

MUSCAT AIRPORT PASSENGER COUNT TOPS 50% OF PRE-PANDEMIC LEVEL

The number of passengers passing through Muscat International Airport in June exceeded half the number of passengers during the pre-pandemic days. Some 685,446 passengers departed, arrived or transited on flights to Muscat International Airport in June 2022, compared to 1,341,160 passengers in January 2020. **>A3**



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OMAN-EGYPT JOINT MILITARY DRILL CONCLUDES

The joint Oman-Egypt military exercise 'Mountain Castle' concluded on Tuesday. The exercise was held at the military drills zone in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, which ran from 4 September till 13 September 2022. **>A2**



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HUMAN RIGHTS

Oman handles physical, sexual abuses as per the Oman penal code: OHRC

MUSCAT: Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has observed reports published by the "Sunday Mail" newspaper in Zimbabwe and a Dutch Organisation named "Do Bold" in relation to Zimbabwean and Sierra Leone women who arrived in Oman as domestic workers.

Following an investigation conducted by OHRC in coordination with Ministry of Labour and Royal Oman Police (ROP), OHRC issued a statement, "Some Zimbabwean women are deceived usually by

the recruitment agencies in their countries. They were deceived about the nature of the job, the salary, and the place of stay. Some of them tried to flee their employer after they had discovered that the recruitment agencies in their countries deceived them".

OHRC said, "To secure the rights of those maids, they should have filed their complaints to the authorities concerned in Oman as per the established laws and regulations. They should have reported any violation to the airport officers

and submitted documents or evidences proving that they have been subject to any abuse as guaranteed by the Omani laws and regulations.

As for their physical health safety, OHRC points out that the Omani judiciary and competent authorities handle the physical and sexual abuse cases as per the provisions of the Omani Penal Code. As per this law, everyone should receive decent treatment that maintains his/her dignity and preserve his/her rights.

As for the low salary alleged by

these reports, OHRC noted that these salaries are agreed by the labour contract signed between the employer and the worker voluntarily.

As for the allegation of housemaids' passports confiscation upon arrival, it should be noted that the employer might not take the passport of the worker without his/her approval. As per the Ministry of Labour Circular in 2006, "The employer may not confiscate the passport of the worker without his/her approval or without permission from the Court. **>A3**



Foreign Minister receives US Special Envoy to Yemen

A5

OMAN SET TO TAKE GIANT LEAP INTO SPACE

The new centre will offer simulation facilities and help conduct advanced technology and AI research

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman is laying the groundwork for the future flight of astronauts with the establishment of a space centre over an area of 20,000 square metres in the Artificial Intelligence Zone in Duqm.

"The project aims to create a simulating space environment to study the behaviour of astronauts before joining the actual flights. It will serve scientists, researchers and those interested in doing experiments in the space sector, artificial intelligence and advanced technology," Eng. Bahiya bint Hilal bin Sultan Al Shuaibi, Founder



and CEO of Global Space and Technology Company, said.

The new centre will be for research and scientific and practical experiments and offer simulation facilities to astronauts and help conduct research on advanced technology and artificial intelligence (AI).

A land lease agreement for the centre was signed between the Public Authority for Special

Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) and Global Space and Technology Company on Tuesday.

The agreement was signed by Eng. Ahmed bin Ali bin Akaak, Acting CEO of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad) and Eng. Bahiya bint Hilal bin Sultan Al Shuaibi, Founder and CEO of Global Space and Technology Company.

"We were pleased to announce

the signing of the usufruct (land lease) agreement to develop this project, which is a space settlement centre to simulate living in space, such as staying on the moon or Mars," the Founder and CEO of Global Space and Technology Company, said.

She further said, "Global Space and Technology Company will develop this centre to serve space and modern technology projects



20,000 sqm

A space centre over an area of 20,000 square metres is being built in the Artificial Intelligence Zone in Duqm.

ality, 3D programmes for educational purposes and simulation, in line with the needs of educational institutions and providing them with the appropriate relevant devices" she added.

It is worth noting that the Global Space and Technology Company won the Business Excellence Award 2021 given by the World Business Federation in the USA.

The Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones has allocated a zone for artificial intelligence, drone experiments and future technologies in Duqm, covering 18 square kilometres area and an altitude of 80 metres above the sea level.

Further, a supervisory committee was formed to supervise the works and projects developed at the artificial intelligence zone.

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN Order issued to design, build Shinas Link Road

1 The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has issued a direct order to a specialised firm to design and construct Shinas Link Road. The project includes a 5.8km link road connecting Al Batinah carriageway and Al Batinah Expressway. **>A2**

WORLD Coffin of Queen lies at rest for tributes

2 The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II which was taken from the palace of Holyroodhouse to St. Giles Cathedral in a procession on Monday now lies at rest in a Church in Edinburgh. **>A6**

MARKET Green hydrogen potential study

3 Asyad has signed a MoU with Oman Hydrogen Centre at GUtech to study the potential of Oman's ports and logistics services in shaping the nation's green hydrogen economy. **>B1**

NATURE

Rare image of Arabian Leopard, its cub captured in Dhofar Governorate

MUSCAT: The project on survey of large mammals at Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve in Dhofar Governorate has yielded rare images/photos of the Arabian Leopard and its female cub of a few weeks, indicating the presence of leopard in the reserve.

The Environment Conservation Office in Dhofar Governorate has also spotted Nubian ibex and Arabian wolf at the reserve.

The Environment Authority in Dhofar Governorate is executing a project for the field survey of mammals in the southern part of Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve. The survey will continue till the end of the current year.

The project comes as part of the efforts of the Environment Authority to disseminate knowledge about environment in general and awareness on environment for large-sized mammals, including the ones in the list of endangered animals.

The project also aims to re-evaluate the behaviour of such species under changing human and natural conditions.



With verified populations only found in Oman and Yemen, experts says one of the main reasons for the fall in the number of the big cats is human encroachment into their habitat.

The animal has been listed as Critically Endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of animals that are close to extinction.

-ONA

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Dhuhr.....	12:08pm
Asr.....	3:35pm
Maghrib.....	6:17pm
Isha.....	7:28pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:38am

Three projects qualify for entrepreneurship 2022

The ‘Nashid’ project won the Idea segment, while the ‘I lab marine’ project won the Early segment. Meanwhile, ‘Rahal’ won the Growth category



MUSCAT: Three projects have won leading positions at the level of the Sultanate of Oman in the Entrepreneurship World Cup (EWC) 2022 qualifiers out of total 9 projects.

Projects
The “Nashid” project won the Idea segment, while the “I lab marine” project won the Early segment. Meanwhile, “Rahal” won the Growth category.
The nine qualified projects will undergo a virtual training one-month camp to empower



them with skills and to enhance their communication with investors worldwide.

Virtual training
The virtual training camp also gives the participants a chance to exchange expertise with participants from other countries.
The Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) manages organising the competition on Oman's level. The qualified projects will represent the Sultanate of Oman in the final international qualifiers of the Entrepreneurship World Cup in December 2022.

International competition
The international competition attracts more than 200 entrepreneurs from all over the world as they compete on the bases of their projects’ innovation, sustainability and creativity.
The projects are categorised into three segments (Idea, Early and Growth). The EWC prizes reach a total sum of USD 1 million.
Moreover, as soon as participants register at the competition, they receive access to educational and training resources and courses in the field of entrepreneurship. -ONA

Oman-Egypt joint military drill ends



MUSCAT: The joint Oman-Egypt military exercise “Mountain Castle” concluded on Tuesday. The exercise was held at the military drills zone in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar. The drill ran from 4 till 13 September 2022.
The concluding event was held under the auspices of Maj. Gen Mattar Salim Al Balushi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO). Present at the event were several high-ranking Egyptian officers and the Military attache at the Egyptian embassy in Muscat.

During the exercise, the RAO was represented by the Sultan of Oman’s Parachute Regiment while the Egyptian army was represented by units of the Special Forces, paratroopers and El Sa’ka Forces.
The exercise came within the framework of RAO’s training plan that aims to sustain preparedness.
“Mountain Castle” is an annual training programme, which is conducted to achieve national goals and to exchange military expertise with friendly countries. -ONA

Tender Notice

Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI), announces following E-Tender for 2022:

Tender Number	Tender Name	Deadline for Specifications Request	Deadline for tenders bids	Tender Price
23/2022	On Site AMC Service Renewal for Huawei Network Equipment In PASI HQ and Branches For One Year	27 September 2022	11 October 2022	25 RO

Interested companies registered with Tender Board may obtain Tender document from the E-Tendering website: <http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>. The Vendors must provide **Electronic Bank Guarantee** issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (2%) of the Tender value valid for (120) days on website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> and addressed to Public Authority for Social Insurance.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender inquiry : All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at E-Tendering system (<http://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)
2. E-Tendering system inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering system technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number: Tel : **+968 24402200** , E-mail : etenderhd@ita.gov.om

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ORDER ISSUED TO DESIGN, BUILD SHINAS LINK ROAD

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has issued a direct order to a specialised firm to design and construct Shinas Link Road. The project includes a 5.8km link road connecting Al Batinah carriageway with Al Batinah Expressway. It begins after 1.8km from Shinas roundabout on the way to Al Batinah Expressway. -ONA



TOURISM LANDMARKS

Ministry conducts tourism campaign in Britain, Germany



LONDON: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism is organising a campaign showcasing Oman's tourism landmarks to the British and German public.
The campaign, which runs till 16 September, covers major cities like London, Munich and Frankfurt.
It is an extension of similar drives undertaken by the ministry in India and elsewhere to

utilise global tourism indicators’ bouncing back to normal after COVID-19 pandemic.
The campaign also lends support to the State of Qatar’s efforts to organise World Cup 2022 and celebrate this region’s hosting of the international event by promoting Oman and its capital as key destinations for the world cup’s public audience.
The campaign began with

workshops and seminars organised in London for representatives of top tourism and hospitality firms, tour operators and travel agents. A second workshop was held today in Manchester, with the campaign scheduled to relocate to Germany, where a workshop will be held on 15 September in Munich. The city of Frankfurt will host the final workshop on 16 September. -ONA

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Muscat Airport passenger count crosses 50% of pre-pandemic level

Some 685,446 passengers departed, arrived or transited on flights to Muscat International Airport in June 2022, compared to 1,341,160 passengers in January 2020

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The number of passengers passing through Muscat International Airport in June exceeded half the number of passengers in the pre-pandemic days. Some 685,446 international passengers departed, arrived or transited on flights to Muscat International Airport in June 2022, compared to 1,341,160



passengers in January 2020. A total of 9,284 international flights took off or landed at the airport in January 2020 compared to 5,322 flights in June 2022. However, the total number of international (inbound and outbound) flights at the airports of the Sultanate of Oman (Muscat, Salalah and Sohar) by the end of June 2022 surged by 131.2 percent to reach 26,382 flights compared to the corresponding period in 2021, according to the latest data issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSD).

