

STATE COUNCIL OFFICE DISCUSSES NEW PROPOSALS

The Office of the State Council on Wednesday held the 5th meeting of its 4th regular session for the 7th Term. The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council. **>A2**



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OMANI DIPLOMATS DONATE BLOOD ON WORLD BLOOD DONORS DAY

The Omani embassies in various countries all over the world and the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry in Muscat marked the World Blood Donors Day. This move comes as a humanitarian initiative which reflects a deep understanding that goes beyond the usual roles of diplomatic missions and embassies abroad. **>A3**



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OMAN'S ECONOMIC POLICIES LAUDED BY TOP US INSTITUTE

The report in Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW) said the Oman government deserves credit for sound economic policies and reforms

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Oman government's economic policies and reforms have been praised by a leading US-based institute.

The report by an expert was published by the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW), an independent, nonprofit institution dedicated to highlighting the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Gulf region through free and open exchange of multiple points of view on issues that concern the region.

Written by Robert Mogielnicki, a senior resident scholar



at AGSIW, it said that the Oman government deserves credit for sound economic policymaking and reform process.

"The government approved a \$5.2 billion investment fund, the Oman Future Fund, to support diversified economic growth. Moreover, the government announced plans for a new development project, Sultan Haitham City, on the outskirts of Muscat, where as many as 100,000 citizens are expected to receive housing and other essential services. This dual announcement neatly encapsulates the current position of Omani

economic policymakers: growing confidence alongside a recognition of genuine constraints.

"Oman is getting its economic house in order, creating a stronger fiscal position, establishing greater resilience to energy price volatility, and building a more attractive investment destination over the near term. Sound economic policymaking and reform progress deserve praise but do not necessarily put Oman on the path to becoming a regional economic superstar. The Sultanate's economy faces macroeconomic headwinds, structural chal-

lenges, and rising regional competition. Thus, the longer-term outlook for Oman's economy remains uncertain."

The report added: "For now, there are plenty of reasons for optimism. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik inherited a state in urgent need of reform amid a coronavirus-induced economic downturn. The cumulative effect of year-on-year fiscal deficits, high government debt levels, uncertain demand for sovereign bonds, and a bloated public sector created a tenuous economic situation. **>A5**

PILGRIMAGE

Omani Hajj delegation arrives in the Holy Land

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Led by Sultan Said Al Hinai, the Omani Hajj delegation for the year 1444 AH arrived in the Holy Land on Wednesday.

The members of the Hajj delegation were seen off at the Muscat International Airport by Mohammed bin Said Al Maamari, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Dr. Wael bin Saif Al Harasi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, Youssef Al-Awdah, Deputy Ambassador of Saudi Arabia accredited to the Sultanate of Oman, and a number of ministry officials.



The Hajj mission will head to Makkah, while a team will visit Medina after three days on their arrival in Saudi Arabia. **>A5**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Oman's participation in G20 meetings in India

1 Oman's Secretariat for the G20 meetings and a number of relevant government departments organised a media briefing at the Diplomatic Club in Muscat about the Sultanate of Oman's participation in the 18th round of G20 meetings in India. **>A5**

OMAN

US decision to join UNESCO welcomed

2 The Sultanate of Oman welcomed the decision of the United States (US) to resume its membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). **>A3**

SPORTS

Sailors to take part in Special Olympics

3 Oman's Paralympic sailing team will join more than 7,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 190 countries in Berlin, Germany, for the 16th Special Olympics World Games. **>B5**

Max opens its 15th store in Oman Avenues Mall

Max, the largest value fashion brand in the Middle East, celebrated the launch of its 15th store in the Sultanate of Oman on Wednesday. The Max store at Oman Avenues Mall is spread over an area of 11,485 square feet, offering fashion apparel for women, children and men, along with non-apparel offerings of footwear, handbags and accessories. We have partnered with one of the leading influencers in the MENA region, Narins Beauty, who is the face of Max. With Narins, we are trying to reach out to the young fashion savvy customers. Narins has 22 million+ follower base across the social media platforms.

The fashion offering continues to be stylish, trendy, and comfort-

able clothing options for men, women, and children, that are perfect for all occasions. The collection includes a variety of dresses in prints, neutrals and with vibrant hues for women along with coordinates for the season. Lot of floral print options, twirling options, multi-packs and sets for children are also available. Shirts with Jacquard stripes, printed options, Oxford, textured and embossed print T-shirts and many more options are available for men. These coupled with the most stylish, elegant and trendy footwear, handbags and accessories options, make it the favourite fashion go-to destination.

Overall, Max store offers something for everyone, combining contemporary fashion trends to create a stylish and versatile collection.



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PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:12pm
Asr.....	3:30pm
Maghrib.....	7:00pm
Isha.....	8:22pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	3:52am

State Council Office discusses new studies

The first topic dealt with adapting to the use of electric vehicles (EVs) and the second topic was related to legislative and regulatory principles in e-commerce



MUSCAT: The Office of the State Council on Wednesday held the 5th meeting of its 4th regular session for the 7th Term. The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Abdulmalik Abdullah Al Khalili, Chairman of the State Council.

The State Council's Office discussed fresh studies and proposals submitted by its committees. It looked into a study titled "Services Provided to Persons with Disabilities in the Sultanate of Oman—the Reality and the Aspirations". Then, it exchanged views

about two topics presented by the Technology and Innovation Committee. The first topic dealt with scenarios of adapting to the use of electric vehicles (EVs). The second topic evolved around legislative and regulatory principles in e-commerce.

The State Council's Office also discussed a study on distance learning (education) policies, legislation and ways to develop it in Oman. The study highlighted the importance of distance learning, its effects and the common challenges facing its implementation. -ONA

MEETING

Oman and India explore cooperation in space sector, communications, IT

MUSCAT: Eng. Said Hamoud Al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology received on Wednesday S Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and his accompanying delegation.

Cooperation

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the areas of co-operation in the space sector, as well as the areas of the com-

munications and information technology sector.

They also touched on various matters of mutual interests that serve the common interests.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ali Amer Al Shidhani, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology for Communications and Information Technology, and a number of officials at the ministry.

-ONA



FOREIGN MINISTER

Polish envoy presents copy of credentials



MEETING: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister with Robert Rostek, appointed-ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Sultanate of Oman. -ONA

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received on Wednesday a copy of credentials of Robert Rostek, appointed-ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Sultanate of Oman.

Sayyid Badr welcomed the ambassador, wishing him success in

carrying out his duties, and the bilateral relations between Oman and Poland further progress and growth.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Khalid Said Al Jaradi, Head of the Protocols Department and a number of officials. -ONA

SULTAN QABOOS UNIVERSITY



Bioethics committees' meeting organised

MUSCAT: The Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) yesterday hosted the tasks of the 3rd regional meeting of National Bioethics Committees.

Titled "Ethics and Governance of Digital Innovations and Biotechnology", the meeting was held under the auspices of HH Sayyid Dr. Fahad Al Julanda Al Said, SQU Vice-Chancellor.

Organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) in cooperation with UNESCO, the National Bioethics Committee and the SQU, the meeting was aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and coordination between committees concerned in the region.

Emphasis was laid on collective action to deal with emerging

issues related to bioethics and means of developing the functions of national bioethics committees.

In his speech, Dr. John Jabbour, Representative of the WHO in Muscat, stressed the significance of exchanging expertise on ethical issues with the prime objective of striking a balance between freedom and scientific responsibility.

The first day included two dialogue sessions: the first one was titled "Human Rights in Science—for a more Inclusive Society". The second session covered the roles of national bioethics committees in Arab countries and the Middle East. It took the title "Developing competences and general political dialogues from a national and regional perspective". -ONA

OMAN, POLAND

Pact on visa

Times News Service

MUSCAT: An agreement for mutual exemption from visas has been reached between the Sultanate of Oman and Republic of Poland.

The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Poland held the third round of political consultations today in the Polish capital, Warsaw.

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- ❖ Event Transportation (Shuttle services, limousines, or car rental providers)
- ❖ Printing and Signage
- ❖ Event Security Services (Crowd management and VIP protection services)
- ❖ Floral Designers
- ❖ Event Staffing Agencies (Event coordinators, ushers, promoters and on-site event support)
- ❖ Event Insurance Providers (Coverage for liability, equipment damage, cancellation)
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Emphasis on donation of blood to save lives

The Ministry of Health’s participation marked the World Blood Donors Day to educate people about the importance of donating blood

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Health, is participating in the celebration of World Blood Donors Day, under the slogan (Donate blood, donate plasma, share life, share a lot), to educate people about the importance of donating blood to save the lives of others.

Dr. Zainab bint Salim Al-Araimi, Director of the Blood Banks Services Department at the Ministry of Health, said the number of blood units increased by 21 per cent last year compared to 2021, and the number of units collected from blood banks affiliated with the Ministry of Health reached 79,706.

She added that the number of donations of blood components in 2022 in the Blood Banks Services Department reached 42,122, and the number of blood donation campaigns reached 364, indicating that 43 percent of blood donations were collected during campaigns, while 57 percent were from blood donations in the Central Blood Bank building.

She explained that the rate of voluntary blood donation in 2022



Dr. Zainab bint Salim Al-Araimi, Director of the Blood Banks Services Department at the Ministry of Health. - ONA

was 97 percent, of whom 77 percent were Omani donors. Among them 51 percent were new donors. The number of blood units collected at the Central Blood Bank in Bausher this year has reached 18,028 units.

