

ROP cautions against trading in fake cryptocurrency

Promoting and dealing in fake digital currencies is considered a modern criminal phenomenon that has lately become common owing to technological development and the spread of electronic means of payment. Fraudsters use a multitude of methods to dupe their victims into trading in digital currencies on fake platforms operated from outside the Sultanate of Oman. **DETAILS ON P2**



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OPAZ AWARDS ROAD DUALISATION PROJECT



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RAIN-HIT TIE HANDS INDIA T20 SERIES WIN IN NEW ZEALAND



MUSCAT

HM CONDOLES WITH INDONESIA PRESIDENT

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia, on victims of the earthquake that hit the city of Cianjur in West Java. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sympathies to President Widodo, the people of Indonesia and families of the victims, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. — ONA

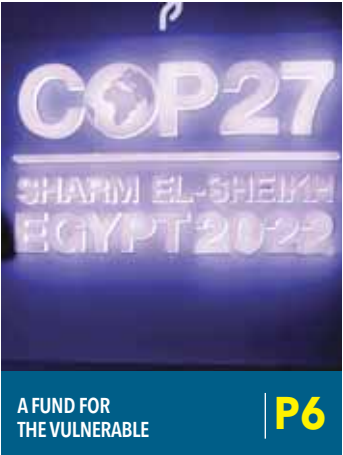
HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of congratulations to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on being re-elected for a second presidential term. In his cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of success to President Tokayev in leading the people of Kazakhstan towards further progress and prosperity. His Majesty the Sultan also wished the relations between the two countries further development and growth. — ONA

INSIDE



UKRAINIANS BRACE FOR BLEAK WINTER



A FUND FOR THE VULNERABLE

21 EMERGE WINNERS IN OCCI ELECTIONS

65% OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOTS

KABEER YOUSUF @kabeeryousef

The winning names of the 21 members from 125 contestants to the Board of Directors of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and to the Board of Directors of OCCI branches across various governorates of the Sultanate of Oman for a period of four years (2022-2026) were announced at 9.30 pm on Tuesday. As many as 15,000 voters cast their ballots during the elections which began at 8 am and lasted till 8 pm.

The voting rate exceeded 65 per cent of those registered in the electoral register.

Musandam topped the list with 90.8 per cent voting.

The winners in Muscat Governorate: Areej Mohsin



Haider, Khalil al Khunji, Siham al Harthy, Rashid al Muslehi and Reza al Saleh. Dhofar: Nayef Fadel, Musandam: Raed al Shehhi, Al Dakhiliyah: Saif al Tiwani, North Al Batinah: Saeed al Abri, South Al Batinah: Hamoud al Saadi, South Al Sharqiyah: Anwar al Sinani,

Al Dhahirah: Saif al Badi, Mohammed al Maskari, head of the branch in Al Sharqiyah North Governorate, and Al Wusta: Salem al Junaibi.

Representatives of public joint stock companies: Faisal al Rawas, Abdullah al Harthy, Mustafa Salman, Hussein Abdel Hussein and Saud al

Nahari.

Meanwhile, the Election Committee has invited candidates to compete for the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the OCCI and his two deputies to participate in the introductory meetings organised by the Main Elections Committee.

They were also asked to introduce the candidates and present their future plans and visions to manage the chamber's business during the period 2022-2026.

An introductory meeting will be held for the contestants for the seats of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the chamber and his two deputies, in which the competitors will present their electoral programmes next Thursday.

TURN TO P2

MOSQUE OPENS IN BAUSHER

Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Dr Mohammed bin Said al Ma'amari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, presided over the opening of Al Salam Mosque in the Wilayat of Bausher. Built to modern standards and the best engineering and technical specifications, the new mosque is constructed on a 13,139 sq metre plot of land. The main prayer hall has a capacity to accommodate 1,740 worshippers and the other prayer hall, dedicated to female worshippers, can accommodate 882 worshippers. **DETAILS ON P2**



Saudis hail their heroes after 'historic victory' over Argentina



Supporters of Saudi Arabia celebrate their team's victory during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group C football match between Argentina and Saudi Arabia at the Lusail Stadium, north of Doha, on Tuesday. — AFP

LUSAIL, Qatar: Saudi Arabia's sensational 2-1 victory over Argentina at the World Cup has sparked euphoria in the Islamic kingdom. Saudi media on Tuesday labelled one of the tournament's greatest ever shocks as a "historic victory" and a "heroes' fairytale."

Saudi goalkeeper Mohammed al Owais was particularly praised, with his saves securing the win against the heavy favourites in Qatar. "A thousand, thousand congratulations, heroes," wrote

Saudi Sports Minister Abdulaziz bin Turki al Faisal on Twitter.

The head of the Saudi entertainment authority, influential sports official Turki al Shaikh, gave free entry to three amusement parks to celebrate the victory. Lionel Messi said Argentina's shock loss to Saudi Arabia was a "very heavy blow" but vowed the South American champions would bounce back from the defeat.

"It's a very heavy blow, a defeat

that hurts, but we must continue to have confidence in ourselves," Messi said after Argentina crashed to a stunning 2-1 loss in Group C.

"This group is not going to give up. We will try to beat Mexico," he added. Messi gave Argentina a 10th-minute lead from the penalty spot on Tuesday at the Lusail stadium but second-half goals from Saleh al Shehri and Salem al Dawsari helped the Saudis pull off one of the greatest shocks in World Cup history. **SEE P16**



■ HM'S PAINTING UNVEILED



As part of 52nd National Day celebrations, a painting of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq was unveiled at the premises of the Ministry of Social Development by Dr Laila bint Ahmed al Najar, Minister of Social Development, on Tuesday. It was designed by the Juvenile Affairs Department of the Ministry of Social Development. The Juvenile Affairs Department aims to rehabilitate delinquents by giving education to them according to their capabilities. The goal of making this mural is to enhance the spirit of patriotism and instil self-confidence and self-esteem by fostering artistic skills. It took 14 days to design the mural. This mural will inspire juveniles who are placed in correctional facility to work on other upcoming artistic projects that will groom them as productive citizens.

Financial Sustainability programme from January

FROM PAGE 1

During the first and second phases, existing initiatives will be completed, with special emphasis on initiatives and measures that are quick to implement and have a direct impact on the fiscal situation.

The third phase of the programme, which begins in the third quarter of 2023 and continues until 2025, will capitalise on initiatives and projects endorsed by the supervisory committee. The overall aim is to achieve the strategic objectives the programme, with arrangements to follow up workflow of the programme and rectify its course as needed.

The programme will focus on several themes, including the development of the business system policy to realise government and private financial institutions' contribution in economic and investment programmes and meet the objectives of Oman Vision 2040. Other goals of the programme include reviewing legal aspects to streamline the operation of the financial sector so that they could fit with the needs of the desired transformation.

The programme also seeks to raise the efficiency of the capital market, augment financial liquidity rates and opportunities to attract investments. It will be a true

enabler of the national economy. It will utilise the concepts of financial amplitude and modern financial technologies to raise the capabilities of the financial sector - both the banking sector and the capital market sector. It will also drive home the concept of insurance through the application of global standards based on the most successful experiences in the field of modern finances, thereby realising connectivity with regional and international financial and business institutions.

The programme will lay emphasis on motivating institutions operating in the financial sector with the aim of establishing a competitive environment distinguished for fairness and transparency. It will develop funding portfolios that suit the needs of investment projects of all kinds, as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It will also raise social awareness and enhance financial culture based on sound planning and active participation of citizens and civil society institutions. This is in addition to developing national resources to lead change in the financial sector.

Sultan bin Salim al Habsi, Minister of Finance, will chair the meeting of the supervisory committee of the National Programme for Financial Sustainability and Financial Sector Development. — ONA

ROP warns against fake cryptocurrency trading

STAFF REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 22

Promoting and dealing in fake digital currencies is considered a modern criminal phenomenon that has lately become common owing to technological development and the spread of electronic means of payment.

Fraudsters use a multitude of methods to dupe their victims into trading in digital currencies on fake platforms operated from outside the Sultanate of Oman.

Brig. Jamal bin Habib al Quraishi, Director-General of Inquiries and Criminal Investigations, said that fake cryptocurrencies are traded and stored electronically. Those virtual currencies do not exist in the real world and are run by anonymous networks. Frauds have become widespread in Oman this year compared to the previous years which requires spreading awareness on how to protect ourselves from falling victim to such traps.

The Director-General of Inquiries and Criminal Investigations said it is impossible to identify all platforms trading cryptocurrencies because they are operated from outside the Sultanate of Oman, and most of them are used for committing multiple crimes related to online fraud. The Directorate-General of Inquires and Criminal



Advertisements posted on social media are the common means of promoting fake cryptocurrency platforms due to their professional design which persuade victims

BRIG. JAMAL BIN HABIB AL QURAISHI
Director-General, ROP

Investigations has recently registered several fraud crimes as a result of direct dealings with fake platforms for trading digital currencies.

"Advertisements posted on social media are the common means of promoting fake cryptocurrency platforms due to their professional design which persuade victims who end up transferring hefty sums of money to fraudsters. These

advertisements focus on the emotional aspect of the targeted people using catchy discourse and fake success stories. For example, a person appears in a video clip on social media recounting his success story of how he managed to make a fortune within a short period of time and minimal effort through digital currency trading," Brig. Al Quraishi said.

These criminal methods do not exclude any segment of the society, however the youth are the most vulnerable due to their strong quest for a prosperous future and the fulfilment of their aspirations and ambitions which drives them to seek methods of getting money within a short span of time, he said.

Fake digital currencies have no economic source and consequently no real value, meaning that their traders and owners are prone to huge financial loss. The lack of monitoring and control over money transfer through cryptocurrency can facilitate the commitment of crimes such as money laundering, drug dealing and financing of terrorism, he said.

Any person who sets up digital platforms for trading fake cryptocurrencies with the purpose of seizing others' money is deemed perpetrator of cyber crime as per the Sultanate of Oman's Cyber Crime Law, Brig Al Quraishi said.

Impact of winter trough to continue

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The formation and activity of clouds continued over Musandam Governorate, the coasts of the Sea of Oman and the Hajar Mountains, with occasional thunderstorms on Tuesday.

Most of the rainfall on Tuesday was over Musandam; although there were cumulonimbus clouds over Al Hajar Mountains that did not produce any rain.

According to the weather forecaster at Oman Met Office, there is a good chance for rain on Wednesday over the northern region of the Sultanate of Oman.

According to Met Office, there are chances of scattered rain on Tuesday night, sometimes with thunder, which could cause the wadis to flow in the various wilayats of the western Al Hajar Mountains.

Oman Meteorology issued a thunderstorm advisory for places such as Bukha, Al Rustaq, Ibri, Al Sinaina and Yanqul. The aerial photos showed clouds forming over parts of the governorates of North and South Al Batinah and the coasts of the Sea of Oman, with chances of sporadic rain, as well as the spread of high/medium clouds over parts of Al Wusta and Dhofar governorates.

21 emerge winners in OCCI elections

FROM PAGE 1

Although the electoral process to the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry which began at 8 am on Tuesday at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC) saw a lukewarm opening in the morning, later it picked up by noon and a large number of people were seen gathering at voting centres located at the OCEC, Dhofar, North Al Sharqiyah, South Al Sharqiyah, North Al Batinah, South Al Batinah, Al Wusta, Al Dhahirah, Al Dakhiliyah, Al Buraimi and Musandam Governorate, according to reports from the centres.

For the first time in the history of the country, members of public shareholding companies and foreign companies who have investor residency were allowed to contest in the elections and 9 expatriates vied for the single



Members cast votes to elect new board of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) on Tuesday.

position reserved for the 'investor'. Results were checked by the Steering committee before they were publicised. The elected people were given a reception at

the OCEC. The Election Commission chaired by Dr Saleh bin Said Masan, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry

and Investment Promotion for Commerce and Industry, said the voting was smooth and all steps were taken to ensure the procedures were hassle-free.

Mosque with capacity for 1,740 worshippers opens in Bausher



MUSCAT: Assigned by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, Dr Mohammed bin Said al Ma'amari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, presided over the opening of Al Salam Mosque in the Wilayat of Bausher, on Monday.

The minister stressed that His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq accords a great attention to mosques and religious institutions, praying for the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said for his contribution to the construction of the mosque.

Built to modern standards and the best engineering and technical specification, the new mosque is constructed on a 13,139 sq metre plot. The main prayer hall has a capacity to accommodate 1,740 worshippers

and the other prayer hall, dedicated to female worshippers, can accommodate 882 worshippers.

The mosque's other facilities include a two-storey multi-purpose hall, an accommodation for Imam and stores. The mosque is equipped with modern sound, surveillance and IT systems.

Al Salam Mosque is the first in the Sultanate of Oman that uses solar energy. A total of 216 photovoltaic panels can produce 14,500 kilowatt-hour of electricity.

The mosque is located on the side of Muscat Expressway in the Wilayat of Bausher in the Muscat-bound direction from South Al Batinah Governorate.

— ONA





Muscat Book Fair 2023 to kick off on Feb 22

FROM PAGE 1

The minister said: “The extravaganza constitutes an opportunity for all of us, as readers, researchers, academics and students to pursue our interests in a full-fledged manner.”

He said that the book fair includes family and children's programmes which cater to their educational aspirations and skills development. Emphasis will be laid on sciences of the future providing access to wide scopes of

knowledge, he added.

Dr Abdullah stressed that Muscat International Book Fair provides a major cultural platform for publishers, distributors and authors from Oman and abroad. Besides the rich selection of exhibits, the book fair comprises interactive cultural events and seminars.

The 26th edition of Muscat International Book Fair attracted more than 300,000 visitors and occupies an advanced place on the map of Arab and international book fairs. — ONA

■ OMANI FETED BY EMIR OF KUWAIT



Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, honoured Engineer Majid al Amri, founder and CEO of Thawani Technologies, at Bayan Palace in Kuwait, for winning the Shaikh Salem Al Ali Al Sabah Informatics Award 2021 in the category of excellence in smart financial solutions. The honouring is in recognition of his role in establishing and leading the first financial technology company in the Sultanate of Oman and providing innovative products to serve businesses and individuals alike.

In brief

■ MUSCAT

UNDER-SECRETARY RECEIVES TANZANIAN MINISTER



Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali al Harthy, Under-Secretary of the Foreign Ministry for Diplomatic Affairs, received Nape Moses Nnauye, Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology of the United Republic of Tanzania, in Muscat on Tuesday. They two reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and means of enhancing them in all fields. They also exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by officials from both sides.

DOCUMENT CENTRE OPENS AT MUSCAT AIRPORT



Oman Airports on Tuesday opened a Document Management Centre at Muscat International Airport on an area of 787 sqm.