The total number of passengers travelling through Oman's airports increased considerably by 161 percent. Inbound, outbound and transit passengers at the airports of Muscat, Salalah, Sohar and Duqm reached 3,888,323 passengers by the end of June 2022. The number



of outbound passengers also rose by 114 percent compared to the same period in 2021. Breaking down the figures, the number of international and domestic flights went up by 104.8 percent at 27,880 flights (carrying 3,382,855 passengers) at Muscat International Airport by the end of June 2022 compared to 13,612 flights (carrying 1,416,975 passengers) during the same period in 2021. Salalah Airport recorded an increase in the number of flights by 78.8 percent to reach 3,483 flights by the end of June 2022. International flights surged by 184.8 percent, while domestic

flights increased by 36 percent to reach 1,888 flights compared to 1,388 flights during the same period in 2021. The number of passengers in domestic (inbound and outbound) flights at Salalah Airport increased by 57.3 percent by the end of June 2022 compared to the corresponding period in 2021. The number of international flights (inbound and outbound) at Sohar Airport reached 356 flights by the end of June 2022 and the number of passengers in those flights reached 32,071. Duqm Airport recorded a rise by 6.4 percent in domestic flights (outbound and inbound) to reach 334 by the end of June 2022 compared to 314 flights during the same period in 2021. The number of passengers also went up by 42.4 percent from 22,555 by the end of June 2021 to 32,114 passengers by the end of June 2022. Indian nationals topped the total number of passengers at Muscat International Airport to stand at 139,441 passengers by the end of June 2022, followed by Bangladeshi passengers (46,734). Meanwhile, the number of Pakistani passengers stood at 35,336 by the end of June 2022. With DNA inputs

HUMAN RIGHTS

<FROM A1 'Quick response measures for human rights in place'

This affirms that the right is protected for the worker to maintain his/her passport. In case any violation is made on the same, the worker may report such violation to the Royal Oman Police, the Ministry of Labour, and other competent authorities in Oman. As for the allegation that the housemaids were forced to see out their two-year employment contracts in spite of poor working conditions, denial of adequate food and healthcare, OHRC affirmed that the Ministry of Labour's Decision No. 189/2044 about the conditions for the employment of housemaids states that 'the agreement between the employer and the housemaid should be in writing. It should specify the rights and obligations of both parties including the salary, vacation and food. If the worker failed to honour his obligation, he/she may report such violations to the competent authorities. In its statement, OHRC noted that the aforementioned decision mandated the employer to provide free-of charge food, healthcare, and return ticket to the maid at the termination of the employment contract. The same decision also provides maids with rest periods during the day, in addition to monthly day-offs- as per the employment contract terms. Additionally, OHRC said that the Article 3 of the Omani Labour Law No. 35/2003 banned all forms of forced labour. Oman has also ratified Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour and Convention No. 105 about Elimination of Forced Labour. OHRC has affirmed that it has not received any complaints from workers about forced labour. The OHRC statement pointed out, "Any labourer or maid may submit a complaint by personal attendance at the Ministry of Labour or the Settlements Committee at the Ministry. If the complaint is not settled within two weeks at the Labour Welfare Directorate or the Settlements Committee, the competent department shall refer the case to the Labour Circuit



OHRC affirmed that the National Committee for Combatting Human Trafficking maintains coordination with the Ministry of Social Development to provide human trafficking victims with accommodation (Dar Al Wifaq), legal assistance, healthcare and psychological support until the case is settled and the complainant receives equitable rights

at the Court within not more than two weeks from the expiry of the said period." OHRC added that the human trafficking combat system in the Sultanate of Oman has in place quick response measures by Royal Oman Police and Human Trafficking Combat Committee. There are also many agencies that provide protection, accommodation, food, healthcare and legal assistance to workers in distress. There is also a hotline to receive human trafficking complaints. As for the cases at which housemaids may be victims of human trafficking, it should be noted that housemaids who may be victims to human trafficking or being forced to carry out illegal works can report such violations to the National Committee for Combatting Human Trafficking through its toll-free number that operates round the clock. OHRC affirmed that the National Committee for Combatting Human Trafficking maintains coordination with the Ministry of Social Development to provide human trafficking victims with

accommodation (Dar Al Wifaq), legal assistance, healthcare and psychological support until the case is settled and the complainant receives equitable rights. Despite that, OHRC cannot be certain that there are no legal or humanitarian abuses against these workers or others in Oman. This is the case in most countries worldwide due to daily interaction between people. This can sometimes result in the infringement of the rights of both the worker and the employer. However, this can be addressed by resorting to the competent authorities, and through the available means of reporting, filing complaints, and requesting legal protection, which OHRC believes that these channels are available and guaranteed in the Sultanate of Oman. OHRC affirms that Omanis and non-Omanis who may need to report any violation of inhumane treatment may report the same through the toll-free number (1970) or WhatsApp number (72221966) or the website www.ohrc.com or through OHRC Twitter account @ohrc-oman. -DNA

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OMAN





MEETING

Foreign Minister meets US Special Envoy to Yemen

NORTH AL BATINAH

Training pacts signed

MUSCAT: Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister received US Special Envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments pertaining to the sustainability of the truce in Yemen.

They stressed the importance of collaborative work to build confidence and enhance dialogue among all parties.

The two sides also expressed their keenness to support the

international efforts, including the missions of the UN Envoy to Yemen, towards ending the war and commencing a comprehensive political process that meets aspirations of the Yemeni people to achieve security, peace and stability for their country.

The meeting was attended by the Head of the Foreign Minister's Office Department, the US Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and several officials from both sides. — **ONA**



SOHAR: Several training agreements were signed at the Governor's Office of North Al Batinah with the National Employment Programme to groom the skills of jobseekers in the information technology (IT) sector in accordance with job opportunities available at the governorate.

e-commerce training

A training programme in e-commerce will be implemented for North Al Batinah youth (125 training opportunities).

The three-month programme aims to develop skills of the participants to manage e-businesses.

— **ONA**

12 key research projects receive funding of more than OMR60,000

The research activities and consulting programmes at UTAS-Nizwa are managed by the Research and Consultancy Committee

Times News Service



research awareness amongst staff and students."

The research activities and consulting programmes at UTAS-Nizwa are managed by the Research and Consultancy Committee (RCC).

Training programmes

Throughout each academic year, RCC organises several research training programmes and workshops for staff and students. Exclusive MoHERI Block Funding Programme (MOHERI-BFP) orientation sessions are annually organised for Omani staff and students to ensure increased participation in MoHERI-BFP calls.

Dr. Abdullah bin Humaid Al Abri, RCC Chairman, said: "Participating in these funded re-

search projects contributes to developing academics' research skills by working with experienced researchers. As for students, these research projects have a long-term impact by enhancing students' competitive abilities to obtain study opportunities in graduate studies, as well as enhancing future employment opportunities."

The committee also encourages staff and students to seek collaboration with researchers from other higher education institutions to achieve more creative research outcomes.

The committee, for example, has recently facilitated joint research activities for UTAS-Nizwa staff and students with counterparts in the University of Nizwa (UoN) in connection with an existing MoU.

This mutual collaboration resulted in joint research publications, training programmes and funded research projects.

To recognise and motivate staff and students to publish their research outcomes, RCC conducts an annual best research paper award (BRPA). The committee received a total of 21 research papers from various departments for Call 3 (2021-2022).

The papers are usually reviewed by an external panel and one best research paper from each department/centre is awarded a cash prize and certificate.

MEDICAL EVACUATION

Child airlifted to hospital

MUSCAT: A medical evacuation operation was conducted by the Royal Air Force of Oman for a child who was suffering from a critical health condition.

"One of the helicopters of the Royal Air Force of Oman carried out a medical evacuation operation for a critically ill child. He was transferred from Khasab Hospital in Musandam Governorate to Sohar Hospital in North Al Batinah Governorate to receive the necessary specialised treatment," Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement. — *Times News Service*

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RESEARCH ACTIVITY: The Research and Consultancy Committee also encourages staff and students to seek collaboration with researchers from other higher education institutions to achieve more creative research outcomes. — *Supplied picture*



Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby re-announces the following tender :

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non- refundable)
30/2022	Construction of villa at Al Amrat	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Wednesday 28-9-2022 02:00 PM	Thursday 13-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
31/2022	Construction of villa at As Seeb	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Wednesday 28-9-2022 02:00 PM	Thursday 13-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
32/2022	Construction of villa at Al Amrat	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Wednesday 28-9-2022 02:00 PM	Thursday 13-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
33/2022	Construction of villa at Al Amrat	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Wednesday 28-9-2022 02:00 PM	Thursday 13-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
34/2022	Construction of villa at Al Amrat	Companies specialized in the field of building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the second degree	Wednesday 28-9-2022 02:00 PM	Thursday 13-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at the Tender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Wednesday 14/9/2022
- Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifications and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.
- For Inquiry , please contact through the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

" The lowest or any other tender shall not be binding to the Ministry "

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WORLD



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Queen Elizabeth II's coffin now lies at rest for tributes in Edinburgh

Queen Elizabeth's coffin arrived at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh

EDINBURGH: The coffin of Queen Elizabeth II which was taken from the palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles Cathedral in a procession on Monday now lies at rest in a Church in Edinburgh for people to pay their last respects to the queen.

"Her Majesty The Queen's coffin lies at rest in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh," the Royal Family wrote on Twitter. The coffin was flanked by the Bearer Party from the Royal Regiment of Scotland and escorted by the King's Body Guard for Scotland and the Queen's children at the Palace of Holyroodhouse on Monday.

Taking to Twitter, the Royal Family said, "Her Majesty The Queen's coffin lies at rest in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. Draped with the Royal Standard in Scotland, the coffin was flanked by the Bearer Party from the Royal Regiment of Scotland, and escorted by The King's Body Guard for Scotland and The Queen's children."

Queen Elizabeth's coffin arrived at the Palace of Holyrood-



house in Edinburgh, following a six-hour journey from Balmoral Castle to the Scottish capital on Sunday.

The British queen breathed her last in Balmoral Castle in Scotland on September 8. The death of the 96-year-old Queen ended a generation-spanning, seven-decade reign that made her a beacon of stability in a tumultuous world. The UK has entered a period of official mourning, with tributes pouring in worldwide.

King Charles-III was proclaimed as the new monarch of England on Saturday after his mother Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8. Moreover, the national anthem of Britain will now again shift back to "God Save

the King" as the British Queen is now no more.

The UK authorities had devised Operation London Bridge to manage events during the first 10 days between the Queen's death and the funeral and had thought of Operation Unicorn in case the queen died in Scotland. As per the documents seen by The Politico, Thursday was declared as "D-Day" and each following day leading up to the funeral will now be referred to as "D+1," "D+2" till the tenth of the Queen's death.

Ten days after Queen's death, the newly appointed UK Prime Minister Liz Truss will be the first member of the government to make a statement.

Aside from the statement from

the PM and other members of the government, gun salutes will be arranged at all saluting stations. Subsequently, Truss will hold an audience with the new king, and King Charles will deliver a broadcast to the nation.

The state funeral will be held at Westminster Abbey on September 19 and there will be a committal service in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Thereafter, Queen Elizabeth II will be buried in the castle's King George VI Memorial Chapel.

The Queen was born on April 21, 1926, at 17 Bruton Street in Mayfair, London. She was the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York - who later became King George VI - and Queen Elizabeth. **ANI**



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NEW PRESIDENT

William Ruto sworn in as Kenya's president after narrow victory

NAIROBI: Kenya's new President William Ruto was sworn in on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by tens of thousands of his supporters.