She indicated that the rate of increase in the number of blood donors in the current year compared to the same period last year was 13 percent in the Central Blood Bank in Bausher, and the total number of blood donors reached 18,118. A total of 8,479 donors participated in the donation campaigns, while the number of donation campaigns reached 161.

She stated that the General Directorate of Specialized Medical Care at the Ministry of Health, represented by the Blood Banks Services Department, urges community members to contribute to the provision of safe blood units for health institutions, and encourages donors to continue donating blood throughout the year in order to maintain adequate supplies of it and achieve self-sufficiency in supplies nationwide.

The Director of the Blood Banks Services Department at the Ministry of Health, stated that there are several conditions for donating blood. The age of the donor should be between 18 and 65 years, the weight of the donor should not be less than 50 kg, and that the blood pressure should be in the normal range.

She stated that the hemoglobin level should be in the normal range, the donor should answer the questions of the blood donation form honestly.

According to the World Health Organization, blood services in many countries face many challenges in providing sufficient quantities of blood while also ensuring the quality and safety of blood. The lack of safe blood and blood products, especially in low- and middle-income countries, affects all patients, including those in need of regular blood transfusions.

One of WHO’s strategies is to help low- and middle-income countries improve the availability and quality of human plasma, in particular optimising the use of plasma from whole blood donations, and enhancing patients’ access to life-saving plasma protein therapies.

WORLD BLOOD DONORS DAY



Omani diplomats donate blood

MUSCAT: The Omani embassies in various countries all over the world and the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry in Muscat on Wednesday marked the World Blood Donors Day. This move comes as a humanitarian initiative which reflects a deep understanding that goes beyond the usual roles of diplomatic missions and embassies abroad.

Omani diplomats, their families and employees at the Sultanate of Oman’s embassies visited hospitals in the countries of accreditation to donate blood. Foreign Ministry staff have also donated blood through the medical visit of a specialised team from Sultan Qaboos University Hospital.

This humanitarian initiative is part of the Foreign Ministry’s strategy to support the health sector and raise awareness of the importance of blood donation as a humanitarian activity to help meet the increasing demand for blood in hospitals and medical centers around the world.



The blood donation initiative also encourages the Ministry’s employees to maximise the value of humanization, selflessness, social responsibility, partnership and the expansion of humanitarian charitable work.

The initiative received good response from the Foreign Ministry’s employees and from the Omani diplomatic missions abroad, and reflected their awareness and the benevolent culture of the Omani society, and their sincere belief in the importance of this humanitarian work.

FROM JULY 2023



Oman welcomes US govt’s decision to resume membership of UNESCO

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the decision of the government of the United States of America to resume its membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) with effect from July 2023.

In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, Oman expressed appreciation for the United States’ move, noting that

it reaffirms the country’s commitment to international cooperation in the fields of education, science and culture.

The decision also reflects the United States’ support for the UNESCO in its mission to promote peace, sustainable development, world cultural heritage, dialogue among nations and the exchange of global knowledge and expertise, the statement said. - ONA



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Rimal Park to boost growth, create jobs in South Al Batinah

MUSCAT: The 'Rimal Park' project in Khabat Al Kadan area of Wilayat of Nakhal in South Al Batinah Governorate has been selected in the competition organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for the best of three projects among the governorates of Oman.

The project area is 225,000 square metres and involves an investment of approximately OMR7 million.

The Ministry of Finance will fund the project, which is close to Al Batinah Expressway, overlooking Wadi Al Abyadh.

The project aims to develop sustainable tourism and bring direct and indirect job opportunities for job seekers and employ SMEs to add local value to the South Al Batinah Governorate in particular and the Sultanate of Oman in general.

The project consists of a resort, an entertainment city, Al Wadi Park, an aerial lift, a place allocated for food trucks, retail centre, and car parking.



The project will be implemented within two years and is expected to receive 15,000 visitors weekly and provide employment to 344 people.

Sheikh Saif Hemiar Al Malik Al Shuhi, Governor of South Al Batinah, said that this project will encourage and attract investment, support tourism, economic devel-

opment in the governorate.

The project includes an integrated entertainment centre with suites, space for karting, gliding, and other activities.

This project will boost economic growth in South Al Batinah Governorate and provide job opportunities for citizens and businesses for SMEs, he added.



SEASON 2022/2023

About 6,000 tonnes of wheat crop harvested in Dhofar Governorate

SALALAH: Farmers in Najd area of Wilayat of Thumrait in Dhofar Governorate finished the wheat harvest process for the season 2022/2023 with an output of about 5,940 tonnes.

Eng. Said Musalam Al Kathiri, Director of Agriculture and Water Resources Department in Thumrait, said that the cultivable area this year was about 5,112 acres and the period of harvest on 81 farms continued for 77 days.

He said that efforts were being made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in cooperation with the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Fund and the Oman Agricultural Association in Dhofar Governorate to increase the wheat cultivated area at Najd Farms, emphasising on its economic and strategic necessity in the food security system.

He added that the Najd area in the Dhofar Governorate is considered one of the most promising areas for wheat cultivation due to reliable groundwater supply and fertile lands. The Ministry provides many incentives to encourage farmers to expand wheat cultivation and improve its quality by giving high quality seeds mainly (Wadi Qurayat 110, 308, 226 and 227, Jabrin and Koli) types.

He showed that 7 harvesters participated in the harvest process for this season which were provided



by the Ministry in different Governorates funded by the Agriculture and Fisheries Development Fund. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources had signed a memorandum of cooperation with Oman Mills Company for the purchase of locally produced wheat from farmers.

It may be mentioned that on 31 May 2023, the Council of Ministers had approved a plan to produce local wheat by allocating OMR5 million until 2027, and signed usufruct land pacts in a number of governorates for its cultivation to achieve food security in the country.



WORKSHOPS



Oman showcases tourism potential in Riyadh

Times News Service

RIYADH: Organised by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, workshops on Oman's tourism potentials kicked off in Riyadh on Wednesday. After Riyadh, the organisers will tour the cities of Dammam and Jeddah.

The workshops bring together 15 Omani companies and more than 150 companies from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The participants include travel agencies, tour operators and representatives of hotels and tourism destinations in Oman.

The events highlight Oman's picturesque nature, tourism landmarks and historical sites. They currently focus on attracting tourists to Oman during the Khareef (monsoon) season, which lasts from June to September.

Media briefing highlights Oman’s participation in India G20 meetings

The G20 meetings bring together leaders and operators who seek ways of enhancing dialogue between the largest industrialised countries with economies that support global growth

MUSCAT: Oman’s Secretariat for the G20 Meetings and a number of relevant government departments organised a media briefing at the Diplomatic Club in Muscat on Wednesday about the Sultanate of Oman’s participation in the 18th round of G20 meetings, held in India, to forge solutions to inter-



national issues. The G20 meetings bring together leaders and operators who seek ways of enhancing dialogue between the largest industrialised countries with economies that support global growth. Since its foundation, the G20 has assumed a protocol to invite other countries as participating guests to help invigorate geographical balance so that it could include all regions of the world. The group operates along two parallel tracks. The first track

focuses on financing and it is led by finance ministers and central bank governors. The second track (Sherpa Track) pertains to generating opportunities for growth and influencing relevant economic and social policies. **Special invitation to Oman** Pankaj Khimji, Advisor at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, Head of Oman’s Secretariat for the G20 Meetings, said that India has sent a special invitation to Oman to par-

ticipate in the G20 meetings. The invitation constitutes an important opportunity for participation in this international governmental forum of the most important world economies, said Khimji, noting that participation in the event offers a chance for enriching areas of knowledge by exchanging expertise and highlighting efforts made to realise the objectives set out by the group. The invitation also consolidates Oman’s position as an active partner at the regional level, besides

strengthening partnership with the international community, Khimji affirmed. He pointed out that Oman will garner a host of benefits from its participation in the G20 meetings, which address major common issues such as investment, international trade and supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by providing financing. This is in addition to establishing unified platforms for cooperation in resolving international crises and achieving global stability, said Khimji. The meetings introduce the procedures, mechanisms, policies, regulations, incentives, programmes and initiatives that influence the G20 business system. In the run-up to the event, Oman held many preparatory and coordination meetings with relevant government institutions, said Khimji, noting that a special committee was formed to oversee Oman’s participation in the G20 meetings. He added the members of the committee included the Foreign Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion. The committee devised an action plan and a programme to follow up the outcomes of meetings of the group task teams, as well as the agenda of topics to be discussed by

the G20, he explained. Khimji stressed that Oman’s participation in the G20 meetings provides positive opportunities to expand the country’s network of relations with countries, governments and international organizations. The meetings pave the way for Oman to establish direct channels of communication and explore inroads for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, energy, tourism, culture, health and others in line with Oman Vision 2040, he said. Faisal Ali Al Hinai, Director of Investment Projects’ Monitoring and Evaluation Department at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said that Oman, through its participation in the G20 meetings, studied the most important economic challenges and proposals for solutions that would contribute to realising target global goals. Reciprocating the view, Dr. Salim Ahmed Al Jahwari, Director General of the Macro-Financial Policies Unit at the Ministry of Finance, stressed that Oman’s participation in the G20 meetings provide a new track to build strong relations with the participating countries and learn about the best international practices used to improve the financial system and manage public debt. — ONA

AGSIW REPORT

FROM A1 MTFP offers a clear path for greater fiscal sustainability

“Yet the government established a roadmap for and prioritisation of economic reforms – and it has delivered. “The Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) for 2020-24 offers a clear path toward greater fiscal sustainability. Oman’s overall fiscal deficit averaged 12.8 percent of gross domestic product from 2015-20, while the budget deficit reached approximately 3.6 percent in 2021. Oman enjoyed a budget surplus of approximately 5 percent of GDP in 2022 – the country’s first surplus since 2013 – and is expected to post a minor surplus in 2023. Although the fiscal breakeven price of oil stood at an estimated US\$77 per barrel in 2022, officials see that figure declining to US\$67 by 2025 in light of ongoing fiscal consolidation measures.”