The centre includes 430 sqm for document storage and 357 sqm for other facilities. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr Hamad bin Mohammed al Dhawyani, Chairman of the National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA).

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Oman Airports signed an agreement to provide an electronic document management system in accordance with the standards and specifications approved by the NRAA.

ESG strategy needed for a smooth transition to renewable energy

KABEER YOUSUF

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The ninth edition of the Oman Energy Forum have agreed on the importance of adopting clear indicators to measure Environmental, social and corporate governance practices, training nationals and developing technologies for a smooth transition to renewable energy.

Dr Firas al Abduwani, Acting Managing Director of Hydrom Oman Hydrogen Company, said that Oman's efforts in this regard are highly promising and will bear fruits in the near future.

“Oman is in a unique position and hydrogen by default is a low cost energy. Oman has greater potential to be a hydro-driven society as targeted in the Oman Vision 2040,” he said.

Faiza bint Mohammed bin Said al Harthiyah from the Oman Vision 2040 Implementation Follow-up Unit explained that a smooth and orderly transition in



Five graduates of Sultan Qaboos University were presented with CCED Oman Student Awards for the Advancement of Post-Graduate Education 2022

the energy sector will contribute to increasing ‘green’ business opportunities and increasing the total workforce in Oman by 20-30 per cent, especially in the energy sector and the hydrogen economy.

To make the transition smooth and sustainable, Oman has set five goals for its path, namely environment, sustainability, energy system costs, economic impact, social impact, and security of supply. Technology is expected to play an important role of up to 90per cent to reach

the goal of neutrality by 2050, but this requires it to mature more, especially with regard to long-term energy storage methods and technologies, and building new infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging networks.

Dr Firas further described the local steps in the transformation process as ‘good’ and that Oman has potential to be driven by hydrogen energy on time and as planned in Oman Vision 2040.

On applying the ESG criterion to measure the sustainability

impact of investment in companies, Abdulrahman al Yahyai, CEO of the Oman Society for Petroleum Services (OPAL), said, “Environmental, social and corporate governance practices have become essential to attracting and diversifying investments, as the interest of investors around the world has gone beyond economic returns and goes to evaluating initiatives.”

The country is doing in reducing carbon emissions, liability and labour issues. In the Sultanate of Oman and the energy sector in particular, operators adhere to these practices, as well as foreign and major companies. In order to keep pace with the shift towards renewable energy and empower workers, OPAL works in cooperation with many international agencies to train and qualify youth and workers in the renewable energy sector. Supplying future energy projects with qualified national competencies.

“There is no doubt that environment, social and governance (ESG) will increasingly be included in almost all business conversations in the Sultanate of Oman with the passage of time, and that these indicators will turn from things that are desirable to achieve to the needs to be achieved,” said Alina Dique, one of the organisers of the forum.

At the forum, five graduates of Sultan Qaboos University were presented with CCED Oman Student Awards for the Advancement of Post-Graduate Education 2022.

The winners this year in the PhD category included Dr Abdullah al Shraiqi and Dr Huda al Battashi. While the three winners in the Masters category included Abdulmajeed al Wahaibi, MA Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering; Khadeeja al Aamri, MA Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering; and Halima al Hinai, MA Environment Engineering.

A good Samaritan bids adieu to Oman

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A man who has been a source of succour for South Asian expats and a man who was seen in the forefront of repatriating the mortal remains, is bidding adieu to Oman after more than four decades following his retirement from a private company.

PM Jabir needs no introduction among the expats, especially among the Indian diaspora for there would be hardly anyone who has not contacted this man either for himself or for someone else in the Sultanate of Oman.

“It has been an eventful journey,” says Jabir. “Finding time for social service after long hours of work has been strenuous but turning back, I’m contended that I could reach out to thousands of people who had some problems that needed the attention of either the local authorities or of the concerned authorities back home,” said Jabir, who served Salam Insurance for over a decade.

His mobile number has been widely known to majority blue-collar workers for many of the



“Serving the society has always been in my blood and I’ll continue doing so till my last breath

PM JABIR
Social worker

cooperation with Oman authorities, extended help and support in the form of food and medicines and repatriation to hundreds of people irrespective of their nationalities or any other differences,” an official from Indian embassy told the Observer.

It was the request from the Indian Embassy in the 1980s that prompted Jabir to take up social service big time

He is the founding member of the Kerala Wing, an association formed under the Indian Social Club that stood for a social cause. The Kairali Arts Club, formed in 1988 has been instrumental in rendering help and support during the natural calamities that

faced the Sultanate from time to time.

His journey was recently documented in a book ‘Experiences Sans Preface’ by Haroon Rasheed.

Currently serving the Indian Social Club as the ‘Chairman-Welfare’, Jabir is the Member of Expatriate Development Fund, Member of Planning Board and Norka Roots World Pravasi Chair in the Indian state of Kerala.

His wife Shahanas and children Wailana and Juliana are, according to him, the strong pillars that supported him in 41-year-old social service.

“Serving the society has always been in my blood and I’ll continue doing so till my last breath.”

He feels that his destiny would have been different had not it been to the kindness and unconditional support extended by the Omani authorities.

“I am grateful to the authorities like the ROP, the Majlis Ash’shura members and Ministry of Health,” Jabir concluded, holding back tears for the country that has been his home for more than four decades.

RO 250,000 mobile mammography unit for N and S Al Batinah

SUHAR: Jusoor Foundation celebrated the delivery of the Mobile Mammography Unit project for breast cancer screening in North and South Al Batinah, under the auspices of Mohammed bin Sulaiman bin Hamoud al Kindi, Governor of North Al Batinah and Jusoor Chairman.

Dr Khalid bin Said al Saadi, Director-General of Health Services in North Al Batinah, said that the project is of great importance in providing a free of charge early screening service for breast cancer in the governorates of North and South Al Batinah. It uses the latest technologies in screening including the mammogram, which detects if there is breast cancer before its signs and symptoms appear. Indeed, the mobile unit will increase the chances of women to attend in their wilayats and benefit from one of the services provided by the medical staff specialised in this area.

Jaber bin Sulaiman al Busaidy,

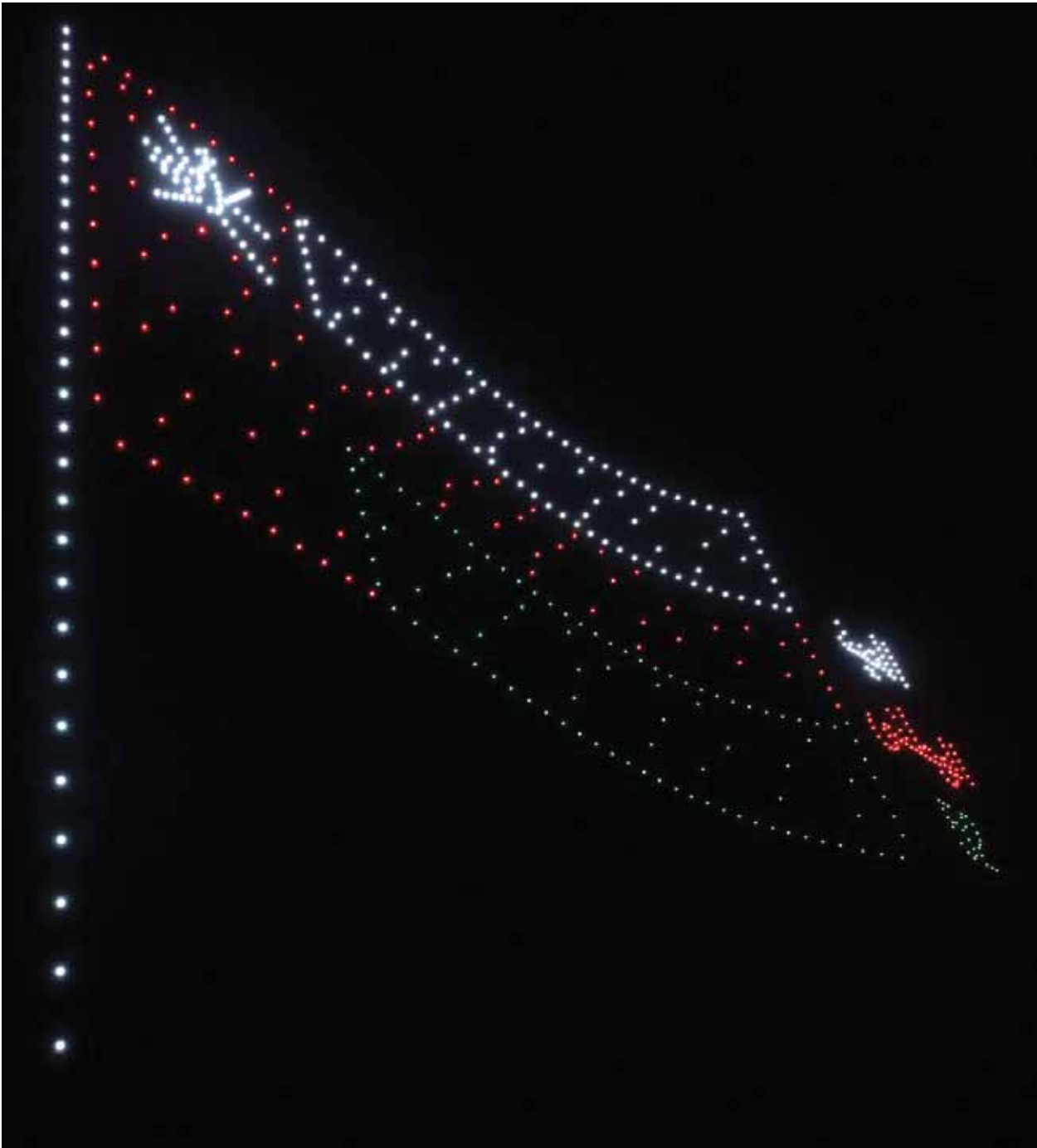


Executive Manager of Jusoor Foundation, said the unit project is funded by OQ, Sohar Aluminium and Vale Oman with an investment of RO 250,000. Al Busaidy added that the project will be managed by the Omani Cancer Association (OCA).

Dr Wahid bin Ali al Kharousi, President of OCA said it will help in early detection of breast cancer by conducting periodic examinations for women in North and South Al Batinah, and spreading awareness in the community about breast cancer.



■ DRONE SHOW IN KHASAB



KHASAB: Drone and laser shows were held in the Wilayat of Khasab in Musandam Governorate on Monday to mark the 52nd Glorious National Day.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

MUSCAT: Embassies of Oman abroad and institutions in Oman celebrated 52nd National Day with various events.

Dr Saleh bin Amir al Kharousi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the State of Kuwait, hosted a reception in Kuwait City on the occasion of the 52nd glorious National Day.

The Kuwaiti government was represented during the reception by Shaikh Salim Abdullah Al Jaber al Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The reception was attended by a number of shaikhs, ministers and officials at the Kuwaiti government, senior figures, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the international and regional organisations accredited to Kuwait and Omani students in Kuwait.

Sayyid Turki bin Mahmoud al Busaidy, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Syrian Arab Republic hosted a reception in Damascus on the occasion of the 52nd National Day.

The reception was attended by Mansour Azzam, Minister of Presidential Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, Dr Bassam Ibrahim, Minister of Higher Education, and a number of Syrian officials and academics.

The Sultanate of Oman's Embassy in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia hosted a reception on the occasion of the 52nd glorious National Day.

The guest of honour during the reception was Ambassador Kenneth Felix, Secretary of the Middle East, Europe and Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Talal bin Sulaiman al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Federative Republic of Brazil delivered a speech during which he highlighted Oman Vision 2040, the Sultanate of Oman's efforts to diversify sources of income and the investment climate in Oman.

He also lauded the Omani-Brazilian relations, pointing out that the volume of trade exchange between the two countries at the end of 2021 stood at more than \$2.4 billion.

Ahmed bin Said al Kithiri, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent hosted a reception on the occasion of the 52nd glorious National Day.

The reception was attended by Aziz Abdul Hakimov, Deputy Prime Minister of

Uzbekistan, members of the diplomatic corps, civil and military officials, as well as some Uzbek citizens.

Indian School Sur celebrated the 52nd National Day of Oman with great enthusiasm. Mohamed bin Ali bin Musallam al Alawi, Section Head, Department of Lands, MoE Sur, was the chief guest of the day. School Principal Dr Sreenivasan presided over the function in the presence of the School Management Committee Convenor, Jami Srinivas Rao and Member Pradeep Kumar.

The programme began with a brief narration of the history of modern Oman. It was a memorable moment for students at Indian School Sur to reminisce about the New Renaissance and its illustrious rule under His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, who underlined his ongoing efforts to elevate Oman's contemporary cultural and economic position.

The 52nd National Day of the Sultanate of Oman was celebrated in an impressive manner on Monday at Indian School Muladha, where Dr Ahmed bin Ali bin Ahmed al Shahri, Dean, University of Technology Applied Sciences, Al Musannah, was the Chief Guest.

Dr Nihad bint Abdallah bin Mohammed al Zadjalayah, (Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs), and Dr Malik bin Hamed bin Saif al Zakwani (Assistant Dean for Administrative and Financial Affairs) also graced the occasion. The entire campus had a vibrant and colourful hue with Omani flags.

The programme commenced with a thought-provoking and inspiring speech in Arabic by Hiba bint Jaafar bin Sulaiman al Ajmiyah, an Omani employee of the school. This was followed by an array of colourful programmes like songs and dances presented by ISML students. A set of presentations like a prayer song, an ethnic show of traditional attire of the Sultanate of Oman and an Omani dance by the students from the kindergarten section of Al Madrassa al Dhar al Khassa, a neighbouring Omani school, grabbed the attention of the audience.

A Anil Kumar, the Convenor of SMC, felicitated the chief guest. There was a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate National Day. The celebration ended with a procession wherein students moved in files through the pathways of the school holding Omani flags before finally assembling on the ground to form the number 52 on the school ground.





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In brief

■ ATHENS



BOAT WITH HUNDREDS OF MIGRANTS SAFELY TOWED TO PORT

Greece rescued hundreds of migrants on Tuesday after the fishing boat they were travelling on issued a distress signal off the island of Crete, the coast guard said.

A spokesperson for the coast guard cited survivors as saying about 400 to 500 people were on board. Two cargo ships, one navy frigate and one tanker assisted in the rescue, which was hindered by near gale force winds in the area.

The migrants were taken to the southern seaside town of Paleochora. The spokesperson could not immediately confirm their nationalities nor the exact number of people on board.