The previous deputy president has become the fifth person to hold the country's presidency following a divisive vote that he only narrowly clinched on August 9.

His win was confirmed by the Supreme Court last week. Former President Uhuru Kenyatta, under whom he had previously served, had publicly backed opposition leader Raila Odinga.

"You will be president not just for those who voted for you but for all Kenyans," Kenyatta told Ruto on the eve of his inauguration, appearing to put aside the previous falling out.

What happened at the inauguration ceremony?

The 60,000-capacity Kasarani Sports Centre in Nairobi had already filled up by 5 a.m., according to the police.

Crowds continued to try and enter despite calls for people to

stay home. Scores of people were reportedly injured in the crush.

"We had to treat some with minor injuries. Most of them were rushed to the main hospital in Nairobi," a medic told Associated Press. The audience cheered as the 55-year-old Ruto and Kenyatta shook hands, sealing the transition of power.

Both men have been indicted by the International Criminal Court over the deadly violence that erupted following the 2007 election. Charges were later dropped.

This year's election was peaceful, marred only by opposition supporters trying to prevent the declaration of Ruto as the winner.

The Kenya that Ruto now leads is burdened by large amounts of debt, which he will have to deal with while also fulfilling his promises to the country's poorest.

His campaign focused on his background as a roadside chicken seller, distinguishing him from the powerful political dynasties of Kenyatta and Odinga. **DW**

TRUMP PROBE

Trump team calls Justice Department probe 'misguided'

WASHINGTON: A criminal probe into whether former US President Donald Trump was holding top-secret documents at his Florida home has "spiralled out of control," his lawyers said on Monday.

Trump's attorneys submitted a 21-page filing requesting that a judge leave in place a temporary ban on the Justice Department (DOJ) investigating the documents it had seized from his Mar-a-Lago estate last month.

The Trump team also referred to the documents that were seized as "purported" classified records, suggesting his lawyers do not concede the Justice Department's contention that highly sensitive, top-secret documents were found by the FBI in its August 8 search of the property.

The lawyers also asserted that there is no evidence any of the records were ever disclosed to anyone, and that at least some of the documents belong to him and not to the Justice Department.

Special master ruling could complicate DOJ probe

Last week, the Justice Department hit a roadblock in its probe of whether Trump violated fed-



eral laws in bringing classified documents back to Mar-a-Lago after he left the White House.

US District Judge Aileen Cannon granted the Trump team's request for the appointment of an independent arbiter to review the seized records. The order also prohibits for now the department from examining the documents for investigative purposes.

The arbiter, also known as a special master, has not yet been appointed. Both legal teams have put forward different names and ideas for what their specific duties should be.

The Justice Department has asked the judge to lift the legal hold on reviewing the documents and said it would appeal the ruling to a federal appeals court.

The department has said its investigation risked being harmed beyond repair if that order was not lifted. They have also vowed an appeal should the special master bar them from investigating the 100 some documents in question.

Federal investigators are also probing whether Trump has obstructed justice in his attempts to prevent the government from accessing the documents. **DW**

FIRE INCIDENT

Eight killed as electric scooter showroom catches fire in India

SECUNDERABAD : The death toll in the fire incident at Hotel Secunderabad has risen to eight, police said on Tuesday.

"The fire broke out last night around 9.30 pm. The fire started in the basement, where a lot of electric bikes were parked. We do not know the origin of the fire as yet. Eight people have died and some are hospitalised. A case has been registered," said Chandana Deepti, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North Zone, Hyderabad.

At least eight people died and several were injured when a fire broke out at a hotel in Secunderabad late on Monday night. The fire broke out at the charging unit of the electric scooter showroom on the ground floor of the hotel building. Following this, people on the upper floors got trapped in smoke.

Several fire tenders rushed to the spot to bring the fire under control. Police reached the spot and evacuated people.

"The fire broke out in the electric scooter charging unit on the ground floor. Smoke overpowered the people staying on the first and second floors. The remaining people jumped from the building and were rescued by locals. They were



rushed to the hospital. Fire tenders on the spot," said Hyderabad Commissioner CV Anand.

Meanwhile, Telangana Home Minister Mohd Mahmood Ali said a probe has been initiated.

"Very unfortunate incident. Fire brigade teams tried their best to rescue people from the lodge but due to heavy smoke, some people died. Some people were rescued from the lodge. We are probing how the incident happened," the minister said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on the

tragic death of six people who died when a fire broke out at a hotel in Telangana's Secunderabad late on Monday night.

"Saddened by the loss of lives due to a fire in Secunderabad, Telangana. Condolences to the bereaved families. May the injured recover soon," Modi tweeted.

While expressing his condolences through a Twitter post, Modi said Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF (Prime Minister's National Relief Fund) would be paid to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 each to the injured. **ANI**

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Biden plans to halve cancer deaths in 25 years

Biden’s announcement included a new executive order that allows the government to direct new funding

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden announced a renewed push to fight cancer on Monday, with the goal of halving deaths over the next 25 years.

By boosting the “Cancer Moonshot” initiative, which had started under the administration of Barack Obama, President Biden hopes to invoke the same public enthusiasm as the space race of the 1960s which saw the US beat the Soviet Union to put the first man on the moon.

“I believe we can usher in the same unwillingness to postpone, the same national purpose that will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills to end cancer as we know it, and even cure cancers once and for all,” Biden said.



New research for new treatments

Biden’s announcement included a new executive order that allows the government to direct new funding to the biotech industry.

The White House did not specify how much funding would be allocated, or how, but the executive order would require all publicly-funded technologies to be manufactured domestically.

“One of the most promising technologies has been the development of blood tests that offer the promise of detecting multiple cancers in a single blood test and really imagining the impact

that could have on our ability to detect cancer early and in a more equitable way,” Danielle Carnival, the White House coordinator for the effort, told the AP news agency. Biden also touted potential mRNA treatments on the horizon.

Other new initiatives include the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, which will seek a cure for cancer, Alzheimer’s, diabetes and other diseases, plus a new funding for early-career scientists studying treatments for cancer, with a focus on underrepresented groups.

“Our goal is to ... turn more cancers from death sentences into

chronic illnesses that people can live with,” Biden added.

Biden lost a son to cancer

Cancer is the number two cause of death in the US after heart disease. In 2015, the President’s son Beau Biden died of brain cancer at the age of 46.

Shortly afterwards, in 2016, then-President Barack Obama tasked Biden with leading the “Cancer Moonshot”.

It included \$1.8 billion (€1.79 billion) for cancer research over seven years, and federal tools to help patients find clinical trials that they could join. **ww**

French-Swiss film director Jean-Luc Godard passes away

PARIS: Franco-Swiss filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard has died at the age of 91, the French newspaper Liberation reported on Tuesday.

Godard was one of the leading figures of the movement. Critics rated him among the top 10 directors of all time, and he has had a direct influence on the likes of Quentin Tarantino, Bernardo Bertolucci, Steven Soderbergh and Martin Scorsese.

French President Emmanuel Macron said France lost “a national treasure” with Godard’s death.



Interest in anthropology influenced filmmaking style

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, a small group of French filmmakers turned the cinema world on its head. They called themselves the Nouvelle Vague — or New Wave — and they broke all the established rules of filmmaking.

Born in Paris on December 3, 1930, Godard moved to Switzerland with his family at age 4. For much of his youth he lived on the Swiss side of Lake Geneva, where his father, a physician, ran a clinic. He returned to Paris after the war, to complete his baccalaureate.

He studied at the University of Paris and planned to pursue a career in anthropology. Although he never completed his degree, his interest in ethnology informed his filmmaking style, as he would use documentary film techniques to create what became called “cinema verite.”

His interest in films blossomed in 1950, when he joined the Ciné-Club du Quartier Latin. There he met Claude Chabrol and Francois Truffaut, who would also become influential members of the Nouvelle Vague. Initially though, his interest in films was purely as a critic. He wrote for the publication Cahiers du Cinema.

It wasn’t until 1954 that he was inspired to make his first short film, while working as a laborer on

the Grand Dixence dam in Switzerland. With a borrowed camera, he shot Operation Beton (1954; Operation Concrete). The construction company bought the film and used it for publicity purposes.

Breaking all the rules

A keen admirer of German playwright Bertolt Brecht, Godard wanted to translate Brecht’s concept of “epic theater” into the language of film. Over the next few years, Godard, Truffaut and others worked to produce a series of short films. They developed a new take on filmmaking, using lightweight equipment, natural lighting, long takes, sometimes with improvised dialogue.

The established rules of filmmaking and narrative continuity fell to the cutting room floor.

Then in 1960, Godard made his first feature film, A Bout de Souffle (Breathless). The film, produced by Francois Truffaut and starring Jean Seberg and Jean-Paul Belmondo, was the turning point in his career.

A Bout de Souffle heavily referenced American film noir of the 1940s and 50s, but also combined the Nouvelle Vague’s groundbreaking new techniques. The story of a car-thief who shoots a policeman and is then turned over by his girlfriend used hand-held camera work, incidental lighting, actor monologues to camera and jump-cuts.

It was the start of his most successful and influential period of filmmaking. **ww**

AIR STRIKE

Air strike hits Tigray capital as rebels opt for peace talks

TIGRAY: The capital city of the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia was hit by an air strike on Tuesday, a hospital official said.

Kibrom Gebreselassie from the Ayder hospital in Mekele said on Twitter that there had been an “early morning drone attack.”

“One injured patient has arrived at Ayder. Total casualties not yet known,” he added.

The strike comes days after the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) — who have been fighting the central government for almost two years — said they were

open to joining African Union-led peace talks.

Several TPLF officials said that the air strike had hit a campus of Mekele University.

TPLF spokesperson Kindeya Gebrehiwot said that the university had been “bombed”

causing injuries and property damage.

“This is happening after the [government] of Tigray established a negotiating team and expressed its readiness for peace talks,” Gebrehiwot wrote on Twitter. **ww**

1st GCC FILIPINO GOLFERS CLUB TOURNAMENT

The awarding ceremony was held at the Radisson Blu hotel Muscat where the chief guests HE Imelda M Panolong ambassador of the Republic of Philippines, and Mr Faiz Mohammed Riaz, Oman National team player, board member of Ghala Golf club and Managing Director of Mohammed Riaz & Partner LLC Jointly distributed the prizes to the winners.



Mr Faiz Mohammed Riaz received an appreciation award from HE Imelda M Panolong, ambassador of the Republic of Philippines.

We had 35 Filipino golfers coming from across the GCC countries; KUWAIT, QATAR, UAE, SAUDI ARABIA & the host OMAN.

The tournament was played over two days using a modified stableford with no handicap format. The opening ceremony was blessed by HE Imelda M Panolong, the Philippines Ambassador in Oman.

After a fierce battle over 2 days the Oman team was the winner.

- 1st runner up UAE
- 2nd runner up KSA.

The Individual Award was also won by our rising star:

- Champion: Kaizar James (OMAN)
- 2nd Hussain Dad (OMAN)
- 3rd Ijean leble (UAE)

On behalf all the participants, We would like to thank our sponsors:

- Philippines embassy
- Ghala golf club
- Radisson blu
- Europcar
- Naranji & hirji co

Thanks to all the friends who supported us without the sponsors and support this wouldn't happen successfully. Next year UAE will be hosting the event.