Non-oil revenue streams The report said that new taxes have increased non-oil revenue streams. Oman rolled out its value-added tax in April 2021 – later than the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain but before Qatar and Kuwait, which have still yet to do so. It added: “Oman’s general government gross debt to GDP ratio – which skyrocketed from 4 percent in 2014 to around 70 percent in 2020 – dropped to 40 percent in 2022, down from 61 percent in 2021. Rapid GDP growth owing to high energy prices explains some of the movement in these figures, but reducing government debt is now a policy priority. The Oman Investment Authority has worked systematically to consolidate the country’s state-owned entity sector, which is a major contributor to the country’s overall government debt burden, and reduce inefficiencies and waste.” Mogielnicki wrote that “demonstrable progress on sustainable spending, diversifying public sector revenue sources, and reducing government debt have made Oman a darling of debt markets.” In April, both Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings revised Oman’s outlook to positive. Oman issued development bonds – the instruments that finance devel-



opment projects in the country’s five-year development plans – earlier in the year, raising approximately US\$195 million. Higher energy prices played an important role in these positive economic indicators. The price of Brent crude oil jumped from US\$70.89 per barrel in 2021 to US\$100.94/bbl in 2022, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts that prices will settle around US\$78.65/bbl in 2023 and US\$74.47/bbl in 2024. The report said: “With that, Oman’s real GDP growth rate will slow from 4.3 percent in 2022 to below 2 percent in 2023. This growth trajectory tracks with oil price movements because government finances and – to a lesser degree – the broader economy remain closely linked to the oil and gas sector. Nevertheless, Oman’s government officials are serving as responsible stewards of the most recent windfall from energy exports. Despite a deceleration of growth in 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects growth to tick upward to 5.2 percent in 2024, following significant investments in hydrogen and renewables. The report said: “Oman’s aspiration to “become one of the largest green hydrogen producers and exporters globally,” has generated substantial interest from international energy

companies and investors.” The Omani hydrogen company Hydrom, a subsidiary of Energy Development Oman, has signed agreements with developers for large-scale, integrated green hydrogen projects valued at tens of billions of dollars over the next several years. Meanwhile, the Oman Water and Power Procurement Company is pushing ahead with major solar power and wind projects. The report also mentioned that one of the major challenges in the coming years will be addressing employment-related concerns. Oman does not enjoy massive sovereign wealth holdings, which regional governments have used effectively to help insulate citizens from reforms, stimulate their domestic economies, and form high-profile investment partnerships on the global stage. The Oman Investment Authority oversees approximately \$41 billion in assets under management. The report concluded by saying: “Oman can differentiate itself from regional counterparts by adopting a measured, consistent approach to economic policymaking as well as accepting modest progress. While this trajectory may not transform Oman into a premier global business hub, it may reveal that profligate spending is not necessarily the best foundation for a sustainable economic future.”

HOLY LAND

FROM A1 Omani Hajj delegation

The Omani Hajj delegation, during its presence in Makkah and Medina, will serve the Omani pilgrims in the Holy Land and supervise their rituals. The mission consists of an administrative and financial delega-

tion, a delegation supervising Hajj companies, a medical delegation, a delegation from the Royal Oman Police, a media delegation, a scout delegation, and a delegation from the State Financial and Administrative Control Authority.

Number of pilgrims It is worth noting that the number of pilgrims from the Sultanate of Oman this year reached 14,000, while the number of Hajj companies reached 93. — ONA

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Madayn, Mwasalat sign pact to boost mobility to Knowledge Oasis Muscat

MUSCAT: The Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn) signed an agreement with Oman National Transport Company (Mwasalat) – part of Asyad Group – to introduce a new stop at the Knowledge Oasis Muscat (KOM) as part of Route 6 at KOM’s bus stop. The aim is to enhance mobility by providing a safe and accessible transportation option for individuals commuting to and from the Knowledge Oasis Muscat. **Easier access** By strategically adding a stop at KOM, Madayn and Mwasalat aim to facilitate easier access and contribute to the overall efficiency of public transportation in the area. Mwasalat will commence operating trips to this location starting from next September. The agreement was signed by Eng. Dawood Salim Al Hadabi, CEO of Madayn, and Badar Mohammed Al Nadabi, CEO of Mwasalat. — ONA



TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Nama Dhofar Services invites the specialize companies to participate and submit their offers for the below said tender in Dhofar Governorate..

Tender Number	Tender Name	Last Date for Collection of Tender Documents	Time & Last Date for Proposal Submission	Tender Fee (OMR) Including VAT (5%)
DISC/2023/084	REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING PORCELAIN INSULATOR WITH SILICONE RUBBER INSULATOR	29/06/2023	09/07/2023	RO. 105.000
DISC/2023/091	11 KV & LV Network Improvement Works- (Lot-2)	29/06/2023	09/07/2023	RO. 105.000
DISC/2023/109	UNE-LOT 05 I-2023	29/06/2023	09/07/2023	RO. 52.500
DISC/2023/110	UNE-LOT 06 A-2023	29/06/2023	09/07/2023	RO. 52.500

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Record 110mn people displaced worldwide

The report shows that global forced displacement continues to rise unabated in 2023 driven by conflicts and climate-related upheaval

GENEVA: A record 110 million people have been displaced around the world as the conflict in Sudan contributed to a crisis already underway due to the war in Ukraine, according to a UNHCR report released on Wednesday.

The report indicated that global forced displacement continues to rise unabated in 2023, marking a significant increase of 19.1 million compared to the previous year, driven by conflicts and climate-related upheaval.

The UN refugee agency report



also said poorer countries, rather than wealthy nations, disproportionately bore the responsibility of hosting displaced individuals.

Those displaced would often end up in a nearby country, even if the conditions were only marginally better, while many Western nations remained reluctant to take on board the people forced to flee their homelands.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said that without solutions the “consequence is devastation, displacement, and anguish for each of the millions of people forcibly uprooted from their homes.”

The report also highlighted that almost 4.4 million people worldwide were stateless or of undetermined nationality by the end of

2022 — a 2% increase compared to the previous year.

Ukraine war displaced millions

According to the UN refugee agency’s Global Trends in Forced Displacement 2022 report, 35.3 million displaced individuals were categorized as refugees, having crossed international borders in search of safety. A larger portion — 58% and representing 62.5 million people — faced displacement within their own countries.

In 2022, the war in Ukraine was the primary cause of displacement as the number of refugees skyrocketed from 27,300 at the end of 2021 to 5.7 million by the end of the year. This was the largest refugee outflow since World War II.

Additionally, Colombia and Peru reported higher numbers of Venezuelans seeking international protection, while the report estimates that the number of Afghan refugees in Iran also swelled.

Poorer countries bear burden

The UNHCR report highlighted that low- and middle-income countries, rather than wealthy nations, continue to shoulder the burden of hosting displaced people. Despite contributing less than 1.3% of global gross domestic product, the 46 least developed countries hosted over 20% of all refugees.

Grandi called for more international support and a fairer distribution of responsibilities, particularly with the countries hosting a significant number of displaced individuals.

At the same time, the report also offered a glimmer of hope while pointing out that among those forced to flee previously, many were able to return voluntarily and safely.

In 2022, over 339,000 refugees returned voluntarily to 38 countries, while 5.7 million internally displaced individuals returned home to Ethiopia, Myanmar and Syria, among others. — DW



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78 dead as migrant boat sinks off Greece

ATHENS: The death toll from a capsized fishing boat carrying migrants off the coast of southern Greece has risen to 78, the Greek coast guard has announced.

A large-scale search and rescue operation was underway on Wednesday morning after the boat, which is believed to have been transporting up to 400 people from near the Libyan port of Tobruk to Italy, capsized during the night in strong winds some 75 kilometers (46 miles) southwest of Greece’s southern Peloponnese region.

So far, 104 people have been confirmed rescued and taken to the Greek town of Kalamata, where they have received dry clothes and medical attention in shelters set up by ambulance services and the United Nations Refugee Agency. Four people have been hospitalised with symptoms of hypothermia.

Authorities initially put the death toll at 32, before increasing it to 59. Fears remain that it could yet increase even more.

The search, which involves six coast guard vessels, a navy frigate, a military transport plane, an air force helicopter, several private vessels and a drone from the European Union border protection agency, Frontex, is ongoing.

— DW

6,500 millionaires expected to leave India in 2023: Report

NEW DELHI: About 6,500 high net worth individuals (HNWIs) are expected to leave India in 2023, lower than the net outflows of 7,500 individuals the previous year, according to Henley Private Wealth Migration Dashboard 2023 - which tracks wealth and investment migration trends worldwide.

‘Millionaires’ or ‘high-net-worth individuals’ or ‘HNWIs’ refer to individuals with an investable \$1 million or more wealth. According to the estimate, China is expected to top the list with 13,500 Chinese millionaires likely to exit the country as against the exodus of 10,800 people from the country in the year 2022.

While China has a total of 780,000 HNWIs, in India there



are an estimated 344,600 high net worth individuals.

UK, Russia and Brazil are expected to witness HNWIs outflow of 3,200, 3,000, and 1,200 respectively in the year 2023.