■ SAN FRANCISCO



TWITTER AGAIN DELAYS LAUNCH OF PAID VERIFICATION

Twitter boss Elon Musk has postponed the relaunch of paid verification on the platform, extending a suspension he previously said would end this month. Adding a verification option for subscribers of Twitter Blue, open to all users for eight dollars a month, has been a major focus for Musk since he bought the platform in late October.

“Holding off relaunch of Blue Verified until there is high confidence of stopping impersonation,” Musk tweeted on Monday.

“Will probably use different colour check for organisations than individuals.”

■ CAPE TOWN



SOUTH AFRICAN COURT ORDERS ZUMA BACK TO JAIL

South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal ruled that the decision to release ex-president Jacob Zuma on early medical parole was “unlawful” and he should return to prison to finish his sentence for contempt of court.

Zuma was sentenced last year to 15 months imprisonment after ignoring a court order to testify at a government inquiry into widespread corruption during his nine years as president, which ended in 2018 when Cyril Ramaphosa replaced him on an anti-graft ticket.

Zuma handed himself over to authorities in July last year and was released on medical parole two months later.

Indonesia quake kills at least 268, many of them children at school

CIANJUR: An earthquake that struck Indonesia's West Java killed at least 268 people, many of them children, with 151 still missing, disaster relief officials said on Tuesday, as rescuers searched the rubble of destroyed buildings for survivors.

The shallow 5.6-magnitude quake struck in Indonesia's most populous province on Monday afternoon, causing significant damage to the town of Cianjur, about 75 km southeast of the capital, Jakarta, and burying at least one village under a landslide.

Disaster agency chief Suharyanto told reporters that more than 1,000 people had been injured, 58,000 displaced and 22,000 houses damaged.

Landslides and rough terrain hampered rescue efforts on Tuesday, said Henri Alfandi, head of National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas).

“The challenge is the affected area is spread out... On top of that, the roads in these villages are damaged,” Alfandi told reporters.

Many of the victims were children who had been at school at the time the quake hit, he said.

While strong earthquakes of magnitude 6 or 7 are relatively common in Indonesia, often off-shore where fault lines run, Monday's quake of a lower magnitude had such deadly consequences because it struck on land at a relatively shallow depth.

Officials said many of the dead were killed when poorly constructed buildings collapsed, with the president calling for reconstruction efforts to include earthquake-proof housing.

President Joko Widodo travelled to Cianjur on Tuesday to encourage rescuers.

“My instruction is to prioritise



Locals take shelter in a makeshift tent following earthquake in Cianjur. – AFP

evacuating victims that are still trapped under rubble,” he said.

Survivors had gathered overnight in a Cianjur hospital parking lot. Some of the injured were treated in tents, others were hooked up to intravenous drips on the pavement as medical workers stitched up patients under torch light.

“Everything collapsed beneath me and I was crushed beneath this child,” Cucu, a 48-year-old resident, said.

“Two of my kids survived, I dug them up... Two others I brought here, and one is still missing,” she said through tears.

“Many bodies are lying in the hospital grounds, it's very crowded,” said her relative, Hesti. In one area, some victims held

cardboard signs asking for food and shelter, with emergency supplies seemingly yet to reach them.

SWEPT AWAY

Disaster officials said they would focus their efforts on one of the worst hit areas of Cugenang, an area that was struck by a landslide triggered by the quake.

Television news channels showed footage of people digging brown earth by hand using hoes, sticks, crowbars and other tools.

“At least six of my relatives are still unaccounted for, three adults and three children,” said Zainuddin, a resident of Cugenang, told reporters.

“If it was just an earthquake, only the houses would collapse,

but this is worse because of the landslide. In this residential area there were eight houses, all of the which were buried and swept away.”

National police chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo said more than 1,000 police had been deployed to assist in the recovery.

Rescue efforts were complicated by electricity outages in some areas and 145 aftershocks, with officials warning more landslides could follow in coming weeks.

“It's the rainy season in West Java, the peak is in December,” Dwikorita Karnawati, head of the weather and geophysics agency, told reporters. “So we must anticipate any disaster that might follow, such as landslides.”

— Reuters

Ukrainians face blackouts, bleak winter weather

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky appealed to Ukrainians to conserve energy amid relentless Russian strikes that have halved the country's power capacity, as the United Nations health body warned of a humanitarian disaster in Ukraine this winter.

Authorities said millions of Ukrainians, including in the capital Kyiv, could face power cuts at least until the end of March due to the missile attacks, which Ukraine's national grid operator Ukrenerg said had wreaked “colossal” damage.

Temperatures have been unseasonably mild in Ukraine this autumn, but are starting to dip below zero and are expected to drop to -20 Celsius (-4 Fahrenheit) or even lower in some areas during the winter months.

Russia's targeting of Ukrainian energy facilities follows a series of battlefield setbacks that have included a pull-out of Russian forces from the southern city of Kherson to the east bank



A resident of Horenka shovels snow near her apartment building which has no electricity, heating or running water after being heavily damaged in the early days of the Russian attacks. – Reuters

of the mighty Dnipro River that bisects the country.

“The systematic damage to our energy system from strikes by the Russian terrorists is so considerable that all our people and businesses should be mindful and redistribute their consumption throughout the day,” Zelensky said in his nightly video address.

Ukrenerg's chief Volodymyr Kudrytskyi said on Tuesday that

practically no thermal or hydroelectric stations had been left unscathed, though he dismissed the need to evacuate civilians.

“We cannot generate as much energy as consumers can use,” Kudrytskyi told a briefing, adding that after a brief cold snap on Wednesday temperatures were expected to rise again, providing an opportunity to stabilise the power generating system.

— Reuters



Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un. – AFP

Kim's sister slams UN for 'double standards'

SEOUL: The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un slammed the UN Security Council for double standards after it convened a meeting over Pyongyang's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile, state media said on Tuesday.

The North fired an ICBM on Friday in one of its most powerful tests yet, prompting the Security Council to convene an open meeting on Monday in New York.

Kim Jong Un's sister, Yo Jong, accused the UNSC of turning “blind eyes to the very dangerous military drills” of Seoul and Washington and “their greedy arms buildup”.

“This is evidently the application of double-standards,” she said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). A divided Security Council slammed Friday's launch but stopped short of issuing a formal statement because of opposition from China and Russia.

The United States, Britain, France, India and Australia were among the 14 Security Council members to strongly condemn the launch of the ICBM, which landed about 200 kilometres from Japan's coastline.

The 14 signatories said in a joint statement the latest launch was a serious escalation “and poses an unequivocal threat to international peace and security”.

— AFP



Auction Announcement

Oman Mining Company - intends to dispose materials on an 'as is and where is' basis, through sealed bids.

Terms and conditions:

- The bidder must have a company have with legal status in the Sultanate of Oman
- Bidders should submit along with their bids the following documents:
 - Commercial registration with the wholesale activity of waste, scrap and materials for recycling
- Prior to the site-visit, viewers are requested to send their full names, contact number, and company names by email to: omco.auction@omanmining.om and they will be contacted by the company's specialists
- Offers must be titled “Oman Mining Auction” and submitted via e-mail to omco.auction@omanmining.om
- Interested bidders should submit a bank guarantee of 5% for the total bid amount upon submitting bids. Bids received without a bank guarantee will not be considered. This guarantee will be recovered in case bidder fails to win the auction, within 10 days.
- The auction winner shall settle the full amount of material purchased by depositing the amount in Oman Mining Company account within 10 days from the date of notification
- Successful bidders should also bare 5% VAT which is paid to the competent authorities
- Materials should be removed within 14 days from the date of confirmation of the successful bid
- The Auction Winner would be required to remove/lift the materials within 14 days from the date of confirmation of the successful bid and will be required to clear the site at their own cost
- The materials will be permitted to be removed only after the full and final payment is made by the auction winner
- Closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 PM on 11 December 2022
- For any clarification concerning the auction, bidders may contact contract & procurement team (for clarifications) / contact no: 22504333, email: omco.auction@omanmining.om

Reading World Cup trivia and more

As the World Cup in Soccer is all set to be inaugurated in Doha, Qatar, there is an anticipation of a month-long festivity filled with action, excitement, disappointment and surprise.

The world cup was first played in 1930 in Uruguay, with 13 teams from Europe and the Americas. The final was played between Uruguay and Argentina and was won by the former. The first televised matches were broadcast in 1954 when the games were held in Switzerland.

Today, more than a billion people are said to watch the matches worldwide.

Such trivia is the stuff of soccer enthusiasts. But if this is not enough information, there is a whole industry of publishing that is dedicated to the complex world of football that one can delve into.

Books on soccer focus on a variety of areas like celebrity players, changes in strategy over the years and even the use of big data. In short, there is something for every kind of soccer nerd.

Giving more detailed trivia like why there were no red cards in the 1978 games in Argentina, is Richard Forster's 'World Cup Nuggets'. The book is updated to cover the present season as well.

Big data analysis and the rise of Artificial Intelligence has ensured that every minute move of a player or a team is analysed by them, or the opposition, making the game more a science than an art. This has changed the game "from beauty to duty," according to Uruguayan writer, Eduardo Galeano in his book 'Football: In Sun and Shadow'.

Jonathan Wilson's "Inverting



Sandhya Rao Mehta

The writer is Associate Professor, Dept of English Language and Literature Sultan Qaboos University

the Pyramid' is a quick guide to soccer history, marking its evolution through to the tactical changes which have been implemented over the years.

'Net Gains' by Rory Smith addresses the phenomenon of big data and how it has been used by soccer strategists to bring some order to an unpredictable game.

Ibrahim Mustapha's 'No Longer Naïve: African's football's growing impact in the world cup' is a fascinating look at the way in which the game came centre stage in Africa in 2010, but the book also asks whether any African nation could take the coveted cup soon.

LAST TIME

This world cup is being touted as possibly the last time when legends Messi and Ronaldo will share space, perhaps facing each other. For a celebrity studded work on these two soccer legends, Joshua Robinson and Jonathan Clegg's 'Messi vs Ronaldo: One rivalry two GOATS' is a must read. The book explores the cultural contexts which gave rise to these two phenomenal powers of their generation.

For more contemporary and latest work on the World Cup, there is Shane Stay's 'The World Cup 2022 book: Everything you need to know about the Soccer World Cup'. This has details on all the teams, their legacy, strategies and possible tactics.

Soccer is often dubbed as the 'beautiful game'. Just in case there is a lull between matches, there is enough to stay occupied in the form of a variety of readings to keep the soccer season exciting.

BOOKS ON SOCCER
FOCUS ON A VARIETY OF
AREAS LIKE CELEBRITY
PLAYERS, CHANGES
IN STRATEGY OVER
THE YEARS AND EVEN
THE USE OF BIG DATA.
IN SHORT, THERE IS
SOMETHING FOR EVERY
KIND OF SOCCER NERD

NUMBER 7 COMPANY



Members of the Number 7 Company of the Coldstream Guards stand during a parade for the South African President's State Visit to the UK at Horse Guards Parade in London. -- Reuters

A fund for the vulnerable

It's excitement everywhere as the world's biggest sporting event kicked off in Qatar at a stunning opening ceremony.

In the thrilling 29-day festival, football magicians will mesmerise the fans with the ball in the final at Lusail Stadium on December 18.

While many have stakes in their team winning, there's a lot of hype on Brazil and England this year. The latter has already started off their campaign with a dominant victory of 6-2 against Iran. No matter who wins, the quadrennial football competition is always a thrill to follow!

Alongside the enthusiasm on Qatar sporting grounds, what is described as "an important step towards justice" has emerged from Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh where countries at the latest UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) reached a historic agreement on establishing a funding mechanism to compensate vulnerable nations for 'loss and damage' from climate-induced disasters.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the UN climate talks had "taken an important step towards justice" with the loss and damage fund. Still, he said, "clearly this will



Samuel Kutty
@samkuttyp

The writer is a senior journalist, author and columnist

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not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust".

With around 1.2C of warming so far, the world has seen a cascade of climate-driven extremes, shining a spotlight on the plight of developing countries faced with escalating disasters, as well as an energy and food price crisis and ballooning debt.

Dubbed as a significant achievement, Molwyn Joseph, chair of the Alliance of Small Island States, said, "The agreements made at COP27 are a win for our entire world. We have shown those who have felt neglected that we hear you, we see you, and we are giving you the respect and care you deserve."

Now, what's this loss and damage fund?

We all know that the natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt to climate change such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidification, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinisation, land and forest degradation, loss of biodiversity, desertification.

At COP 19, the Warsaw

International Mechanism for Loss and Damage was established. Since then, it has been serving as the main catalyser under the UNFCCC process. The fund will focus on what can be done to support the loss and damaged resources.

Now for the first time countries and groups, including longtime holdouts like the United States and the EU, have agreed to establish a fund for nations



A security personnel stands guard next to the COP27 sign during the closing plenary at the climate summit in Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on Sunday. -- Reuters

vulnerable to climate disasters. However, there is no clarity on when the fund will be finalised and become operational, and how exactly it would be funded.

The creation of the fund was also one of the key demands of activists attending the summit.

At the same time, many countries decried COP27's failure to push mitigation further and said some countries were trying to roll back commitments made

in the Glasgow Climate Pact for limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Reuters quoted Germany's climate secretary Jennifer Morgan having said, "we went with what the agreement was here because we want to stand with the most vulnerable."

The European Union's Climate Chief Frans Timmermans said the EU was "disappointed" with the final outcome of the summit as "what we have in front of us is not enough of a step forward for people and planet ... we should have done much more".

A number of nations, including China and Saudi Arabia, blocked a key proposal to phase out all fossil fuels, not just coal. The COP27 text largely repeats the same wording on fossil fuel asking countries to accelerate "efforts towards the phase-down of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies."

Another section of the COP27 deal dropped the idea of annual target renewal in favour of returning to a longer five-year cycle set out in the Paris pact!



What we can learn from the Dutch

Buthaina Al Riyami

Learning about other cultures allows individuals to not only appreciate their own, but also be proud of the differences that make our communities unique.

As part of its culture week, the

English and Translation Society (ETS) of Sultan Qaboos University is putting the spotlight on Dutch Culture recognising that the society's unique contribution to the world is not only the beauty of its tourist destinations, but also the practices of their people.

Formally inaugurated on November 21 and running until November 24, the

three-day event features an exhibition, a companion event, and a tutoring workshop that target school students from all grades, college students, and all people who are interested in Dutch culture.

Cultural Week is one of the main activities annually held by ETS during the fall of each academic year. Through the years, this activity presented many countries and cultures such as Japan, Spain, Syria, India, Tanzania, China, Italy, Brazil, Korea, Mexico, Brunei Darussalam, Oman and Kenya.

For this year, the society aims to provide information about the Dutch social and cultural aspects and features, under the auspices of Dr Badria al Shehi, Deputy Chair of the State Council.