THANK YOU FILGOLFERS OMAN FOR MAKING OUR GOLF TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!

The 1st GCC Filipino Golfers Club Tournament is in the books and what an event it was! We had the best group of participants, sponsors and staff and on behalf of FGA Kuwait, we would like to thank all of you for your support in making this inaugural tournament a success. There were so many fun times shared, relationships formed, and unforgettable memories made. Thank you again and we already can't wait until next year, hope to see you in UAE!



Faiz Mohammed Riaz received an award from HE Imelda M Panolong, Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines, for his support of the tournament.



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Sri Lanka take out victory parade on open-top bus after Asia Cup triumph

Sri Lanka lifted their sixth Asia Cup title, defeating Pakistan by 23 runs in the final in Dubai

COLOMBO: Hundreds of fans on Tuesday flooded the streets of the city as Sri Lanka took out a victory parade on an open-top bus to celebrate their title triumph in a memorable Asia Cup 2022.

A brilliant half-century from Bhanuka Rajapaksa and fiery spells from spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and pacer Pramod Madushan helped Sri Lanka lift its sixth Asia Cup title, defeating Pakistan by 23 runs in the final in Dubai on Sunday. Sri Lanka pulled off a remarkable comeback from a poor position in powerplay while batting, with help of Rajapaksa (71*) and Hasaranga (36) to reach 170/6 in 20 overs. While bowling, it was spells of Wanindu Hasaranga (3/27) and Pramod Madushan (4/34) that helped Lanka seal the victory by 24 runs, despite a threatening stand of 61-runs between Mohammad Rizwan (55)



and Iftikhar Ahmed (32).

Taking to their official Twitter handle Sri Lanka Cricket shared photos of the overjoyed players travelling in a double-decker bus, with fans congratulating them.

The players also engaged with the crowd and expressed gratitude for their overwhelming support

throughout the nation's crisis.

Talking about the match, Chasing 171, Pakistan got some free runs as pacer Dilshan Madushanka gave away nine extras due to wides and no balls. However, the pacer made a comeback, giving only three more runs in his over.

Sri Lanka kept Pakistani willows

silent for the next two overs and struck gold with the wicket of star batter Babar Azam for 5. Pramod Madushan took his wicket after the batter was caught by Madhushanka at short fine leg, with the latter making up for his expensive first over. Pakistan was 1/22.

Madushan dismissed left-

hander Fakhar Zaman for a golden duck, taking two wickets in two balls. After a terrible first over, Sri Lanka were favourites again, having reduced Pakistan to 2/22.

From then on, Rizwan and Iftikhar Ahmed tried to steady the ship for Pakistan. Sri Lanka however continued bowling brilliant lines and lengths, keeping their opponents largely on the backfoot. Men in Green could score only 15 in 15 balls after Madushan's double blow and at powerplay end in six overs, Pakistan was at 37/2, with Rizwan (16*) and Iftikhar (6*). The duo helped run come for Pakistan and the 50-run mark was touched in 7.3 overs.

At the end of 10 overs, Pakistan was at 68/3, with Rizwan (36*) and Iftikhar (17*) at the crease.

A 50-run stand between the duo was up in 44 balls. In the start of the second half, Iftikhar seemed to turn things in his side's favour with a four and six. Wanindu Hasaranga's 12th over gave away 14 runs. Things seemed to swing in favour of Sri Lanka when Madushan bagged his third wicket of the match in 14th over. He ended the 71-run stand between Rizwan and Iftikhar after the latter was caught for 32 off 31 balls at backward square leg by KNA Bandara.

Mohammad Nawaz was next on the crease. At the end of 15 overs, Pakistan was at 101/3, with Rizwan (47*) and Nawaz (6*). A solid

15th over by Dhananjaya de Silva built pressure on Pakistan by giving away just four runs. Pakistan needed 70 runs in the final five overs.

Pressure piled up on Pakistan and evidence was Nawaz giving away his wicket for just four runs to Chamika Karurathne while attempting to pull but was caught by Madushan at backward deep square. Pakistan was reduced to 102/4.

Khushdil Shah was the next batter on the crease. Rizwan brought up his third half-century of the tournament with a pressure-relieving six.

However, Hasaranga's final over changed the game in favour of Sri Lanka once again, as he picked up wickets of Rizwan (55), Asif Ali (0) and Khushdil (2) in a span of five balls. Pakistan sunk to 112/7 after this over.

Miseries did not seem to end for Pakistan as Theekshana dismissed Shadab Khan for just 8 runs after he was caught by Gunathilaka. Naseem Shah, Pakistan's hero in a match against Afghanistan was also sent packing by Madushan, who got his fourth wicket of the match after Karunaratne caught him at long-on.

Pakistan finished the match at 147 all out after Haris Rauf was bowled by Karunaratne for 13. Sri Lanka clinched its sixth Asia Cup 2022 title. **ANI**

CRICKET

Former Indian cricketer ready to help Oman in sports management courses

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Former Indian Test cricketer Niles Kulkarni was in Oman recently to offer some valuable lessons to young Oman cricketers.

Kulkarni also met Oman Cricket (OC) chairman Pankaj Khimji and also visited the Oman Cricket Academy.

Having retired from cricket in 2007 after a long innings with Mumbai, Kulkarni said that the failure to bag a contract in the inaugural year of Indian Premier League in 2008 forced him to think out of the box.

"I think the trigger was IPL launch when I felt that there was scope to do something else than coaching or commentary. IPL saw the growth of the sports sector and I decided to set up the International Institute of Sports Management (IISM) in 2010.

IISM has been in the forefront of producing professionals over the past decade or more and according to Kulkarni a 'total of 2,000 students have graduated from IISM' so far.

Kulkarni said that 'there has been interest shown by few organisations in Oman' and he is keen to explore the possibility of cooperation to bring in sports management and sports science courses in the Sultanate.

"The Gulf nations have invested a lot in sports events, be it UAE hosting IP and Formula One or Qatar going to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have also invested a lot in



holding major sports events. Amid this backdrop, Oman has the potential to grow. They would need their own people to develop the sports sector. So I believe that we can bring in our expertise to offer them sports management courses," said Kulkarni.

India have match-winners for T20 World Cup

Having played his major first

class cricket with Mumbai under Sachin Tendulkar, Kulkarni said, "Sachin is an institution. It is always enlightening to hear from him as a cricketer, friend and a mentor. For me there is no better cricketer than Sachin. The best part is that he is always willing to help you."

Speaking on the recent Asia Cup debacle, Kulkarni agreed that India played 'bad cricket' and added

that the team under coach Rahul Dravid will have to finalise the combination during the upcoming T20I series against Australia and South Africa ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup next month.

On the chances of India at the T20 World Cup, Kulkarni said "India are strong contenders despite the lacklustre showing at the Asia Cup.

"There are two strong reasons for me to go back to India. India have a lot of individual match-winners, be it in batting, bowling or fielding. The exposure of IPL has helped the team and it has to be seen how the selectors make their final choice. For India to go deep into the World Cup, the top-order has to deliver.

"Also spinners will play a key role as boundaries in Australia are long. Hardik Pandya's rise as the main allround spearhead will have to be backed by another key allrounder. The loss of Ravindra Jadeja is a big blow for the team."

Kulkarni said that India will also need to look for a left-right batting combination and backed youngster Arshdeep Singh as a left-arm quick.

"We will have to finalise and settle our team during the T20I series against Australia and South Africa. Who will be the choice of second opener along with Rohit Sharma and whether R Ashwin will be the second spinner are few questions that have to be answered. With youngsters in Deepak Hooda, Arshdeep, Surya Kumar Yadav, India will be a strong contender," concluded Kulkarni.

TENNIS

Iga Swiatek cements No. 1 spot, Jabeur returns to No. 2

FLORIDA: World No.1 Iga Swiatek's maiden triumph at the US Open extended her lead to almost twice as many points as the second-ranked Ons Jabeur in WTA rankings of singles on Monday.

With 10,365 ranking points, Swiatek now holds a 5,275-point lead over Jabeur, the most comprehensive margin between No.1 and No.2 in seven years, when the American tennis great Serena Williams had a 6,591-point lead the week of August 31, 2015. Katerina Siniakova returns to No.1 in this week's WTA doubles rankings following her US Open title run with her partner Barbora Krejickova, who claimed the No.2.

Following her quarterfinal run at the US Open, American teen sensation Coco Gauff makes her Top 10 debut this week, at No.8, up four spots from No.12. At 18 years, 183 days old, Gauff becomes the youngest player to secure a place into the Top 10 in 16 years.

Daria Kasatkina (from No.9 to No.11) and Garbine Muguruza (from No.10 to No.12) have both dropped out of this week's Top 10.

Caroline Garcia has jumped from No.75 to No.10 this week as she returns to the Top 10 for the first time since the week of October 1, 2018.

Liudmila Samsonova and Zhang Shuai both climb seven



places to return to the Top 30 after fourth-round runs at the US Open.

US Open quarterfinalist Ajla Tomljanovic, who defeated Serena Williams in the third round, has hit a new career-high of No.34, climbing 12 places from No.46.

Serena Williams posted her 178th win against a Top 10 player in the second round over Anett Kontaveit. Williams remains on the WTA Rankings, climbing 284 places to land at No.321.

Last year's US Open champion Emma Raducanu drops 72 spots, from No.11 to No.83, while 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez drops 26 positions, from No.14 to No.40. **ANI**

REGISTRATION OPENS

Junior and Women's League cricket to start from October 17

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Cricket announces the commencement of the Women and Junior U19, U16 and U13 Season 2022-23 from 17 October 2022.

Interested schools and clubs can register via our website www.omancricket.org Registrations. Online Registration with payment confirmation deadline for the teams is 14th September 2022.

Players Registration Deadline for Schools for U19, U16, U13 and Women are open & will close on 18th September 2022. For players registration for academies, the registration will open from 19th September & will close on 22nd September 2022. Captain/Manager Meeting for all will be held on 29th September 2022 at 5.00 PM.

Schedules for all categories will



be circulated after the Manager/Coach meeting. School teams are requested to register 18 players accordingly and in case any player is not registered by School, after the deadline of 18th September 2022, academies are free to register that player.

Oman Cricket is looking forward to getting more teams enrolled and engaged in the sport and provide a platform for the young

talent to showcase its calibre at the highest level of junior and women domestic league in Oman.

With the Women's Indoor Bash a round-the-corner this week and the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier - Asia Div 2 later this month, Oman Cricket sights the engagement of the youth and the women in the country to include themselves and participate in the season 2022-23.

FOOTBALL

Mbappé can leave PSG in 2024: Report

PARIS: France World Cup winner Kylian Mbappé can leave Paris Saint-Germain for free in 2024 and not 2025 as first thought, French newspaper L'Equipe has reported.

The 23-year-old signed a new deal in May, dashing the hopes of Real Madrid who were desperate to sign him.

But Mbappé has continually hinted a move to Spain is still possible in the future.

PSG said the new contract was until 2025 but L'Equipe, quoting a source at the club, said the deal ran to 2024 with an option to extend for a year which the player could turn down.

