

DUALISATION WORK OF AL ANSAB/AL JAFNAIN ROAD NEXT YEAR

Muscat Municipality would commence the dualisation work of Al Ansab/Al Jafnain Road (Phase Two) during the first quarter of 2023. Upgrading the capacity of the road will involve the establishment of three lanes in each direction from Falaj Al Sham in the Wilayat of Bausher to Al Jafnain in the Wilayat of Seeb. **>A4**



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SECOND STAGE OF TOUR OF SALALAH FOR CYCLING KICKS OFF

The second stage of the second edition of Tour of Salalah for cycling, organised by the Dhofar Municipality in cooperation with the Oman Cycling Federation and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, kicked off yesterday in front of the Al Baleed Archaeological Park for a distance of 101 kilometres. **>A4**



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RAISE YOUR HANDS WHILE CROSSING THE ROAD



Experts have highlighted the necessity of following rules to keep roads safe for everyone

Times News Service

MUSCAT: To avert accidents, students should not walk in front of the bus after alighting and must raise their hands if they want to cross the road so that drivers can

see them, said a top Royal Oman Police (ROP) official.

While speaking exclusively to the *Times of Oman*, Major Mudar Al Mazrouei, said: "The students should not move after alighting from the bus till the

bus has moved on."

He said that each student must be seated inside the bus and should not allow any part of his body outside the bus window. The students should not even move inside a moving bus and stay away from the bus doors, the Major said.

This year, an unfortunate accident took place on the very first day of the school academic year 2022/2023, when a 16-year-old student, Hoor, was run over by another vehicle while crossing

the road in Muscat Governorate, leading to her death.

The Director of Muscat Education Department said that initial indications indicated a clear negligence on the parts of both the bus driver as well as the car driver who mowed down the girl.

Exactly three days later, on 7 September 2022, another 7-year-old student in the Wilayat of Izki in Al Dakhiliyah Governorate, was hit by a bus immediately after he alighted from his school bus. **>A5**

OMAN AIRPORTS

New pact to cut flight delays at Muscat airport

MUSCAT: Oman Airports company has signed an agreement with To70 company of the Netherlands to improve operations inside Muscat International Airport and ensure their smooth flow.

The aim of the agreement is to activate the A-CDM specialised project, which provides for the execution of cooperative decisions.

Consolidate ties

The project seeks to consolidate ties between Oman Airports, airlines operating at Muscat Inter-

national Airport, ground service teams at the airport and air surveillance staff.

It also ensures the participation of all strategic partners of the airport through the exchange of information and operational data.

Decision-making process

The project will help improve the decision-making process and cut down flight delay time.

The agreement was signed by Shaikh Aiman Ahmed Al Hosni, CEO of Oman Airports, and Ruud Ummels, CEO of To70. **-ONA**



CMA DATA

Over OMR5 million compensation paid for traffic accidents in Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The total compensation paid by Oman's insurance companies for traffic accidents during the second quarter of 2022 has been more than OMR5 million.

According to data published by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) for the second quarter of 2022, the total number of minor and major traffic accidents was about 19,335, including 15,526



minor accidents and 3,809 serious accidents.

The data shows that the total number of claims for compensation during the above mentioned period stood at 22,433, including 16,219 claims for minor accidents (material damage), 2,934 claims for serious accidents (material damage), 3,197 claims for serious accidents (injuries and treatment expenses) and 83 claims for serious accidents (deaths).

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

Celebration of olive-inspired activities

1 Visitors and guests can enjoy a full daily schedule of olive-inspired activities such as fun harvesting competitions and an olive souk at the picturesque Al Jabal Al Akhdar mountain during the week of 11-17 September. **>A3**

WORLD

Biden renews vow to fight terrorism

2 Americans observed the 21th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, with US President Joe Biden vowing to continue the fight terrorism. The president, who is preparing for crucial midterm elections in less than two months, also used his 9/11 speech as an opportunity to take jabs at his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump. **>A6**

MARKET

Cargo volume at Oman's ports up 5%

3 Oman's ports reported an increase in the volume of bulk, general and liquid cargo by 5 per cent during the first half of 2022, reaching 42.76 million tonnes, compared to 40.61 million tonnes in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology. **>B1**

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Registration for National Research Award is open until September 25



Times News Service

MUSCAT: In hope of encouraging researchers to conduct high quality and relevant research in areas of national interest, the registration for the 9th cycle of the National Research Award 2022 is still open for interested applicants until Sunday 25th of September 2022 at 2.00 pm. The function is organised annually by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI).

The National Research Award (NRA) is divided into two categories; best published research led by a PhD holder or equivalent (senior specialist or higher in the medical field) and best published research led by a young researcher (a non-PhD holder). As for the research fields, it consists of six fields and they are Education and Human Resources, Information and Communication Technologies, Health and Social Services, Cultural, Social, and Basic Sciences, Energy and Industry, and Environmental and Biological Resources.

Interested applicants can apply through (<https://orp.trc.gov.om/awards/nra/sub>). Applicants can find additional information and updates regarding the conditions through the NRA's official website (www.trc.gov.om).

Dr Yasmin Al Bulushi is new Chairman of Knowledge Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Knowledge Oman, the award-winning community knowledge sharing platform in the Sultanate of Oman, has named Dr Yasmin Al Bulushi as its new Chairman. The founder of platform, Tariq Hilal Al Barwani, steps down as chairman to assume a new role as a "community adviser" effective from September 2022.

Under Tariq's leadership, Knowledge Oman has managed to create 74 projects since 2008 that attracted 700 volunteers, working closely with 35 local and international partners that have impacted over 1.3 million people positively in Oman. Tariq's stepping down is part of the ongoing community leadership development opportunities Knowledge Oman has been following since its inception.



Oman wins membership of Arab Regional Committee for Guides

ABU DHABI: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Directorate General of Scouts and Guides, won membership of the Arab Regional Committee for Guides in the next trilateral cycle. This came during the conclusion of the Arab Regional Guides Conference, held in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The roles of the Arab Regional Committee for Scouts and Guides include lending support for member organizations in a bid to groom skills of guides. -ONA



Oman to host Asian Amateur Chess Championship

MUSCAT: As many as 167 players from 21 countries will take part in the Asian Amateur Chess Championship scheduled to be held in Oman from 29 September to 6 October 2022. Hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth, the championship will see the participation of 122 men and 45 women. It is organised in cooperation with Oman Chess Committee. In the men's events, the championship will see the participation of World No. 1 Kyrgyz player, No. 2 Lebanese player and No. 3 Pakistan player. In the women's events, the championship will be attended by the World No. UAE player, along with leading Palestinian and Qatari players.



The Asian Chess Federation's selection of Oman for the event reflects the federation's confidence in Oman's ability including human resources to organize such regional and international sports championships. The gesture also caps Oman Chess Committee's plans and programmes for the period 2019-2022.

By expanding its participation in international events, Oman Chess Committee managed to raise the number of world-class players over the past period. -ONA



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Olive-inspired activities, feasting beckon visitors

The inaugural olive harvest festival is a celebration in the mountain of Al Jabal Al Akhdar in its unique surroundings and local enterprise in partnership with the local community

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Visitors and guests can enjoy a full daily schedule of olive-inspired activities such as fun harvesting competitions and an olive souk at the picturesque Al Jabal Al Akhdar mountain.

Planned for the week of 11-17 September, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort is presenting its inaugural olive harvest festival, a celebration of its unique surroundings and local enterprise in partnership with the local community.

For hundreds of years, the mountain of Al Jabal Al Akhdar has bloomed with roses, pomegranate and apricot. One of Oman's most fertile areas, with its distinctive terraced farms and falaj irrigation system, it is for this reason that it is colloquially known as the Green Mountain.

A decade ago, local farmers decided to experiment with planting olive trees. Today, Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort celebrates the rich harvest with its inaugural olive festival.

During the day, an array of guest chefs will host cooking demonstrations and hands-on cooking



Chef Gabriele Kurz



Chef Martin Aristondo



Chef Jesualdo Bermejo

classes. Chef Gabriele Kurz from Bavaria, celebrated author of wellness cookbooks and the force behind the Middle East's first healthy fine dining restaurant, will show how easy it is to create nutritious vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Evenings are dedicated to feasting, with olive-inspired tasting menus by sister brand NH Hotels' leading executive chefs, Jesualdo Bermejo and Martin Aristondo. Chef Jesualdo is the Executive Chef at NH Nacional Hotel in Madrid and all the award-winning Tablafina restaurants in Spain, while Chef Martin works as Executive Chef of the NH Collection Aranzazu hotel in San Sebastian. Tablafina is the name of NH's gastronomic initiative that seeks to connect with the world of traditional bars and local cuisine, something that is quintessentially Spanish.

The harvest season lasts the month of September, and throughout, the resort will offer a special four-course tasting menu at its restaurant Bella Vista. Guests will enjoy delicacies such as ricotta-stuffed olives, seared cod with an olive tapenade, and a rich olive oil cheesecake.

A special spa journey is also on offer at Anantara Spa, a full-body olive scrub high in antioxidants and Vitamin E followed by a massage. Guests staying during this period can book the festival package of accommodation, tasting menu and spa treatment, with the room or villa of their choice.

"At Anantara, we believe in immersing guests in the real destination while partnering with the communities we operate in", says Maren Kuehl, General Manager of Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Re-

sort. "Al Jabal Al Akhdar has such a fascinating history, as well as a unique living culture, and we are proud to showcase this to guests from around the world".

Anantara is a luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, connecting them to genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, and providing heartfelt hospitality in the world's most exciting destinations. The collection of distinct, thoughtfully designed luxury hotels and resorts provides a window through which to journey into invigorating new territory, curating personal travel experiences.

From cosmopolitan cities to desert sands to lush islands, Anantara connects travellers to the indigenous, grounds them in authentic luxury, and hosts them with passionate expertise.

SDGs 2030 has become a vital part of Oman Vision 2040

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy organised the first seminar on drafting the second voluntary national review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2030) of the Sultanate of Oman.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

Al Saqri said that the seminar comes within the framework of enhancing cooperation and integration with partners in the public and private sectors to report the progress made in achieving the SDGs 2030.

On his turn, Dr. Nasser Rashid Al Ma'awali, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, said that significant progress has been made in achieving the SDGs since Oman submitted its first voluntary national review in 2019.