Perhaps most notably, the United Kingdom’s anticipated HNWIs flight is double that of last year, when it saw a net exodus of 1,600 millionaires.

According to the Henley Private

Wealth Migration dashboard HNWIs are likely to choose Australia, UAE, Singapore, the US, and Switzerland as their preferred destinations in 2023. These countries are expected to see inflows of 5,200, 4,500, 3,200, 2,100, and 1,800, respectively.

Wealth intelligence firm

The data supplied by wealth intelligence firm, New World Wealth, covers key countries in five regions worldwide (Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and CIS, and the Middle East), and was released on Tuesday.

A steady growth trajectory was recorded, until 2020, in the millionaire outflows when the Covid-19 pandemic hampered migration. Recovery commenced

rapidly in 2022, and the 2023 and 2024 forecasts indicate continued growth. Overall outflows of HNWIs globally in 2023 and 2024 are forecast at 122,000 and 128,000, respectively.

A decade ago, in 2013, the outflows was about 51,000, the dashboard showed.

“Australia is expected to attract the highest net inflow of HNWIs in 2023 at 5,200, and although the UAE drops into 2nd place following its record-breaking influx in 2022, it is still expected to enjoy an impressive net arrival of 4,500 new millionaires this year. Singapore ranks 3rd with a net inflow of 3,200 HNWIs, its highest on record, followed the US with an expected net influx of 2,100 millionaires,” it said.

Juerg Steffen, CEO of Henley and Partners, says there’s been a steady growth in millionaire migration over the past decade.

“In general, wealth migration trends look set to revert to pre-pandemic patterns this year, with Australia reclaiming the top spot for net inflows as it did for five years prior to the Covid outbreak, and China seeing the biggest net outflows as it has each year for the past decade. The notable exceptions are former top wealth magnets, the UK and the US,” Steffen added.

According to Henley and Partners website, wealthy individuals rely on their expertise and experience regarding “residence and citizenship by investment”.

— ANI

ECUADOR

Woman thought dead starts knocking from inside coffin

BABAHOYO: An Ecuadorian woman presumed dead at the age of 76 woke up five hours into her memorial service and began knocking inside her coffin, according to media report on Tuesday.

The incident was reported from the city of Babahoyo.

Ecuador’s health ministry said that the doctors had declared retired nurse Bella Montoya dead after a possible stroke and cardiopulmonary arrest. She did not respond to resuscitation efforts. Gilberto Barbera, the woman’s son posted a video of the same on social media.

He captioned the video, “I lifted the coffin, and her heart was pounding, and her left hand was hitting the coffin... We called 911 to bring her here to the hospital.”

People were seen waiting and supporting her as emergency personnel arrived and took the 76-year-old woman back to the hospital. — ANI



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SPORTS

Oman Cricket chief Khimji tells his players to give it their all

Oman to vie for two ICC Cricket World Cup spots in Zimbabwe Qualifier, which begins on June 18

MUSCAT: He has seen the highs and lows of Oman Cricket over the past many decades. Taking over a legacy left by Late Kanak Khimji, first chairman of Oman Cricket, he has been the fulcrum around which the sport has grown in the Sultanate of Oman. Today, Pankaj Khimji, the chairman of Oman Cricket (OC), is one of the most respected administrators in world cricket.

As the national team prepares for their biggest test ever, Khimji is filled with pride as he speaks about the team's journey to the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier, which will be played in Zimbabwe from June 18-July 9.

Khimji said: "We have been playing consistent cricket over the past eight years at the Associate level. Gone are the days when our team used to struggle in conditions overseas or while facing other Associate nations on the road.

"Today, it is a new Oman. It is no longer the squad of 2005 and 2009 (the previous occasions when Oman competed in the World Cup Qualifier) when the players faced totally a new ball game while playing abroad as we did not even have a turf pitch then.

"We are now a seasoned team and one of the most respected teams among the Associate nations. Since our maiden qualification for the 2016 T20 World Cup in 2015, our boys haven't looked back. Today, there isn't any team we haven't defeated in the Associate world."

'Oman in good hands under Duleep Mendis'
Khimji, who is also the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) vice-president, said: "Our team is in good hands under Duleep Mendis. The coaching staff of Avishkar Salvi [bowling coach] and Evert Laubscher [assis-



A file photo of OC chairman Pankaj Khimji (centre) flanked by Madhu Jesrani (right) OC secretary, and Alkesh Joshi OC treasurer, during an interaction with national team players.

tant coach] have worked hard with Duleep to get our boys ready for this important mission.

"We have some of the best players in Associate cricket, be it one of the best pace bowlers or the best all-rounder or batters who are among the top-ten. Leading from the front

is classy Zeeshan Magsood. I believe we have a good chance in the Qualifier in Zimbabwe."

Oman face a challenging hurdle in their quest to make it to their first ICC Cricket World Cup later this year in India.

They along with nine other na-

tions vie for the two available slots in Zimbabwe. Besides Oman, the other teams in Group B are World Cup winners Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland and the UAE. Group A comprises Zimbabwe, Netherlands, two-time winners West Indies, United States and Nepal.

is time for the team and players to produce something special. We have a good set of all-rounders and that is an advantage.

"Our skipper Shani [Zeeshan Magsood] is our trump card. The top-order batters of the likes of Jatinder Singh, Kashyap Prajapati, Aqib Ilyas and Shoaib Khan have clicked in recent times and the pace bowling department led by Bilal Khan and Kaleemullah have been exceptional. With Fayyaz Butt and spinners our squad is quite balanced."

'Go with a bold and positive attitude'

Khimji, who is also advisor for foreign trade and international cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, said: "A bold and positive attitude and approach towards every game in Zimbabwe is important.

"They have reached this stage after a fantastic performance in Cricket World Cup League 2. That momentum has also helped us during the build-up camp in Durban, South Africa, where we won four of the five matches. The boys are in a good frame of mind for Zimbabwe."

Khimji said: "Continuity in cricket for the Oman team even during the pandemic was a key component in the team's good performance in Cricket World Cup League 2."

He said: "Despite the challenges where players lost their jobs during COVID-19 times, Oman Cricket stood by their players and helped them. We looked after the players and their families and the players are happy with the support received.

"We have got the blessings of our patron-in-chief, His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al Said, and the constant support of His Highness Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham, the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, and the sports ministry.

"We successfully hosted the ICC T20 World Cup in 2021 and then the Legends Super League. We have some of the best facilities and turf ground among Associate nations and all these developments have kept cricket in focus. We now hope the boys will deliver at the big stage and complete a successful mission."

'Players are a motivated lot and carrying momentum'

On the team's prospects, Khimji said: "We have a good chance of making it to the Super Six. Having played through the grueling 36-match cycle in the ICC Cricket World Cup League 2, our players are well-prepared. There is an excitement among players of taking on full-member nations and big teams and they are not overawed.

"We should be able to finish in the top half of the table and get into the next stage. I am confident and I couldn't have asked for a better team to achieve it. The bunch of players are a motivated lot and are carrying the momentum of their excellent display in Cricket World Cup League 2 where we finished second."

Khimji, who met the players before their departure, urged his boys to give it all and go into the Qualifier with determination. He told the players: "Once for all, give it your all. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. There is nothing easy at this level. Go into each match with a positive mindset."

Khimji added: "At this stage, it

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by August 2023 reaching \$74.54, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.54 from the price of Tuesday, which was \$72. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,687.06 points, down by 0.2 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 466.51 points. National Finance, up 3.25 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 8.81 per cent, was the top loser.

Moody's upgrades OETC's rating from Ba3 to Ba2, outlook positive

Moody's views OETC as a government-related issuer (GRI) whose Ba2 corporate family rating (CFR) reflects the high level of dependence and high level of support from the government of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Moody's Ratings has recently published a new statement on its website to reflect on the upgrade of the Oman Electricity Transmission Company's (OETC) rating from (Ba3) to (Ba2) with a positive outlook, which reflects the positive financial per-



formance and position of the company in the market.

Moody's views OETC as a government-related issuer (GRI) whose Ba2 corporate family rating (CFR) reflects the high level of dependence and high level of support

from the government of Oman. Their view is supported and influenced by OETC's strong business profile, which will remain commensurate with the rating under Price Control 6 (PC6). It also sheds light on OETC's dominant market

position as the natural monopoly national transmission system operator within a supportive regulatory framework with a low business risk profile of its electricity transmission activities.

Credit ratings are an important

indicator of the company's financial health and stability. This rating upgrade reflects Moody's view of OETC's consistent track record of prudent financial management. The OETC's new rating increases the confidence of different stake-

holders including investors and financial institutions and improves the company's reputation at the global and regional levels, leading to secured funding plans and higher profitability.

Furthermore, Fitch Ratings has upgraded OETC's rating from (BB) to (BB+) with a stable outlook based on the enhancement of the company's financial performance and position in the market. The company reaffirms its commitment to enhancing its performance and attaining further achievement to contribute to the development of different sectors in Oman.

It is worth mentioning that OETC, a member of the Nama Group is the only company responsible for the transmission and control of electricity in the Sultanate's network, where electricity is transferred from production stations to distributed load centres in all governorates of the Sultanate, and the transmission network operates at a voltage of 132 kV and above, to cover most of the governorates of Oman, whether in the north or the south. In addition, OETC manages the interconnection lines between the Sultanate and the Gulf interconnection network with a voltage of 220 kV.