There was even surprise among experts in May that the contract did not run longer than 2025. **ONA**

NOSE SURGERY

Simona Halep undergoes nose surgery, out of action for few weeks

BUCHAREST: Former world number one Simona Halep on Monday announced that she would need to rest for a few weeks after undergoing nose surgery.

The Romanian said she had been struggling "for a while" with nose problems, making it difficult to breathe mostly at night. The former world number one took to Twitter and wrote: "The only way to solve the problem was to undergo surgery."

The 30-year-old also said that the surgeon took "this opportunity to also make a plastic surgery intervention."

"Everything went well. I will need a few weeks of rest before I can start again any physical activity," she said, posting a picture from what looked like a hospital bed with



her nose bandaged.

"See you soon on the tennis court," she added.

Earlier, Simona Halep crashed out of the last Grand Slam of the year (US Open). Playing in the Louis Armstrong Stadium, Daria Snigur brought her best game to the court, winning the match in a thrilling three-set encounter 6-2, 0-6, 6-4. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$94.37, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$2.02 from the price of Monday, which was \$92.35. - OMA

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) general index 30 lost 13.8 points, comprising a decline of 0.31 per cent to close at 4497.83 points, compared to the last session, which stood at 4,511.63 points.

Pact inked to study potential of Oman's ports in green hydrogen

Asyad's agreement with GUTech includes conducting in-depth research and analysis against global best practices to enhance the efficiency of Asyad's ports and logistics operations as well as the competencies and human resources required to cater for this clean energy sector

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Driven by its goal to be among the leading companies in the global Green Hydrogen Value Chain, Asyad signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Oman Hydrogen Centre at the German University of Technology in Oman (GUTech) to study the potential of Oman's ports and logistics services in shaping the nation's green hydrogen economy.

According to international consultancy McKinsey's Global En-

ergy Perspective, green hydrogen demand is anticipated to grow six-fold by 2050 driven by the road transport, maritime and aviation sectors. Against this backdrop, Asyad's agreement with GUTech includes conducting in-depth research and analysis against global best practices to enhance the efficiency of Asyad's ports and logistics operations as well as the competencies and human resources required to cater for this clean energy sector.

Essam bin Nasser Al Shaibani,



Vice President of the Sustainability at Asyad Group said, "Asyad's holistic approach revolves around achieving sustainability at various levels including economic, environmental and social, particularly in its operations and development plans. Partnering with Oman Hy-

drogen Centre will help us identify, capture, and assess our strengths and areas of improvement. It will also allow us to gather the necessary data we need to set the competitive standards for our logistics services to contribute to the Sultanate's efforts in building a green

hydrogen economy and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050."

Al Shaibani emphasised that Asyad is working to position Oman as a global hub for the clean energy sector, adopting the latest logistics technologies to handle and export green hydrogen and its derivatives

to markets all around the world. Furthermore, it is working closely with the private and public sectors to contribute to achieving Net-Zero by 2050.

Dr Sausan Said Al Riyami, Director of Oman Hydrogen Centre at GUTech explained that the partnership with Asyad is multi-faceted and includes energy efficiency, renewable energy, green hydrogen, and capacity building. She added that Asyad's ports and logistic services can be leading the supply chain through research and development, the implementation of innovative processes, building local talent and attracting regional and international expertise, and transferring and localising technology.

To date, the group's efforts in decarbonisation and the development of the hydrogen sector have been regionally lauded, setting a benchmark for others to follow. These include promoting green shipping, energy conservation and optimisation as well as producing, handling and exporting green hydrogen through Duqm, all of which showcase the rapid progress of Oman's logistics sector and the group's crucial role in promoting connectivity, trade and economic growth.

ENABLE FINTECH STARTUPS

CBO and Omantel sign MoU to offer fintech accelerator programme

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) at Omantel headquarters to conduct an accelerator programme to enable fintech startups in the Sultanate of Oman.

Signed by Tahir bin Salim Al Amri, CBO's Executive President, and Talal bin Said Al Mamari, Omantel's CEO, this MoU comes in light of CBO's Oman Fintech Framework and Roadmap that aims at establishing a comprehensive and nurturing fintech ecosystem in Oman that supports and promotes fintech start-ups, small & medium enterprise (SMEs), banks and technology firms.

The partnership brings together the expertise and shared vision of the CBO and Omantel to support local fintech start-ups in Oman. Starting on November 14th, the six-month accelerator programme will support innovative fintech start-ups through the challenges of the highly competitive fintech industry by utilising mentorship, training, networking and fundraising support.

Tahir Al Amri said, "Fintech is vital to the future of the Sultanate



of Oman's financial sector, and we are committed to supporting fintech start-ups in the country. This programme is one of the manifestations of that mission. We are delighted to be working with Omantel to provide strategic direction and regulatory advice to local fin-

tech start-ups."

Talal Al Mamari, CEO of Omantel, said, "We are excited for this partnership with the CBO which leverages our shared vision and strengths to contribute to the growth of fintech start-ups in the country. We are committed to

leading digital transformation in Oman and to creating meaningful opportunities for local start-ups to develop and thrive, and we strongly believe that our collaboration with the CBO in this area will be a game changer for the country's fintech sector."

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



Treasury bills worth OMR41.4mn issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR41.4 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from September 14 until December 14.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.279 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.270 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 2.89334 per cent and 2.91437 per cent, respectively.

Treasury Bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus

funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 3.00 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 3.50 per cent.

Furthermore, treasury bills promote the local money market by creating a benchmark yield curve for short-term interest rates. Additionally, the government may also resort to this instrument whenever felt necessary for financing its recurrent expenditures.

STATISTICS

Saudi ports' record container throughput increase in August

RIYADH: Container throughput at Saudi ports rose significantly last August, reaching 942,621 TEUs, which is a 14.46 per cent increase compared to the 823,542 TEUs recorded during the same period last year.

Similarly, the exported container throughput shows a 21.92 per cent jump to reach 218,375 TEUs, compared to the 179,238 TEUs recorded last year, while the imported containers reached 235,449 TEUs, which is a 31.74 per cent increase compared to the 179,047 TEUs recorded in 2021, as well as the transhipment containers which reached 488,181 TEUs to record a 4.93 per cent increase compared to the 465,234 TEUs recorded during the same period last year.

The monthly operational re-

sults translate the efforts undertaken by the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) to develop the maritime sector, enhance operational efficiency, as well as improve the legislative and regulatory environment by restructuring procedures, while strengthening partnerships with the private sector by increasing shipping lines and building integrated logistics parks.

Statistics for August 2022 further reveal a 17.39 per cent growth in throughput volume to reach 29,342,656 tonnes compared to the 24,996,083 tonnes last year, which is a testament to the efforts dedicated to maintaining operational excellence while boosting the efficiency of the maritime sector effectively and reliably. -SPA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Takaful Oman restructures its BoD, Sharia board

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Khonji, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Acting CEO of Takaful Oman, stated that the company had learned and benefited from some of the stumbling blocks it faced by turning challenges into favourable opportunities and ways to enhance the customer experience.

The company restructured its board of directors with board members who have long and prudent professional experience in managing companies and institutions, including Abdulaziz Al-Saadi, CEO of Ubar Capital and Suleiman Al-Harthi, Chief Executive Officer of Alizz Islamic Bank, in addition to Bader Al Shanfari, Chief Operating Officer of Ominvest.

Al-Khonji said in a press statement: "Since we took over the responsibility in Takaful Oman, the capital has been raised to clear previous accumulated losses since the establishment of the company;



Ominvest Group has strengthened the capital and injected the necessary funds in continuous coordination with the Capital Market Authority to increase the capital and take the necessary approvals in this regard."

He added, "After restructuring the board of directors, we also restructured the committees affiliated with the board, and the executive management was provided with the professional expertise capable of keeping pace with devel-

opments in the insurance sector, especially in light of the current economic challenges that have occurred globally. The restructuring of the Sharia Board followed this to adhere to the highest standards and ensure that we comply with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia following prudent directives in this regard, where the company strictly adheres to all laws, regulations and rules issued by the Capital Market Authority. The chairman of the Sharia Board Dr Majid Al Kindi is a renowned scholar and a well-known figure across the Middle East."

Al Khonji stressed in the same context that these changes were reflected in the improved performance. The company was able to compensate all the insured affected by Cyclone Shaheen, which hit the Sultanate in October last year, with a total value of OMR 7 million, and more than 4,000 people receiving compensation for the damages incurred. This is part of the company's overall strategy to

improve the insurance industry sector and be an essential support pillar to the community. The majority of the compensation was done in a record time of only four months, achieving customer satisfaction and enhancing their confidence in the services and products offered by the company.

Takaful Oman offers a variety of insurance products, including Takaful insurance on real estate, cars, machinery, equipment, personal accidents, travel, construction, family and health takaful. All insurance services provided by the company are in line with the provisions and principles of Islamic Sharia and have been approved by The Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board of the company.

It is worth noting that the company's mission is to promote Takaful awareness by offering innovative Sharia-compliant products and services that deliver exceptional value and are tailored to customers' specific needs through a highly dedicated professional team.

MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Oman Arab Bank, up 2.42 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 6.98 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,497.83 points, down by 0.31 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.53 per cent at 480.46 points.

Oman Arab Bank, up 2.42 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Suwadi Power, down 6.98 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 389 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR1.07 million, with more than 7.01 million shares changing hands. Out of 50 traded securities, 3 advanced, 24 declined, and 23 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net sellers for OMR66,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR50,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR17,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 7,196.97 points, down 0.49 per

cent. Oman Arab Bank was the only gainer for the day up by 2.42 per cent. Prices of Takaful Oman, Ahli Bank, Taageer Finance, Muscat Finance and Bank Nizwa were down by 4.44 per cent, 2.24 per cent, 2.13 per cent, 1.52 per cent and 1.02 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,340.31 points, down 0.41 per cent. Galfar Engineering was the only gainer for the day up by 1.88 per cent. Prices of Construction Materials, Raysut Cement, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Gulf International Chemicals and Oman Cement were down by 4 per cent, 2.73 per cent, 2.13 per cent, 2 per cent and 1.99 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.91 per cent before closing at 1,624.58 points. Ooredoo was the only gainer for the day up by 1.03 per cent. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Shell Oman Marketing and Dhofar Generating were down by 6.98 per cent, 5.56 per cent, 4.48 per cent, 2.6 per cent and 1.79 per cent respectively. — United Securities

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,511.630	4,487.866	4,497.829	4,511.630	-13.801	-0.31
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,232.754	7,196.969	7,196.969	7,232.754	-35.785	-0.49
Industry Index	6,384.733	6,319.653	6,340.308	6,366.676	-26.368	-0.41
Services Index	1,639.571	1,613.708	1,624.584	1,639.571	-14.987	-0.91
MSX Shariah Index	484.087	480.395	480.459	483.030	-2.571	-0.53
MSX TR INDEX	5,690.217	5,660.245	5,672.810	5,690.217	-17.407	-0.31
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,568.269	7,530.824	7,530.824	7,568.269	-37.447	-0.49
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,626.280	6,558.738	6,580.174	6,607.540	-27.366	-0.41
SERVICES TR IDX	1,702.542	1,675.686	1,686.979	1,702.542	-15.563	-0.91

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
7,018,475	1,074,135	389	23,232,475,176	3	24	23	50