Al Ma'awali added that Oman is keen to abide with its international obligation of achieving the SDGs by 2030 by integrating the SDGs with national policies, ini-

tiatives and programmes. He pointed out that the SDGs 2030 became a main component of the Five-year Development Plans and Oman Vision 2040.

Al Ma'awali said that Oman, represented by the Ministry of Economy, is preparing to draft the second voluntary national review, which will be submitted at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session in 2023.

Intisar Abdullah Al Wahibi, Director of the Five-year Development Plan project, Director of Development at the Ministry of Economy, gave a presentation on the efforts of the Sultanate of Oman in achieving the SDGs 2030.

The seminar involved participation of representatives of the State Council, Shura Council, government units, private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as academic institutions and regional and international organizations concerned. -ONA



OPENING CEREMONY: The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr. Said Mohammed Al Saqri, Minister of Economy.

Environmentalists discuss need for protection of eagles



PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT: The workshop was organised in cooperation with Oman Environment Society and Disney Conservation Fund to underscore the role of eagles in cleaning the environment and serving humanity. -ONA

MUSCAT: The Environment Authority on Monday organised a workshop on protecting eagles in the Sultanate of Oman.

The workshop sought to conduct surveys and form teams from the departments concerned with the aim of protecting eagles and birds of prey.

The workshop was organised in cooperation with Oman Environment Society and Disney Conservation Fund to underscore the role of eagles in cleaning the environment and serving humanity.

A talk on the global importance of eagles was presented by the

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the specialist group at the Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

The discussion also covered the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), as well as current regional and international programmes on the tracking and monitoring the survival of eagles by satellite.

The workshop was held under the auspices of Mahmoud Yahya Al Thuhli, Administrative Development Adviser to the Environment Authority's Chairman. -ONA



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MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

Dualisation work of Al Ansab/Al Jafnain Road next year

MUSCAT: Muscat Municipality would commence the dualisation work of Al Ansab/Al Jafnain Road (Phase Two) during the first quarter of 2023.

Upgrading the capacity of the road will involve the establishment of three lanes in each direction from Falaj Al Sham in the Wilayat of Bausher to Al Jafnain in the Wilayat of Seeb.

The current roundabout would be transformed into bridges/flyovers and subways with construction of the necessary protections and the execution of the project is expected to last for 36 months that will enhance development in the

governorates of Muscat, Al Dakhiliyah and North Al Sharqiyah. The project would serve the urban areas at the roadside.

The project includes upgrading the three existing roundabouts at Al Ansab Road extending between Muscat Expressway and Falaj Al Sham Area by construction of flyovers and interchanges with traffic signals.

The project includes construction of a new road with three lanes in each direction from Falaj Al Sham Area in Bausher to the crossing of Nizwa Road at Al Jafnain Area in the Wilayat of Seeb for a length of 15 kilometres. **-ONA**







SECOND STAGE OF SALALAH CYCLING TOUR KICKS OFF



SALALAH: The second stage of the second edition of Salalah Cycling Tour organised by Dhofar Municipality in cooperation with Oman Cycling Association and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism kicked off yesterday for 101 kilometres from Al Baleed Archaeological Park to the Niyabat of Jaheef.

Seven cyclists from the Sultanate of Oman and the GCC states are participating in the Tour.

UAE cyclist Khalid Mayouf secured the first place. Cyclist Saif Al Ka'abi (UAE) secured the second place while Abdullah Al Hamadi (UAE) bagged the third place.

The third stage of Salalah Cycling Tour would continue today from Mirbat Castle to Wadi Dirbat for 123 kilometres. The Salalah cycling Tour would conclude, tomorrow on 14 September with stage four from Khur Roury to the Municipality Recreational Centre for 116 kilometres.

The first round of the Tour of Salalah, which started from Darbat Waterfall to Ayn Ashat (116 km), was won by Emirati cyclist Saif Al Ka'abi. The second and third positions were bagged by Emirati cyclists Jabir Al Mansouri and Khalid Mayouf respectively. **-ONA**





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Expo to focus on efforts to develop a strong, inclusive healthcare ecosystem

With remarkable developments in the field of healthcare, the Sultanate has, over the years earned international recognition for its well-defined policies, reliable healthcare system

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With a keen focus on the well-being of its people, the Sultanate of Oman has taken innumerable efforts to develop a strong healthcare ecosystem that is sustainable, inclusive, and highly responsive to the needs of the community.

In line with the same and to reaffirm its commitment to Oman's Health Vision 2050, Connect (Oman Exhibitions Organising Company LLC) is set to host the Oman Health Exhibition and Conference (OHEC) at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hall 5 from 26 to 28 September 2022.

The highly anticipated industry event will be conducted in partnership with Oman's Ministry of Health and will be supported by the Directorate General of Pharmaceutical Affairs and Drug Control (PADC), the Directorate General of Quality Assurance Centre (DGQAC) and Directorate General of Private Health Establishments.

Alongside the exhibition, draw-



EXPLORING INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES: Oman Health Exhibition and Conference will be held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre from 26 to 28 September 2022.— Supplied picture

ing attention to the continuously evolving medical developments will be the Oman Health Conference organised by the Oman Medical Association, which is accredited by the Oman Medical Specialty Board (OMSB).

Cigna, the renowned healthcare, and insurance company, will be the Silver Sponsor for the event. While the timings for the exhibition are from 9:00am to 8:00pm, the conference will follow a pre-defined agenda from 9:00am to 4:15pm on all three days.

With remarkable developments in the field of healthcare, the Sultanate has, over the years, earned international recognition for its well-defined policies, reliable healthcare system, and emphasis on innovation and research.

A reduction in mortality, especially among children, and the abil-

ity to control various communicable diseases are further testaments to its unwavering determination.

Mirroring the values of 'quality care and sustained health', the Oman Health Exhibition and Conference is aligned with the aim of Oman's Health Vision 2050 which is geared at ensuring that the Omani people live healthy and productive lives through the establishment of a well-organised, equitable, efficient, and responsive health system, grounded by societal values of equity and social justice.

Commenting on the event, Dr. Mohammed Hamdan Al Rubaie, Director General, Directorate General of Pharmaceutical Affairs and Drug Control (DGPA&DC) said, "The DGPA&DC is responsible for regulation of pharmaceutical and medical devices to ensure that all pharmaceutical products

Prominent companies participating as exhibitors include Mohsin Haider Darwish, Bangkok Hospital Pattaya, Aster Group, Muscat Eye Laser Centre, and many more.

In addition, acknowledging the growing importance of medical tourism and its role in improving access to quality healthcare, the exhibition will also feature key international players including prominent names from India and Iran.

Partners of the Indian state of Kerala, Gulf Madhyamam and Lynx MICE have confirmed to be the India Pavilion Partner at OHEC. Their participation entails a showcase of over 40 hospitals & ayurveda hospitals, as part of an on-going campaign called 'Heal Me Kerala', that promotes the south Indian state as a top choice for medical tourism.

Other Ayurveda hospitals & wellness centers participating at the India Pavilion include, JAS-LOK Hospital, HCG cancer specialist, Max Hospitals and Fortis Healthcare.

The Iran Pavilion will include top-choice hospitals from the country's key cities. The Kowsar Shiraz Hospital, affiliated to the Fars Heart Foundation charity, and based in Iran's Shiraz city, is participating to showcase their capacity, along with their well experienced team of specialists and fully equipped departments that provide excellent treatment services specially for those who are suffering from heart ailments.

Other names include Nivad Pharmad Salamat Co., a science base pharmaceutical company working on manufacturing high technology human vaccines; and Behjat Alsalam, a well-known medical tourism company in Oman that facilitates treatment and tourism in Iran. They will present their expertise in providing simple ways to travel to Iran for various kinds of treatments, such as, ophthalmology, orthopaedic,

cosmetic, and beauty beside other services like tickets reservations, accommodation, and translators.

Meanwhile, the Oman Health Conference with the central theme 'Towards Healthcare Excellence' will offer a unique opportunity for healthcare and medical professionals in the Sultanate to engage meaningfully with those from the private and non-profit sectors.

With a designated time for Q&A sessions after each talk, it will also help boost interaction, interest, and awareness amongst participants about the available healthcare services and the latest innovations in the field.

In an endeavour to promote research and development in the healthcare field, the conference also invited speakers from healthcare universities, clinical research associations, expository associations, and other healthcare ventures to share their scientific papers, which were then reviewed by the Oman Health Conference Scientific Committee.

An excellent networking platform for medical professionals, traders, manufacturers, suppliers, service providers, and stakeholders of the healthcare and medical industry, OHEC has registered over 150 exhibitors from over 10 countries and foresees a footfall of more than 5000 attendees.

The event is free to attend and open to all.

Alongside, Food & Hospitality Oman, an international trade exhibition, is also being held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hall 4 from 26 to 28 September 2022.

The exhibition serves as a business and networking platform for companies and industry stakeholders to promote the latest products and services in the food and beverage, agriculture and fisheries, food processing technologies, kitchen and catering equipment, hotel supplies and equipment, and restaurant and cafe segments.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

<FROM A1> Police maintain vigil to prevent accidents

Although he was transferred to the hospital in a stable condition with some injuries, the incident calls for a rethink on the traffic conditions in the Sultanate.

In another unfortunate accident, Issa Al-Habib Al-Ashi a mathematics teacher, in one of the schools in Al-Dakhiliyah Governorate, became the victim of a painful run-over accident on Sunday. He died at the accident site.

Mourning his demise, Al-Khalil Bin Abdullah School for Basic Education for grades (10,11,12), in Fanja region, Al Dakhiliyah Governoratesaid: "The educational family at Al-Khalil bin Abdullah School for Basic Education mourns its deceased teacher Issa Al-Habib Al-Ashi, the mathematics teacher in the school."

"May God have mercy on him, put him in his vast gardens, and inspire his family and relatives patience and solace," the statement added.

The Director of Muscat Education Department said: "The Royal Oman Police intensified on the first day of the academic year 2022/2023 its effort for the safety of students through the deployment of police on all road courses, bridges and crowded places as also in front of some schools to ensure smooth traffic and to prevent traffic accidents. This is a continuous campaign not only on the first day of school, but throughout the academic year to ensure the safety of the students."