The exhibit includes fourteen different corners where the society members provide information on the Netherlands, its language, history, geography, sport, literature, architecture, religion, and the relationship and ties with Oman. There are also interactive corners where some entertainment and tutoring activities are provided beside the live cooking corner.

Students from different colleges at Sultan Qaboos University collaborated for the success of The Cultural Week. They agreed that the preparation for this event enriched both their skills and knowledge; it developed many of their



skills besides the knowledge they acquired about other cultures. The preparation for this week refined their cooperation, communication, craft and many other skills.

Khalifa al Jabri, a mechanical engineering student and the head of the ETS society, shared, "We are excited to organise this Cultural Week. While there were lots of challenges, we are happy that we were able to provide a dynamic exhibition covering different aspects of Dutch society."

He added, "This is a great comeback for society and the university in general

after two years of life disruption caused by the pandemic. It is our hope that we will be able to do more activities that allow for the exchange of knowledge and ideas."

Khalifa said that handling such an event allows them to refine their management, patience, communication and problem-solving skills. The preparation for the event provided them with new tasks and challenges to deal with.

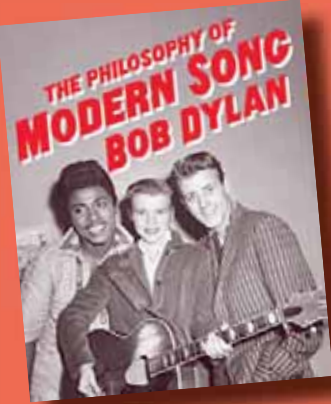
Khalifa expressed his profound thanks to his peers who cooperated and supported them in the event's success.

READ

THE PHILOSOPHY OF MODERN SONG

BY BOB DYLAN

In a collection of more than 60 essays, the musician and winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature explores the nature of popular music.



CULTURE

A person looks at one of the displays during the grand opening of the new Museum of Broadway in Times Square, New York City. The first ever permanent Museum dedicated to the history of Broadway musicals, plays and theatres, officially opened to the public on Tuesday. — AFP

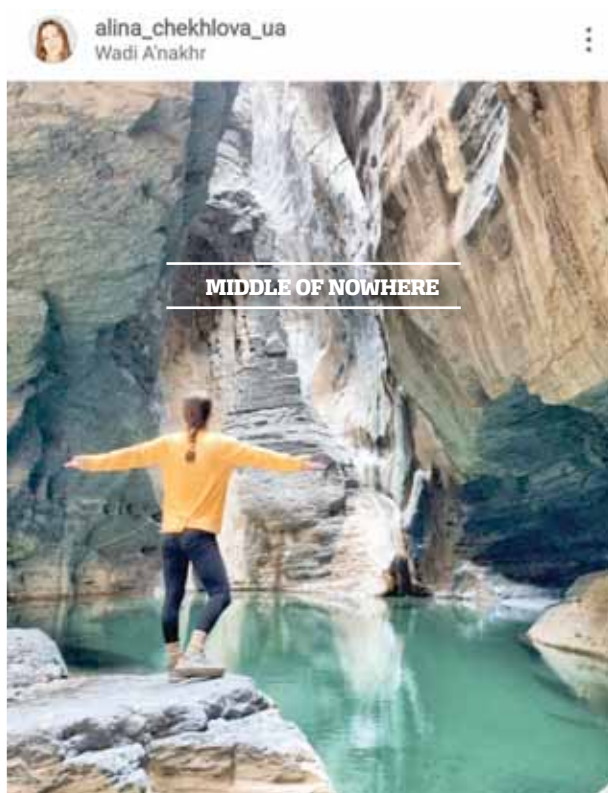


FASHION

US media personality Kylie Jenner (C) arrives to the opening of the Thierry Mugler: Couturissime exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. — AFP



INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



AROUND THE WORLD

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Can't Sleep?
Try Sticking
Your Head in
the Freezer.



A GOOD NIGHT'S sleep can make us more empathetic, more creative, better parents and better partners, according to Aric Prather, a psychologist at the University of California, San Francisco, who treats insomnia and is the author of the new book "The Sleep Prescription." Sleep can help us manage stress; it can make us competent and capable and better able to take on the day. But Prather says we too often view sleep as an afterthought — until we find ourselves frozen in the middle of the night, our thoughts racing, fumbling for rest or relief.

Here are some of his science-backed tips for sounder sleep.

DURING THE DAY

Carve out time for "scheduled worry."

"No one ever says, 'I was awake in the middle of the night, and I was only thinking of good things,'" Prather said. Throughout the day, we might be too busy to linger on our thoughts, but at night, when we try to let our brains pause without distractions, "our thoughts can get very, very loud," Prather wrote.

To beat back nighttime rumination and anxiety, Prather recommended in an interview devoting part of your day to worry. Block out 10 to 20 minutes to write down what you're anxious about, or just think about it, without searching for a solution. If you do that consistently, he said, your worries won't seep into the night — and if they do, you can remind yourself that you have a dedicated time to address them the next day.

Instead of reaching for caffeine, plunge your head in the freezer.

If you regularly reach for coffee to get you through an afternoon slump, you'll still have caffeine in your system by bedtime, said Prather.

Instead, he recommends getting an energy boost elsewhere. You can go for a brisk walk in the afternoon, or spend five to 10 minutes taking a break from work and engaging your brain in a simple task — pull weeds in the garden, reorganise a bookshelf, turn on some music and really focus on a song. Focusing on a non-work task can energise our brains, Prather said, jolting us out of our routine. Or, for a more extreme option, stick your head in the freezer. That brief shock of cold activates your arousal system, Prather said, like jumper cables on a car battery to wake you up — no coffee run needed.

IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING TO STAY ASLEEP IN THE NIGHT

If you can't sleep, move.

As people age, especially in their 50s, 60s and 70s, sleep can become more fragmented, Prather said. People may need to urinate in the night more frequently, or pain might keep them awake. But it's essential that older adults get sufficient rest — a recent study found that adults older than 50 who slept for five hours or less each night had a greater risk of developing chronic diseases than those who slept for at least seven hours.

In general, if you are struggling to fall or stay asleep you should get out of bed, Prather said. Give yourself 20 minutes or so to try to sleep, but if you're still wired, head to the couch or living room and do something quiet, Prather advised, like knitting or meditating. You only want to associate the position you sleep in with actually falling asleep; if your body gets used to staying awake, and struggling to sleep, in that position, you'll have a harder time conditioning yourself to sleep through the night. — NYT

FASHION

S Africa's Precious Moloi-Motsepe, champion of African fashion



SOUTH AFRICAN Precious Moloi-Motsepe, one of the richest women in Africa, is a staunch promoter of fashion designers from the young, vibrant and culturally diverse continent.

Style has coursed through her veins since she was a young girl growing up in Soweto township, and for her the time is ripe for "African designers to shine" on the international platform.

A decade-and-a-half ago, she founded the Johannesburg and Cape Town fashion weeks that bring together designers from across the continent with the aim of setting them up for the global stage.

Her goal is now starting to bear fruit, she said with a confident smile, at a brand new luxury boutique in an affluent district of Johannesburg, South Africa's economic capital.

"Now more than ever, African designers are getting recognition here at home," said the 58-year-old, elegantly wearing her make-up and a flowing black trousers with a silk blouse.

"At big events on the continent, musical awards, football events, you will find celebrities wearing local designers," said the wife of Confederation of African Football president Patrice Motsepe. "They definitely have become household names".

With her husband, Africa's the 9th richest man according to Forbes, they are South Africa's most prominent "power couple".

Elsewhere, "celebrities, Michelle Obama or Beyonce... now wear African brands," she said, adding that the Wakanda phenomenon, linked to the Black Panther movie has "spread our culture, our heritage, to the world. That has an impact on driving fashion as well".

Moloi-Motsepe grew up in Soweto, a poor township that

was a hotbed of resistance to apartheid regime. It was there where she acquired a sense of style.

"My grandmother made her own clothes... and she wore that so elegantly," she said. Soweto "people loved to dress up", albeit closely shaped by and following American trends and brands.

Later on she had an opportunity to travel and attended a Paris fashion show by the talented designer John Galiano.

It was a shocking eye-opener, realising that designers "get their inspiration from history, heritage, culture, which I thought Africa had plenty of". Africa seemed to be a source of inspiration for Western designers, "but I didn't see many African designers on runways," she said.

CHANGED MINDSET

That was the trigger to create a space to "propel the best of African creators to global acclaim" a project that the medical doctor-turned philanthropist and creative art financier, set about with vigour.

"First I had to make sure that they were well-recognised here at home, that we changed mindsets, make people appreciate and value African fashion designers," not just as tailors but as respected designers.

That was an ambitious challenge, not yet realised but well underway.

"African consumers are now recognising their own designers are as valuable any of the brands they buy globally," she said.

One of those showcasing at the fashion week in Johannesburg last week was Cameroonian fashion designer, Anna Ngann Yonn whose label

Kreyann is making a name for itself in Afrialsoca and beyond.

The fashion weeks she launched in South Africa, featuring super models such as South Sudanese Alek Wek and prestigious guests from New York, Milan and Paris, have enabled designers to "showcase their work, network with other designers, get attention from media".

The next leg of the mission is to take them to "international platforms" to ensure the presence of Africa in the global fashion dialogue. Africans in the diaspora are serving key role as ambassadors.

The entrepreneur remembers taking some African designers to exhibit in Paris on the sidelines of fashion shows a few years back.

Some the feedback, was "positive, some not so positive," she said, laughing softly. But "we took that as step in the right direction".

"What was important for the young designers and what we thought were established designers back then, and still now, is the voice," said Moloi-Motsepe.

Africans remain under-represented among the major global brands. And in many parts of Africa, sporting foreign brands is still a symbol of social success, she agreed.

"We have a lot of work to do," she said, but the African fashion advocate is not discouraged. — AFP

A LOOK INTO THE ACADEME



Dr Zainab al Ajmi
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The Valuable of Body Language for Competent Teachers

RESEARCH INDICATES that research on body language has been started obviously since the 1970s. Talk in terms of body language means "Another name for loosely speaking of non-verbal communication in general" (Colman, 2006).

Non-verbal skills such as paralinguistics, Proxemics (personal space), eye gaze, facial expressions, and tone of voice are invaluable for teachers in getting their ideas and knowledge across to students as well as understanding the attitudes of students in classrooms. Additionally, body language is effectively establishing a positive relationship between students and teachers in the classes that they teach. While this type of communication can indicate feelings, intentions, and Inclinations, research results suggest that body language is far more subtle, and teachers' personalities depend on body language driven.

Referring to the views of (Neille& Caswell, 1993) "accentuating the principle that teachers use body language strategies as part of their instructional methods. It should define and develop non-verbal strategies on an accumulating basis. To achieve this, two exercises follow two distinct formats: pictorial and descriptive. Each requires a different response from teachers. Firstly, there are 'Pictorial Exercises': "What are these images saying?" Or "what do you think the image is saying".

Here teachers use drawings to illustrate non-verbal signals or patterns of behaviour.

Indeed, the ambiguity of body language allows messages to be con-

veyed without either sender or receiver having to acknowledge them explicitly. This is most obvious when pupils want to be disruptive without overtly challenging, but non-verbal signals can also have a positive value. It conveys enthusiasm or praise non-verbally to pupils, who might reject it. The real value of these pictorial exercises lies in the process of attempting to define the meaning behind them and, by doing so, becoming more familiar with the potential of such signals. Secondly, "Descriptive Exercises": "What are these situations saying?" Here teachers explore non-verbal features in actual classroom situations where even a series of drawn images would be unable to convey the full nature of the situation.

Within these situations, students are asked to consider what their non-verbal dimensions may be; what they can recognise, and what is probably being conveyed. These descriptive exercises may be particularly useful when used as part of group or pair situations, where teachers and students will be able to share ideas and may be more inclined to role-play or mimic particular stances or gestures".

To summarise, the importance of body language in teaching is that most teachers' communication is nonverbal, between head nods, smiles, head tilts, and raised hands. Teachers and students receive and convey messages of non-verbal cues to one another daily. Teachers can be understanding students' needs and gain the power to send non-verbal that reinforce learning since that body language is even more influential.

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OPAZ awards road dualisation project

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 22

Complementing the implementation of the strategic road network within the comprehensive plan of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (SEZAD), the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (OPAZ) has awarded the construction of the dual carriageway of the main road from Duqm Airport roundabout to Ras Markaz, at a total length of 51 km.

Eng Ahmed bin Ali Akaak, Chief Executive Officer in charge of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm, explained that the project to develop the dual carriageway of the main road from Duqm Airport to Ras Markaz is one of

the important projects proposed within the main road network in SEZAD, as this road connects the southern part of the zone, which includes Ras Markaz reservoirs project, one of the most vital projects in the Zone, and Dhahr

village with Duqm Airport roundabout. The road will connect those coming from the south to the central area of SEZAD and it will serve the growing movement of people and cargo between

strategic projects in the zone. Eng Ahmed bin Ali Akaak added that the total lengths of the roads are 51 km, including 45 km long dual carriageways and 6 km single carriageway. The scope of work of the road

project includes the development of road junction to Ras Markaz as the starting point of the project, as the road consists of four traffic lanes, two lanes in each direction. The two directions are separated by hardscaped centre median with shoulders on both sides for each direction, in addition to eight roundabouts. The project also comprises the installation of smart lighting (LED) poles and road signs. The road was designed with high specifications to avoid the accumulation of surface water and flooding, through the construction of concrete bridges for wadies. In addition, 10 per cent of the total value of the road construction works will be allocated to small and medium enterprises.

Oman Flour Mills subsidiary leads stake acquisition in Modern Dairy

MUSCAT: Oman Flour Mills (OFM), one of the biggest food producers in the Sultanate of Oman, has announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, Atyab Investment, has signed an agreement to acquire a stake in Modern Dairy Factory, which operates under the brand name Al Khamayel. OFM said in a filing to the Capital Market Authority (CMA) that Atyab Investment along with the Pension Fund of the Ministry of Defence and Seven Seas LLC have together acquired 80 per cent of Modern Dairy's shareholder. It includes a 40-per cent share for Atyab Investment.

Al Wash-hi Majaza copper-gold project to begin commissioning in Q2 2023

JOMAR MENDOZA
@JmObserver

Alara Resources Limited, an Australian-based precious and base metals explorer and developer, has announced that a range of construction building activities have substantially progressed at its Al Wash-hi Majaza Copper-Gold Project in Oman over recent weeks. Alara, which owns 51 per cent equity interest in the Al Hadeetha Resources joint venture, said the Al Wash-hi Majaza Project, located in Al Mudhaibi in North Al Sharqiyah Governorate, remains on track for completion in the June 2023 quarter.

