

**OMAN'S FINANCIAL WEALTH
TO REACH \$141BN BY 2027**

MUSCAT: Oman's financial wealth is projected to experience a strong compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.7 percent, increasing to \$141 billion by 2027, according to a new report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). **>B2**



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**HM THE SULTAN CONDOLES PRESIDENT
OF THE LIBYAN PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of condolences to Dr. Muhammad Al Manfi, President of the Libyan Presidential Council on victims of the floods that swept through Libya's northeastern regions. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sympathies to President Dr. Muhammad Al Manfi, families of the victims and the Libyan people. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty to rest deceased souls in peace in paradise and grant their families fortitude to bear the loss, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. — **ONA**



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HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN RECEIVES SAUDI ARABIA'S CROWN PRINCE



The leaders reviewed the historic, firm, fraternal ties between the two countries

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik received at Al Barakah Palace on Tuesday HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman is on a private visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan welcomed the guest, wishing him and his ac-

companying delegation a nice stay in Oman.

During the meeting, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman conveyed greetings of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of KSA and best wishes of permanent health and happiness to His Majesty, and the Omani people further progress and prosperity.

His Majesty asked the guest

to convey his greetings and best wishes of good health and happiness to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and the brotherly Saudi people further progress and welfare.

His Majesty the Sultan and HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman reviewed the historic, firm, fraternal ties between the two countries. They also reiterated their determination to move for-

ward in promoting aspects of the existing bilateral cooperation in all spheres in a manner that meets aspirations of the Omani and Saudi peoples.

The meeting was attended from the Omani side by HH Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth and

HH Sayyid Bilarab bin Haitham Al Said.

The meeting was attended from the Saudi side by HRH Prince Abdullah bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of National Guard, HRH Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Defence and HH Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Culture. — **ONA** **See also >A4**

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN ONA's app for smart devices launched

1 The Ministry of Information launched the electronic application of ONA for smart devices that keeps pace with modern developments in disseminating news content. **>A2**

WORLD Floods in Libya, 10,000 missing

2 At least 10,000 people are missing after a powerful storm caused devastating floods in northeastern Libya, according to an official from the IFRC. **>A6**

MARKET Hydraulic fracturing conference opens

3 The SPE International Hydraulic Fracturing Technology Conference and Exhibition kicked off at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre. **>B1**



FOR ENDORSEMENT

Oman prepares its file to apply for Category 'A' classification of human rights panels

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC), finished preparing its file to apply for Category 'A' in the classification of the UN Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. Oman's application will be reviewed by the Office of the International Accreditation Commission in October 2023, so that the same application could be considered for endorsement by March 2023.

Sheikh Abdullah Shuwain Al Hosni, Chairman of OHRC, told Oman News Agency (ONA) that the approval of Oman's application is bound with the country's ratification of basic (human rights)



agreements and its commitment to Paris Principles (principles pertaining to the status of national human rights institutions).

Al Hosni pointed out that the

recent Royal decree granting new powers to OHRC constitutes a solid step forward towards obtaining the desired "A" classification. The powers include giving OHRC complete autonomy in electing a chair and deputy chair, besides excluding government representatives in the commission from voting on the commission's decisions.

Oman has ratified seven international human rights conventions. This consolidates the role of OHRC and enhances its request for obtaining Class "A" within the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. It also reiterates Oman's commitment to international human rights conventions. — **ONA**

STORM DANIEL

Oman offers condolences to Libya

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman has offered its condolences to Libya over victims of Storm Daniel.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry said: "The Sultanate of Oman expresses its sincere condolences and sincere sympathy to the government and people of the country of Libya and the families of flood victims resulting from Storm Daniel and wishes a speedy recovery for those injured." Hundreds of people are feared dead in eastern Libya after heavy flooding caused by Storm Daniel swept away entire neighbourhoods and wrecked homes in multiple coastal towns with the city of Derna "cut off completely" following the bursting of two ageing dams. — **ONA**

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....12:08pm
Asr.....3:35pm
Maghrib.....6:19pm
Isha.....7:30pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....4:37am

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Forum aims to enhance and hone the future skills of young students

NXplorers Shell programme targets 33 teachers and specialists from the departments of Innovation and Scientific Olympiads

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by the Department of Innovation and Scientific Olympiads, in cooperation with Oman Shell, is implementing the first teachers' forum in the NXplorers Shell programme, to exchange experiences and knowledge between teachers implementing the programme for the senior category. The programme targets 33 teachers and specialists from the departments of Innovation and Scientific Olympiads.