He said the Royal Oman Police, represented by the Directorate General, Traffic, oversees the safety of about 5,000 to 7,000 male and female students in the Governorate of Muscat alone. The enormity of the task can well be assessed considering the fact that this number multiplies manifold when students in all the governorates of the Sultanate are taken together. Still the ROP is doing the best to contain the recurrence of such mishaps.

"There are 11 traffic institutes distributed over 11 governorates of the Sultanate. The Royal Oman Police receives all school bus drivers to educate them on safe driving, student pick-up and drop-off points and assuring themselves that buses are empty after all students have disembarked, either at the schools or their homes. It is a two-week course for the drivers

which includes conditions that must be applied to students inside the bus, etc," he said.

Al Mazrouei said a large-scale campaign is carried out by the Royal Oman Police, represented by the Directorate General Traffic, which spreads awareness messages on social media, in schools and institutes for students, school bus drivers, road users and students' families. The awareness campaign will continue until the end of the school year 2022/2023, he said. Besides these security measures, Al Mazrouei said, police patrols are deployed at crucial places, including secondary schools and schools for students of the first cycle who were transferred from private schools to government schools, road intersections, roundabouts, bridges and crowded places.

He appealed to the road users

theoretical and practical papers. Those who do not pass, are given a transit certificate. After this, the names are submitted to the Ministry of Education so that they can be officially enlisted for transporting the students.

Eng Ali Ahmed Al Barwani, former CEO of the Oman Road Safety Foundation also spoke to Times of Oman about road safety, saying: "We received the news of the death of the female student, Hoor, who was in the tenth grade, with sadness and sorrow, and we are surprised by the recurrence of such traffic accidents. We cannot say this of God, rather, we must study the causes and find out where the problem lies."

Al Barwani continued: "The onus for the mishap may rest on the school bus driver, the other vehicle driver, the student and the students' families. Nobody should shirk responsibility and see to it that accidents involving school students do not recur in the future. The driver of the vehicle must ensure that the vehicle is empty after the students have disembarked, whether at their homes or at their schools."

Al Barwani stressed that road users and motorists should pay attention while driving their vehicles and not be busy with anything else like the phone, radio or eating and drinking while driving. They should also reduce speed in residential areas and in front of schools, he said.

GCC SECRETARIAT GENERAL



GCC affirms support to Yemen's peace and security

RIYADH: Dr. Nayef Falah Al Hajraf, Secretary General of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), has reiterated the GCC's support for all United Nations' efforts aimed to enhance security and peace in Yemen.

US envoy
This conveyed to Tim Lenderking, the United States' Special Envoy to Yemen, by Al Hajraf, when he received the US envoy at the Secretariat General of the GCC on Monday.

End the conflict
The meeting explored efforts undertaken to end the conflict in Yemen, including the truce announced by the United Nations' envoy to Yemen.

It also laid emphasis on consolidating the international community's drive to support the peaceful mission and enhance development efforts. — ONA



WORLD



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Pakistan digitises relief distribution for transparency

The digital dashboard will keep the general public informed about foreign flood relief being received and distributed among victims

ISLAMABAD: Amid reports of corruption, Pakistan has digitised flood relief assistance and distribution activity in a bid to ensure transparency.

It will now be operated digitally with the Digital Flood Dashboard as per the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, reported Geo News. The digital dashboard will keep the general public informed about foreign flood relief being received and distributed among victims.

The decision was made in a meeting chaired by the premier on Saturday. The latest technology is used in creating a digital flood dashboard to provide all details about relief activities and receipt and distribution of goods and assistance.

The prime minister also announced that the financial aid audit for flood victims would be conducted by the Accountant General Pakistan Revenue (AGPR) and the world's reputable audit firms to ensure transparency, reported Geo News.

He also reviewed the restoration of services in affected areas and called for expediting the rehabilitation of roads, bridges and power supply.



He directed the provision of basic necessities of life to the victims.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail has said the government had provided Rs 70 billion for the relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected people, reported Geo News.

Talking to the media Ismail said that another Rs 50 billion would be provided to the affected people. He said that every penny received from abroad would be audited internally and externally. He also said that 33 million people were living under the open sky.

"The prime minister would soon hold meetings with industrialists and business people," he said, adding that APTMA had deposited Rs 400 million into the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund and it would donate another Rs1 billion, reported Geo News.

Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique expressed gratitude to all countries that have helped Pakistan in its time of difficulty. APTMA leader Dr Gohar Ejaz

said that the association would also donate 150,000 ration bags to flood victims, reported Geo News.

Meanwhile, the death toll from floods in Sindh surged to 621 as 12 more people died during the last 24 hours on Sunday.

As floods swept away the Chak-Nizam bridge, the first defence line of Dadu, authorities Sunday launched Plan B under which a dyke is being constructed along the embankments of the Burda Canal to protect the city.

Heavy machinery is being used to build a dyke up to 15 feet high, authorities said, adding that flash floods from the Manchar Lake had breached the Dadu ring bund, posing a threat to the city, reported Geo News.

The water level in Manchar Lake, the nation's largest freshwater lake, is continuously rising. Rising floodwaters have washed away the first defence line of the city of over one million people, forcing the administration, backed by army troops, to strengthen the remaining embankments.

Thousands of people have been lodged in tents or are waiting for shelter under open skies along the main highway that leads to Hyderabad. Either side of the highway could be seen inundated by floodwater for miles.

Hundreds of citizens were seen leaving the city on mini-trucks, vans and rickshaws. Many others along with their livestock were also spotted trudging along the road under the baking sun, reported Geo News.

The huge flooding also forced the administration to shift nearly 400 prisoners from the Dadu district jail to the Hyderabad prison.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, taking notice of a possible threat to a 500KV grid station in Dadu from floods, directed for utilisation of all resources to protect the grid station.

He directed civil and military high-ups to immediately save the grid station from being affected by floods, the PM Office media wing said. **ANI**

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MODERN SLAVERY

UN report says 50 million trapped in 'modern slavery'



NEW YORK: Some 50 million people are trapped in forced labour or forced marriage, a United Nations study published on Monday found.

The study, by two UN agencies and the Walk Free Foundation, found that the amount of those trapped in modern slavery has increased in recent years.

What did the report say?

The study found that at the end of last year, 28 million people were in forced labour. Some 22 million were living in forced marriages.

The number of people trapped in forced labour or marriage increased by 10 million between 2016 and 2021.

"It is shocking that the situation of modern slavery is not improving," the UN's labour agency (ILO) head Guy Ryder said in a statement.

"Nothing can justify the persistence of this fundamental abuse

of human rights."

The UN had set a goal to eradicate all forms of modern slavery by 2030.

The study found that the coronavirus pandemic has heightened the risk of slavery.

The effects of climate change and armed conflicts have also contributed to "unprecedented disruption to employment and education, increases in extreme poverty and forced and unsafe migration."

The report said that one out of five people trapped in forced labor are children, with more than half of them being sexually exploited.

Migrant workers are more than three times likely to be in forced labour than non migrant adult workers, the study found.

"This report underscores the urgency of ensuring that all migration is safe, orderly, and regular," UN migration agency (IOM) head Antonio Vitorino. **BW**

RAPID SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

WHO concerns trigger crisis response to Zimbabwe's measles outbreak

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) has activated its emergency response strategy in Zimbabwe to deal with the latest measles outbreak in the Southern African nation.

Staffing will be increased as part of the strategy, which has already included vaccinating at least 700,000 children.

Despite this campaign, health experts remain concerned about the rapid spread of the virus.

At least 6,444 cases have been recorded since April, when the first infections were reported in Zimbabwe's eastern province of Manicaland, with more than 700 deaths so far.

Africa

WHO concerns trigger crisis response to Zimbabwe's measles outbreak

World Health Organization officials are concerned about Zimbabwe's current measles outbreak and the growing number of

deaths. They hope that emergency response initiatives will help contain the spread and save lives.

A child receives a measles vaccination jab at a local clinic in Harare

Measles is among the world's most infectious diseases and mostly spreads in the air by coughing, sneezing or close contact

The World Health Organization has activated its emergency response strategy in Zimbabwe to deal with the latest measles outbreak in the Southern African nation.

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At least 6,444 cases have been recorded since April, when the first infections were reported in Zimbabwe's eastern province of



Manicaland, with more than 700 deaths so far.

Dr. Fiona Braka, who heads WHO emergency operations in Africa, told reporters at a Sept. 8 online briefing that "the case fatality is relatively higher when compared to other recent outbreaks" across the continent. Braka said the outbreak is "the first in many years at this scale and it's been progressing quickly."

Enforcing vaccinations

Zimbabwe's Minister of Local Government, July Moyo, told DW that various government departments including the police are now enforcing vaccinations.

"This spread now needs to be tackled as an emergency. We have now mobilized resources so that a whole of government approach can be used to make sure that people, especially children, are vac-

inated," Moyo said. Most of the cases recorded in Manicaland are being attributed to unvaccinated children, mainly from religious sects — "a community that is reticent to accept vaccines or modern medical care," she added.

"Looking at those that have been recorded as suspected cases, close to 70% of cases have not recorded any prior cases of measles vaccination," she added.

Health authorities told DW that they continue to struggle to convince religious communities to vaccinate children.

Dr. Cephas Hote, a medical officer in the Mutasa District, one of the worst affected regions, told DW that "so far what we have noted almost all the deaths are coming from the unvaccinated children." The WHO in April warned of an increase in measles cases in vulnerable countries as a result of a disruption of services due to COVID-19.

The health systems in many African countries continue to be overstretched by several disease outbreaks and other human-made disasters.

According to the WHO, there are more than 100 public health emergencies globally every year and Africa reports the heaviest burden.

The global health body in June announced that it was already supporting countries in the African region to reinforce their emergency medical teams.

"Countries need to have adequate capacities for swift and effective response, and this includes human resources, supplies and coordination structures," Braka said. The WHO in Africa said three flagship initiatives have already been launched in this regard to ensure that member countries are no longer taken by surprise by disease outbreaks such as the one being witnessed in Zimbabwe. — **BW**

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Joe Biden vows to fight terrorism on 9/11 anniversary

On September 11, 2001, militant group Al-Qaeda carried out what was later known as the biggest terrorist attack on the US soil

WASHINGTON: Americans on Sunday remembered the 21th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, with US President Joe Biden vowing to continue the fight against terrorism.

The president, who is preparing for crucial midterm elections in less than two months, also used his 9/11 speech as an opportunity to take jabs at his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump.

