destinations.

The Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Card allows customers to enjoy the best in class complimentary travel insurance which includes travel accident insurance as well as insurance for lost baggage and money, cancellation, travel delay, delayed baggage, personal liability, legal expenses and loss of passport and access to free medical and legal referral services worldwide. The cardholders also enjoy 1% cash back on all local and international spends. Designed around unique lifestyle and banking requirements, Al Jawhar is a first-of-its-kind privilege banking service in Oman.

THRILLING DRIVING EXPERIENCE



Lincoln Aviator takes luxury experiences to higher levels

MUSCAT: The Lincoln Aviator takes luxury experiences to higher levels with its keen attention to details and its focus on offering fine experiences to passengers. The Aviator grabs instant attention with its stylish exterior that highlights its luxury stance.

To promote thrilling driving experiences, the Lincoln Aviator is equipped with a standard twin-turbocharged 3.0-litre V6 engine that is paired with a 10-speed SelectShift® automatic transmission. The Aviator delivers an impressive 400 horsepower and 562 Nm of torque for effortless acceleration. The three-row luxury SUV is equipped with all-wheel drive capability.

The Lincoln Aviator offers drivers an engaging drive with the Lincoln Drive Modes’ five signature settings – Normal, Conserve, Excite, Slippery and Deep Conditions. This feature allows owners to further customise their driving experience, while a 10.1-inch standard configurable LCD instrument cluster confirms their choices with beautiful, easy-to-read dynamic graphics and prompts. Putting on a show right from the start, the Air Glide Suspension with Dynamic Lower Entry automatically lowers the vehicle to “greet” the driver, adding a new level of sophistication to Lincoln’s signature welcome lighting embrace. The convenience of this feature makes loading cargo easier as well.

Adding to smiles on every journey is available technology that

enables Aviator to “see” most potholes or uneven pavement and immediately make suspension adjustments to keep the ride as smooth as possible. Adaptive Suspension with Road Preview uses an advanced forward camera to constantly scan the road, seamlessly adjusting the suspension as needed. All Lincoln vehicles come standard with a suite of driver-assist features known as Lincoln Co-Pilot360™.

Traffic Jam Assist helps guide the vehicle using adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go, lane centering and traffic sign recognition, adjusting speed based on the information obtained. Evasive Steer Assist offers assistance to the driver to help avoid a collision with a slower or stopped vehicle; it provides additional steering support when a collision cannot be avoided by braking alone. Reverse Brake Assist can help stop the vehicle while backing up if Aviator’s integrated rear sensors and camera detect an obstacle at the rear.

Active Park Assist 2.0 removes the stress from parking by taking over steering, shifting, braking and acceleration functions with the touch of a button to navigate parallel and perpendicular parking spaces with ease. The boundless allure of flight has long inspired automotive design, and the all-new Lincoln Aviator takes that inspiration to the next level.

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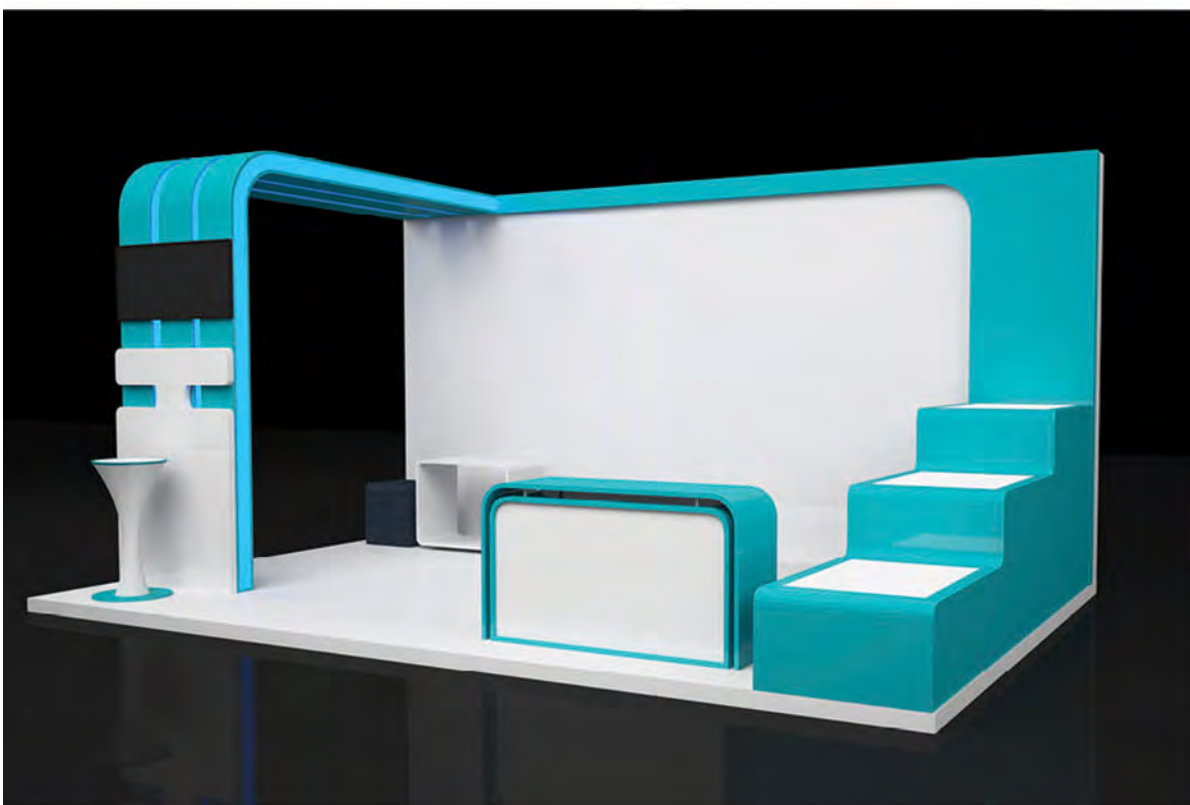
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