Key activities underway include electrical work currently being undertaken at the primary substation. The handover date for this integral part of the mine's infrastructure is on December 25, 2022. **TURN TO P12**

OIA wins mandate to host 2024 edition of global SWF forum in Oman

CONRAD PRABHU
MUSCAT, NOV 22

Oman Investment Authority (OIA), the integrated sovereign wealth fund of the Sultanate of Oman, has been accorded the honour of hosting the annual meeting of the prestigious International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSFW) in Muscat in 2024. Muscat-headquartered OIA won the mandate during the 14th annual meeting of the global forum that concluded in the Azerbaijani capital Baku last week. It comes in recognition of the Omani SWF's increasingly high-profile role as an investor in globally renowned equities, as well as a key driver of Oman's economic development. OIA's portfolio of investments, totalling around RO 16 billion, is distributed across 40 countries around the world, including Oman. Notable among its international investments in SpaceX, an American firm specialising in space exploration technology and operating aviation and space transportation industry. Other investment-related decisions include the establishment of a fund to invest in future technologies with the China Commercial International Bank, the establishment of the Muscat Stock Exchange in accordance with Royal Decree 5/2021, and an investment in Mycotechnology Company, a US company specialised in the

production of alternative food using the latest food technologies. More recently, OIA announced investments in a number of US-based companies specialising in cutting edge electric vehicle battery materials research and products. Notable names include Group14, a leading US company manufacturing trailblazing battery materials, Ascend Elements — another US-based engineered materials and lithium-ion battery recycling firm, and Crusoe Energy — a start-up specialising in Digital Flare Mitigation technology specifically targeting oil and gas operators. Established in 2009, the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSFW) is a global network of sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) that seeks to enhance collaboration and dialogue between members, to promote a deeper understanding of SWF activity and to raise the standard for SWF best practices and governance. The IFSWF annual meeting brings members and financial

leaders together to discuss the key global issues affecting investors. The most recent meeting was hosted by the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ). Annual meetings usually rotate between member countries, with COFIDES of Spain set to host the 2023 edition in Madrid, Spain. But in a significant development during last week's in Baku, IFSWF members voted to invite the Oman Investment Authority to host the 2024 annual meeting in Muscat. In attendance at the Baku session were top officials representing some of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, as well as high-level figures from key private-sector partners including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Focusing on the theme, 'Mobilising Capital for Change', the Baku session dealt with significant issues of the current investment landscape, including rising inflation, deglobalisation, environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues, and the digitisation of the investment process and financial landscape.

PACT TO ESTABLISH MEDICAL FACTORY IN KHAZAEN

MUSCAT: As part of its ambitious strategy to attract significant industrial investments, Khazaen Economic City announced it has signed a long-term agreement to establish a medical factory in Oman, the first of its kind in the region, which specialised in manufacturing dental implants. The project is expected to cost more than RO 3 million. The agreement was signed between Khazaen and Kunz. The agreement comes in line with Khazaen's strategy to attract foreign and regional investments and significant industries that comply with the priorities and prospects of the Sultanate of Oman and the GCC and international markets.

Korea-Oman forum to take place on margins of Green Hydrogen Summit

MUSCAT: Birba Energy, the organisers of next month's Green Hydrogen Summit Oman (GHSO) 2022 Conference & Exhibition, received in their offices in Ghala (Muscat) recently a delegation headed by His Excellency Kim Kiejoo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Sultanate of Oman.

At a meeting that following, Ambassador Kim shared details of the Korea-Oman Green Hydrogen Strategic Forum 2022 that will take place against the backdrop of GHSO 2022 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The latter event – a 3-day showcase of Oman's future green hydrogen industry – will run from December 5-7, 2022, while the Korea-Oman forum will take place as a half-day event at the same venue on December 5, 2022.

Welcoming the Korean Ambassador and his colleagues, Abdullah al Harthy, Chairman of Birba Energy, said: "We were honoured to receive HE Ambassador Kim and discuss with him a seamless and impactful



delivery of the Korea-Oman forum as one of the highlights of the main GHSO Summit. Korea is already one of Oman's biggest energy partners and is now exploring opportunities for cooperation with the Sultanate of Oman in the green hydrogen space as well." Ambassador Kim stated: "This forum will provide a great opportunity for Korea and Oman to share their respective priorities for developing their low-carbon economies. Both countries can capitalise on their competitive

advantages to support each other in a mutually beneficial way to achieve their respective national objectives. With many public and private sector stakeholders in attendance, this forum will also provide an opportunity for both sides to share perspectives, vision and best practices for green hydrogen projects in the MENA region, as well as in Korea and Oman."

Co-hosting the forum alongside the Embassy is the Hydrogen Convergence Alliance of Korea

(H2KOREA), a public-private consultative body established by the Korean government in 2017 to promote and develop the hydrogen economy.

In addition to H2KOREA, there will be presentations by high-level representatives from POSCO Holdings, Samsung Engineering and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Speaking on behalf of Oman will be key officials representing the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, OQ Alternative Energy, Hydrom and HY-FLY.

Meanwhile, an estimated 800 delegates are due to attend the main GHSO Summit organised by Birba Energy on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

The 3-day conference and exhibition opens on December 5, 2022 with an exclusive Executive Roundtable for a select gathering of energy ministers, heads of international energy think-tanks and CEOs of global energy companies. Entry to this event, which will be held at Kempinski Hotel Muscat, is by invitation-only.

National Finance joins 'Tamkeen' initiative



MUSCAT: In an effort to empower women in various fields, National Finance, the leading finance company in the Sultanate of Oman, signed a partnership agreement with Dar Al Atta'a Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources, to support 50 women with limited income by instilling skills for beekeeping and honey production. The signing ceremony was held under the auspices of Dr Saud bin Hamoud al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water resources. The agreement was signed by Tariq bin Sulaiman al Farsi, Chief Executive Officer of National Finance and Maryam bint Issa al Zadjalayah, Chairperson of Dar Al Atta. Falling under Dar Al Atta's 'Tamkeen' initiative, the women will acquire knowledge and practice beekeeping in order to generate sustainable income through this training and development programme. The women's beekeeping project will target women in different Governorates.

Dar Al Atta'a, the

programme's implementer, will manage the project, follow up with the participants and promote the venture. The beneficiaries will benefit from the trainers' knowledge and be provided with the necessary tools to initiate their own projects. Moreover, they will also enlist products under the brand name of Dar Al Atta "Min Beiti".

"We are grateful to National Finance for supporting this initiative and helping low-income women find an additional source of income. With the help of this, these women will be able to support their families' needs and enhance their lives. In turn, we will ensure the participants receive training in the essential skills to manage the project and supervise its implementation phases. Once they are able to develop their business, these women will receive further training over time to strengthen and expand their knowledge in this field," said Dar Al Atta'a Chairperson, Maryam al Zadjali. The project seeks to boost honey production and commercialise bee products.

Nesto Hypermarket dedicates special song on Oman's 52nd National Day

MUSCAT: Nesto Hypermarket has launched a special song as part of its celebrations of the 52nd National Day of Oman. The special song is a humble tribute and an expression of love and gratitude to the nation, its great leader His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, and the people of the country.

The song titled 'Ben Beladi' is composed and sung by Faisal al Hadhrami. Omar al Quraishi is the director of the album. The launch of the song was held on November 17 at Nesto Management office, Ghala.



"We decided to come up with the idea to dedicate a special song to the nation as we wanted to create something different to celebrate the 52nd

National Day. As Oman steps into its 53rd year, we have every reason to celebrate the peace and security that we have been experiencing all these years," Haris Palollathil, regional director – Nesto Hypermarket Oman. "We are indeed happy to have launched this song, which portrays His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik as a symbol of dignity. We dedicate this song to the entire nation. We look forward to reaching greater heights under the able guidance of His Majesty."

All Nesto branches donned a festive look to mark the special day in remarkable ways.

Ford unveils year-end excitement campaign across the range



MUSCAT: Own a Ford vehicle and avail exclusive year-end benefits that will last until December 31, 2022. On offer is service 3 years / 60,000 kms and 5 years / 100,000 kms and registration 1 year. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.)

In the Sultanate of Oman, Ford has an impressive range of vehicles. The all-new Ford Territory recently launched in Oman, was envisioned through Ford's new 'Progressive Energy in Strength' design philosophy, which is based on the rich heritage of the brand and its iconic aesthetics.

It embodies three fundamental design principles: commanding, agile, and responsive.

The all-new Ford Territory is equipped with an EcoBoost 1.8L engine, delivering 320Nm torque using moderate fuel and impressive power up to 190 hp (187 bhp).

The Ford Ranger Wildtrak is built for adventure. Its high-strength steel frame ladder chassis, its tough steel body and versatile cargo box make it an ideal companion for unplanned outings.

Just like the first-generation Bronco, the all-new 2-door Bronco WildTrak delivers maximum 4x4 go-anywhere, anytime capability and confidence.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co LLC.

Lahunna Oman partners with Visa and Bank Muscat to launch 'Rialy'

MUSCAT: With an increasing number of women in the workforce and in running their own small businesses, Lahunna Oman has joined hands with global digital payments leader, Visa, and Bank Muscat to launch 'Rialy'.

A series of knowledge-sharing sessions, coaching and online programmes will be delivered to 900 Omani girls and young women to build their confidence in making responsible financial decisions. Starting in November 2022, the initiative will shed light on the behaviour needed to lead financially sound lives – from planning, budgeting and saving, to spending and borrowing.

"Information is power and studies have consistently shown that financial education should be a continuous process from a young age, to unlock the full potential of the youth, so they can contribute to our community's development and our country's economic growth," said Shatha al Maskiry, Founder of Lahunna Oman.

"Rialy is one of many initiatives that serves our vision to cultivate the right mindset for our dynamic



and promising youth and instil financial confidence so they can have a positive impact on our society as a whole. We are confident that our partnership with Visa and Bank Muscat will support us in nurturing confident, driven, and successful women with stronger decision-making capabilities."

Supported by Visa, Lahunna Oman and Protiviti Oman along with Bank Muscat will conduct in person and virtual workshops on financial literacy that will guide young women to plan their financial future effectively.

As the programmes' financial literacy partner, Visa and knowledge sharing partner, Bank

Muscat, will provide participants with mentors, insights, and access to online material on how best to manage personal finances as well as offer guidance to entrepreneurs and start-ups.

"Visa is committed to ensuring that financial education and digital upskilling are available to individuals and small businesses. Purpose-driven partnerships are critical in advancing this mission and that is why we are delighted to partner with Lahunna Oman and Bank Muscat to provide women SMB owners in Oman the resources they need to thrive in the digital economy.

This is not only in line with our purpose to uplift everyone,

everywhere but also supports the Omani government's efforts to provide more individuals, communities and businesses access to the digital economy," said Carl Manlan, Visa's Vice President, Social Impact for Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa.

As a pioneer of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability in Oman, Bank Muscat runs several programmes for financial awareness and literacy including the online Maliyat financial awareness programme, which enables people to improve their financial knowledge, manage their income, and also save and invest wisely.

At the same time, the bank's Irshad programme benefits both individuals and entrepreneurs by providing 'one to one' financial coaching in areas such as budgeting, managing debt, regular savings, overcoming business challenges and raising capital. Similarly, the Little Investor programme from Meethaq Islamic banking of Bank Muscat is aimed at developing a healthy savings habit and entrepreneurial skills from an early age.

Bank Nizwa launches Oman’s first Shariah-compliant eco-friendly credit, debit cards



QASIM AL MAASHANI
MUSCAT, NOV 22

In line with its core values, innovative mindset and commitment to sustainability, Bank Nizwa became the first Islamic bank in Oman to introduce Shariah-compliant eco-friendly credit and debit cards. The cards were revealed at an event held under the auspices of Dr Abdullah bin Ali al Amri, Chairman of the Environment Authority.

Designed to cater to different segments of customers’ needs by offering consumer-driven solutions that deliver value, the newly launched cards bring the best of sustainable practices, exclusive rewards and unparalleled convenience in one card.

The brand-new card collection is made from Polylactic Acid (PLA), typically derived from fermented plant starch, like corn. PLA bioplastics are environmentally friendly benefits since they are biodegradable compared to traditional plastic manufacturing. Switching to eco-friendly cards demonstrates the bank’s commitment to sustainability.

Commenting on the newly launched cards, Khaled al Kayed, Chief Executive Officer of Bank Nizwa, said, “As the leader in the Islamic financial services industry, Bank Nizwa recognised the importance of sustainability and formed a strategy that deeply focuses on the same. The approach was created to promote sustainable

development in the Islamic banking domain by considering environmental, social and economic objectives.

“The next phase of our journey will heavily involve sustainable practices and we are dedicated to introducing products and services that have a long-term, positive impact on society.”

Later in remarks to the Observer, Al Kayed said the initiative was part of Bank Nizwa’s broader ESG commitments.

“Bank Nizwa has a strategic sustainability plan that includes a number of axes, the most important of which are the community and the environment, all within a framework of governance and compliance with best corporate practices.”

In support of its environmental commitments, the bank has introduced banking solutions that serve sustainability and are compatible with Islamic law, the CEO said, citing in the regard the example of sustainable financing for projects in the form of green sukuk.

“Today, it is the launch of banking cards that are compatible with Islamic Sharia and environmentally friendly, which we are proud of being the first bank in the Sultanate to step in this area, following the supreme directives to work on sustainability in all aspects, as well as Bank Nizwa that puts everyone in focus to provide what touches their needs,” he added.

Two agreements signed at Korea and Oman ICT Business Forum

BUSINESS REPORTER
MUSCAT, NOV 22

A B2B (Business to Business) partnership between Korean and Omani SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) in ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and contents development sector was successfully held on November 21, 2022 at the InterContinental Hotel, Muscat.

Around 19 Korean SMEs showcased their technological expertise in such state-of-the-art technology fields as cyber security, e-commerce platform, digital and metaverse contents, and healthcare products.

The platform helped facilitate cooperation and capacity building of SMEs in Korea and Oman, which is in line with the Oman Vision 2040. B2B matching was conducted where over 150 Korean and Omani business people met and interacted.

Two MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding) were concluded between the Korean and Omani SMEs concerned. The platform is supported by the National IT Industry Promotion Agency (NIPA) of Korea, the Representative Office of the Korea



AROUND 19 KOREAN SMES SHOWCASED THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE IN SUCH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY FIELDS AS CYBER SECURITY, E-COMMERCE PLATFORM, DIGITAL AND METAVERSE CONTENTS, AND HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS.

Internet and Security Agency (KISA) in Muscat and the Office of the Korea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in

Muscat.