In a speech delivered from the Pentagon, one of the targets during the attack which killed nearly 3,000 people, Biden urged Americans to stand up for "the very democracy that guarantees the right to freedom that those terrorists on 9/11 sought to bury in the burning fire, smoke and ash."

On September 11, 2001, militant group Al-Qaeda carried out what was later known as the biggest terrorist attack on US soil. Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four jets and flew three into the World Trade Center towers in New York and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.



REMEMBERING 9/11: Despite continuing criticism of the US's withdrawal from Afghanistan, Biden stressed that the "War on Terror" was far from over.

The fourth plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after its passengers overcame the hijacker. The attack triggered the US's yearslong "War on Terror," which aims to confront global terrorism. It involved a two-decade-long war on Afghanistan to root out al-Qaeda, which ended with a full US withdrawal last year that saw the fundamentalist Taliban retake Kabul.

Biden: 'We'll never forget. We'll never give up'

Despite continuing criticism of the US's withdrawal from Afghanistan, Biden stressed that the "War on Terror" was far from over.

"We will not rest. We'll never

forget. We'll never give up," he said on Sunday.

Just about a month ago, the US president celebrated the killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike in Kabul. The Egyptian-born surgeon turned militant was at the top of the FBI's most-wanted list since the killing of Al-Qaeda founder Osama Bin Laden 11 years ago.

Elsewhere in the US, ceremonies were held at other locations targeted by the militant group, remembering and honoring the victims. First Lady Jill Biden witnessed a ceremony held in Pennsylvania, whereas Vice President Kamala Harris attended another memorial event in New York City.

Al-Qaeda releases book on 9/11 timeline, aims

Meanwhile, the Al-Qaeda terrorist network released a book unveiling the timeline ahead of the attacks. The book, which was published online by al-Qaeda's media wing As-Sahab, also detailed the group's aims behind the terrorist acts.

Written by a senior member of the group, the nearly 250-page book said al-Qaeda had planned to target US interests to drag the country into a long-term war of "attrition." The writer of the book, Abu Muhammad al-Masri, is believed to have been killed in Iran in 2020.

-DW

Modi, Shehbaz, Xi and Putin likely to meet at SCO summit in Samarkand

NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit scheduled to be held on September 15 and 16 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.



PM Modi will be visiting Samarkand to attend the 22nd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State, as per an MEA press release. PM Modi will be in Samarkand at the invitation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

"At the invitation of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be visiting Samarkand, Uzbekistan on 15-16 September 2022 to attend the 22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)," read an MEA press release.

The SCO Summit will be attended by leaders of SCO Member States, Observer States, Secretary General of the SCO, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), President of Turkmenistan and other invited guests.

During the Summit, the leaders are expected to review the organization's activities over the past two decades and discuss the state and prospects of multilateral cooperation. Topical issues of regional and global importance are also expected to be discussed at the meeting.

Prime Minister Modi is also likely to hold a few bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit. The 21st Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on September 17, 2021, in Dushanbe in a hybrid format. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon

chaired the meeting.

PM Modi led the Indian delegation and addressed the plenary session of the Summit via video link. At Dushanbe, India was represented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

It was the first SCO Summit being held in a hybrid format and the fourth Summit that India participated in as a full-fledged member of SCO. The Summit assumed significance as the organization celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

The 20th Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020 (in Video Conference Format). The Meeting was chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

PM Modi led the Indian delegation. The other SCO Member States were represented by their Presidents, while India and Pakistan were represented at the level of Prime Minister. Other participants were -- Secretary General of the SCO Secretariat, Executive Director of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, the Presidents of the four Observers (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia) of the SCO.

This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and the third meeting that India participated in after becoming a full member in 2017. **ANI**

FIRST ADDRESS

King Charles III makes first address to UK parliament

LONDON: King Charles III addressed Parliament for the first time as Britain's monarch on Monday.

King Charles III was proclaimed as the new monarch of England on Saturday after his mother Queen Elizabeth II passed away last week. In his declaration at St James's Palace, he paid tribute to his late mother Queen Elizabeth II and spoke of the "great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of Sovereignty which have now passed to me."

Addressing the assembled dignitaries, King Charles paid tribute to his mother, he said, "It is my most sorrowful duty to announce to you the death of my beloved Mother, The Queen."

The Queen, the UK's longest-reigning monarch, died peacefully at Balmoral Castle on Thursday afternoon at the age of 96.

"My Mother's reign was unequalled in its duration, its dedication and its devotion. Even as we grieve, we give thanks for this most faithful life. I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of Sovereignty which have now passed to me. In taking up these responsibilities, I shall strive to follow the

inspiring example I have been set in upholding constitutional government and to seek the peace, harmony and prosperity of the peoples of these Islands and the Commonwealth Realms and Territories throughout the world," said the new King of UK.

King Charles Philip Arthur George paid tribute to his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, and spoke of the "great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of Sovereignty."

The death of the Queen was formally announced by the Accession Council before Charles III was named king. The 200 or so people gathered in the room all then said 'God save the King' before documents were signed.

He further reiterated his willingness and intention to continue the tradition of surrendering the hereditary revenues, including the Crown Estate.

"I take this opportunity to confirm my willingness and intention to continue the tradition of surrendering the hereditary revenues, including the Crown Estate, to My Government for the benefit of all, in return for the Sovereign Grant, which supports My official duties as Head of State and Head of Nation," added King Charles. **ANI**

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Carlos Alcaraz beats Casper Ruud, bags US Open crown

This was the Spaniard's first major title win after beating Casper Ruud in a four-set match



NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz won the US Open to become the youngest men's player to be ranked World Number One in a fully stacked Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday.

With this win, the youngster registered his name in the history books. This was the Spaniard's first major title win after beating Casper Ruud in a four-set match. Carlos Alcaraz and Casper Ruud met in the US Open final, both looking for their first Grand Slam championship and the world No. 1 ranking, the first time the two men competed for the same honours. Alcaraz, 19, lifted the trophy, making him the youngest number one and the first teenager to do it. He was on the court for a total of 23 hours and 40 minutes.

The 19-year-old Spaniard over-

came Norwegian Casper Ruud 6-4, 2-6, 7-6(1), 6-3 to win his maiden major title and make his debut as the world number one.

Stumbling for words after the win, Alcaraz said that he had always dreamt to be number one and worked hard to be where he is.

"It's something that I dreamed of since I was a kid, to be number one in the world, to be the champion of a Grand Slam. It's something that I worked really, really hard. It's tough to talk right now, a lot of emotions," Alcaraz said during the trophy ceremony.

Alcaraz completed his marathon run with a three-hour, 20-minute triumph, after reaching the final via a trio of five-setters, each concluding late in the

New York night.

Alcaraz and Ruud wowed the packed Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd with equal parts speed and agility, strength and control, baseline finesse and front-court sorcery.

Both the ace tennis stars were aggressive off the return in an entertaining start, and both saved a pair of break points in their first service games. Alcaraz, who delivered crucial serves throughout, broke through from 15-40 with four massive serves, three unreturned and one quickly followed by a forehand winner.

Before the first changeover, the Spaniard earned the key break in set one, then erased another break point to consolidate. Alcaraz fin-

ished the opening set, directing a subtle fist pump towards Ruud before marching to his bench.

Rudd living dangerously in the second set but broke through in the sixth game, earning four straight points from 30-0 for his first break of the match. On three of those exchanges, he successfully attacked the net and countered Alcaraz's backhand saving his second break point of the set for 5-2. He'd break for the set again, ripping off four straight games to tie the match, an immensely satisfying overhead sealing the deal.

Alcaraz swiftly turned tables and seemed to run away with set three, but Ruud fought back after denying a break point that would have given his opponent a 3-0 lead. That was the set's only break point until Alcaraz saved two at 5-6 with gutsy drop-volleys.

The Spaniard won 34 of 45 net points, while Ruud was equally effective in the frontcourt, earning 23 of 36 net approaches.

Alcaraz's first tiebreak win of the fortnight put him in pole position in a final of firsts. He had to save two set chances at 5-6 in the third set just to get there, before sending the fans into a frenzy with a drop shot-lob-overhead sequence to escape a five-deuce game--the longest of the match. **ANI**

CRICKET

Be hungry for success, says former Indian cricketer to U19 boys



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Young Oman cricketers are training hard these days as they gear up for the ICC U19 Men's CWC Division 2 -Asia Qualifier. The boys will be looking to impress at home and advance to the final round of the Asian Qualifier.

Wishing them the very best for the forthcoming tournament, former Indian Test cricketer Nilesh Kulkarni had some valuable lessons for them during his recent visit to Oman.

In a chat with Oman Cricket's media consultant, Kulkarni said, "It is a crucial tournament for the youngsters. An important thing for the teenagers is to enjoy the game."

"They should be hungry for success and never be contented. In one match a cricketer may get a century or pick five wickets. But that shouldn't make him contented. He should try to do better next. That approach will give them success."

"For these youngsters, it is important for them to learn. They should have the ability to learn from their failures. Failure is part and parcel of a cricketer. What defines and determines a top-class

cricketer is how to bounce back from failures."

Kulkarni met Oman Cricket chairman Pankaj Khimji and also visited the Oman Cricket Academy. "The facilities at the Oman Cricket Academy ground are world-class. The infrastructure development and ground is excellent. The vision of Oman Cricket that Pankaj Khimji shared with me makes me believe that Oman is on a good wicket. It has certainly all the ingredients to be the best among Associate Nations," said the former Indian cricketer.

25th year of a rare feat

For a cricketer to pick up a wicket of the very first ball of his Test career is a dream. Only 20 cricketers have achieved the distinction till date and among them in Kulkarni, the only Indian to be in the list.

A slow left-arm bowler and a left-handed batter, the cricketer, who stands at 6ft 5 inches tall, marked the silver jubilee of his achievement last month. Kulkarni recorded the feat on 3 August 1997 against Sri Lanka when he had Marvan Atapattu caught behind by Nayan Mongia at R.Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

SQUAD ANNOUNCED

India announce squad for series against Australia, South Africa

MUMBAI: The All-India Senior Selection Committee met on Monday to pick India's squads for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia and for the T20I series against Australia and South Africa at home.

Pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Harshal Patel have made their return to the squad for the World Cup and for Australia and South Africa series.