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (BD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PAR. VALUE	52W. HIGH	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	146,504	15,984	19	0.110	0.110	0.108	0.108	0.109	-0.001	-0.917	0.108	0.108	0.114	0.100	ONES	15,120,000
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST& FIN.	226,756	28,673	19	0.127	0.127	0.126	0.126	0.127	-0.001	-0.787	0.126	0.122	0.127	0.100	OIPC	29,862,000
OM0000001533	OMAN FERT	14,330	4,700	4	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.328	0.330	-0.002	-0.656	0.328	0.328	0.330	0.100	OMYS	219,223,880
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	1,000	294	1	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.294	0.302	-0.006	-1.987	0.294	0.296	0.300	0.100	OCVO	97,598,322
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	60,410	16,329	10	0.278	0.278	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.000	0.000	0.270	0.270	0.276	0.100	ATMI	33,722,449
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	408,500	53,514	4	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.134	-0.003	-2.239	0.131	0.131	0.135	0.100	ABOB	255,405,128
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	175,000	48,300	6	0.276	0.276	0.276	0.276	0.279	-0.003	-1.075	0.276	0.274	0.278	0.100	AJSS	16,892,379
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV.	77,857	6,287	9	0.080	0.082	0.080	0.081	0.081	0.000	0.000	0.081	0.081	0.084	0.100	SHIC	7,290,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	314,438	183,239	30	0.586	0.586	0.580	0.580	0.586	-0.006	-1.024	0.580	0.582	0.580	0.100	BKMB	2176,855,148
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	22,600	20,340	8	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.000	0.000	0.900	0.892	0.908	0.100	OTEL	675,000,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	97,450	6,042	6	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.061	0.062	0.100	GFIC	12,400,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	268	121	1	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.100	RNSS	115,840,900
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	15,463	1,423	4	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.002	-2.128	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.100	TPCI	23,796,886
OM0000003386	SOHAR INT. BANK	297,278	27,262	15	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.102	0.102	0.100	BKSB	468,186,354
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	334,000	131,596	6	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.394	0.390	0.004	1.028	0.394	0.390	0.400	0.100	ORDS	256,472,027
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	97,000	42,098	5	0.434	0.434	0.434	0.434	0.434	0.000	0.000	0.434	0.434	0.440	0.100	AMCI	23,870,000
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	35,000	1,925	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.056	-0.001	-1.786	0.055	0.051	0.055	0.100	DGEN	12,223,200
Total		17	2,293,832	588,128	149												

Parallel Market

OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	69,930	9,510	5	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.136	0.000	0.000	0.136	0.129	0.136	0.100	NGCI	11,560,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAH CATTLE	25,000	2,300	1	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.092	0.094	-0.002	-2.128	0.092	0.088	0.094	0.100	DCFI	7,438,200
OM0000001388	CONSTRUCTION M.	360,285	25,980	15	0.072	0.080	0.072	0.072	0.075	-0.003	-4.000	0.072	0.073	0.073	0.100	CMIT	4,500,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	76,098	16,229	11	0.220	0.220	0.210	0.214	0.220	-0.006	-2.727	0.214	0.214	0.220	0.100	RCCT	42,800,000
OM0000001509	DHOFAH INT.	60	7	1	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.000	0.000	0.133	0.133	0.133	0.100	DIDI	54,429,760
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	20,089	3,094	2	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.000	0.000	0.154	0.154	0.154	0.100	HBMO	308,043,170
OM0000001569	OMAN FISHERIES	345,780	37,688	17	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.109	0.000	0.000	0.109	0.106	0.110	0.100	OFCI	19,846,545
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	322,500	20,963	20	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.066	-0.001	-1.515	0.065	0.064	0.065	0.100	MFCT	19,964,511
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	5,000	425	2	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.086	0.100	OEIO	10,481,250
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	342,985	27,594	25	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.081	0.100	AJIC	16,000,000
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	31,750	4,604	2	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.145	0.138	0.145	0.100	BACS	13,050,000
OM0000002028	GULF INT-CHEMI	50,000	4,900	1	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.100	-0.002	-2.000	0.098	0.095	0.100	0.100	GICI	2,058,000
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P.	100,000	25,500	8	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.255	0.000	0.000	0.255	0.255	0.260	0.100	CMPI	10,534,544
OM0000002276	SHELL OMAN MRK.	10,000	8,000	2	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.900	0.924	-0.024	-2.597	0.900	0.880	0.900	0.100	SOMS	85,500,000
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAH	239,115	31,881	6	0.135	0.135	0.131	0.135	0.135	0.000	0.000	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.100	BKBD	404,507,444
OM0000002804	ASAFA FOODS	6,395	1,842	4	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.288	0.289	-0.001	-0.346	0.288	0.288	0.314	0.100	SPFI	34,560,000
OM0000003321	GALFAR ENGINEER	192,500	30,800	8	0.160	0.163	0.160	0.163	0.160	0.003	1.875	0.163	0.161	0.163	0.100	GECS	33,086,791
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	247	29	1	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.119	-0.002	-1.881	0.117	0.108	0.117	0.100	VOES	9,524,122
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	1,500	51	2	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.034	0.036	-0.002	-5.556	0.034	0.033	0.034	0.100	SMNP	4,787,610
OM0000004420	SEMBCORP SALALAH	1,541,085	148,100	22	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.097	0.100	0.100	SSPW	61,092,605
OM0000004735	MADINA TAKAFUL	280,805	24,901	21	0.088	0.091	0.086	0.088	0.088	0.000	0.000	0.088	0.087	0.088	0.100	AMAT	15,400,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	97,058	4,178	8	0.044	0.044	0.043	0.043	0.045	-0.002	-4.444	0.043	0.041	0.045	0.100	TADI	10,750,000
OM0000004925	ALBARTINAH POWER	45,983	1,835	8	0.041	0.041	0.039	0.041	0.041	0.000	0.000	0.041	0.039	0.040	0.100	BATP	27,670,385
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	61,387	2,462	8	0.042	0.042	0.040	0.040	0.043	-0.003	-6.977	0.040	0.039	0.040	0.100	SUWP	28,576,254
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	2,500	314	4	0.127	0.127	0.125	0.127	0.124	0.003	2.419	0.127	0.120	0.127	0.100	OAB	212,015,070
OM0000005983	PHOENIX POWER	177,811	783	7	0.044	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.100	PHPC	65,817,966
Total		27	4,545,888	454,384	229												

GARTNER REPORT

Banking-as-a-Service will hit mainstream adoption in 2 years

GOLD COAST, AUSTRALIA: Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) will hit mainstream adoption within two years, according to the latest Gartner Hype Cycle for Digital Banking Transformation.

Gartner predicts that 30 per cent of banks with greater than \$1 billion in assets will launch BaaS for new revenue by the end of 2024, but half will not meet targeted revenue expectations.

Speaking at Gartner IT Symposium/Xpo 2022 on the Gold Coast, Jeff Casey, senior director analyst at Gartner said: "These banks typically have ambitions to generate and diversify revenue streams, or to a lesser degree, aspire to extend previously sunk regulatory investments, such as PSD2 in Europe, into revenue-generating machines."

BaaS is one of four technologies that Gartner says have the potential for high levels of transformation in the banking sector and are likely to mature within the next couple of years. The other technologies include chatbots, public cloud for banking and social messaging payments apps. Bank CIOs should consider how key innova-



tions are shaping their industry and prioritise their technology investment strategies accordingly.

BaaS sits at the peak of the Hype Cycle. The technology is gaining traction from both banks and nonbanks aspiring to establish or enhance direct and intermediated revenue streams.

"Technology innovations like these are driving bank and non-bank competitor activity, influencing customer demand for products and services, and shaping regulators' actions globally," Casey said.

BaaS can be a discrete or broad set of financial service functions exposed by chartered banks or

regulated entities to power new business models deployed by other banking market participants — fintech, neobanks, traditional banks and other third parties.

Market participants are increasingly drawn to collaborative models that enable enhanced customer experiences, such as richer features, a broader set of products and innovative customer experiences. Nonbank participants benefit from a quick onramp to the banking market by leveraging a regulated entity's license instead of pursuing their own charter.

Chatbots represent one of the primary use cases of artificial in-

telligence (AI) in banks and will impact all areas of communication between machines and humans. While mostly applied to customer service, IT service management or human resources, chatbot uses are incredibly diverse. The change from "the user learns the interface" to "the chatbot learns what the user wants" has implications for onboarding, training, productivity and efficiency inside the workplace.

The sophistication of the enterprise conversational AI platform market has led to enhanced tooling for banks to build and maintain chatbots using non-IT resources. Operationalisation in the business units outside of IT is making chatbot production a more productive activity.

Public cloud adoption is becoming highly transformational to the banking industry since banks can achieve a greater level of efficiency and agility by moving workloads to the cloud. Public cloud for banking delivers banking-specific software within a public cloud ecosystem, by integrating those applications with different degrees, from cloud-based to fully native.

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It's time to start protecting your heart health



As the amount of LDL cholesterol increases, so too does the risk of cholesterol slowly building in your arteries, contributing to an increased likelihood of heart disease and stroke.

It is time to reflect upon the importance of heart health and highlight the impact of high cholesterol on cardiovascular disease (CVD). As a cardiologist and physician researcher who feels passionately about diseases of the heart, moments like these present a welcome opportunity to help to educate at-risk individuals around the contributing factors for CVD, which remains the leading cause of death globally.

Unfortunately, despite widely available medicines, many are still unaware of the risk factors that can lead to heart disease or stroke, making it difficult to find the right treatment that best meets their needs.

“It's time that men and women of all ages better understand how to manage their CVD risk by monitoring and treating their cholesterol. Here's a look at how to improve your heart health by getting these critical factors under control.

Accordingly, it's time that men and women of all ages better understand how to manage their CVD risk by monitoring and treating their cholesterol. Here's a look at how to improve your heart health by getting these critical factors under control.

Understanding cholesterol

For those who are unaware, cholesterol is a fatty molecule that circulates in the blood. There are two main types of cholesterol: HDL cholesterol, which is good for your health, and LDL cholesterol, which is bad for it. As the amount of LDL cholesterol increases, so too does the risk of cholesterol slowly building in your arteries,

contributing to an increased likelihood of heart disease and stroke.

Because LDL cholesterol is the main source of this artery-clogging plaque, it's very important to monitor your cholesterol levels so you can take action to address them. In order to do so, the American Heart Association recommends following the “check, change and control” method to manage your risk:

- **Check your cholesterol levels.**
- **Change your diet and lifestyle to help improve your levels.**
- **Control your cholesterol, with help from your doctor, if needed.**

Finding the right treatment

Once you've identified your LDL cholesterol levels, the next step is to find the right treatment that will help you reach your recommended LDL cholesterol levels. Today, the most commonly prescribed medicines to lower LDL cholesterol are called statins and there is substantial evidence that statins can effectively lower LDL cholesterol. Unfortunately, for many patients, statins have side effects that can limit the dose of medicine they can tolerate, and some patients cannot tolerate statins at all.

For at-risk individuals, this means that many people cannot reach their

recommended LDL cholesterol levels on statins alone. As such, if you're having trouble keeping your levels down, it's important to talk to your doctor about finding a non-statin option that best meets your needs.