The NXplorers Shell Forum aims to enhance and hone the future skills of young people to be contributors to finding innovative solutions to local and global challenges in the various fields of energy, water, and food, which was reflected positively through the existing qualitative programmes between partners from various sectors in keeping with scientific developments. The programme was implemented since 2018, in a partnership between the Ministry of Education and Oman Shell, with the aim of developing students' creative thinking and analysis skills,

encouraging them to find innovative ways to solve challenges in the fields of food, water, and energy, and encouraging them to delve into the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by linking them to the areas targeted by the programme. In the academic year 2022/2023, the junior category was targeted for students from the fifth to eighth grades, to be added to the senior category, which includes students from the ninth to twelfth grades, which began since the academic year 2018/2019. The first day of the forum included a welcome, reception, and

a speech by the Ministry of Education, then an introductory clip about the Shell NXplorers programme was presented. **Presented their experiences** A group of teachers who had previously worked in the program me presented their experiences, and then the future of the Shell NXplorers programme in the Sultanate of Oman was discussed. The evaluation criteria for the Shell NXplorers programme were also introduced, and at the end of the first day, the most important recommendations that must be followed in the programme were



presented. Said Al-Abri, a chemistry teacher at Abu Saad Al-Kadmi School in Al-Dakhiliyah Governorate, said: "The NXplorers annual teachers' forum aims to achieve many points that focus on improving the programme, and learning about the experiences of some creative teachers who have won advanced programmes, as well as the challenges facing teachers and programme supervisors including the time factor, as well as financial challenges, etc." Fakhriya Al Shaibani, a senior chemistry teacher and the NXplorers programme lead at

Al Amal school for Basic Education in South Al Batinah Governorate, said: "The forum aimed to present Oman's experience in the programme and its success over the past years, as some of the experiences of the schools led by the managers were presented, and topics of challenges and difficulties were discussed through discussion circles to come up with the best ideas and proposals." "The forum presented development proposals for the programme and focused on the most important skills that the student acquires by working in this programme," Fakhriya Al Shaibani added.

PENINSULA SHIELD JOINT FORCE



Delegation visits MSC

MUSCAT: Maj. Gen Abdulaziz Ahmed Al Balawi, Commander of the Peninsula Shield Joint Force and his accompanying delegation on Tuesday visited the Maritime Security Centre (MSC). Upon their arrival, the delegation was received by Commodore Adil Hamoud Al Busaidi, Head of the MSC.

The guest and his accompanying delegation were briefed on the tactical roles and tasks carried out by the centre in the safety of the maritime environment. They also toured the centre's facilities and viewed its latest equipment and technologies used in carrying out its national duties.

— ONA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

ONA's app for smart devices launched

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information on Tuesday launched the electronic application of Oman News Agency (ONA) for smart devices. The step keeps pace with modern technical developments in disseminating news content. Ibrahim Saif Al Azri, Editor-in-Chief and Director-General of the Oman News Agency, said that the launch of the application adds a new service to ONA browsers and followers, both in Oman and abroad. Al Azri pointed out that, through the app, the readers are constantly and immediately informed of local and international developments and events. The readers can access ONA news under different categories,



including "Royal News", "Oman Today", and "Governorates", in addition to "Economy" and international news which include "Policy" and "Miscellaneous" news.



He added that the app was designed to be compatible with various smart phones and tablet devices and it can add news updates round-the-clock.