Pacers Mohammed Shami and

Deepak Chahar have been included in the squad for T20 World Cup as standby players and also feature in squads for the two home series. ICC T20 World Cup will take place this year from October 16 to November 13.

National Cricket Academy

Hardik Pandya, Arshdeep Singh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be reporting to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for condition-

ing-related work during the course of the home series against Australia and South Africa.

India squad for ICC T20 World Cup: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel,

Arshdeep Singh.

Standby players - Mohd. Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi, Deepak Chahar.

India Squad for Australia T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Bhuvneshwar Kumar,

Mohd. Shami, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah.

India squad for South Africa T20Is: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Mohd. Shami, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Jasprit Bumrah.

India's home series against Australia consisting of three T20Is will take place from September 20 to September 25.

Home series

The home series against South Africa comprises three T20Is and an equal number of ODIs and will be played from September 28 to October 11.

The team for ODIs against Proteas has not been announced yet. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$92.35, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.01 from the price of Friday, which was \$90.34. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE

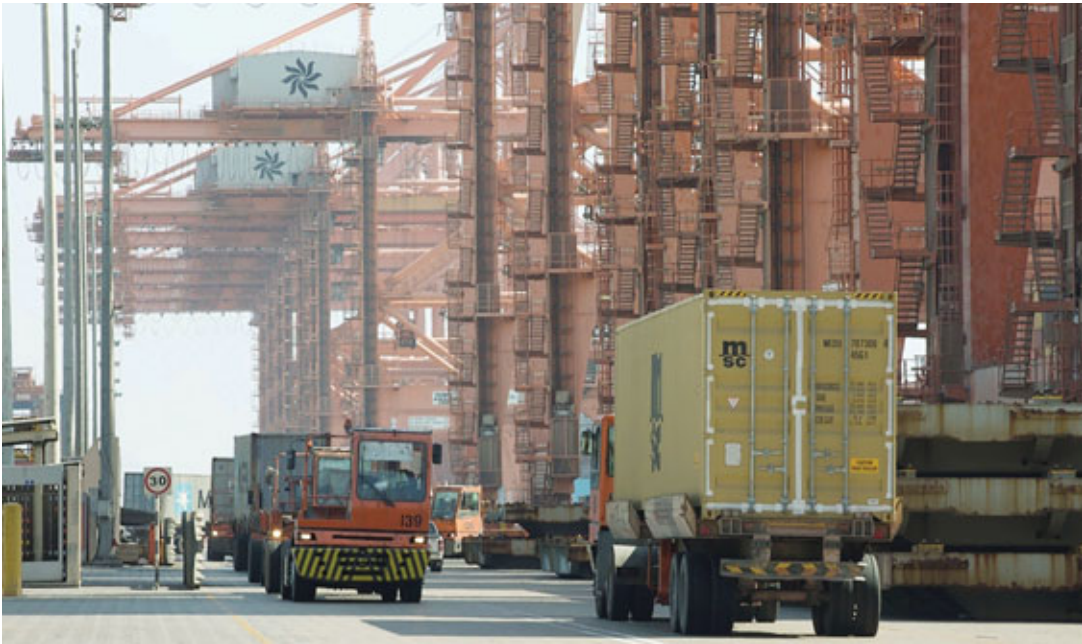


MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,511.63 points, down by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01 per cent at 483.03 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while Construction Materials, down 7.41 per cent, was the top loser.

Cargo volume surges by 5% at Oman's ports

The number of containers also grew by 2 per cent to reach 2.58 million TEUs during the first half of 2022, compared to 2.53 million TEUs during the same period in 2021



MUSCAT: Oman's ports reported an increase in the volume of bulk, general and liquid cargo by 5 per cent during the first half of 2022, reaching 42.76 million tonnes, compared to 40.61 million tonnes in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology.

The number of containers also grew by 2 per cent to reach 2.58 million TEUs, compared to 2.53 million TEUs during the same period in 2021. This rise is attributed to an increase in the number of containers at Port of Salalah by 2 per cent. Meanwhile, the number of ships

declined by 0.02 per cent to reach 4,700 ships, and the total number of shipped vehicles reached 36,170 comprising a fall of 34 per cent. The decrease is attributed to the global economic recession due to the repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rise in freight

prices globally. During the first half of 2022, Oman's ports received 38,500 passengers, constituting a surge of 100 per cent. The number of imported livestock reached 1.96 million heads, comprising a rise of 5 per cent. - OMA

COOPERATION PROGRAMME



Madayn, EthisX ink pact to provide financial services

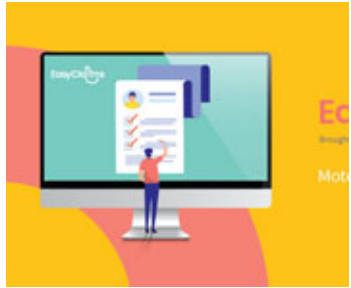
Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) and EthisX signed a cooperation programme to provide financial services and solutions to companies and projects based in Madayn's industrial cities. The cooperation programme was signed by Hamad bin Hamoud Al Qasabi, Acting CEO of Madayn, and Mohamed Shehzad bin Mohamed Islam, CEO of Ethis Investment Platform. The cooperation programme aims at providing financing op-

tions for the SMEs based in Madayn's industrial cities, attract and localising national and foreign companies in the industrial cities, in addition to organising interactive seminars and workshops with the SMEs and investors. This agreement reflects Madayn's commitment to supporting the investment climate in its various industrial cities and its constant efforts to support small and medium enterprises to ensure their sustainability and success, as well as embodies its responsibility towards investors, industrialists and entrepreneurs in Oman.

INSURANCE

GIG Gulf launches digital motor claims platform in four GCC markets



Times News Service

DUBAI: GIG Gulf, one of the largest insurance providers in the Mena region has launched EasyClaims - a purely-digital real-time end-to-end motor claims platform, and the first such service to be made available across four major GCC markets - the UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

EasyClaims is a new online journey that allows GIG Gulf customers to immediately register their motor insurance claims by entering only minimal mandatory information without the need for paperwork and with absolutely no waiting time. The service is available 24/7 and allows customers to track every stage of the claims process in real

time. Using geolocation technology, the platform curates a personalised selection of garages that the customer can choose from. The garage itself is also plugged into the EasyClaims platform, allowing the car mechanic to give mechanical updates to GIG Gulf that are visible to the customer instantly. GIG Gulf Head of Claims, Paolo

Ogno, said: "EasyClaims is just the latest digital customer-centric insurance innovation from GIG Gulf as we seek to simplify the customer experience through self-service and increased visibility. "The launch of EasyClaims achieves this immediately across four major GCC markets, with customers being able to track every stage of the claims process

digitally, choose their closest garage for repairs and even receive instant mechanical updates." Utilising big data and AI-based analytics, EasyClaims is also able to present the customer with granular details on the parts needed for repairs, their costs; the date the car was dropped, when work started, who worked on it and when it will be available for collection.



FROM GRADUATES TO ENGINEERS, WORLEY'S GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (GDP) IS A SUCCESS

Worley creates opportunities in supporting and developing great minds in the energy transition, climate change, data automation, and circular economy.

In 2022 Worley Oman Engineering team has recruited twenty-two Omani graduates across different engineering disciplines. These graduates are undertaking an intensive graduate development program (GDP), designed for twenty-four months across all business and technical functions. During the pandemic in 2021, twelve graduates were recruited and ten completed the program in half the time (one year) and were promoted as Engineer 1 soon after.

Since the GDP was established in 2019, sixty-four graduates have received training and development. It consists of an onboarding process upon entry, as well as a buddy program designed to assist them in adjusting to their new surroundings. As part of the program, discipline mentorship and on-the-job training are also provided. To ensure continuous improvement, Worley provides staff with a coaching program and regular conversations with their leaders and mentors, as well as periodic self-assessments. "We are very proud of our Graduate Development Program

Seeing the benefits of the program will make newly hired graduates more eager to participate and finish their development program.



which helps our graduates build a strong foundation in their first years of employment. I have been extremely impressed with the level of dedication and enthusiasm shown by our graduates and look forward to seeing them grow within the organization," said Patrick Tranter, Worley Vice President of Oman Operations. To celebrate these achievements and recognize the hard work and efforts put in by the graduates, Worley held a graduation ceremony on August 30th, 2022. Seeing the benefits of the program will make newly hired graduates more eager to participate and finish their development program. A job well done by all.

MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Oman REIT Fund, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while, Construction Materials, down 7.41 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,511.63 points, down by 0.18 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.01 per cent at 483.03 points. Oman REIT Fund, up 9.52 per cent, was the top gainer while, Construction Materials, down 7.41 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 318 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.81 million, with more than 7.26 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 12 advanced, 23 declined, and 15 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR99,000 while domestic investors were net sellers for OMR86,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR13,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,232.76 points, up 0.08 per cent. Prices of Oman United Insurance, HSBC Bank Oman, Taageer Finance and Bank Nizwa were up by 3.57 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 2.17 per cent and 1.03 per cent respectively.