Make no mistake

High cholesterol is an elusive and dangerous health condition — usually presenting zero symptoms before complications begin to occur.

With this in mind, it's time to have your doctor check your cholesterol levels and discuss treatment options that can bring your numbers back to a healthy threshold. Don't wait, your heart health depends on it. —**ANI**



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Scenery of Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan

Picture shows the Baiterek Tower, a landmark tourist site of Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. **Xinhua**



The cast of the film Chup: Revenge of the Artist during its promotion

Bollywood actor Sunny Deol with actor Dulquer Salmaan poses for a photo at the promotion of their upcoming film 'Chup: Revenge of the Artist', in Mumbai. **ANI Photo**



Flood-affected children play in Hyderabad, Pakistan
Flood-affected children enjoy ride on a swing at a makeshift camp in Hyderabad, Pakistan. **Xinhua**

Canadian police officer killed in daylight shooting, suspect in custody

Police officers are seen at the scene investigating on the double shootings in Mississauga, the Greater Toronto Area, Canada. A Canadian police officer was killed and a suspect is in custody following two daylight shootings in Toronto, the largest city in the country, local media reported. **xinhua**



Youth cloud concert held to celebrate 50th anniversary of China-Germany diplomatic relations

Members of Burg Chinese Chorus perform during the cloud concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Germany in Essen, Germany. A cloud concert sung by youth from China and Germany was held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. **xinhua**

People enjoy scenery near Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul, Türkiye

The scenery of the Bosphorus Strait is pictured in Istanbul, Türkiye. **Xinhua**



Kenya makes headway in circular economy with ban on single-use plastic bags

A worker pours plastic pellets into a machine in Kiambu county, Kenya. **Xinhua**



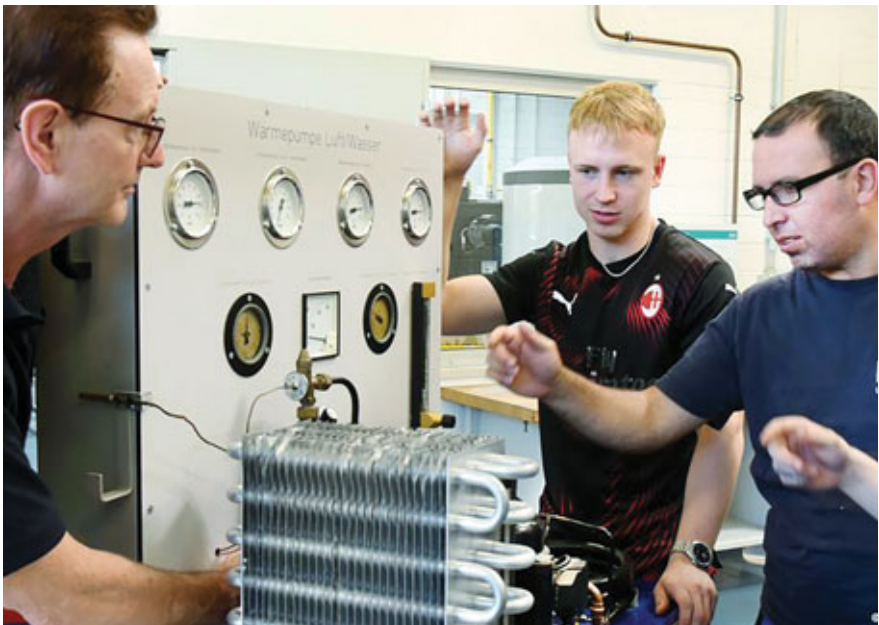


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FEATURE



HEAT PUMPS



What are they and how do they work?

Heat pumps are being touted as a climate-friendly option to keep homes warm as people look for alternatives to oil and gas.

AROUND half of Germany's homes are heated by natural gas and a quarter with oil. As the country transitions away from fossil fuels in the face of the climate crisis, many are looking for alternatives.

Heat pumps are one technology being widely discussed. But how do they work exactly?

A heat pump extracts warmth from outside air, the ground or a nearby source of water to generate heat using something called evaporative cooling. You'll know how satisfying it is putting a cold cloth on your skin in sweltering temperatures. It's the same effect. The cold water evaporates, becomes gaseous and you cool down.

Here's the science behind it: The transition from water to vapor requires a lot of energy. To change state, the water molecules draw that energy from their surroundings, in this case warm skin. That process brings about the cooling effect. Conversely, much of this energy is released as heat back into the air once the evaporated water becomes liquid again.

Heat pumps, fridges, and air conditioners all exploit these transitions. Refrigerators cool down on the inside and get warm on the outside. For heat pumps it's the opposite.

In the case of heat pumps, a special refrigerant circulates in a closed pipe system. Refrigerants evaporate at very low temperatures, sometimes below minus 50 degrees Celsius (minus 58 Fahrenheit).

Heat from the ground or air, for example, warms the refrigerant, which then evaporates in the circuit. A compressor squeezes the molecules of the refrigerant gas together, further increasing its temperature. When it then liquifies again, it releases the extra heat into the heating system. That means heat pumps can be used to warm or cool a home, office, or any other indoor space.

Water, air source, or geothermal heat pump: Which is best?

While there are different kinds of heat pumps, they all work on the same principle of extracting thermal energy from the environment.

Water heat pumps can use groundwater or water from rivers or lakes. Air-source ones run on regular air pulled in from outside or hot exhaust air pro-



duced at industrial sites or data centres.

For geothermal heat pumps, probes are drilled 100 metres (328 feet) or more into the ground, depending on the density of the rock. The deeper the borehole into the ground, the warmer it gets.

Groundwater heat pumps are more efficient, but also more expensive. The air-source variety work almost anywhere but can be noisy.

In the process of heating a building, heat pumps can cool down groundwa-

ter by 4 degrees, or reduce the air temperature around it by 10 degrees.

Can heat pumps also heat in cold weather?

Even on cold winter days, there's enough thermal energy underground, in the air or groundwater to heat a building. In Scandinavia, for instance, many people heat with air-source heat pumps even during severe winters. These extract heat energy from the air at temperatures as low as mi-

nus 20 Celsius.

Still, they require more energy to operate in the cold and work better in warmer weather. Heat pumps are also kitted out with heating rods that use electricity, as a backup.

How much electricity do heat pumps consume?

While most of the energy is taken from the environment, the devices do require additional power to run the electric motor for the compressor,

pumps and fans. In good conditions, one kilowatt-hour of drive electricity can generate around six kilowatt-hours of heat. An 80-square metre insulated apartment needs less than 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

Heat pumps are more efficient in new insulated buildings, especially ones with underfloor heating and large radiators. In older homes in Germany, air-source heat pumps generate about three kilowatt-hours of heat from one kilowatt-hour of electricity, according to a study by the Freiburg-based Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems. Using groundwater as the energy source generated, on average, four times as much heat in comparison.

In principle, heat pumps can generate temperatures of more than 70 degrees Celsius. That means they can also heat uninsulated houses with old radiators. But the device's electricity consumption would then be significantly higher.

Is it cost-effective to use solar power for heat pumps?

Solar energy from your roof is cheaper than from the power grid and is also climate friendly. But solar modules generate much less electricity in colder conditions. So more would be needed to produce the same amount of electricity during the winter heating season. Or you would have to buy additional electricity.

Can heat pumps also cool?

Modern pumps can switch from heating to cooling mode. In that case, the thermal energy from inside buildings is simply transferred to the outside air or groundwater. Likewise, modern air conditioners can also heat.

Are refrigerants harmful to the climate?

Most of them are. Chemical refrigerants called hydrofluorocarbons have traditionally been the dominant choice for coolant used in heat pumps and air conditioning systems. These are up to 4,000 times more harmful to the climate than CO2 if they get into atmosphere, which can happen through leakage or incorrect disposal.

More and more heat pumps are now being sold with the climate-friendlier refrigerants propane, CO2 or ammonia. The European Union is phasing out the use of HFCs in heat pumps and air conditioners in favour of the greener alternatives. -aw

ROUND-UP



Meethaq launches new financing offers

The special profit rate is applicable on a number of financing products, including home finance, auto finance, personal finance, education finance, marriage finance, travel finance, and takeover finance

MUSCAT: Meethaq Islamic banking from Bank Muscat has launched a number of exclusive financing offers with highly competitive profit rates as part of its customer-centric strategy of offering maximum financial benefit to its customers.

The special profit rate is applicable on a number of financing products including home finance, auto finance, personal finance, education finance, marriage finance, travel finance, and takeover finance. Meethaq customers are eligible for up to 80 per cent



financing for home or auto financing, while 100 per cent financing is available for travel, marriage, education and personal goods finance.

Applications may be submitted at any of Meethaq's 24 state-of-the-art branches across the Sultanate. The special rate is available for Omanis and expatriates working in governmental / quasi-

government institutions as well as Tier 1 and Tier 2 companies. Customers will benefit from the minimal documentation and quick processing of their applications.

Sami Bait Rashid, Assistant General Manager – Meethaq Personal Banking, said: “Meethaq is well known for its keen efforts to offer various services and customer value propositions aligned to the needs of its large and growing family of customers in the Sultanate as well as the latest global financial trends. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation and support to all our valued customers for their strong confidence and belief in Meethaq, and hope to facilitate the achievement of their dreams through our innovative and customer-centric services and facilities.”

PROMOTION



Benefits on Lexus range ends today

MUSCAT: Own a Lexus now and make the most of exclusive benefits that will end soon. Lexus is offering new car owners Service 3 Years / 30,000 km (whichever is earlier) and 1 year free registration. Campaign is valid up to September 14 (Conditions apply. Visit

any Lexus showroom for details).

In Oman, every Lexus vehicle comes with special benefits and privileges such as Manufacturer's Warranty of 4 years/100,000km (whichever is earlier) and 24 hours on-road assistance from AAA.

NEW SMARTPHONE

Huawei launches nova Y90

MUSCAT: If you love cool tech gadgets, especially stylish smartphones, here is something to get you excited! Huawei announced the launch of its latest smartphone, Huawei nova Y90. It's perfect for young users who are looking for an immersive viewing experience, enhanced battery life with 40W Huawei SuperCharge and a large 5000 mAh battery. What makes it all the more attractive is the 128GB storage and the 50MP AI Triple Camera system, which is as impressive as it sounds.

Dubbed as the Super Powerful Star with Massive Display Huawei nova Y90 comes in Emerald Green, Pearl White, Midnight Black, and Crystal Blue. It will be available for pre-orders in Oman starting September 15 at a starting price of OMR99.9 on Huawei's official website.

Featuring a 6.7-inch Huawei Edgeless FullView Display, the Huawei nova Y90 lets you view your content on a larger scale. The ultra-narrow bezels give you a high screen-to-body ratio of 94%, which, combined with the 90 Hz display refresh rate, gives you a smoother and more immersive experience – especially when playing games. Additionally, to provide a comfortable reading experience, Huawei nova Y90's screen supports features such as smooth screen dimming control, eye comfort mode, and e-book mode to further enhance users' viewing experience.