"The app boasts a simplified and clear-cut user interface that serves timely news browsing and smooth navigation. The night mode eases eye strain when one is reading news in dark settings. The app also gives prompt notifications as soon as it receives updates", Al Azri explained

Audio news feature

ONA app is also empowered with an advanced news searching feature that support visual news, audio news and news photos. It displays news content in high quality and allows reader reactions through personal comments, news sharing and offline reading of news in Arabic and English. — ONA

FROM SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER

Experience the wonder of Whale Shark Season at Al Mouj Marina

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's natural wonders are set to take centre-stage once again as the eagerly anticipated Whale Shark Season approaches. From September to November, Al Mouj Marina invites both locals and global travellers to witness the grandeur of these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. Whale sharks, the largest living fish species, grace Oman's waters during this season, captivating all who are fortunate enough to encounter them. Contrary to their name, these gentle giants are known for their peaceful disposition, allowing for an up-close experience that leaves an indelible

mark on visitors. With an average length of 6 to 10 metres and a record-breaking 18.8 metres, the sheer size of these creatures is awe-inspiring. What's more remarkable is their diet – despite their immense size, they sustain themselves by feeding on some of the smallest inhabitants of the ocean, underscoring nature's intricate balance. For those seeking a once-in-a-lifetime adventure, Al Mouj Marina serves as the ultimate gateway to this extraordinary experience. Nestled near the captivating Daymaniyat Islands, the marina collaborates with esteemed operators to offer guided whale shark tours. This unique opportunity allows visitors to immerse themselves



in the mesmerizing underwater world and witness these majestic beings firsthand. Diving enthusiasts and nature lovers alike will be enchanted by

the opportunity to swim alongside these graceful creatures in the crystal-clear waters. The experience is bound to evoke wonder and awe as the enormity and elegance

of the whale sharks come into view, creating memories that will forever be etched in the minds of participants. Central to Al Mouj Marina's ethos is its commitment to responsible tourism and environmental conservation. The operators adhere to strict guidelines that prioritize the well-being of the whale sharks and the preservation of their habitat. By engaging in this remarkable encounter, visitors become active participants in the ongoing efforts to protect and conserve these magnificent animals. Whether you're a marine enthusiast, a seeker of adventure, or simply someone looking to connect with the natural world, Oman's Whale Shark Season promises an

experience like no other. Al Mouj Marina welcomes you to join them on a transformative journey, delving deep into the enchanting world of these majestic creatures. Opened in 2011, Al Mouj Marina was the first in the region to be awarded International Clean Marina and 5 Gold Anchor accreditation, and it will ultimately provide 400 berths to make it one of the largest marinas in the Middle East. Located in Al Mouj Muscat, Oman's first Integrated Tourism Complex, the thriving lifestyle community is now home to 8,000 people from 85 countries, and attracts over 4.9 million annual visitors to its boulevard style, world-class retail, dining and leisure experiences.

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TOUR OF SALALAH

Slovenia's cyclist clinches third stage of Tour



MUSCAT: The pleasant weather and the verdant surroundings in Salalah provided a perfect stage for a close race during the third stage of the 2023 Tour of Salalah on Tuesday as Slovenia's Grega Bole took the third stage honours after an intense and thrilling finish.

The Shabab Al Ahli Dubai team cyclist prevailed in two hours 34 minutes in a photo-finish edging past UAE's Abdulla Jasim Al Ali and Stefan Verhoeff (Universe Cycling Team).

Verhoeff finished third with the first 11 riders nearly coming in the same time to the finish line of the 104km stage from Al Haffa to Darbat.

The stage win earned Bole the green jersey [points' classification topper] along with the leader's golden jersey [time classification].

Abdulla Jasim retained his young rider white jersey while

Tom Wijn Je kept the silver jersey for most aggressive rider.

The Tour of Salalah concludes on Wednesday with the fourth and last stage, a 147km race from Ain Razat to Ittin Public Park.

Universe Cycling Team led the team standings with Team Storck-Metropol Cycling and United Arab Emirates taking the second and third positions respectively. Victorious Club are fourth and hosts Oman are fifth.