Prices of Global Financial Investments, Al Anwar Investment, Al Madina Takaful, Oman Arab Bank and Ahli Bank were down by 4.62 per cent, 2.44 per cent, 1.12 per cent, 0.8 per cent and 0.74 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,366.68 points, down 0.04 per cent. Prices of Raysut Cement and National Aluminium were up by 4.76 per cent and 2.35 per cent respectively. Prices of Construction Materials, Oman Fisheries, Jazeera Steel Products, A'Saffa Foods and Gulf Mushroom Products were down by 7.41 per cent, 2.68 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 2.03 per cent and 1.92 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.31 per cent before closing at 1,639.57 points. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Al Suwadi Power, Shell Oman Marketing, Al Batinah Power and Renaissance Services were up by 5.88 per cent, 4.88 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 2.5 per cent and 0.41 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, Muscat Gases, Oman Telecom, Phoenix Power and OIFC were down by 6.67 per cent, 4.93 per cent, 2.6 per cent, 2.17 per cent and 1.55 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

Trading Summary																
Volume		Turnover		Trades		Market Cap		Up		Down		Equal		Sec. Traded		
7,265,337		1,813,408		318		23,270,169,980		12		23		15		50		
SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12																
RIN	SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSUR	92,200	25,431	14	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.280	0.280	0.010	3.571	0.290	0.270	0.308	0.100	29,000,000
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	47,514	4,466	2	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.092	0.002	2.174	0.094	0.091	0.098	0.100	24,314,209
OM0000002224	RENAISSANCE SER.	48,500	22,961	7	0.474	0.480	0.470	0.480	0.488	0.002	0.410	0.480	0.470	0.488	0.100	115,840,900
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	5,000	1,650	2	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.330	0.334	0.100	220,560,591
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	122,000	172,053	4	1.400	1.440	1.400	1.440	1.440	0.000	0.000	1.440	1.440	1.440	0.100	129,168,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,100	332	2	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.302	0.000	0.000	0.302	0.290	0.302	0.100	99,923,558
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	792,000	312,764	16	0.400	0.400	0.390	0.400	0.400	0.000	0.000	0.400	0.400	0.400	0.100	88,000,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	32,864	14,263	2	0.434	0.434	0.434	0.434	0.436	-0.002	-0.459	0.434	0.432	0.438	0.100	23,870,000
OM0000003000	AI MAHA MARKTING	555	448	2	0.792	0.816	0.792	0.816	0.820	-0.004	-0.488	0.816	0.816	0.900	0.100	56,304,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	538,601	210,056	12	0.392	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.392	-0.002	-0.510	0.390	0.388	0.390	0.100	253,868,250
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	580,200	340,087	17	0.588	0.588	0.586	0.586	0.590	-0.004	-0.678	0.586	0.582	0.586	0.100	219,974,339
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	5,000	670	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.135	-0.001	-0.741	0.134	0.133	0.137	0.100	261,254,100
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	266,262	33,819	8	0.128	0.128	0.127	0.127	0.129	-0.002	-1.550	0.127	0.124	0.127	0.100	30,099,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	206,675	56,416	27	0.276	0.276	0.270	0.270	0.276	-0.006	-2.174	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	33,722,449
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	56,570	50,952	13	0.912	0.912	0.900	0.900	0.924	-0.024	-2.597	0.900	0.884	0.908	0.100	875,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H.	216,000	13,407	8	0.063	0.063	0.062	0.062	0.065	-0.003	-4.615	0.062	0.061	0.063	0.100	12,400,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	60,805	3,497	2	0.059	0.059	0.056	0.056	0.060	-0.004	-6.667	0.056	0.056	0.059	0.100	12,445,440
Total	17	3,072,046	1,263,273	139												
Parallel Market																
OM0000008447	OMAN REIT FUND	2,195	151	1	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.069	0.063	0.006	9.524	0.069	0.064	0.069	0.100	32,511,861
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	100	4	1	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.002	5.882	0.036	0.031	0.036	0.100	7,186,882
OM0000004835	AL SUWADI POWER	777	33	2	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.041	0.002	4.878	0.043	0.040	0.042	0.100	30,718,473
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	106,700	22,628	6	0.210	0.220	0.210	0.220	0.210	0.010	4.762	0.220	0.206	0.220	0.100	44,000,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	977,265	150,499	12	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.150	0.004	2.667	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	308,048,170
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MKT	26,085	23,319	6	0.900	0.924	0.900	0.924	0.900	0.024	2.667	0.924	0.900	0.924	0.100	87,780,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	3,600	148	2	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.040	0.001	2.500	0.041	0.040	0.041	0.100	27,670,385
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	103,178	8,512	13	0.083	0.087	0.082	0.087	0.085	0.002	2.353	0.087	0.082	0.087	0.100	2,920,716
OM0000004430	BANK NIZWA	1,122,572	108,397	17	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.087	0.001	1.031	0.088	0.084	0.088	0.100	219,221,397
OM0000001095	DHOFAH INSURANCE	44,414	8,883	4	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.195	0.200	0.100	20,852,409
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INT	153,756	20,450	1	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.130	0.144	0.100	54,428,760
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	215,000	14,190	12	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.063	0.066	0.100	20,271,657
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	42,798	3,680	4	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000002333	SALALAH PORT SR.	200	98	1	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.490	0.000	0.000	0.490	0.000	0.000	0.100	88,120,326
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	458,130	61,849	4	0.148	0.148	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.100	404,507,444
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	55,588	6,625	17	0.119	0.120	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.116	0.119	0.100	9,898,927
OM0000007811	MUSANDAM POWER	4,900	1,528	1	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.318	0.000	0.000	0.318	0.000	0.000	0.100	22,384,029
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	52,600	8,458	6	0.161	0.161	0.160	0.160	0.161	-0.001	-0.621	0.160	0.145	0.161	0.100	32,477,831
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	77,573	9,622	11	0.124	0.125	0.124	0.124	0.125	-0.001	-0.800	0.124	0.114	0.129	0.100	207,066,840
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	7,000	777	2	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.889	0.111	0.112	0.115	0.100	17,266,094
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	9,600	826	3	0.086	0.088	0.086	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.086	0.094	0.100	15,400,000
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	33,000	8,415	2	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.260	-0.005	-1.923	0.255	0.250	0.262	0.100	10,609,344
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	11,000	3,189	3	0.280	0.280	0.289	0.289	0.295	-0.006	-2.034	0.289	0.288	0.295	0.100	34,000,000
OM0000005969	PHOENIX POWER	2,000	225	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.046	-0.001	-2.174	0.046	0.040	0.046	0.100	65,817,066
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	489,791	39,231	27	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.082	-0.002	-2.439	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	16,000,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	78,000	8,577	4	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.109	0.112	-0.003	-2.679	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.100	19,846,545
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GAS	12,390	1,673	1	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.142	-0.007	-4.500	0.135	0.140	0.140	0.100	4,050,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION M.	29,000	2,226	6	0.079	0.079	0.075	0.075	0.081	-0.006	-7.407	0.075	0.073	0.075	0.100	4,687,500
Total	28	4,122,512	515,441	170												

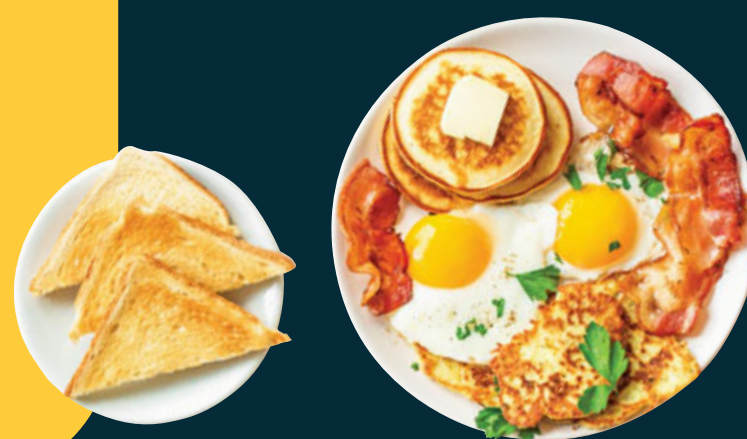


EATING A BIG BREAKFAST DOES NOT HELP WITH WEIGHT LOSS

There's the old saying in dieting that one must 'breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince, and dine like a pauper,' based on the belief that consuming the bulk of daily calories in the morning optimizes weight loss by burning calories more efficiently and quickly. But according to a new study, whether a person eats their largest meal early or late in the day does not affect the way their body metabolizes calories. However, people who ate their largest meal in the morning did report feeling less hungry later in the day, which could foster easier weight loss in the real world.

"There are a lot of myths surrounding the timing of eating and how it might influence either body weight or health," says senior author Professor Alexandra Johnstone, a researcher in the field of appetite control at the Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen, Scotland. "This has been driven largely by the circadian rhythm field. But we in the nutrition field have wondered how this could be possible. Where would the energy go? We decided to take a closer look at how time of day interacts with metabolism."

In this study, the investigators recruited healthy subjects who were overweight or obese to have their diets controlled and their metabolisms measured over a period of time; 16 men and 14 women completed the study. Each participant was randomly assigned to eat either a morning-loaded or an evening-loaded diet for four weeks. The diets were isocaloric, with a balance of 30% protein, 35% carbohydrate, and 35% fat. After a wash-out period of one week in which calories



were balanced throughout the day, each participant crossed over to the opposite diet for four weeks. In that way, each participant acted as their own study control.

Throughout the study, the subjects' total daily energy expenditures were measured using the doubly labelled water method, an isotope-based technique that looks at the difference between the turnover rates of the hydrogen and oxygen of body water as a function of carbon dioxide production. The primary endpoint of the study was energy balance measured by body weight. Overall, the researchers found that energy expenditures and total weight loss were the same for the morning-loaded and evening-loaded diets. The subjects lost an average of just over 3 kg (about 7 pounds) during each of the four-week periods.

The secondary end points were subjective appetite control, glycemic control, and body composition. "The participants reported that their appetites were better controlled on the days they ate a bigger breakfast and that they felt satiated throughout the rest of the day," Johnstone says. "This could be quite useful in the real-world environment, versus in the research setting that we were working in."

One limitation of the study is that it was conducted under free-living conditions rather than in the lab. Additionally, certain metabolic measurements were available only after breakfast and not after dinner.

Johnstone notes that this type of experiment could be applied to the study of intermittent fasting (also called time-restricted eating), to help determine the best time of day for people following this type of diet to consume their calories.

The group plans to expand its research into how the time of day affects metabolism by conducting studies similar to the one described here in subjects who do shift work. It's possible these individuals could have different metabolic responses due to the disruption of their circadian rhythms. "One thing that's important to note is that when it comes to timing and dieting, there is not likely going to be one diet that fits all," Johnstone concludes. "Figuring this out is going to be the future of diet studies, but it's something that's very difficult to measure." — ANI

IN PICTURES



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Mid-Autumn Festival holiday
Aerial picture shows people taking bamboo rafts to appreciate scenery during the Mid-Autumn Festival holiday in the Wuyishan National Park, southeast China's Fujian Province. **Xinhua**

Kareena Kapoor Khan and her son Taimur Ali Khan Pataudi
Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan with her son Taimur Ali Khan Pataudi poses for a photo during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival celebrations, at her residence, in Mumbai. **ANI Photo**



People enjoy dahlia flowers in Lisse, the Netherlands
Visitors take pictures of a flower chair of dahlia at the Keukenhof Castle in Lisse, the Netherlands. **Xinhua**



Bangladesh strengthens mosquito eradication drives against dengue
A staff member sprays anti-mosquito fog along a street in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Authorities in Dhaka have recently strengthened mosquito eradication drives as the dengue infections usually start rising in the country during the June-September period. **Xinhua**



Highlight of Grand Skate Tour 2022 festival in Moscow
A participant performs during Grand Skate Tour 2022 festival in Moscow, Russia. **xinhua**



African fashion festival unveils new talents
A model presents a creation during the 2022 edition of the International Festival of African Fashion and Modeling (FESMMA) in Cotonou, Benin. **Xinhua**



US marks 21st anniversary of 9/11 attacks
Flowers are placed on a plate inscribed with the names of 9/11 victims at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York, the United States. Sunday marked the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. **Xinhua**



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ROUND-UP



Oman to host first-ever Red Bull Transition e-drifting event

The goal of the tournament is to give a chance for motorsports and drifting enthusiasts to challenge themselves through the simulator and try to become Red Bull Transition’s first e-drifting champion

MUSCAT: For the first time ever, Oman is hosting the debut of Red Bull Transition, a simulated drifting tournament.