Huawei nova Y90 gives you the advantage of the 40W Huawei SuperCharge. Just a 10-minute



charge keeps your smartphone running for hours. Enjoy 2.3 hours of gaming just by charging the phone for 10 minutes. In addition, the Huawei nova Y90 has a battery health assistant function to intelligently detect the battery health status and remind the user to take action in time. Not only that, but it also makes charging faster, smarter and safer with multiple layers of protection.

A smartphone with a small battery is no longer enough for our current lifestyle. But with Huawei nova Y90, you can use the phone for an entire day after a full charge of the 5000mAh large battery. Thanks to long-lasting battery life, you don't need to constantly worry about running out of battery. Instead, just kick back and enjoy the entertainment

As Huawei nova Y90 comes with 128GB of storage, users have access to ample storage for their favourite apps, games or files for work and study.

If you are like most people, you also enjoy capturing every moment of your life and taking your social media to the next level. The 50MP AI Triple Camera system on the Huawei nova Y90 consists of a 50MP high-resolution Main Camera, a 2MP Depth Camera and a 2MP macro camera, bringing you an outstanding imaging experience. Furthermore, the Super Night Mode allows users to capture night scenes, even under a low-light shooting environment, with brighter and clearer details.

It has never been easier to capture a moving subject, thanks to the AI Snapshot function that adopts Huawei's self-developed motion detection algorithm. Using this feature, you can snap pictures of any moving subjects and objects to seize every exciting moment. Interestingly, the phone also comes with some handy features that help you realise your creativity. Huawei nova Y90 supports Continuous Front/Rear Recording for a seamless switch between the front and rear cameras. It also comes with a wide variety of built-in video templates to enable one-click video creation.

Moreover, the trusted, innovative, user-friendly and secure AppGallery is available on the Huawei nova Y90, where users can easily navigate, explore, find and download a wide range of high-quality apps.

TALENT PROGRAMME

Cross exposure programme aims to showcase Omani talent at Kempinski hotels around world



MUSCAT: Over the last three months, six key Omani talents from the management, front office and culinary teams were selected to be part of Kempinski Hotel Muscat's talent programme.

The team members were part of a six-week and eight-week cross-exposure programme at five renowned Kempinski hotels in key feeder markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as part of the brand's vision of being the “Employer of Choice” for local talents in luxury hospitality in Oman.

The participating hotels were Kempinski Hotel Das Tirol, Kempinski Hotel Berchtesgaden, Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski München, Kempinski Seychelles Resort and Marsa Malaz Kempin-

ski, The Pearl - Doha.

As part of the programme, the task force team members were nominated to provide the necessary support to the selected hotels, to experience how some of our Kempinski hotels conduct their day-to-day business and provide their local versions of beautiful performances.

Kempinski Hotel Muscat, General Manager Carsten Wiegandt, said, “As part of our contribution to Oman's 2040 vision and to further strengthen our local Omani talent and the next generation of leaders, we are proud to take part in this programme.

“We fully support our shared values of encouraging creativity and innovation through the development of individual expertise

and are rooted in our authentic care for what we do. It is of utmost importance that we uphold Kempinski's philosophy of finding and developing local talents through training at various Kempinski hotels worldwide.”

The participating team members from the Culinary Department showcased exquisite Omani and Arabic food in the hotel's restaurants which saw a lot of excitement and great feedback from hotels in Europe. Key positions from the Leadership Committee included Hotel Manager Nadine Al Balushi, Human Resources Manager Shamsa Al Wardi and Director of Finance Mohammed Al Harrasi, providing invaluable support to the hotels that they were assigned.

FOR OMANI WOMEN

Oman Cables kick starts ‘SHE STEMS’ social development programme



MUSCAT: This week, Oman Cables Industry (OCI) welcomed on board 20 female Omani students for the SHE STEMS social development programme that aims to prepare more Omani women for the nation's manufacturing and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sectors.

The start of the programme follows Oman Cables Industry's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and the Ministry of Labour (MOL) in early August to develop and implement the SHE STEMS initiative.

In line with Oman's Vision 2040 strategic objectives, SHE STEMS will create more opportunities for Omani women to enter careers in the industrial sector, and contrib-

ute to building a productive and diversified economy, founded on innovation, integration of roles, and equal opportunities.

The twenty female Omani students were selected from a list of over 300 candidates. As of this week, they have begun a six-month-long “Machine Operations” course that will emphasise hands-on skills development and practical on-the-job training in machine operations, with a focus on the manufacturing sector. The training will be supervised by highly proficient and qualified instructors.

The Machine Operations course forms the first out of three SHE STEMS programmes scheduled for deployment, all of which will be officially certified by MOHERI. On completion of the training,

each graduate will receive a SHE STEMS certificate recognised by the ministry.

“We are delighted to be a part of this first-of-its-kind initiative in Oman. The program will prepare more Omani women for the nation's critically important manufacturing sector and empower them to take great strides towards achieving their career goals.”

“Oman Cables is proud to support local women and local communities in Oman. Through this initiative we hope to be able to change these 20 women's lives for the better” said OCI's Chief Executive Officer, Cinzia Farisè.

“The SHE STEMS Project is a long-term project and forms part of our Sustainability Plan, in line with our global social ambition.

Similar initiatives will be developed in some other Countries of the world, but we are very proud to be the first and to start in Oman and for Oman. The local initiative received the endorsement of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) and the Ministry of Labour (MoL), whom we thank for their continuous support.”

As part of the Prysmian Group, OCI launched the SHE STEMS initiative as a joint amalgamation with Prysmian's sustainability development strategy and goals, and within the framework of the Prysmian Social Ambition 2030 objectives of diversity, equality and inclusion, digital inclusion, community empowerment, and employee engagement and upskilling.



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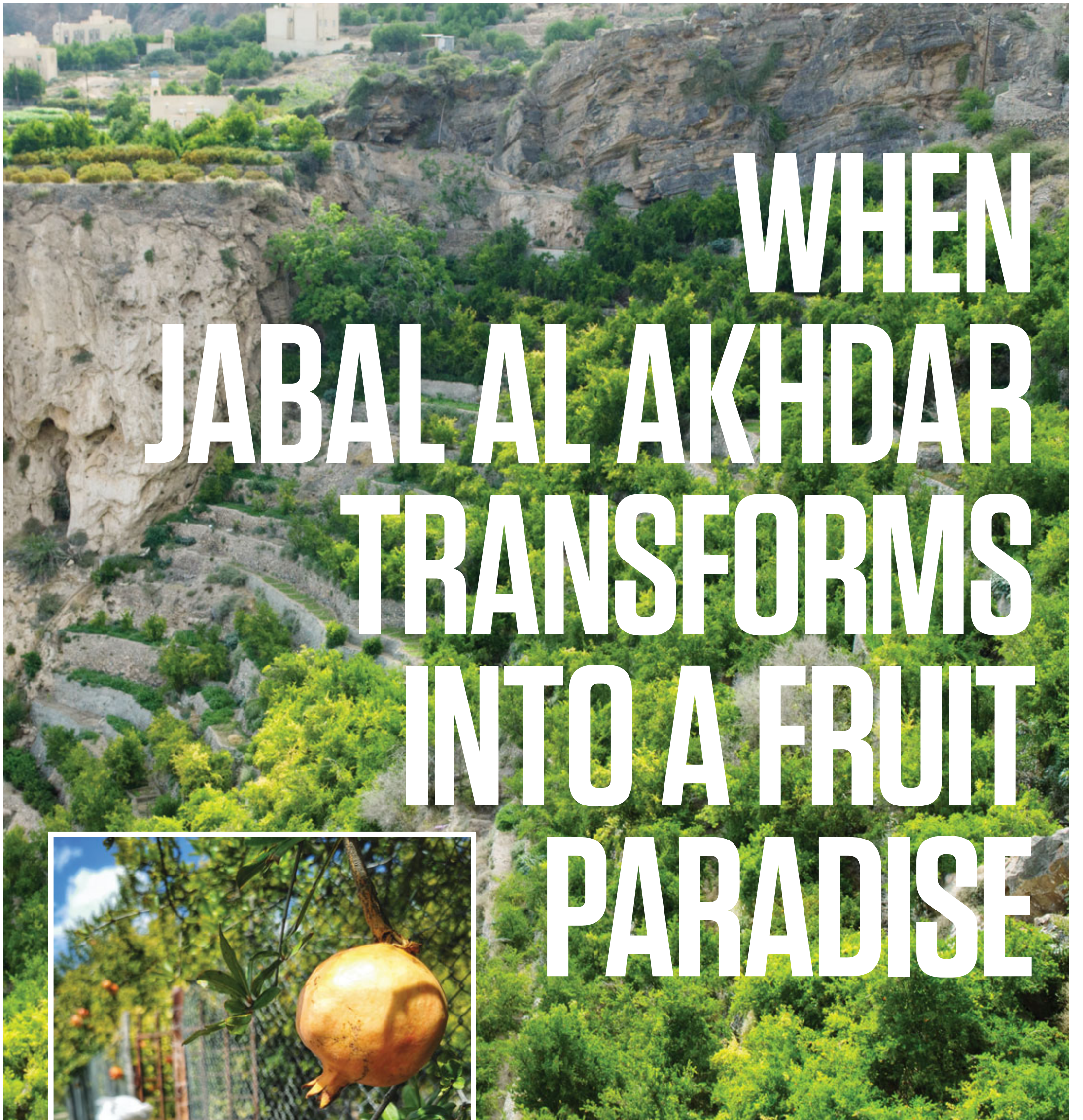


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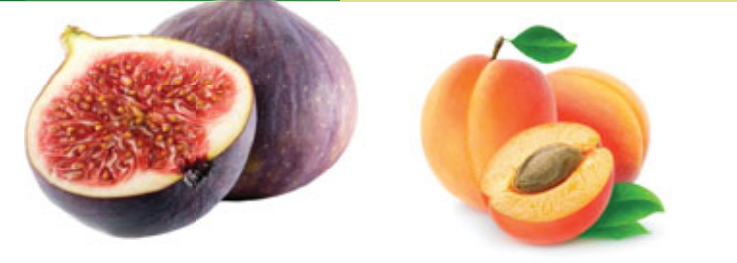


WHEN JABAL AL AKHDAR TRANSFORMS INTO A FRUIT PARADISE



DURING SEPTEMBER and October, Jabal Al Akhdar transforms into a fruit paradise with the full-blown goodness of luscious fruits — pomegranates, grapes, strawberries, raspberries, pears, apricots, plums, peaches, figs, walnuts and almonds, among others. But it is the pomegranate that stands tall among other fruits. It is also the most valuable source of income for farmers in these mountains.

Farmers start caring for the tree from January and in May, they irrigate it about five to seven times up to the end of September. Al Jabal Al Akhdar, the Green Mountain, witnesses an increasing turnout from locals, visitors and tourists as the season of pomegranate harvest kicks off to have regional and international tourists flock to explore its pleasant climate, mountain ranges, farms, aflaj and heritage houses over the weekends and holidays. Well known for its natural beauty and friendly and generous people, Al Jabal Al Akhdar's semi-Med-



iterranean climate is conducive to growing some rare fruits, such as pomegranate, figs, pear, grapes, lemon, almond and olives.

Because of the increase in tourism in Jabal Al Akhdar in recent years, the demand for the pomegranate crop has increased among tourists who visit Jabal Al Akhdar during the season.



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