The third stage witnessed 53 riders in action and second-stage winner Ahmed Naser of Bahrain came fourth while German rider Campo Schmitz of TSM finished fifth.

The best Omani rider of the day was Said al Rahbi in 17th position while his teammate Mazin al Riyami finished 19th.

Earlier on Monday, Ahmed Naser of Victorious Club rode to second stage victory [148km] in

4 hours 31 minutes from Sadah to Hajeef. Bole finished second in 04:32:11. Abdulla Jasim (04:32:11) improved his first day's fourth place to third.

Algerian national team's Yacine Hamza clocked three hours five minutes and eight seconds to claim the opening stage of Tour of Salalah 2023 that began on Sunday.

Robin Fischer of Storck-Metropol Cycling came second (03:05:10), while Bole finished third in 03:05:56. As many as 75 riders were in action for the 123km first stage from Khor Rori to Ayn Ishat.

The four-stage cycling race offers a total prize money of OMR 7730, and is being organised by the Oman Cycling Association and supported by Dhofar Municipality, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth and Ministry of Heritage and Tourism.



JOINT JUDICIAL ACTION



Ways to enhance judicial integration in GCC discussed

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, chaired here on Tuesday the 25th meeting of GCC undersecretaries of ministries of justice.

Dr. Yahya Nasser Al Khusaibi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs said that the meeting is a continuation of the march of joint judicial

action. Al Khusaibi added that the meeting discussed several vital topics, including challenges hindering the registration of lawyers in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Moreover, the meeting reviewed Oman's initiative to enhance judicial integration among GCC states, among other topics. — OMA



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IN PICTURES

HIS MAJESTY AND SAUDI ARABIA'S CROWN PRINCE HOLD TALKS





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TWO-DAY FORUM

Human rights institutions in GCC discuss ways to boost cooperation



MUSCAT: Tasks of the GCC human rights institutions forum kicked off here on Tuesday. The two-day forum is being organised by Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) in cooperation with the GCC Secretariat General.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Ghosn Hilal Al Alawi, Chairman of the State Audit Institution (SAI). Sheikh Abdullah Shuwain Al Hosni, Chairman of the Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC), said in a speech that the forum laid emphasis on joint action to realise the common goals of GCC human rights institutions and develop means and mechanisms necessary for



that objective. The forum also explores the basic approaches of the United Nations in the field of human rights and Paris Principles and their implementation mechanisms.

The forum is being attended

by representatives of the GCC Secretariat General, GCC human rights institutions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, government departments and civil society institutions. — **ONA**



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Tender

جامعة التقنية
والمعلوم التطبيقية
University of Technology
and Applied Sciences



Local Online Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender Committee at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences announces the tender shown in the following table:

S.N.	Tender No.	Tender Subject	Establishments eligible to bid	Document's Price	Last date for bid purchase online	Last date for bid submission
1	52/2023	Providing cleaning services for the buildings of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Nizwa Branch	Companies specialized in this field and registered with the Tender Board at the First Grade	RO 25/- (Twenty Five Omani Riyals)	23/09/2023 at 02:30 pm	27/09/2023 at 10:00 am

- Tender documents may be purchased online starting from Wednesday 13/09/2023 at 07:30 am through the following link: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>
- Preference in awarding will be given to small and medium enterprises registered with the Authority for SME development and whose bid includes the biggest percentage of Omanisation and a biggest purchase percentage of national products.

The University shall not be bound to accept the lowest or any other bid.

Broad Horizons

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HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

The Board and Staff
of
TECHNO PLASTIC INDUSTRY SAOC
offers their deep and heartfelt condolences to their
CEO, Eng. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
on the sad demise of his
BELOVED SISTER

May her Blessed Soul Rest In Eternal Peace.
May Allah grant her the Highest Peak of Jannah
Techno Members' thoughts and prayers are with him
and his family during this sorrowful time.

OMAN/WORLD

OMAN TOURISM HUB

New platform boosts tourism cooperation between heritage ministry and its partners

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism has developed a partner support platform code-named 'Oman Tourism Hub', which serves as a digital initiative aimed at enhancing cooperation between the ministry and its partners in the field of tourism marketing.