The competition, which kicks off on Thursday, September 15 and is in partnership with Oman Automobile Association and Red Bull MOBILE, uses an advanced game with an advanced sim rig to mimic the closest reality of the physics of drifting and its arena.

The goal of the tournament is to give a chance for motorsports and drifting enthusiasts to challenge themselves through the simulator and try to become Red Bull Transition’s first e-drifting champion.

The tournament will be split into rounds, with the qualifiers taking place on September 15 and 16 at Oman Automobile Association’s Digital Centre, where drivers’ skills will be put to the test on the “Asseto Corsa” drifting map. Each competitor will have two runs, with the top 16 eventually moving on to the finals.

The event finals will take place on September 23 in the Mall of Oman, near the first Red Bull MOBILE store. The qualifying 16 will compete on the virtual Red Bull Car Park Drift course with a fully equipped simulator for an immersive e-drifting experience.

The Red Bull Transition tournament will have a judging panel that includes all-star Red Bull Car Park Drift judges, as well as Oman’s star athlete and drifting champion, Haitham Al Hadidi, who will oversee and embolden players, as well as assess their skills.



ARABIAN HOSPITALITY

Cove Rotana Resort: New breathtaking, enchanting property in Ras Al Khaimah

MUSCAT: Ras Al Khaimah’s introduction to renowned Arabian hospitality comes in the form of a breath-taking property known as The Cove Rotana Resort.

The Cove Rotana Resort can be best defined as an escape into another world where scenic charm embraces the uniqueness of Arabian culture. The enchanting resort is located on a water inlet on the Ras Al Khaimah beachfront overlooking the sparkling waters of the Arabian Gulf. With its village style design and paths leading down to the ocean water - it is dubbed as the “Santorini of the Middle East”.

Rooms, Suites, and Villas at The Cove combine comfort and exclusivity alongside personalized service and attention to detail that make each stay more memorable than the last.

The resort offers travellers 349 stylish and cosy rooms as well as 76 one-, two- and three-bedroom villas ideally designed to accommodate families or a group of friends with 2- and 3-Bedroom villas being equipped with their



own plunge pool. Paying homage to Nubian architecture, the ceilings in both the villas and rooms boast a one-of-a-kind arch design that brings character and depth into the space. Guest rooms also offer stunning views of the Arabian Gulf from private balconies. All rooms include attractive and contemporary accessories with modern day amenities.

An exclusive oceanfront resort catering to those who seek a greater level of leisure, relaxation and comfort, The Cove provides guests

with recreational facilities such as Bodylines Leisure & Fitness Club-a gymnasium with state-of-the-art equipment, Jacuzzi, steam, sauna rooms and 7 massage rooms. Leisure activities include water sports activities of every kind, Flippers Kid’s Club to keep the little ones entertained, 2 temperature-controlled infinity pools along with 600 meters private beach.

With 7 dining experiences, guests are spoilt for choice. From casual fine dining at our award-winning Basilico Restaurant to a

vast buffet of tempting cuisines at Cinnamon all-day dining not to mention several bars that offer laid-back meals, light snacks and refreshing drinks in a variety of inspiring locations.

The 5-star resort presents pleasures of graceful living, beautiful scenery, pristine waters, and a multitude of activities. With an excellent choice of restaurants, bars and lounges, all come together to create an irresistible oasis of enchantment in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah.

STYLING MASTERPIECE



Supercar Maserati MC20 is built to stun

MUSCAT: If you are lucky enough to drive this brilliant engineering and styling masterpiece, you will appreciate that the supercar MC20 has opened a new era for Maserati.

Low to the ground, stunning looks and butterfly doors to impress, the car has all the visual panache and drama to validate its supercar positioning. In addition, combining performance, sportiness, and luxury, it is evident that Maserati MC20 can rule the track and also perform exceptionally on the road with excellent drivability, comfort, and safety.

The MC20 astounds with its terrific looks which conceal an uncompromisingly sporty soul. Mind-blowing aerodynamic efficiency largely generated underneath the car, double wishbone suspension and adaptive damping all-round, and an eight-speed Dual-Clutch gearbox marks a brave new chapter for the legendary Italian brand.

This car is fast and effortlessly runs through its eight gears with lightning blips of the dual-clutch transmission. A pure performance car built around an internal combustion engine and designed to fly over the ground faster than any Maserati before it. Its 630 horsepower V6 Nettuno engine delivers 0-100 km/h acceleration in less than 2.9 seconds and a top speed of over 325 km/h, lends to the top-notch performance. A patented, 100% Maserati engine, benefiting from MTC (Maserati Twin Combustion) technology, the innovative combustion system developed by the brand, evolved from the pre-chamber technology used in Formula 1 powertrains. MC20 has four driving modes: WET, GT, SPORT and CORSA.

Light, easy and undemanding to drive, this is a wonderful vehicle. Not surprising because it weighs under 1,500 kg and the light weight has been achieved without any sacrifices with regards to comfort. MC20 has all the elements to satisfy a sporty yet sophisticated clientele who look for performance, comfort, and luxury.

As for the butterfly doors. it enables much easier access to and

from the cabin, and also shows off the carbon fiber cockpit, the aerodynamics, and the completely unmasked front wheel. It fulfills a practical purpose, by facilitating driver and passenger access, while also enhancing the car’s looks and underlining specific details that would otherwise be concealed beneath the outer clothing. The doors are opened by a push-button from the inside and have sensors to warn of obstructions.

Every inch of the MC20 is crafted for a one-of-a-kind driving excitement and the MC20 leaves the role of pure functionality to the interior. Everything is very rational, almost minimalist, with two 10-inch screens, one for the cockpit and the other, Maserati Touch Control Plus (MTC Plus MIA) centrally located, slanted slightly towards the driver. The tunnel is very plain, with no superfluous ornamentation. It only carries the driving mode selector, two buttons for the gears, the power window controls and the infotainment volume control, and a smartphone pad with a wireless charger. All the other controls are on the steering wheel, with the ignition button on the left and the launch control on the right. Even though every element’s function takes priority, the interior is skillfully styled with carbon fiber to express the coming together of fashion with performance and engineering.

It has great technology and infotainment attributes which include a 10.2-inch TFT dashboard, 10.25-inch infotainment screen, Bluetooth, radio, navigation, android auto, voice command, and mobile hotspot. Furthermore, it has a SONUS Faber high premium sound system, with twelve speakers.

The MC20 is a car with elegant yet very sporty design. Its character and personality are truly eye-catching thanks to the purity of its forms. In MC20, performance is paramount, and every detail is studied with this aim in mind. Nothing is superfluous, everything has a function. So, there is much to love about the MC20, and more than anything else it delivers an experience that is mind-blowing.

CAMPAIGN

Toyota’s ‘Summer Thrills’ to end soon

MUSCAT: Customers planning to own a Toyota can make the most the ‘Summer Thrills’ campaign that will end soon.

As part of the campaign, customers can benefit with service from 1 year/10,000km up to 4 years / 40,000 km (whichever is earlier) and insurance 1 year or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR125 to OMR450. The campaign is valid until September 15. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.)

Toyota has a wide range of vehicles in Oman that offers wider choices for customers. The range includes SUVs, sedans, hatchbacks, hybrids and pick-ups.

The SUV range includes the C-HR. The C-HR, represents a leap forward in design, manufacturing and engineering for Toyota. The C-HR offers impressive fuel economy with 23.9 Kms/L as per GSO Conformity Certificate and carries a Hybrid battery warranty of 8 Years/160,000km.

The Toyota Raize reflects Toyota’s commitment to developing diverse mobility solutions and offers the space, practicality, and comfort demanded by today’s active lifestyle. Raize is equipped with a 1-litre turbocharged engine producing 96.5 hp and 14.28 Kg.m. of torque. It is paired with Continuously Variable Trans-



mission (CVT), which simulates a seven-speed sequential shift transmission.

The sporty and stylish RAV4 offers extraordinary moments. The RAV4 includes features like 19” Alloy Wheels, LED Headlamps & DRL, Power Back Door, Wide Moonroof, 8” Navigation System, Wireless Charger (Qi Enabled) and more.

The Fortuner is equipped with 4.0L, V6 Engine, 18” Alloy Wheels, LED Projector Headlamps with DRL, Navigation System, Power & Ventilated Driver & Front Passenger Seats, Power Back Door and more.

The powerful and capable Prado includes 4.0L, V6 Engine, LED Headlamps & Fog Lamp, 9” Navigation System, Ventilated Front Seats, Moonroof, Airbags: Driver + Front Passenger + Curtain + Side (Front) + Knee (Driver) and more.

The pride of the land – the Land Cruiser is a symbol of strength, durability and reliability. Rugged yet luxurious, the Land Cruiser delivers high-end performance and advanced off-roading capabilities and safety features.

The iconic Hilux is available in two versions – The rugged Hilux with J-Deck and the sporty 4.0 Litre V6 Hilux Adventure with the A Deck. The 4.0 Litre V6 Toyota Hilux Adventure is a truly exciting mean machine that’s been developed by Toyota to get your pulse racing. Check out the Hilux Adventure and Unleash the Power.

The sedan range includes the popular Yaris. The Yaris delivers a dynamic driving experience. The Yaris sedan and Yaris Hatchback is equipped with 1.5L engine.

The 1.5-Litre four-cylinder engine can churn out a maximum output of 106 hp and 14.3 kg-m of

torque and is mated to the CVT transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with excellent fuel efficiency.