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

CMA issues instructions for registration of Virtual Assets Services Providers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Capital Market Authority (CMA) has issued new instructions for the registration of Virtual Assets Services Providers (VASPs) and implementation of Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Combating Financing Terrorism (CFT) requirements.

The Decision No. 35/2023 issued was as part of CMA's endeavours to enhance the protection from money laundering and terrorism financing practices, and to ensure the safety of the national economy from such practices in view of diversified investment options including virtual assets in the Sultanate of Oman.

The decision is part of CMA's initial step for issuance of the regulatory framework for licensing, supervision and regulation of virtual assets services providers in the Sultanate of Oman, which is currently under preparation in collaboration with a consultant firm.

The instructions were issued to register VASPs to obligate them to comply with AML/CFT requirements. Virtual assets refer to any digital representation of value that can be digitally traded, transferred or used for payment and investment.

The decision emphasized that VASPs must adjust their situation within three months from the date of effect of the decision.



The instructions stipulate that any person can only carry out the virtual assets activity in Oman after registration with the CMA. The instructions comprise the activities of virtual assets services providers, registration requirements and processes, customer risk assessment procedures, products and services etc. They emphasised

putting in place internal procedures and policies, suspicious transaction reporting, providing information for the National Centre for Financial Information as well as provisions for the transfer of virtual assets and precautionary measures before transferring.

The decision obliged the VASPs who are legal persons incorpo-

rated in the Sultanate of Oman and the natural persons who have a place of business in Oman and VASPs who are legal or natural persons who offer or render virtual assets service in the Sultanate of Oman to register with the CMA and explained the method of application for registration and the required documents and statements.

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

Indian banks' credit profiles well placed to weather global banking sector stress

NEW DELHI: The credit quality of Indian banks and non-bank financial institutions will remain resilient despite a challenging environment for banks globally, according to Moody's Investors Service which said they are well placed to weather global banking sector stress.

The global rating and research agency said strong domestic demand in India, improving credit conditions for bank borrowers, and strengthened solvency and funding of Indian financial institutions will support their credit quality. Moody's Indian affiliate ICRA also expects the banking sector's performance to remain strong with healthy profitability - primarily driven by strong loan growth and a favourable credit environment.

Moody's said credit conditions in India have gradually improved, with a significant reduction in the banks' legacy problem in loans over the past three years.

Stress among non-bank financial institutions in India too has abated, Moody's said.

"Banks globally are facing liquidity pressures amid tighter monetary policy, outflows of

excess liquidity built up during the coronavirus pandemic into more profitable investments and increased risk aversion among investors because of stress in the US banking sector," said Alka Anbarasu, a Moody's Associate Managing Director.

"Indian banks, however, have strong domestic funding franchises and ample liquidity to support growth in their loans in line with India's strong economic conditions," Anbarasu added.

Moody's guidance assumes important at a time when there has been instability in some banks in the US.

One of the most prominent lenders in the world of technology startups, Silicon Valley Bank, which was struggling, first collapsed on March 10, after a run on the bank by the depositors. Its closure led to a contagion effect and the subsequent shutting down of other banks - Signature Bank and First Republic Bank.

The collapse of a few regional banks in the US had sent ripples across the global banking industry and posed fears of a contagion effect across economies. -ANI

OMAN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Agreement inked to enhance local content and support SMEs

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority (OIA) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the SMEs Development Authority, as part of the efforts made by OIA and its entities to enhance the local content and In-country Value (ICV).

The cooperation programme involves launching a financing scheme managed by the SMEs Development Authority. It is directed to SMEs that are awarded contracts (tenders, procurements, or business opportunities) by OIA's entities, whereby they are funded by 80 per cent (i.e. a maximum of OMR250,000) of the contract/tender's value.

To ensure that the financing product meets its objectives, the SMEs Development Authority put some criteria in place for submitting a funding application. This includes passing the Entre-



preneur Readiness Programme, an intensive training programme seeking to develop technical and entrepreneurial skills to keep up with the rapid changes in entrepreneurship, in addition to enhancing technical and technological practices that contribute to the sustainability of projects,

whether in project establishment and development or management of crises that may have a direct or indirect impact on the continuity of the project.

Halima Al-Zari, Chairperson of the SMEs Development Authority, commented, "This agreement is a valuable opportunity to strength-

en our strategic partnership with OIA and to continue providing incentives and facilities to SMEs through ICV programmes through contracts, tenders, and business opportunities by OIA Entities. This programme rather reflects OIA's commitment to supporting SMEs and enhancing their sus-

tainability and contributions to the national economy. Given the recent aspirations and the attention given to amendment of regulations and legislation to ensure the provision of business opportunities and assignment of procurement and tenders to entrepreneurs, this partnership will contribute to creating more business opportunities for SMEs and increasing available information about the future needs of industries, supplies and services, particularly as local supplier development programmes require that entrepreneurs have specialised skills that we will enhance over the coming period through various programmes that meet the standards and requirements set by OIA entities in various economic sectors."

Sheikh Nasser Al-Harthi, Deputy President of Operations at OIA, said, "In line with the Royal directives on enhancing the local content, the programme contributes

to the efforts aiming to localise domestic industries and enhance the role of SMEs in developing the national economy, in addition to encouraging national services and products and promoting them in the markets instead of importing them from abroad.

"This will ultimately contribute to the efforts made by OIA and its entities with regard to empowering the private sector and supporting the national economy."

In addition to creating business opportunities for SMEs through ICV programmes by OIA entities, the programme seeks to provide information and data on the future needs of industries, supplies, and related services that can be localised or developed locally.

As a result, SMEs will have greater opportunities to compete and benefit from wide business opportunities, which create direct and indirect job opportunities for the national workforce.

MARKET

MSX index ends lower

National Finance, up 3.25 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 8.81 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,687.06 points, down by 0.2 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.07 per cent at 466.51 points. National Finance, up 3.25 per cent, was the top gainer while, Al Maha Marketing, down 8.81 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of HSBC Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover. A total number of 455 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR732 million, with more than 16.65 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 6 advanced, 13 declined, and 27 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR880,000 while foreign investors were net buyers for OMR636,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR244,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,625.99 points, down 0.19 per cent. Prices of National Finance,

Al Omaniya Financial Services, Al Sharqia Investment and Al Anwar Investment were up by 3.25 per cent, 1.50 per cent, 1.37 per cent and 1.14 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Madina Investments, Ominvest, Global Financial Investments, Sohar International Bank and Bank Muscat were up by 2.27 per cent, 2.17 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 0.97 per cent and 0.38 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,040.74 points, down 0.39 per cent. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals were up by 1.45 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Fisheries, Gulf Mushroom Products, Galfar Engineering, Raysut Cement and Oman Cement were up by 8.33 per cent, 2.27 per cent, 1.06 per cent, 0.58 per cent and 0.55 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.74 per cent before closing at 1,681.02 points. Prices of Renaissance Services were up by 2.56 per cent respectively. Prices of Sharqiyah Desalination were up by 3.85 per cent respectively. – United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,696.65	4,682.49	4,687.06	4,696.64	-9.58	-0.20
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,642.00	7,584.97	7,625.99	7,640.85	-14.86	-0.19
Industry Index	6,073.60	6,040.74	6,040.74	6,064.50	-23.76	-0.39
Services Index	1,692.38	1,672.46	1,681.02	1,693.62	-12.60	-0.74
MSX Shariah Index	467.59	466.51	466.51	466.82	-0.31	-0.07
MSX TR INDEX	6,174.70	6,156.08	6,162.09	6,174.68	-12.59	-0.20
FINANCIAL TR IDX	8,324.72	8,262.60	8,307.28	8,323.47	-16.19	-0.19
SERVICES TR IDX	1,860.47	1,838.57	1,847.98	1,861.83	-13.85	-0.74
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,488.12	6,453.01	6,453.01	6,478.39	-25.38	-0.39

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
16,650,465	7,318,011	455	23,723,285,771	6	13	27	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

ISINSECURITY NAMEVOLUMETURNOVERTRADESOPEN PRICEHIGHLOWCLOSE PR.PREV. CLOSEDIFF (RD)DIFF %LAST PR.LAST BIDLAST OFFERPAR VALUEMARKET CAP

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003234	RENAISSANCE SERVICES	101,150	38,460	5	0.380	0.400	0.380	0.400	0.390	0.010	2.564	0.400	0.364	0.390	0.100	94,564,000
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INVESTMENT HO.	3,640	269	1	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.073	0.001	1.370	0.074	0.072	0.074	0.100	6,660,000
OM0000001087	OMAN UNITED INSURANCE	15,000	3,855	3	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.257	0.000	0.000	0.257	0.254	0.257	0.100	25,700,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	23,120	6,474	6	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.000	0.000	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.100	455,264,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	6,394,650	1,023,144	6	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.160	0.160	0.160	0.100	320,050,948
OM0000001525	OMAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE	1,000	89	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	29,145,000
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	17,456	4,748	3	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.272	0.000	0.000	0.272	0.250	0.299	0.100	59,840,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	70,686	4,029	4	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.100	229,299,256
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	213,389	37,340	1	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.173	0.175	0.100	524,361,501
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	813,266	793,617	48	0.968	0.976	0.968	0.976	0.976	0.000	0.000	0.976	0.960	0.976	0.100	732,000,000
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	502,000	181,724	6	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.362	0.000	0.000	0.362	0.362	0.364	0.100	235,641,811
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	202,900	16,247	11	0.082	0.082	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.078	0.081	0.100	15,970,848
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	300,346	24,929	25	0.083	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.083	0.000	0.000	0.083	0.080	0.083	0.100	14,525,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	246	79	1	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.000	0.320	0.320	0.000	0.100	17,600,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	560,136	148,151	39	0.266	0.266	0.264	0.265	0.266	-0.001	-0.376	0.265	0.264	0.265	0.100	1989,195,221
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	23,270	8,385	13	0.368	0.368	0.360	0.360	0.362	-0.002	-0.552	0.360	0.360	0.370	0.100	119,114,176
OM0000003398	SOHAR INTERNATIONAL BANK	240,100	24,480	3	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.100	0.102	0.100	468,168,354
OM0000003125	GLOBAL FINANCIAL INVESTMENT HO.	107,000	6,318	6	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.060	-0.001	-1.667	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.100	11,800,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	279,700	100,692	5	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.360	0.368	-0.008	-2.174	0.360	0.360	0.368	0.100	240,611,553
OM0000003000	AI MAHA PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MKTG	1,665	1,723	4	1.035	1.035	1.035	1.035	1.135	-0.100	-8.811	1.035	1.040	1.035	0.100	71,415,000
Total		20	9,870,600	2,424,754	191											