Halima al Zarie, Chairperson of the Authority for SMEs; Hatim al Taie, Member of the State Council; Pankaj Khimji, Adviser to the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion; Shaikh Saad Suhail Bahwan, Chairman of the Oman-Korea Friendship Association, and Kim Kiejoo, Korean Ambassador to the Sultanate, graced the event while senior officials of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology and

other Omani partners were also present.

Ambassador Kim underscored in his remarks the importance of the meeting in that “the SMEs of Korea and Oman can build a strong and reliable bridge between our two industrial and economic sectors.”

He further highlighted that “the Oman Vision 2040 envisions digital transformation, and that Korea will align with the Oman Vision 2040 in pursuing partnership with the Omani stakeholders.”

Al Wash-hi Majaza copper-gold project to begin commissioning in Q2 2023

FROM PAGE 9

Other works-related focus areas by Al Hadeetha Resources LLC (AHRL) over October and November included the erection of major retaining walls, a number of foundation laying tasks (specifically for SAG, regrind and ball mill, flotation cell, reagent tank and tailings filter tank) and copper concentrate hickener erection works.

Alara Managing Director, Atmavireshwar Shapak, said: “The Al Wash-hi Majaza Copper-Gold Project has continued to literally rise out of the ground over the past month. This construction work included a range of foundation and backfilling tasks that, once complete, will open the way for key kit already onsite to be put in place. It was especially gratifying to see the recent progress made on

the electrical substation, which we now expect to be handed over to AHRL in late December 2022, well ahead of the target completion date for the entire project of early in the June 2023 quarter.

We look forward to providing further updates to investors over coming months. This exciting period is expected to see Alara successfully transition from being a pure explorer into a resources company holding a majority stake in a new mine producing a commodity critical to a range of production processes, in both the so-called ‘new’ and ‘old’ industrial sectors.

Alara’s active projects in Oman are the Al Wash-hi Majaza Copper-Gold mining Licence and Mullaq, Al Ajal exploration Licences under the Al Hadeetha JV and the Block 7 exploration

Licence under the Daris JV. Alara is currently focused on developing the Al Wash-hi Majaza Copper-Gold Project in Oman, where it is in the process of constructing copper-gold mining and processing facilities.

The company is also continuing exploration activities at its other Oman projects.

Al Hadeetha Resources LLC, a joint venture between Alara Resources, Al Hadeetha and Al Tasnim, is the first international joint venture company that has been awarded a copper mining licence in the Sultanate of Oman for the Wash-hi Majaza project. The Wash-hi Majaza copper deposit has been evaluated under JORC standards with over 16 million tonnes of copper resources and 10 million tonnes of mineable reserves.

Banks need to be ‘very careful’ about job cuts



ANDY JALIL
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The writer is our foreign correspondent based in the UK

With recent decrease in dealmaking in the UK and the US, the head of JPMorgan’s investment bank said banks

need to be “very careful” about making deep cuts to dealmakers, even as fees slump and rival bank Goldman Sachs began laying off.

CEO of JPMorgan’s corporate and investment bank, Daniel Pinto, said: “Cutting bankers here and there” during a downturn in dealmaking is not the right approach and that it could “hurt the possibility for growth going forward”.

He told the Barclays financial services conference: “If anything, in an environment like this there may be some very, very top bankers that you could not access in the past and are now available for hire.” He further said he expected JPMorgan’s investment banking fees in the third quarter to be down by 45 per cent to 50 per cent on 2021.

And added that he expected

investment banking fees to “normalise” around 2020 levels in the coming years, rather than swelling back to the highs of last year when banks hauled in \$130 billion.

Banks need to have a longer term view, Pinto said. “They are clients of JPMorgan, but at the same time the banker’s relationships play a very big role.” His comments came as rival Goldman Sachs was set to role out its first job cuts in two years by reinstating its annual cull of underperformers that typically sees between 1 per cent and 5 per cent of bankers depart.

Banks are expected to roll out more cuts this year. Dealmaking fees have fallen by 39 per cent, according to data provider Dealogic. However, Pinto did not rule out job cuts entirely,

saying that JPMorgan would need to “adjust this year or next year the structure of the business to the potential of that business”.

“The banking business has a big component of variable compensation, so therefore you can adjust by just not letting people go, you can adjust by reducing comp,” he added. And further stated that bonuses for dealmakers “will be adjusted” down this year, but not necessarily by the amount that fees have fallen.

“Last year we didn’t pay 100 per cent of the underperformance,” he said. “Neither this year are we going to reduce compensation by 100 per cent of the underperformance. JPMorgan made \$1.7bn from investment banking fees in the second quarter,

down 54 per cent on 2021. Headcount within its corporate and investment bank was 69,447 in the second quarter – an increase of around 5,200 people on the same period in 2021. Compensation costs in the unit were \$3.5bn, a decline of 5 per cent until October this year.

Pinto said: “Businesses will need to prepare for lower growth, tighter capital and significant market volatility in the coming months. As profit warnings and stress levels rise, we’re starting to see more companies issue multiple profit warnings.” With private equity commitments, investors have plenty of reasons to stay the course, despite challenges such as rising inflation, higher interest rates and political polarisation.

Head of private equity

at Guardian Life Insurance Company of US, which ended 2021 with \$10.7bn in capital, Maurice Gordon, said: “We do want to keep investing through this cycle, as it’s proven out time after time after time that that’s a proven strategy.” He added that his organisation is willing to “hold the course” on its private equity investments.

Gordon and private equity experts have discussed how they have been managing their commitments to the asset class in the face of market challenges and a crowded fundraising environment. They are confident that private equity will still outperform the public markets. “I had a boss many years ago who said: ‘Maurice, if you can’t beat (the public markets), find a new job,’” Gordon said.

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 23 | 2022 | RABEE AL THANI 28 | 1444 AH



Saudi Arabia's Saleh al Shehri celebrates scoring their first goal with Yasser al Shahrani. — Reuters

SAUDIS CRASH MESSI PARTY

REPORT & PICTURES **P16 & 17**





Mexico's goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa saves a penalty shot by Poland's forward Robert Lewandowski during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group C match at Stadium 974 in Doha. – AFP

POLAND'S LEWANDOWSKI MISSES PENALTY IN MEXICO STALEMATE

DOHA: Robert Lewandowski suffered fresh World Cup misery as the Poland striker's penalty was saved by Guillermo Ochoa in a 0-0 draw against Mexico on Tuesday.

Lewandowski has never scored at a World Cup and the Barcelona striker had admitted it would be a "huge dream" to finally get off the mark on the global stage.

Instead, the 34-year-old's dream turned into a nightmare when he won a second-half penalty, only to see Ochoa deny him from the spot.

Lewandowski, Poland's record scorer with 76 goals, has netted 18 times in 19 appearances for Barcelona, the club he joined in the close-season after bagging 344 goals in eight trophy-filled years at Bayern Munich.

Yet the World Cup has proved hellish for Lewandowski, with this latest goalless outing coming after he failed to score in Poland's three games when they bowed out in the group stage four years ago.

Saudi Arabia's stunning 2-1 win over Argentina earlier on Tuesday had blown open the race to progress to the last 16 from Group C.

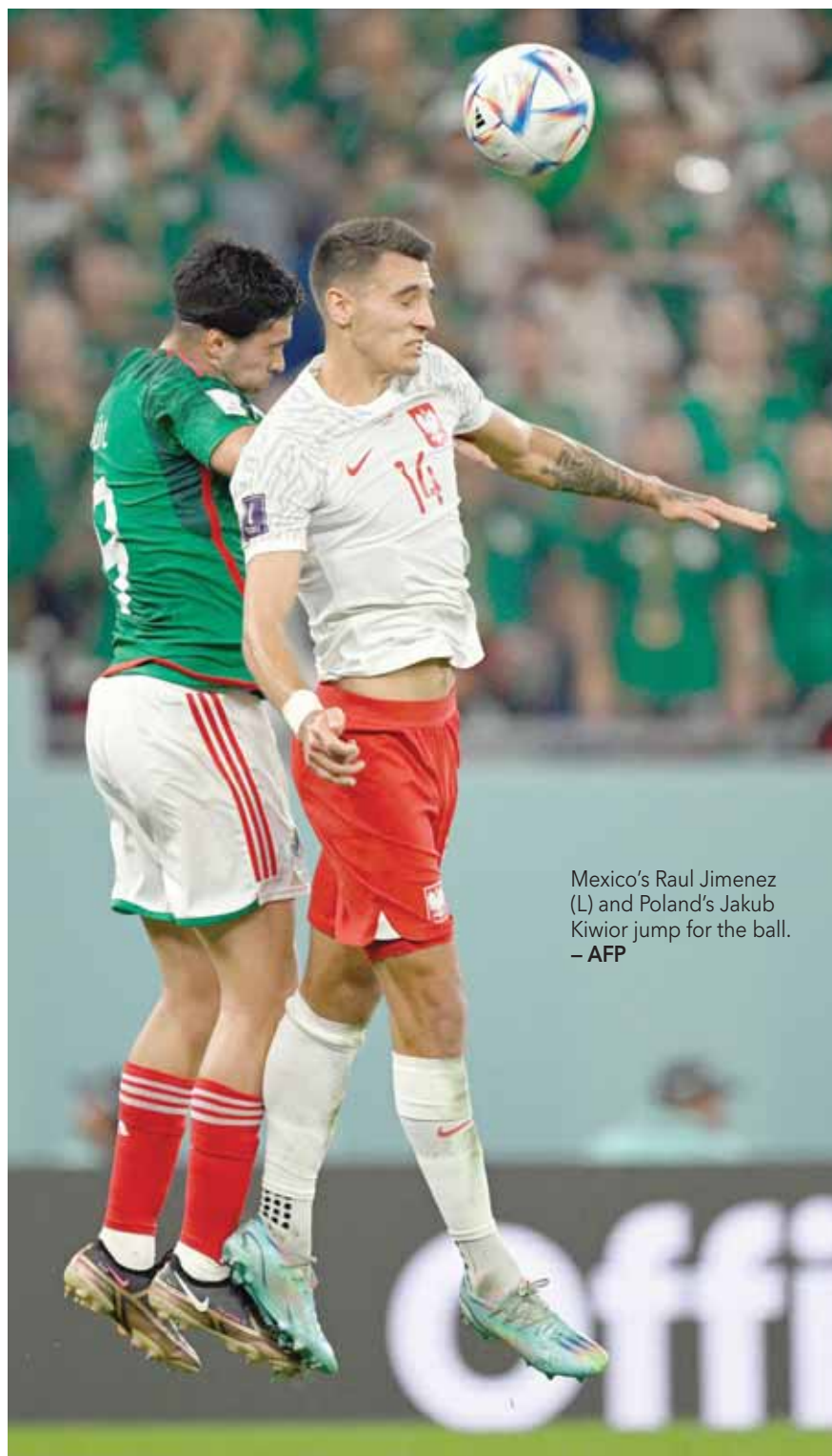
But this was a frustrating draw for both teams, with Lewandowski wasting the best chance of a cagey game and Mexico ruing their failure to turn territorial dominance into goals.

Mexico boss Gerardo Martino had endured stinging criticism from fans and media following some poor pre-tournament performances, prompting him to dub himself "public enemy number one".

That didn't stop thousands of Mexico supporters making the long journey to support 'El Tri' in Qatar.

The unique Stadium 974 -- whose structure was partially created from a colourful tapestry of shipping containers -- overlooks Doha's port and the area was transformed into a colourful fiesta as green-clad, sombrero-wearing Mexicans partied ahead of the evening kick-off.

It was an even more vibrant scene inside the stadium, with the estimated 40,000 capacity almost



Mexico's Raul Jimenez (L) and Poland's Jakub Kiwior jump for the ball. – AFP

entirely filled with vociferous, flag-waving Mexicans.

Lewandowski woe

As the main threat to their team's hopes, Lewandowski was immediately subjected to ear-splitting jeers from the Mexico fans.

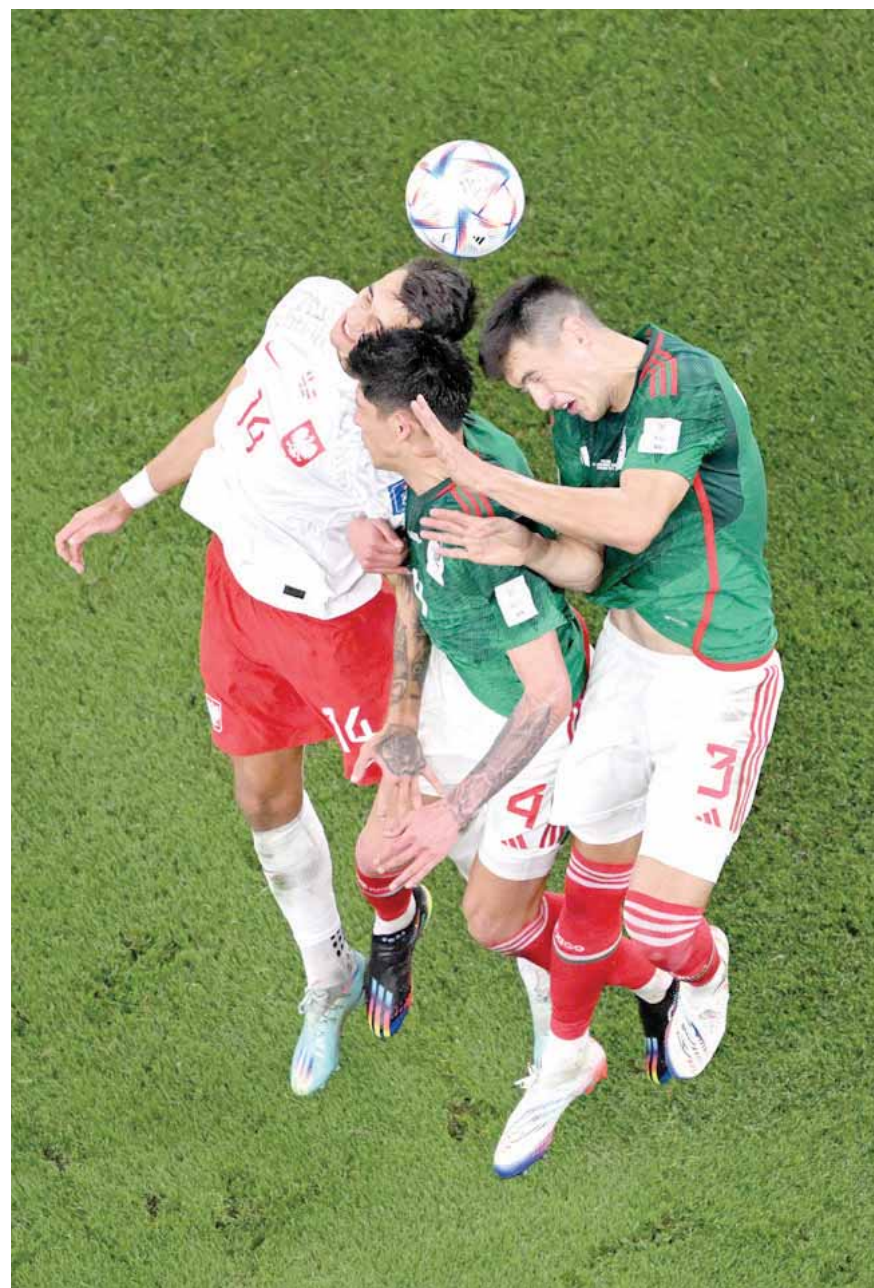
Lewandowski tried to silence the din with an early header but his effort deflected harmlessly wide.