The Toyota Corolla – the popular choice of people around the world has been developed from a driver and passengers’ point of view first. The Corolla is also available in a Hybrid option.

The sleek and stylish Toyota Camry has been one of the best-sellers. Equipped with a range of exciting features, technology and more, the Camry is also available in a 2.5L, 3.5L and Hybrid options.

The Toyota Avalon is a statement of luxury.

It is equipped with 3.5L V6 Engine, LED Headlamps with Adaptive Cornering Lamps, Premium Leather Seat Material, 9” Navigation System with 14 JBL Speakers, Head Up Display, Toyota Safety Sense and more.



ROUND-UP



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Test-drive Hyundai and win prize to attend Fifa World Cup 2022

Since it was first unveiled in Oman last month, the campaign has garnered an enthusiastic response from a wide cross-section of people – soccer fans and prospective customers alike – eager for the opportunity to win a much-coveted raffle ticket to attend the Fifa World Cup 2022 in Qatar later this year

MUSCAT: Hyundai Motor's global sustainability campaign, launched under the 'Goal of the Century' banner, continues to strike a chord with Oman's predominantly soccer-loving population.

Since it was first unveiled in Oman last month, the campaign has garnered an enthusiastic response from a wide cross-section of people – soccer fans and prospective customers alike – eager for the opportunity to win a much-coveted raffle ticket to attend the Fifa World Cup 2022 in Qatar later this year.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by OTE Group – exclusive distributors of Hyundai Motor



vehicles - is one of dozens of countries worldwide that are participating in a global test-drive programme to celebrate this year's biggest sports festival, the Fifa World Cup. Participants in the test-drive programme are eligible to enter a raffle draw that has exciting prizes waiting to be won.

The first prize winner gets a fully paid trip to Qatar as part of a package that includes round-trip flight tickets for two people, match

tickets, 3 nights / 4 days stay in a 5-star hotel, a city tour, and Fifa Fan Fest ticket. In addition, 40 other winners get Fifa world cup tickets to watch the match live.

To cater to the overwhelming interest from soccer enthusiasts in Oman, OTE Group has set up test-drive centres at five key locations: Wattayah, Seeb, Barka, Sohar and Nizwa. Once having test-driven their choice of Hyundai models, participants are then invited to sign

up for the Team Century Supporters newsletter to enter the raffle. The scheme ends on September 30.

Given the enduring popularity of Hyundai cars in Oman, OTE Group has deployed a comprehensive array of the latest Hyundai models for use in the test-drive program. The line-up includes the sedans Accent, Elantra and Sonata, the Grand I10 sedan/hatchback, the SUV range Creta, Kona, Tucson, Santa Fe and Palisade, and

the Staria minivan.

Hyundai Motor has had a long-standing association with the Fifa World Cup. The global automotive brand's support for this year's World Cup Championship is in line with its ambition to unite humanity through football and encourage universal support for a sustainable future.

In celebration of the Fifa World Cup 2022, Hyundai Motor has launched the 'The Goal of the Cen-

ture' campaign – a global initiative to unite the world around sustainability, inspired by the value of team spirit and togetherness created by a universal love of football. The Goal of the Century campaign is backed by an all-star team of influential players from the worlds of football, music, art, photography, and fashion. Former Omani national football team goalkeeper Ali Al-Habsi is also a member of this global team.

TECHNOLOGY EVENT

Future Tech event facilitates multi-stakeholder dialogue

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Future Tech is Sultanate of Oman's foremost B2B and B2G bespoke technology event.

The 2-day summit being held on September 12 and 13 from 9am to 4pm was inaugurated by His Highness Fahar bin Fatik bin Fahar Al Said at the Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The event is a hybrid event (in-person and online). It is a definitive meeting place facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue with power-packed networking opportunities among C-Level executives, leading industry experts, decision-makers, policymakers and government officials from across the value chain to foster collaboration, discuss current challenges, business opportunities, develop market strategies, share knowledge and identify solutions.

The summit features an expansive line-up of stellar speakers, case studies, panel discussions, and unique presentations providing access to a wealth of industry-leading knowledge, sharing best practices and experiences, spotlighting trends, information exchange, insights and outlooks with actionable takeaways.

The event will have over 50 speakers speaking at two tracks



of the conference:

September 12-13 - Track 1 on Tech (Cyber, AI, Cloud, Digital Transformation and more) September 13 - Track 2 on Banking & Fintech

The event also features a comprehensive B2B expo with 70+ exhibitors from over 10 countries showcasing an array of avant-garde solutions, the latest technologies, unique launches, cost-effective products, services and solutions.

Future Tech is being held under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technology, Sultanate of Oman and is supported by the Central Bank of Oman, Oman

Vision 2040 and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Sultanate of Oman. The strategic partners of the event are Oman Banks Association, Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Oman Information Technology Society and Oman Society for Petroleum Services.

The exhibitors span from over 10 countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Turkey, Malaysia, Poland, Estonia, and the Jordan pavilion for the first time in Oman.

The event is organised by Muscat Expo and White Paper Summits.

REWARD OFFER

10% cash reward on salary transfers for ahlibank customers

MUSCAT: Committed to providing exclusive offers and benefits to meet its customers' expectations, ahlibank continues its special salary transfer reward for customers, where they receive an immediate one-time cash reward of 10% of their monthly salary, with a maximum cash reward amount capped at OMR 500.

Under the current offer, which runs until the end of September, the bank offers its Omani and expatriate, new salary transfer customers the opportunity to enjoy a lucrative benefit. Customers who transfer their monthly salary to the bank with an amount of OMR1,000 and above are eligible for this reward offer.

Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution, said, "Through this offer, we seek to strengthen and establish our relationship with our existing and new customers. The promotion reflects ahlibank's leadership in being innovative when it comes to enhancing customer experience and providing solutions that meet various customer requirements through tangible benefits. These could be in the form of cash rewards, cashback, lifestyle promotions, and more."

"This is not just a one-time benefit, but a strategic step en-



couraging customers to adopt practices which will bring them added value in the long-term," Al Balushi further stated.

As the number of new entrants to the labour market increases, ahlibank looks to provide the best services that enhance its preferred status. This scheme is an effective step that reflects the bank's contribution to supporting the financial stability efforts of beneficiaries, thereby enhancing

the economic and social level for individuals and society at large.

ahlibank is keen to invest in high-efficiency banking solutions using the latest innovations to support its customers' goals and elevate its position in the market. The bank has earned a reputation for enabling its customers to benefit from the best services and products and providing more accessible and secure banking solutions.



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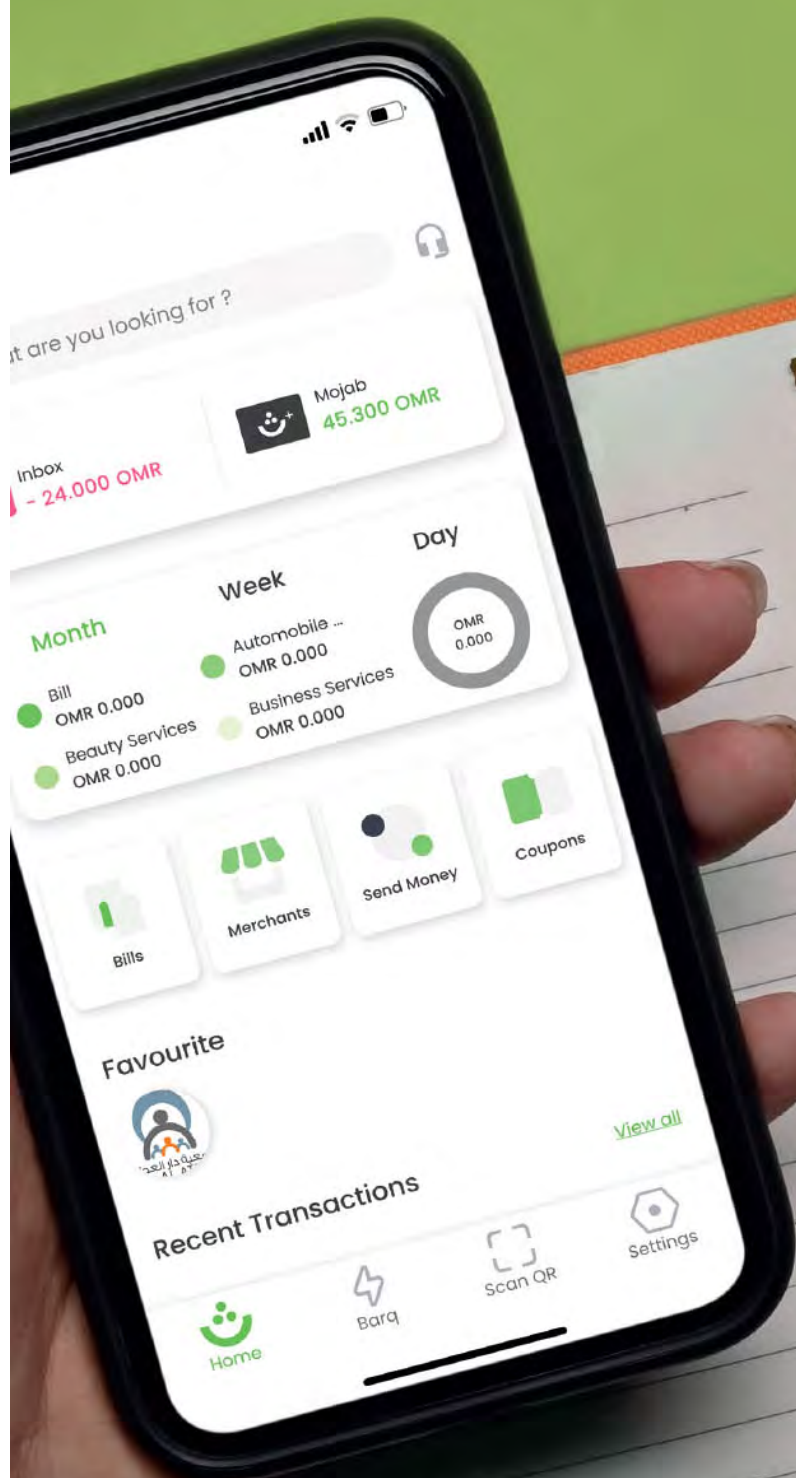


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