Parallel Market

OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	30,000	3,734	3	0.122	0.127	0.122	0.127	0.123	0.004	3.252	0.127	0.122	0.127	0.100	72,860,444
OM0000002077	AL OMANIYA FINANCIAL SERVICES	110,000	14,718	4	0.123	0.135	0.123	0.135	0.133	0.002	1.504	0.135	0.127	0.135	0.100	41,536,045
OM0000002028	GULF INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	10,639	745	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.069	0.001	1.449	0.070	0.069	0.075	0.100	1,470,000	
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	178,000	15,842	5	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.088	0.001	1.136	0.089	0.087	0.090	0.100	17,800,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	334	1,156	3	3.500	3.500	3.400	3.500	3.500	0.000	0.000	3.400	3.400	3.500	0.100	3,500,000
OM0000001368	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL INDUSTRIES	10,000	570	1	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.052	0.057	0.100	3,562,500
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	360,000	33,120	18	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.000	0.000	0.092	0.092	0.099	0.100	24,272,823
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	40,518	3,971	10	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.098	0.107	0.100	7,977,470
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	35,669	3,392	10	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004735	SEMBORP SALALAH	10	1	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.090	0.101	0.100	94,502,623
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	12,298	590	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.050	0.100	12,000,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	50,620	1,423	5	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.000	0.000	0.028	0.027	0.030	0.100	18,896,848
OM0000004923	AL SUWADI POWER	73,412	2,063	7	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.000	0.000	0.027	0.026	0.029	0.100	19,288,971
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	52,600	4,997	1	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.094	0.096	0.100	19,000,000
OM0000008934	ABRAJ ENERGY SERVICES	784,680	236,434	158	0.300	0.304	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300	0.300	0.100	231,060,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	15,830	2,739	3	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.174	-0.001	-0.575	0.173	0.173	0.173	0.100	34,600,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEERING & CONTRACTING	53,188	9,943	10	0.187	0.187	0.186	0.186	0.188	-0.002	-1.064	0.186	0.185	0.189	0.100	37,755,479
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INVESTMENT HOLDING	33,850	1,456	3	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.044	-0.001	-2.273	0.043	0.041	0.046	0.100	3,655,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM PRODUCTS	2,700	394	3	0.220	0.220	0.215	0.215	0.220	-0.005	-2.273	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.100	2,839,470
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALINATION	2,500	313	2	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.130	-0.005	-3.846	0.125	0.125	0.130	0.100	12,225,270
Total		20	1,857,048	337,788	249											

GERMANY'S INDEX

DAX bounces to new high ahead of Fed interest rate call

BRUSSELS: Germany's blue-chip DAX index jumped to a new high of 16,332.67 points on Wednesday amid speculation that the US Federal Reserve is set to pause its cycle of interest rate hikes. Markets in London and Paris have also been buoyant after data showed US inflation was cooling – increasing expectations that the Fed will not further lift the cost of borrowing.

What does the rise mean? While the latest high only comes a month after a previous record figure for the DAX, it indicates returning market confidence as US policymakers bring inflation under control. The DAX's previous spike, on May 19, was driven by optimism about the US Congress reaching a deal to stave off a disastrous default on the nation's debt. Since a price slide to almost 12,000 in September, the DAX – which is now made up of Germa-



ny's top 40 leading blue-chip firms – has been faring better. Despite a highly turbulent few years economically with COVID and then the war in Ukraine, the DAX has gained more than 50% in value since late in 2018, though some of this can be ascribed to its expansion from 30 companies to 40 in 2021. The recent recovery of the German index, among others, has been bolstered in part by Beijing's de-

cision in late 2022 to finally drop draconian COVID-19 restrictions in China. The Federal Reserve's predicted skip in rate rises comes after 10 consecutive hikes. A pause looked more likely after a sharp drop in the US consumer price index was slightly more than had been forecast. A string of recent readings also suggests that 15 months of central bank tightening is beginning to kick in. -DW

KASPERSKY

Most common sources of ransomware attacks revealed

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The majority of ransomware attacks in 2022 started with exploitation of public-facing applications, data from compromised user accounts and malicious emails, a new report reveals. Statistics from the Kaspersky Incident Response Analyst Report 'The nature of cyber incidents' show that almost 43 percent of ransomware attacks investigated by Kaspersky experts in 2022 started with public-facing apps exploitation, followed by data from previously compromised user accounts and malicious emails with 24 percent and 12 percent respectively. The attackers' goal was not extortion or data encryption, but the mining of personal data, intellectual property, and other sensitive information.

BUSINESS SUMMIT

China's economic ambitions a huge draw for Saudi Arabia

RIYADH: A sign of the shifting power balance in the Middle East was on show during the two-day Arab-China business summit in the Saudi capital Riyadh this week, as China and the kingdom announced investment deals worth \$10 billion (€9.3 billion). Saudi Arabia's state-run news agency SPA said 30 agreements were inked across multiple sectors, including technology, renewables, agriculture, real estate, mining, tourism, and healthcare. The 10th Arab-China Business Conference was described as a "mega-gathering" of some 3,500 business leaders, innovators and decision-makers from more than 26 countries – including the biggest-ever delegation from China. Until now, Saudi Arabia has been Washington's main partner in the Middle East and these latest deals with China are more evidence of waning US influence in the region. **EV collaboration** More than half of the new Saudi-China investment cash will allow luxury Chinese electric-vehicle (EV) maker Human Horizons to build new automotive production facilities in the kingdom. "We don't have to compete with China, we have to collaborate with China," Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman told delegates of the deal.



He played down Western suspicion of the growing ties between Beijing and Riyadh, saying, "I actually ignore it because ... as a business person ... you will go where opportunity comes your way." Just days earlier, US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken told his Saudi counterpart that Washington was not forcing the kingdom to pick sides over tensions with China. Saudi leaders have said they are keen to avoid a zero-sum game, referring to the geopolitical rivalry between the US and China, which some analysts think the kingdom can utilise to its advantage. "China's influence is giving Middle East countries more bargaining power with the US," Dawn C. Murphy, associate professor of national security strategy at the US National War College, told DW. "But I don't think these countries have any expectations that

China is going to provide the same security guarantees that the US does ... it really is an economic and political presence." **From energy trade to Vision 2030** China and Saudi have had strong economic ties for decades, thanks to China's insatiable appetite for Saudi oil. Trade between the two countries was worth more than \$106 billion in 2022, a 30% rise from the previous year, according to Saudi government figures. This compares to \$55 billion in US-Saudi trade. China imports half of its oil from the Middle East and is the top oil customer of both Saudi Arabia and Iran. As Saudi attempts to diversify its economy from energy production via the Vision 2030 plan, Chinese companies are set to compete from the awarding of huge

infrastructure contracts. A Chinese firm has already built Mecca's light-rail system, which helps hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to get around the holy city. The 18-kilometer (11-mile) line, with nine stations, was the first to be built by a Chinese company in the Middle East. Among other deals in the works, a Chinese construction firm won the contract to build a 28-kilometre high-speed rail tunnel to NEOM, the kingdom's under-construction smart city on the Red Sea. Several Middle East countries have signed up for infrastructure projects linked to China's massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), dubbed the New Silk Road, which aims to boost trade between Asia and the rest of the world. The US faces further rivalry in the region as Saudi Arabia, along with the UAE, Egypt, Bahrain and Iran, prepare to join the BRICS geopolitical bloc, which is led by China but also includes Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa. Western sanctions on Russia over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, which included a freeze on some \$300 billion of the Russian central bank's foreign reserves, sparked a move by many wealthy non-Western nations to become less reliant on the US dollar and American banking system. -DW

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Will be fighting to win both races: Al Zubair

Omani racer and Germany's Schiller return to action in the third round of the 2023 International GT Open in Hungary

MUSCAT: Oman's Al Faisal Al Zubair and his German team-mate Fabian Schiller expressed confidence ahead of their return to action in the third round of the 2023 International GT Open in Hungary. The Al-Manar Racing by Getspeed Mercedes AMG GT3 duo had taken the lead at the endurance

championship by two points after claiming a race win and a second place in round one in Portugal. However, the pair missed the second round in Spa, to drop to fourth place in the championship standings with 27 points. The duo is hopeful of podium finishes at the two races in Hungary, which will be held from June 16-18.