With Poland curiously content to sit back for long periods and

Mexico's energy levels almost matching their raucous fans, it was Martino's side who carried the greater threat.

Alexis Vega looped his header inches past the far post from Hector Herrera's cross.

Mexico followed that close shave with another incisive move that ended with Jesus Gallardo's shot being palmed away by Wojciech Szczesny.



Poland's Jakub Kiwior, Mexico's Edson Alvarez and Cesar Montes jump for a header at Stadium 974 in Doha. – AFP

Jorge Sanchez's deflected effort whistled just over Szczesny's crossbar as Mexico kept up the pressure.

Isolated by Poland's conservative tactics, Lewandowski mustered just one touch in the Mexico area and completed only three passes in the first half.

Lewandowski couldn't be contained forever and his tenacity earned the 57th-minute penalty when he barged into the Mexico area, forcing a crude challenge from Hector Moreno that was

ruled a spot-kick after VAR intervened.

But Lewandowski's World Cup woe wasn't over as the 37-year-old Ochoa plunged to his left to make a fine save, leaving the striker holding his head in despair.

It was Lewandowski's second successive penalty miss after he failed to score for Barcelona against Almeria earlier this month.

Henry Martin's glancing header drew a good stop from Szczesny as Mexico tried in vain to make the most of their escape. — AFP



Tunisia goalkeeper Aymen Dahmen makes a save against Denmark in their World Cup Group D opener at Education City Stadium. — Reuters

DENMARK HELD BY FIRED-UP TUNISIA

AL RAYYAN: Substitute Andreas Cornelius hit the post and Denmark had a late penalty appeal turned down, while Tunisia wasted two clear chances in a 0-0 draw in their World Cup Group D opener at Education City Stadium on Tuesday.

Tunisia were roared on by their sizeable following in the 42,925 crowd, whose deafening whistles and roars gave energy to their side and helped secure what had seemed an unlikely point before kick-off, despite the fact they are unbeaten in nine of their last 10 internationals.

Denmark thought they should have had a penalty in stoppage time for handball that was checked at the VAR screen by referee Cesar Arturo Ramos, but he instead gave a free kick to Tunisia.

Usually when a referee moves to the monitor to review a decision, he changes his mind, but Mexican Ramos stuck to his guns at a crucial moment in the game.

“We played too nervously and too slow, and we didn’t find ourselves in the first half,” Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said. “There was a period when we got into it but we were never calm and comfortable, that came later in the game. There’s no doubt we played under par.

“It (qualifying from the group) has become complicated but it’s not over. We are underway with the tournament, but our heads would have been a little higher with a better result.”

Tunisia played with a tempo they will find hard to maintain through the group stages, but were good value for their point and showed



The ball appears to hit the arm of Tunisia’s Yassine Meriah before referee Cesar Arturo Ramos checks the VAR screen and rules it accidental and no penalty. — Reuters

a resilience that was pleasing for coach Jalel Kadri.

“The fan factor was very positive for us,” he said. “It mentally gave us a great lift and we are looking forward to seeing the fans continue to do that for us.

“It really helped us in the game, but tactically and physically we did well too.”

Denmark would have hoped to create more chances, but their best came late in the second half when Cornelius only had to nod the ball over the line at the back post, but instead flicked it onto the woodwork.

“It (qualifying) has become complicated but it’s not over. We are underway with the tournament, but our heads would have been a little higher with a better result.”

KASPER HJULMAND
Denmark coach

Tunisia, who this week had spoken of their pride at qualifying for World Cup in an Arab country, were fired up from the first whistle, celebrating each tackle like a goal, and had two excellent chances to open the scoring.

The first fell to Denmark-based Issam Jebali when he found himself one-on-one with Kasper Schmeichel, but could not beat the Danish goalkeeper, who made an excellent, instinctive save.

The second saw Aissa Laidouni race clear from his own half, but as he approached the Denmark penalty area, he hesitated and opted

for a pass that was not on rather than advancing another 10 yards and having an effort on goal.

In the context of the match, both might look at it as two points dropped, but Tunisia will certainly be the happier given the low level of expectation place on them - from outside their camp at least - going into the tournament.

They will face Australia next on Saturday, a game they will have targeted as their most winnable in the group, while Denmark meet defending champions France behind the points tally they would have set themselves at this stage.

There were other chances in the game as well. Tunisian right back Mohamed Drager saw his shot from 25-yards deflected off defender Andreas Christensen and go just wide with Schmeichel rooted to the spot.

Christian Eriksen was pulling the strings for the Danes but they struggled at times to get him onto the ball. When he did find a pocket of space just outside the Tunisian box, his shot was well saved by goalkeeper Aymen Dahmen.

“It was important to come into the game with a lot of determination,” Laidouni said. “This is the World Cup, it’s the most important competition in the world.

“The fans in Qatar are amazing and it was important to show them that we are determined and we want to give everything.”

Hjulmand will be sweating on a knee injury to midfielder Thomas Delaney that forced him off in the first half. — Reuters

SAUDI STAR AL DAWSARI WRITES NAME IN LIGHTS



◀ Saudi Arabia's Salem al Dawsari scores their second goal. — Reuters



DOHA: Saudi Arabia's Salem al Dawsari grabbed the world's attention with his match-winning wonder strike against Argentina on Tuesday but the winger has been a star in his home country for years.

The 31-year-old helped the Saudis to a stunning 2-1 victory over the twice world champions when he took out two defenders with a clever turn before rifling the ball into the net.

It was a typical piece of brilliance from a player who has long been known as one of Asia's best.

Al Dawsari has won two Asian Champions League titles with his Saudi club Al Hilal, and scored a crucial goal in the 2019 final to help them beat Japan's Urawa Reds.

He was also named player of the tournament as Al Hilal lifted the

trophy again in 2021.

He has over 70 caps for his country and scored in the 95th minute to give Saudi Arabia a 2-1 win over Egypt in their final group game at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

Al Dawsari has served Al Hilal with distinction, but he also got a taste of European club football when he joined Villarreal on loan in 2018 as part of a deal between La Liga and Saudi football chiefs.

He made only one substitute appearance in Spain but it was a memorable one, helping Villarreal come back from two goals down to claim a 2-2 draw with Real Madrid.

His goal against Argentina has now seared his name on the world's consciousness. — AFP

Low-ranked Saudis score twice in second half for 2-1 upset

Messi had scored opening goal on last bid for World Cup glory

Al Shehri and Al Dawsari the matchwinners for Saudi Arabia

Delirious Saudi fans chant: 'Where is Messi? We beat him!'

SAUDI SHOCK ARGENTINA WITH COMEBACK VICTORY

LUSAIL, Qatar: Unheralded Saudi Arabia notched one of the biggest shocks in World Cup history on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over Lionel Messi's Argentina thanks to a scintillating second half comeback.

On his fifth and final quest for the only major trophy to elude him, the 35-year-old Messi scored a 10th minute penalty in a dominant first half display where he and Lautaro Martinez also had three goals disallowed for offside.

But Saudi Arabia, the second-lowest ranked team in the tournament after Ghana, threw caution to the wind at the start of the second half, charging at Argentina's defence in front of a frenzied 88,012 crowd.

First, Saleh al Shehri squeezed in a low shot in the 48th minute. Then, to the disbelief of even the Saudi fans, Salem al Dawsari curled in a scorching strike from the edge of the penalty area in the 53rd minute to leave Argentina and Messi looking utterly shell-shocked in the Group C opener.

Despite plenty of possession after that, Argentina could not penetrate the Green Falcons, who were competing in their sixth World Cup but had never previously won an opening game.

The entire game was played in an extraordinary atmosphere at the Lusail Stadium, with Argentina's traditionally massive and raucous following matched by the thousands of Saudis who had come over the border to cheer on their team. "Our team fulfils our dreams!" and "Where is Messi? We beat him!", the green-clad Saudis chanted over and over in the Lusail Stadium, on their feet and greeting every clearance - including one headed off the goal line - with a deafening roar.

MESSI'S DREAM IN DOUBT

Both teams have Mexico and Poland to come, with Argentina



Saudi Arabia's Salem al Dawsari scores their second goal. — Reuters



Saudi Arabia's Salem al Dawsari celebrates scoring their second goal with teammates. — Reuters

needing an immediate reaction if Messi is to have a realistic chance of matching Diego Maradona's immortality in his homeland by bringing home the World Cup.

The result revived old question marks over Argentina's defence and broke their amazing 36-match undefeated run. That stopped them from matching the previous international record of 37 games unbeaten held by Italy.

It also marred Messi's achievement on Tuesday of becoming the first Argentinian to score in four World Cups on his 20th appearance in the tournament. Only Maradona has played more games for Argentina at the World Cup, 21 in all. "This hurts a lot. We were dreaming of starting the World Cup with a win," said Messi's strike partner Martinez. "But it's happened and now we have to train and think forward. — Reuters

Saudi Arabia's Renard not dwelling on 'crazy' win

DOHA: Saudi Arabia's French coach Herve Renard warned his players not to celebrate for too long after their "totally crazy" 2-1 win against Argentina in their World Cup opener on Tuesday.

The Saudis bounced back from conceding an early Lionel Messi penalty to produce one of the great World Cup shocks thanks to a Saleh al Shehri equaliser and a sublime Salem al Dawsari winner at the Lusail Stadium in Doha.

"All the stars in the sky were aligned for us, but don't forget Argentina are still a fantastic team," said Renard. "This is football, sometimes totally crazy things can happen," added the French coach, who previously led Zambia and the Ivory Coast to Africa Cup of Nations glory.

"We needed to get this result, it will be one for the (history) books, but as a coach I'm always asking for more from my players, so let's stay humble."

Al Shehri said the team had never doubted they could topple the two-time champions. "We don't care about the other team, if you believe in yourself you can achieve anything," he said.

As for enjoying the moment, Renard was eager to look ahead to the Saudis' next Group C matches against Poland and Mexico.

"(We can) just have a good celebration during 20 minutes and that's all, there are still two more games.

"When you come to the World Cup, you need to believe in yourself, anything can happen in football."

However, Renard said he was not entirely happy with his team, despite the stunning upset. — AFP

Saudi Arabia's French coach Herve Renard gestures during the match against Argentina. — AFP



DEFEAT TO SAUDI ARABIA A VERY HEAVY BLOW: MESSI

DOHA: Lionel Messi said Argentina's shock loss to Saudi Arabia was a "very heavy blow" but vowed the South American champions would bounce back from the defeat.

"It's a very heavy blow, a defeat that hurts, but we must continue to have confidence in ourselves," Messi said after Argentina crashed to a stunning 2-1 loss in Group C.

"This group is not going to give up. We will try to beat Mexico," he added.

Messi gave Argentina a 10th-minute lead from the penalty spot on Tuesday at the Lusail stadium but second-half goals from Saleh al Shehri and Salem al Dawsari helped the Saudis pull off one of the greatest shocks in World Cup history.

It could have been so different but for three tight offside calls in the first half that went against Argentina, denying them three potential goals.

In the second half, coach Lionel Scaloni's men failed to exploit the Saudis' high defensive line.

"We know that Saudi Arabia is a team with good players, who move the ball around well and play a high line," said Messi.

"We worked on that but we rushed it a bit. At 2-1 we got disorganised, we lost our performance level and started desperately putting the ball into

the middle."
Messi insisted that the team accepted their defeat and said the players were determined to put things right for the next game.

"There are no excuses, we're going to be more united than ever before," he said. "This group is strong and has shown it before. We had not been in this situation for a long time. Now we must show that this is a true group."

The Albiceleste have two Group C games remaining — against Mexico on Saturday and then Poland the following Wednesday — to try to salvage their hopes of claiming a third world title.

"This is the time to stick together, to turn the page and not think about what happened," said Messi. "We always said we were going to (try to) win every game and now more than ever."

Playing in his fifth and probably final World Cup, Messi has the weight of an entire nation's expectations on his shoulders.

One of the greatest players of all time, this may be his last chance to lift football's greatest prize, which his predecessor as Argentina's idol Diego Maradona did in 1986.

"We have to go back to the basics of who we are. We have to think about what's coming next," said the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner. — AFP

“It’s a very heavy blow, a defeat that hurts, but we must continue to have confidence in ourselves

LIONEL MESSI



Argentina's Lionel Messi (bottom) and Angel Di Maria react to their defeat in the Qatar 2022 World Cup Group C match against Saudi Arabia at the Lusail Stadium in Lusail, north of Doha. — AFP

SCALONI INSISTS ARGENTINA DID NOT TAKE SAUDIS LIGHTLY



DOHA: Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni insisted on Tuesday his team had not taken Saudi Arabia lightly ahead of their shocking 2-1 World Cup defeat in Qatar.

Argentina came into the tournament on a 36-match unbeaten run and were one of the favourites to win the entire tournament, let alone Tuesday's Group C opener against the Asian minnows.

"We fully respect Saudi Arabia as we do with other teams, that's not the reason for our defeat," said Scaloni, whose team had not lost since July 2019.

"They are a good team with technical players, they are very well prepared physically."

Despite suffering one of the big World Cup shocks, Scaloni said he was sure all was not lost with Group C matches against Mexico and Poland still to come.

In 1990, then-champions Argentina lost their opening World Cup match 1-0 against Cameroon — another of the tournament's greatest shocks — before bouncing back to reach the final.

"What comes ahead is to rise up, to face Mexico. They will be tough, as everyone is at the World Cup. Now we need to win two games to move on. Of course this is difficult but regardless of the result today we would anyway try to win all the games."

Scaloni had no complaints about the three goals his side scored in the first half that were then disallowed for offside. But he said

those razor tight decisions were what cost his side the match.

"The reasons were millimetric. The offside, they have a high defensive line, we knew that any goal situation would go for or against us," said Scaloni.