The platform is considered a comprehensive information source and database that provides vital information about the tourism promotion strategy and the Omani tourism product.

The platform also includes updated monthly newsletters related to the latest developments in the field of tourism promotion.

The platform provides a set of suggestions and ideas to improve tourism programmes and enhance marketing for various tourist seasons.

It gives tourism companies and establishments a chance to develop and improve their performance by investing in electronic and digital marketing.

This contributes to strengthening the tourism sector and enhancing Oman's position as a global tourist destination.

Faisal Ali Al Lawati, Head of the Partner Support Department at



the Ministry said that the platform aims to encourage interaction among partners, provides training and contributes to streamlining registration procedures for events and activities, besides providing monthly updates about the tourism movement in Oman.



— ONA

Catastrophic floods in Libya, 10,000 missing



Rescue teams have begun retrieving hundreds of bodies from the rubble after heavy rainfall over the weekend caused dams to break, washing away entire districts

TRIPOLI: At least 10,000 people are missing after a powerful storm caused devastating floods in northeastern Libya, according to an official from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Authorities estimate that as many as 1,000 people have died in the eastern port city of Derna alone, warning that the death toll could rise.

Dams break

Rescue teams have begun retrieving hundreds of bodies from the rubble after heavy rainfall over the weekend caused dams to break, washing away entire districts.

"The death toll is huge and might reach thousands," Tamer Ramadan, the head of the IRFC delegation in Libya told reporters.

"We can confirm from our independent sources of information that the number of missing people is hitting 10,000 persons so far," he added.



EU pledges help

The European Union foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said they were following the situation closely and stood ready to provide support.

"Saddened by images of devastation in Libya, ravaged by extreme weather conditions causing the tragic loss of many lives," Borrell wrote on X, the media platform formerly known as Twitter.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz offered condolences to the people

affected, saying the situation was dire. "We are in contact with the UN and partners about possible help," he wrote on X.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani wrote on X they were responding to requests for support, adding that "an assessment team is already on its way, coordinated by our civil protection unit."

Turkey has sent aircraft carrying rescue workers and UAE has pledged to do so too. Algeria and Egypt have offered their con-

lences to the people of the North African country.

Cars were moved to the edges of the city by strong water currents, in Derna, Libya, 2023. Libya is divided between rival administrations in the west and east.

The eastern port city of Derna, once held by extremists in the years that followed strongman Moammar Gadhafi's ouster, was among the hardest hit by the rains.

The west is ruled by an internationally recognised government in Tripoli, while the east is controlled by a separate administration.

Officials in the administration in the eastern part of the divided country put the death toll at 1,000 on Tuesday.

They said they feared 2,000 people had died, though it was not clear what they were basing the number on. The government in Tripoli is yet to issue a count for deaths.

The chaos and split in governance in the oil-rich nation has long left cities with crumbling and inadequate structures. -nw



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BRIEFS



Oman chairs meeting of ministers of municipalities

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman chaired the 26th meeting of GCC ministers of municipalities. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Sayyid Saud Hilal Al Busaidi, Governor of Muscat. Al Busaidi said that the meeting comes within the framework of the council's efforts to approve the recommendations of the municipal action strategy. Moreover, the meeting discussed several topics, including conferences, workshops and training programmes in the municipal action field.



Forum on management of strategic projects held

SALALAH: The "Role of human resources in supporting the management of strategic projects within the concept of good governance" was the theme of a forum organised on Tuesday by the Ministry of Labour. The forum discussed ways to benefit from international experiences in the field of project management and good governance. Organised in cooperation with "References for Conferences and Seminars" centre in Salalah, the two-day forum elaborated on theoretical structures, legal and regulatory frameworks, mechanisms for applying good governance in strategic projects and related challenges and solutions. The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Sheikh Salim Mustahail Al Ma'ashani, Adviser at the Diwan of Royal Court.