Al Faisal and Schiller had announced earlier that the Spa race in Belgium was not part of their diverse 2023 racing programme. Speaking ahead of the race, Al Zubair said: "I am really looking forward to this weekend's round of the International GT Open near Budapest. I believe that Fabian and myself, along with the Getspeed car, have a great package. We will be fighting to win both races. "The first round of GT Open was great for us. We did miss the second round, as we are not doing the full championship. Budapest is a track I have been on before and so has Fabian. We feel quite confident on this track with Mercedes. Hopefully, it will be a good round." British duo of Charlie Fagg and

Samuel de Haan lead the championship after two rounds with 50 points, and are followed by Argentina's Marcos Siebert and Mexican team-mate Diego Manchaca (45 pts) while Eastalent Racing's Simon Reicher and Christopher Haase are at third place with 42 points. International GT Open drivers will take to the famous circuit in Mogyoród for a pair of one-hour free practice sessions on Friday. The first 30-minute qualifying session takes centre stage on Saturday morning and will precede the opening 70-minute race that gets underway with a rolling start. Q2 takes place at a similar time on Sunday morning and is followed by a shorter second one-hour race.



ONE-OFF TEST VS AFGHANISTAN

Shanto's ton puts Bangladesh on top

MIRPUR: Najmul Hossain Shanto attacking 146, his third century overall, put hosts Bangladesh in the driver's seat against Afghanistan as they reached 362-5 on the opening day of their one-off Test on Wednesday. Shanto's 146 came off 175 balls, hitting 23 fours and two sixes, and he added 212 runs with opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy for the second wicket. The total was Bangladesh's second-highest score on the first day of a Test, only behind the 374 they put up against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in 2018. Mahmudul missed out his ton, being out on 76 after a knock that included nine fours. Shanto and Mahmudul put up Bangladesh's only third 200-plus second-wicket stand. At stumps, Mehidy Hasan Miraz was batting on 43 with Mushfiqur Rahim on 41, after sharing 72 runs for the sixth wicket. "I don't think we had battled in such hot and humid conditions earlier but again it's something that was not in our control. What was in our control, we tried to do it perfectly and I believe we are in a good position," Shanto said. Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi chose to bowl first after winning the toss. The



decision appeared to be correct before Najmul kept them at bay as Bangladesh scored above 4.5 runs per over to rack up its third highest total on day one. Bangladesh had lost 3 for 34 in a mini middle-order collapse from 256 for 2. That came after Shanto and Mahmudul Hasan Joy had added 212 for the second wicket, Bangladesh's only third 200-plus second-wicket stand. Incidentally, Shanto had been involved in their last four 100-plus partnerships for this wicket too. Earlier, Nijat Masood had taken a wicket with his first ball in his Test career when Zakir Hasan was caught behind. He became the seventh bowler in the 21st century to strike first ball in Tests, and the first from Afghanistan to do so. - Agencies

ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Oman's Ilyas hopes to mark return with a bang in Zimbabwe Qualifier

MUSCAT: Oman's star all-rounder Aqib Ilyas hopes to hit the ground running on his ODI return as Oman attempt to secure their place at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup for the first time. The vice-captain became the first player from his country to score an ODI ton in February 2020, hitting an unbeaten 109 against Nepal before backing it up two days later with a second ton against USA. On Tuesday, Ilyas hammered another century during the first official warm-up match against hosts Zimbabwe. His effort went in vain as Zimbabwe defeated Du-leep Mendis' men by 28 runs at Takashinga Sports Club, Harare. Zimbabwe scored 367/6. In response, Ilyas scored a century having come in to bat with Oman at 18 for two and was dismissed for 113, with his side needing 132 runs from 91 balls for an improbable victory. Ayaan Khan batted bravely to make 92 from 75 but his dismissal, saw Oman fall behind the run rate and they were eventually bowled out for 339. Ilyas' scores during the ICC Cricket World Cup League 2, saw his average soar to 58 but an unfortunate run of injuries means he has played just once in the format since



2021, against Nepal in April, when he could not bat due to another injury sustained in the match. But Ilyas remains confident heading into the upcoming World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, with Oman in Group B alongside Ireland, Scotland, Sri Lanka and UAE, and has no doubt about the importance of his own role. He said: "As a batter, I have to score runs. Having an average of almost 60 in the last 17 or 18 games is great but that is in the past now and I have to score again. "Hopefully, I will get that confidence and if I get runs in the tourna-

ment then we have to believe we can win against anyone. It is the same for my bowling, as I am now taking wickets too. We know though that giving our best will take us to a big tournament and the big stage. "We believe we have a good chance because we have some good players in the side - skipper Zeeshan Maqsood, Jatinder Singh [opening batter] and then myself coming into the team. We will give everything we have to qualify for the top six and then for the top two." Oman opponents in Zimbabwe are all familiar and Ilyas believes his side can draw confidence from

past meetings. "We have played all of these teams before," he said. "We did not play an ODI series with Sri Lanka, but we played some 50-over games against them. It was really good because we now have an idea of playing them and we have faced the same bowlers." "We are feeling good for the qualifiers, we are practicing well."

How Oman qualified Oman came second in the 2019-2023 ICC Cricket World Cup League 2, their 21 wins from their 36 matches putting them six points behind table-toppers Scotland.

World Cup record Oman have never played in an ICC Men's Cricket World Cup before. They achieved ODI status in April 2019, playing their first ODI against Namibia. They have twice featured in ICC Men's T20 World Cups, in 2016 and 2021. They served as joint hosts in the latter and were knocked out in the group stage on both occasions.

When are they playing? Oman begin the Qualifier against Ireland on June 19. They then meet UAE (June 21), Sri Lanka (June 23), and Scotland (June 25).

OMAN TO ALSO TAKE PART IN OTHER EVENTS IN BERLIN

Oman sailors for Special Olympic World Games

MUSCAT: Oman's Paralympic sailing team will join more than 7,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities from 190 countries in Berlin, Germany, for the 16th Special Olympics World Games, which will be held from June 17-25. Mohammed Al Wahaibi and Saleh Al Raisi will represent Oman in the RS Toura dinghy as part of a 32-strong fleet. The team will be coached by Ali Al Shuhaimi, Al Mouj sailing manager. Ahead of the team's departure for Germany, Shuhaimi said, "We are proud to continue supporting the Special Olympics World Games and will participate for the first time under the SailFree banner. This is a chance to join sailors from around the world in celebrating our joy for a life on the water while representing Oman at the world's largest sports movement for people with intellectual disabilities." Sailing joins 25 other disciplines for nine days of inspiring competition which proves sport is accessible for all and is capable of achieving greater recognition and social participation of people with intellectual disabilities in society. Besides sailing, Oman Special Olympics board has also sent a del-



egation of 36 players and 9 unified partners who will take part in athletics, unified badminton, unified bocce, bowling, equestrian, futsal, golf, weightlifting, roller skating,

sailing, swimming, table tennis, and unified tennis. In golf, Zaid Ahmed al Jabri will be taking part and is accompanied by his coach Ahmed al Farsi.

CAFA NATIONS CUP

Oman held by Tajikistan

MUSCAT: Oman were held to a 1-1 draw by Tajikistan in a Group A match of the CAFA Nations Cup on Wednesday. The draw opened the account for Oman in the seven-nation tournament. Oman are an invitee in the CAFA Nations Cup featuring Central Asian nations. On Wednesday, Oman hoped to bounce back from their opening 3-0 loss to Uzbekistan. Salah al Yahyaie gave Oman the lead in the 14th minute but Tajikistan equalised just before interval through Vakhdad Khanonov. Both teams failed to break the deadlock in the next 45 minutes.

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ROUND-UP

Jagdeep Thakral appointed as GM of dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar



Thakral is an accomplished leader with a proven track record of success in the hospitality industry. During his career, he has held several key leadership positions

BANGKOK: Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, has appointed Jagdeep Thakral as General Manager of dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar and its adjoining adventure park in Oman. Thakral is an accomplished leader with a proven track record of success in the hospitality industry. During his career he has held several key leadership positions for IHG Hotels and Resorts, including Area General Manager for Indonesia, where he oversaw the operations of several flagship hotels in Jakarta; and Area General Manager for Holiday Inn Express in Bangkok, where, alongside serving as the General Manager of Holiday Inn Bangkok Sukhumvit,



he successfully managed five hotels in different suburbs. Thakral's extensive experience in the hospitality industry also includes, amongst others, serving as the General Manager of IHG Hotels Pyeongchang, South Korea, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Singapore Orchard City Centre, and Resident Manager of Holiday Inn Resort Penang, Malaysia. A graduate of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India, where he majored in Hotel Management, Thakral also has extensive experience in Food and Beverage, working in various F&B management roles for Starwood and IHG from 1987 through 2009. Passionate about providing employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities, he gave a speech on the topic at the

United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2013 and received the UN ESCAP-Sasakawa Award for Disability-Inclusive Business in 2014 in Bangkok. Prior to joining Dusit, Thakral was General Manager of The Grand New Delhi, where he successfully repositioned the hotel in the luxury space by upgrading the product and standardising systems and processes. He took on his new position as General Manager of dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar in April this year. "I am honoured and excited to join Dusit Hotels and Resorts and work with the talented team at dusitD2 Naseem Resort and Adventure Park," said Thakral. "Together with the team, I am committed to delivering exceptional guest experiences, building strong

relationships with our partners and stakeholders, and driving sustainable growth for the property. I look forward to leading the team towards achieving new milestones and positioning dusitD2 Naseem Resort Jabal Akhdar as a premier destination in the region." Opened in 2021, dusitD2 Naseem Resort is located within an 8,000 sq m Adventure Park on the Saiq Plateau in Oman's renowned Jabal Akhdar area, just a five-minute drive from the 'Grand Canyon of the Middle East,' and two hours by car from Muscat International Airport. Comprising 252 beautifully decorated rooms and suites, the contemporary resort fully embraces its unique mountain location with a spacious layout that blends seamlessly with its stunning natural surroundings.