"In this case, the semi-automatic offside technology took a goal away from us. That's the way it is, we congratulate our rivals."

Argentina struggled to create much after the break having dominated the first half, giving nothing away.

"It's hard to take. We could have been 2-0 up, but in two sudden moments, the game changed."

"Four or five minutes (after the break) they scored two goals, their only two shots on target," said Scaloni. "Today is a sad day but as we always say, head up and carry on." — AFP



BALE TO THE RESCUE AS WALES SNATCH US DRAW

AL RAYYAN: Gareth Bale scored a late penalty to snatch a 1-1 draw with the United States in Wales' first World Cup game in 64 years on Monday.

Welsh skipper Bale lashed home an 82nd-minute spot kick to break American hearts moments after earning the penalty when defender Walker Zimmerman crashed into the former Real Madrid star.

The penalty drama cancelled out Tim Weah's superb first-half goal for the Americans which had threatened to ruin the celebratory mood surrounding Wales' long-awaited first World Cup appearance since the 1958 finals in Sweden.

Bale's equaliser triggered roars from a large and raucous contingent of Wales fans in a crowd of 43,418 fans at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium on the outskirts of Doha.

Bale said afterwards a rousing half-time team talk by manager Rob Page had helped inspire Wales after a lacklustre first-half performance.

"Obviously a difficult game. First half was not how we wanted to play," said Bale.

"The US played well and we played poorly. We played really well in the second half.

"Good point, but we would have loved to have had three."

Page paid tribute to the 33-year-old Bale's nous in winning the penalty.

"He's very good at finding those spaces," Page said. "He's intelligent, he's got a wise head to get in those positions and he used all his wisdom there."

Until the late penalty it looked as if Wales were heading for a defeat, struggling to break down a skilful and energetic US squad that is the second youngest at the tournament.

Coach Gregg Berhalter admitted his team had been left dejected by failure to hang on for victory as they now contemplate a daunting Group B game with England on Friday.

"Taking a point in the first game is not the end of the world," Berhalter said.

"Walking into the locker room after the game you could see the disappointment in the group. The guys worked hard. In the end we fell a little bit short of the victory."

MENACE

Wales were outplayed for long periods of the first half, with manager Page's decision not to start towering centre-forward Kieffer Moore depriving them of a crucial attacking outlet.

Instead it was the US who made all the early running, with Chelsea's Christian Pulisic a constant darting menace.

The positive early play almost resulted in a goal when Weah's whipped-in cross almost forced Joe Rodon to head into his own net.

The US exuberance led to a flurry of cards for the Americans early on, with Sergino Dest and Weston McKennie both booked for wild tackles on Neco Williams.

The relentless US pressing game meant Wales were unable to construct anything in midfield, where Aaron Ramsey and Ethan Ampadu were rarely afforded time or space.

The breakthrough came on 36 minutes. Good hold-up play by Josh Sargent

near halfway sent Pulisic accelerating towards goal before picking out Weah, who had darted in behind goal. The son of African football

icon George Weah showed terrific composure, dinking a cool finish with the outside of his right foot over Wayne Hennessey for a goal that was no less than the US deserved.

Wales were in disciplinary soon afterwards, Bale earning a yellow card for clattering into Yunus Musah on 40 minutes.

Chris Mepham joined the Welsh captain in the book after hauling Pulisic down near half-time.

Page brought on Moore at half-time for Daniel James and the substitution immediately started to have an effect.

Tottenham's Ben Davies almost headed Wales level on 64 minutes but was denied by goalkeeper Matt Turner with an acrobatic parry over the bar.

Moore powered a header just over from the ensuing corner.

USA's Timothy Weah celebrates after scoring his team's first goal. — AFP

The US dropped deeper and Wales pressed more aggressively as they chased an equaliser.

On 80 minutes Ramsey surged down the right and cut back for Bale, who shielded the ball and tempted Zimmerman into a wild lunge. Qatari referee Abdulrahman al Jassim pointed to the spot and Bale stepped up to save Wales.

Wales face Iran on Friday in their second Group B game.

England were 6-2 winners over the Iranians earlier on Monday. — AFP





RAIN-HIT TIE HANDS INDIA T20 SERIES WIN IN NEW ZEALAND

NAPIER, New Zealand: India sealed a Twenty-20 series win over hosts New Zealand after Tuesday's rain-hit third match finished in a tie in Napier.

The Black Caps were bowled out for 160 in their innings. India then laboured to 75 for four in their nine overs before the rain started.

Under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method, the match was a rare tie in Twenty-20 cricket.

India took the series having won the second match on Sunday at Mount Maunganui, where morning rain threatened to delay the start before Suryakumar Yadav smashed 111 off 51 balls in a 65-run win.

The first match was washed out by heavy rain in Wellington on Friday.

"We would have liked to have won by playing the full overs, but it's how it is. We don't mind getting the trophy and the win," India captain Hardik Pandya

told reporters.

Fast-bowler Mohammed Siraj was the man-of-the-match after restricting New Zealand to just 17 runs for four wickets, supported by Arshdeep Singh's 4-37.

"All three matches were affected by the weather, but we are happy to have won the series," said Siraj.

After setting India 161 to win, the Black Caps' bowlers struck early with India's openers Ishan Kishan and Rishabh Pant dismissed to leave the visitors on 21-2.

With Kane Williamson sitting out due to a medical appointment, New Zealand's stand-in skipper Tim Southee took the wickets of Pant and then Shreyas Iyer in successive balls.

India were in trouble at 23 for three before Suryakumar Yadav went for just 13.

Pandya steadied the ship with a solid 30 off 18 balls to steer

his side to 75 for four from nine overs when rain stopped play.

Having won the toss and elected to bat, New Zealand made a strong start with Glenn Phillips smashing 54 off 33 balls. Devon Conway hit 59, including five fours and two towering sixes.

The Black Caps were cruising at 146 for three when Conway was caught by Kishan in the deep before New Zealand collapsed to lose their last seven wickets for just 14 runs.

The teams meet again in Auckland on Friday, when Eden Park hosts the first of three one-day internationals. — AFP

BRIEF SCORES
New Zealand 160 all out, 19.4 overs (D Conway 59, G Phillips 54; A Singh 4-37, M Siraj 4-17)
India 75-4, nine overs (H Pandya 30, S Yadav 13; T Southee 2-27, A Milne 1-23)
Result: Tie under the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method after rain stopped play.
Series: India win series 1-0

Head, Warner plunder centuries as Aussies sweep England ODI series

MELBOURNE: Dominant centuries from Travis Head and David Warner helped Australia thrash a tired England by 221 runs on Tuesday in the third and final one-day international at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to sweep the series 3-0.

After a six-wicket loss in Adelaide and a 72-run defeat in Sydney, England's long tour ended with a crushing defeat at the same venue where they won the Twenty20 World Cup this month.

Australia made a formidable 355-5 on the back of Head's 152 and Warner's 106 in a rain-hit game reduced to 48 overs, with the pair's 269-run stand the ninth-highest opening partnership in 50-over cricket and the biggest at the MCG.

It left England needing 364 to win under a DLS-adjusted target, an ominous score they never looked like getting against a disciplined attack led by pacemen Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood and Adam Zampa's



spin.

"It's been fantastic, all three games," said Australian skipper Cummins. "Everything has really clicked."

"Good to finish it off here, that's just about the best ODI I've been a part of. Everything was perfect."

With Phil Salt sidelined for a concussion check after hitting his head while fielding, Dawid Malan was elevated to open for England with Jason Roy but he fell for two to Hazlewood.

It didn't get any easier for the

batsmen, who were restricted to just 49-1 off the opening 10 overs, already well behind the required run rate.

Cummins accounted for Roy (33) and Sam Billings (7) in quick succession, while James Vince ground out 22 off 45 balls before Sean Abbott broke his resistance.

When Zampa removed skipper Jos Buttler (4) and Chris Woakes in successive balls, then Moeen Ali (18) in his next over, England were 95-7 and their hopes over. Zampa ended with 4-31.

"We tried our best, fell a long way short. Australia outplayed us in every department," said Buttler.

"But lots to be proud of. You don't need long memories to remember the scenes here last week," he said of the World Cup victory. — AFP

BRIEF SCORES
Australia 355-5 off 48 overs (Travis Head 152, David Warner 106; Olly Stone 4-85)
England 142 all out off 31.4 overs (Jason Roy 33, James Vince 22; Adam Zampa 4-31, Pat Cummins 2-25, Sean Abbott 2-45)

Canada emerge Desert Cup T20I champions

MUSCAT: Canada stamped their overall superiority to lift the 2022 Desert Cup T20I Series with an emphatic eight-wicket win over hosts Oman in the final at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) grounds on Monday.

Except for one defeat at the hands of Bahrain in the group stage, Canada's dominating display in the four-nation tournament culminated in the title win.

Opting to field first, Canada's decision proved to be the correct one as Oman lost opener Jatinder Singh early and were soon down to 17/3 in five overs with Jeremy Gordon's double strike off successive balls dismissing Kashyap Prajapati and in-form skipper Zeeshan Maqsood.

Canada bowlers were on top as Oman were tottering at 23/4 in the seventh over.

Mohammed Nadeem and Ayaan Khan tried to stem the rot but Nikhil Dutta broke the stand to leave the hosts at 50/5. The procession of Oman batters continued and with just over five overs to go, they were 74/8.

It was a blistering counter-attack by wicketkeeper-batter

Naseem Khushi that aided Oman cross the 100-mark as he stayed unbeaten with a gutsy 47 off 23 balls that included two boundaries and five sixes.

Gordon's 3/36 was the best figures while Dillon Heyliger took 2/29.

With Canada restricting Oman to 137, the favourites, who had won their previous match against the hosts narrowly on Sunday with a ball to spare, began their chase on a rousing note as Aaron Johnson, who finished at the tournament's top run-scorer with 402 runs, and his opening partner, Srimantha Wijeyeratne, sent the Oman bowlers on a leather hunt.

The two hammered the rival attack to all parts of the park in a sizzling 124-run stand in 12 overs to secure the game.

Johnson, who had earlier hammered a century in the tournament, was finally out for a 41-ball 68. His inning was studded with eight fours and four maximums. Besides Johnson, the only other centurion in the tournament was Oman captain Zeeshan Maqsood.

Wijeyeratne remained

unbeaten on a solid 51 off 35 balls as Canada achieved the target in 14 overs, scoring 139/2.

In a third-place play-off match, Saudi Arabia defeated Bahrain by 32 runs to record their second successive win in two days over the same rivals.

Batting first, Saudi Arabia rode on Saad Khan's 69 to reach 155/8. Imran Javed of Bahrain was the pick of the bowlers with 4/24. Saudis then restricted their opposition to 123/5 with Ahmer Bin Nasir staying unbeaten on 55.

Canada's players dominated the individual awards as Johnson was the best batter while Ammar Khalid was the highest wicket-taker of the tournament with 12 wickets.

Later, Oman Cricket (OC) Chairman Pankaj Khimji presented the winner's trophy to Canada skipper Saad Zafar. Also present were OC Vice-Chairman Paul Sheridan, OC Chief Development Officer Duleep Mendis, other board officials and a large number of fans.

Oman and Canada will now play a two-match 50-over series on November 25-26.



Canada captain receiving trophy.



Aaron Johnson - player of the tournament



Jeremy Gordon - man of the match



JAPAN HOPING TO UPSTAGE ‘ROLE MODELS’ GERMANY

GROUP STAGE

GERMANY

Wednesday, Nov 23 - 1300 GMT

Khalifa Stadium

Hans-Dieter Flick

COACH

Hajime Moriyasu

JAPAN



Manuel NEUER



Yuto NAGATOMO

FIFA RANKING

Top-ranked team

GERMANY 11

JAPAN 24

Lowest-ranked team

TEAM'S AVERAGE AGE

23

21

20

19

BEST WORLD CUP PERFORMANCE

Winner

1/2

1/4

Last 16

Group stage

1st participation

Source: FIFA AFP Photos



Japan defenders Maya Yoshida (L) and Yuto Nagatomo (2nd L) take part in a training session with teammates at the Al Sadd SC training grounds in Doha. – AFP

DOHA: Japan manager Hajime Moriyasu is hoping the apprentices can upset the masters when they take on “role models” Germany in their World Cup opener on Wednesday.

Germany has become a popular destination for Japanese players in recent years, with eight of the current squad playing in the Bundesliga.

Moriyasu paid tribute to the contribution German football has made to his players’ development but urged them to show their own qualities when the teams meet in Doha.

“Germany have won the World Cup and that is our aim too -- they are role models for us,” the manager said on Tuesday.

“We are learning from Germany but we also want to compete on the world stage with the qualities that Japan has.

“We have a lot of feelings towards Germany but we have to treat tomorrow’s game as if we are playing any other team and just do our best.”



(L to R) Germany’s defender Thilo Kehrer, forward Serge Gnabry, midfielder Ilkay Gundogan, defender Antonio Ruediger and midfielder Jamal Musiala attend a training session at the Al Shamal Stadium in Al Shamal, north of Doha, on the eve of their Qatar 2022 World Cup match between Germany and Japan. – AFP

Match program

GROUP STAGE

2022

Wednesday, November 23

F

Al Bayt Stadium, 02:00 pm

Morocco

Croatia

E

Khalifa Stadium, 05:00 pm

Germany

Japan

E

Al Thumama Stadium, 08:00 pm

Spain

Costa Rica

F

Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, 11:00 pm

Belgium

Canada

Source: FIFA

Germany winger Sane to miss game with knee injury

AL RAYYAN: Germany winger Leroy Sane has suffered a knee injury and will miss their World Cup Group E opener against Japan but coach Hansi Flick said he hoped the player could be fit for their second group match in five days time.

The 26-year-old did not take part in their final training session in northern Qatar ahead of Wednesday’s game in Doha and it was still unclear how long he would be sidelined.

“It is extremely bitter to have to play without Leroy because with his qualities he is a player who can turn a game around by himself,” Flick told a news conference on Tuesday.

“Hopefully he can play on Sunday. The whole medical staff are working on it,” he said.

The Germans play Spain on Sunday before wrapping up their group matches against Costa Rica on December 1.

Four-time champions Germany, who suffered a shock first-round exit at the 2018 World Cup, also had striker Niclas Füllkrug out for a few days with the flu but he has since returned to training.

— Reuters

torrid time at the tournament so far, with host nation Qatar losing 2-0 to Ecuador in the opening game and Iran hammered 6-2 by England.

Yoshida urged fans from across Asia to cheer on Japan.

“Germany is so strong so we need some support,” he said.

“We are representing Japan of course, but at the same time representing Asia.

“So hopefully many fans come to the stadium, not only Japanese, but also the many Asian fans.” — AFP