ROP airlifts patient from Jabal Al Kur to hospital

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police (ROP), has transferred a patient who was suffering from a health illness from Jabal Al Kur in the Wilayat of Bahla to Nizwa Hospital to receive treatment. "Police aviation carried out an operation to transfer a patient from Jabal Al Kur in the Wilayat of Bahla to Nizwa Hospital to receive treatment, after suffering from a health illness," Royal Oman Police (ROP), said in a statement. — ONA/Times News Service



MORCA CAVE

US explorer saved after being trapped in Turkish cave

ISTANBUL: Rescuers pulled to safety US explorer Mark Dickey on Tuesday after he spent nine days trapped in a cave in Turkey.

The 40-year-old explorer became stuck after he developed stomach problems while examining the depths of the Morca Cave in the Taurus Mountains. Mark Dickey was removed from the last exit of the cave, the Turkish Caving Federation said.

It added that the "cave rescue part of the operation has ended successfully."

Nine-day rescue operation

More than 150 rescuers from Turkey, Croatia, Italy and other countries worked for nine days to



rescue Dickey.

Footage from previous phases of the operation showed Dickey lying inside the cave and receiving treatment by a medical team after he reportedly suffered gastrointestinal bleeding.

Rescuers had to first widen some of the cave's narrow passages, install ropes to pull Dickey up vertical shafts on a stretcher, and set up temporary camps along the way.

The explorer's parents, Debbie and Andy Dickey, thanked the international caving community, doctors, rescuers and the Turkish government for helping rescue their son. "The fact that our son, Mark Dickey, has been moved out

of Morca Cave in stable condition is indescribably relieving and fills us with incredible joy," they said in a statement.

Dickey was part of a team mapping the 1,276-metre (4,186-foot) deep Morca cave system for the Anatolian Speleology Group Association. On Thursday, Turkish authorities released a video of Dickey inside the cave standing and talking.

However, he said he was not "healed on the inside" and needed help to get out.

Dickey is a well-known cave researcher from New York. He is also a cave rescuer himself who has participated in many international expeditions. -nw

Kim Jong Un arrives in Russia to meet Putin

Kim boarded his personal armoured train in Pyongyang on Sunday

MOSCOW: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Russia on Tuesday, South Korea's military and Russian state media said, where he is expected to hold a highly anticipated meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

"The Ministry of National Defense believes that North Korea's Kim Jong Un entered Russia early this morning using a private train," Seoul said.

Kim boarded his personal armoured train in Pyongyang on Sunday, according to the state-run



Korean Central News Agency.

He was reportedly joined by unspecified members of the ruling party and military.

Russia's RIA Novosti news agency later shared photos claiming to show Kim's dark green train carriages being pulled by a Russian Railways locomotive in the Primorsky region.

The meeting would be Kim's first foreign trip since the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the

hermit state to tighten its border restrictions even further.

One possible venue could be the city of Vladivostok in Russia's Far East. Putin arrived in Vladivostok on Monday to attend the Eastern Economic Forum that runs through Wednesday.

Analysts, as well as US officials, believe the meeting could be a chance for Putin to request artillery shells and antitank missiles from North Korea to be used

against Ukraine.

"Having to travel across the length of his own country to meet with an international pariah to ask for assistance in a war that he expected to win in the opening month, I would characterize it as him begging for assistance," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters.

In return, Kim is reportedly seeking advanced technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines, as well as food aid for his impoverished nation.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that Putin and Kim could hold one-on-one meetings if necessary.

"As you know, while implementing our relations with our neighbours, including North Korea, the interests of our two countries are important to us, and not warnings from Washington," he said. "It is the interests of our two countries that we will focus on."

Absolutely believe G20 Summit was a success: US

WASHINGTON, DC: As the G20 Leaders' Summit concluded with great fervour in Delhi under India's presidency on Sunday, the United States also called it an 'absolute success.'

In a regular press briefing on Monday, the US State Department official spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters, "We absolutely believe it was a success. The G20 is a big organisation. The spokesperson responded to a media query on whether the G20 Summit was successful.