2ND EDITION

Muntada Al Mar'a to be held in Salalah on June 21



MUSCAT: Muntada Al Mar'a will host its 2nd edition in Salalah on June 21 at Salalah Rotana Resort under the auspices of His Highness Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar. This year's event focuses on the role of women in Oman's economy across industries in the Dhofar Governorate. The interactive forum for women will focus on various issues and challenges reviewing their growth and achievements. Corporate leaders, experts, and notable women from the Omani society will participate in this event to share their ideas and vision about empowering women to excel in various fields. They also

Corporate leaders, experts and notable women from the Omani society will participate in this event to share their ideas and vision about empowering women

aim to help women with their expert suggestions to overcome the challenges they face and turn their dreams into reality. Muntada Al Mar'a also enables Omani women to play a bigger role in the economic growth and sustainable development of the Sultanate. The forum will have an in-depth panel discussion with a cross-section of women achievers who will share their thoughts and expertise. A'Nukhba, an annual publication that features iconic successful women in different sectors in Dhofar, will be launched on the sidelines of Muntada Al Mar'a. The special publication will

chronicle the achievements of Omani women and their pioneering role in both the public and private sectors. Muntada A Mar'a and A'Nukhba strive to encourage women to support each other, continue learning, researching and enable Oman to leave its imprint in the array of developed countries and achieve the goals of Oman Vision 2040. Al Mar'a is the leading women's magazine in the Sultanate, which focuses on women-centric issues and socially relevant topics. The magazine also recognises and felicitates the achievements of inspiring women leaders through special publications and events.





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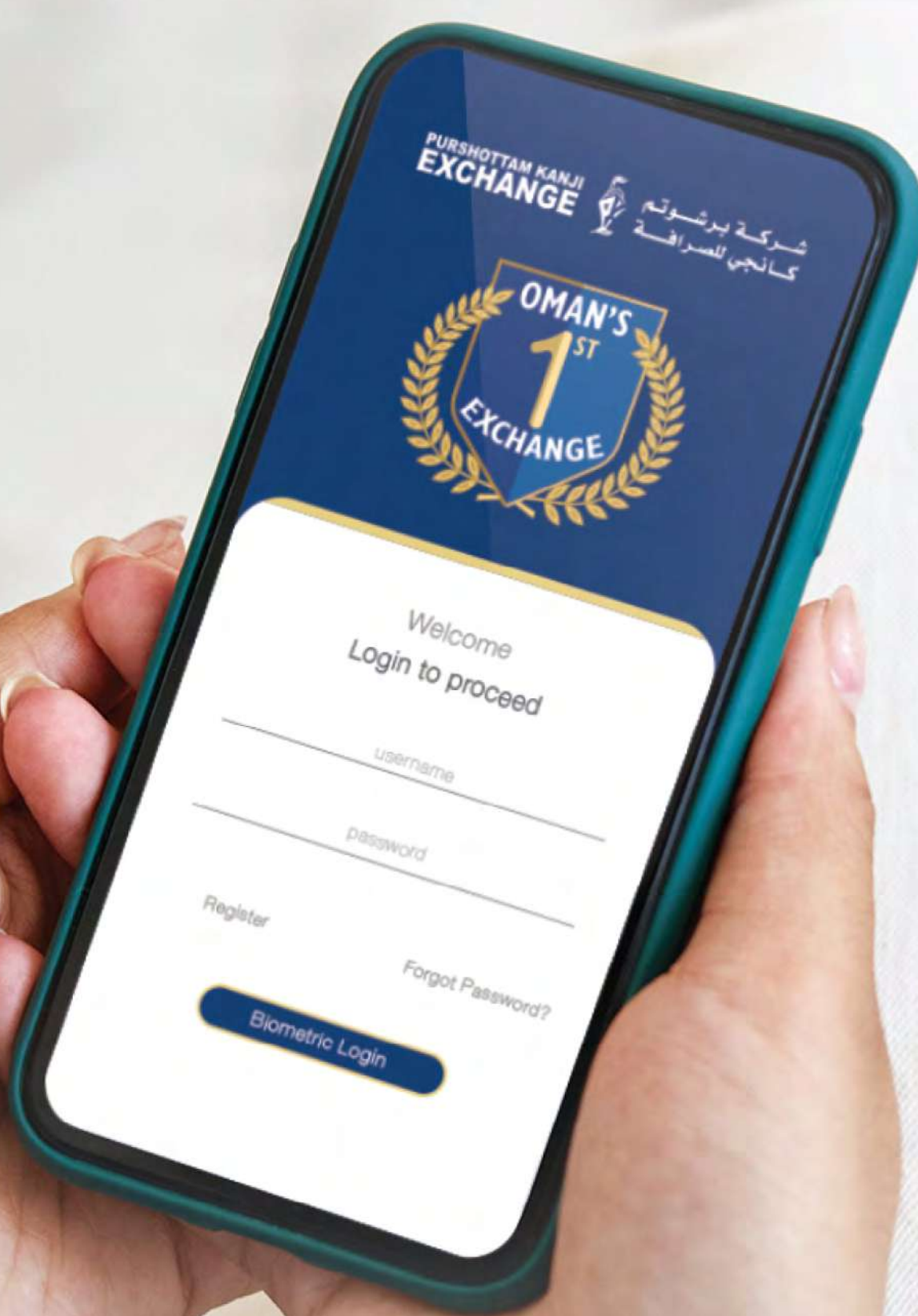
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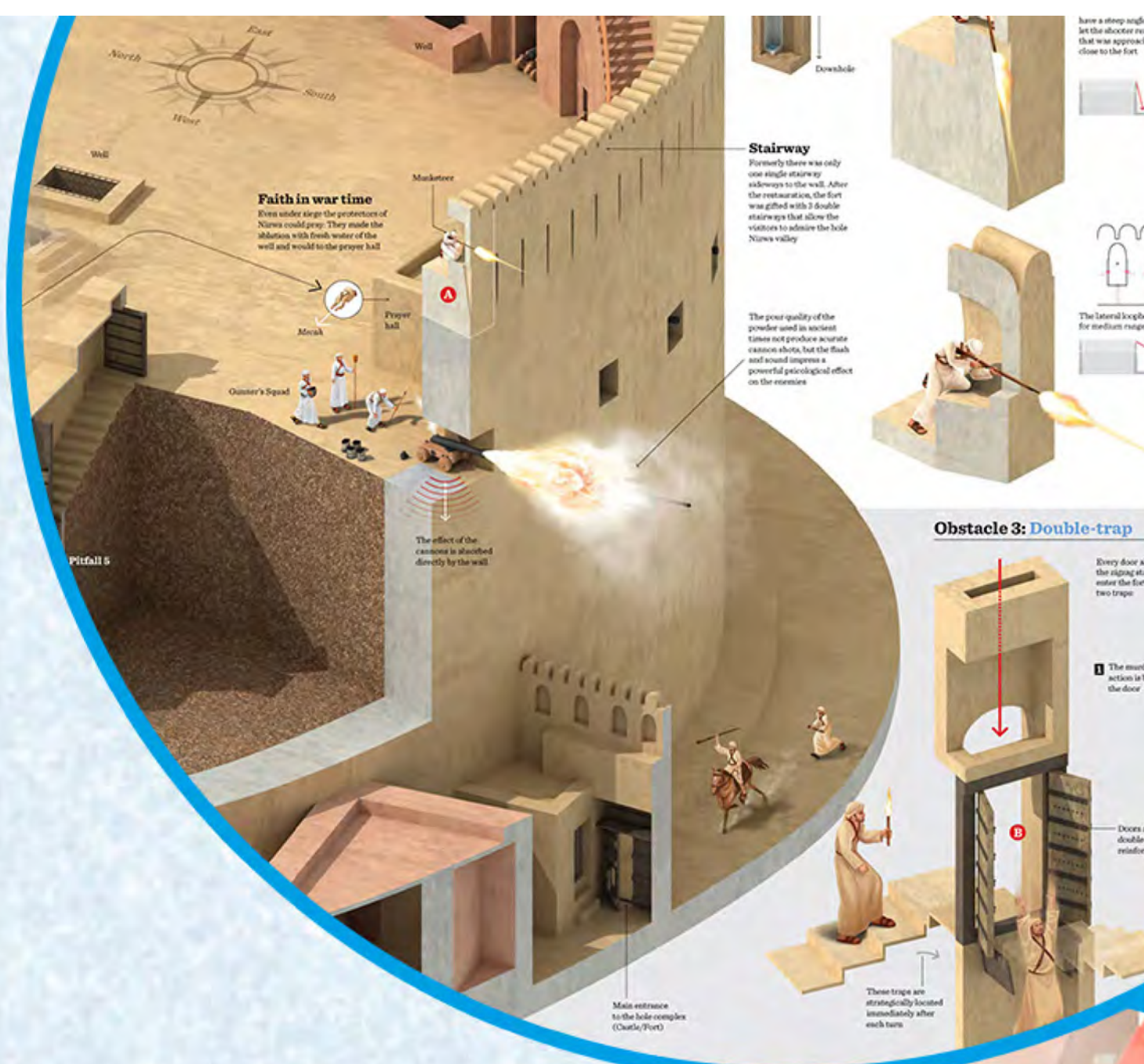
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