When asked about Russia's absence from the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, he said, "There are members that have a diverse range of views. We believe the fact that the organisation was able to issue a statement that calls for respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty and saying that those principles should not be violated

is an extremely important statement because that is exactly what is at the heart of Russia's invasion of Ukraine."

"It is those very questions so we thought that was an incredibly important statement for them to make," Miller added.

The "use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible", G20 nations said Saturday in a New Delhi Leaders' Declaration under the mention of the Ukraine war. The G20 member countries recalled the Bali declaration and underscored that all States must act in a manner consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter in its entirety and called for a "comprehensive, just, and durable peace in Ukraine" and reminded member states to "refrain from the threat, or use of force, to seek territorial acquisition".

HELP MAKE OMAN CLEAN AND GREEN.

CARE AND SPECIAL EDUCATION SITUATION VACANT

Care and Special Education, a center for children with special needs, located on the premises of Indian School Muscat, requires following staff for immediate appointment:

- Clinical Psychologist:** MPhil in Clinical Psychology, RCI Registered with minimum 3 years of experience.
- Occupational Therapist:** Masters in Occupational Therapy with minimum 2 years of experience in pediatrics or related field.
- Speech Therapist:** BASLP (Bachelor in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology) with five years of experience or MASLP with two years of experience.

Eligible candidates may apply to incharge@cseoman.com latest by 25th September 2023

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TENDER NOTICE
REF: ISM/ADMIN/TENDER/2023-24/002

Sealed tenders are invited from potential service providers / contractors for the following requirements of the school.

1. Annual Maintenance of A.C units (602 Nos.) with Spare Parts
2. Annual Maintenance of Fire & Safety Equipment (ISM Main campus and Jibroo)

Interested parties shall collect the tender documents from the school cash counter against the payment of **RO.10/-** as a non-refundable tender fee from **13th September 2023 to 20th September 2023** during the working days (Sunday to Thursday) of the school between **7.30 a.m. and 02.00 p.m.**

The completed tender shall be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the school office before the due date. The tender should be in a sealed envelope, addressed to The Chairman, Purchase Sub Committee, Indian School Muscat, P.O. Box: 2470, PC: 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.

Note: Respective tenders shall clearly mention the "name of service quoted for" by the bidding party. Any tender without the name of service/supply will be considered disqualified.

Last date of tender submission: Refer to the tender document

INDIAN SCHOOL BOUSHER
P.O Box 2886, P.C 130, Al Awabi, Al Ansab, Muscat, SULTANATE OF OMAN, Tel. No. +968 91401167
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TENDER NOTICE
Ref: ISB/Tender/2023-24 dated 13/09/2023

Bids are invited from interested parties for the following tenders:

Sl. No.	Name of Tender	Tender No.	Tender Documents available from	Tender Submission Date	Tender Document Fee. (R.O.)
01	House Keeping/ Cleaning Services	A008/2023-24	13/09/2023	20/09/2023	25,000
02	Supply of Drinking Water	A009/2023-24	13/09/2023	20/09/2023	12,000

Tender documents can be collected from ISB office, till a day before the date of submission.

Enquiries and requests for clarifications regarding above Tenders shall be submitted through emails to PURCHASE@ISBOMAN.COM Sealed tenders, inscribing the tender name and number only, on the envelope to be dropped in the tender box placed in ISB, on/before **01.00 PM** of the tender submission date; along with all necessary details and supporting documents. ISB reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

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Maiden ODI five-for against Pakistan a big deal: Kuldeep

The Indian wrist-spinner credits technical adjustments for his recent success

COLOMBO: India's ace spinner Kuldeep Yadav credited his continued success in ODIs to the technical adjustments in his bowling action and his aggressive rhythm.

The left-arm wrist-spinner is India's leading wicket-taker in men's ODIs in 2023 with 27 scalps after he picked up his maiden five-for against Pakistan in the Asia Cup Super Four match in Colombo on Monday as India recorded their biggest ODI win over their arch-rivals.

Centuries from Virat Kohli (122) and KL Rahul (111) helped set Pakistan a steep 357-run target. Kuldeep's 5 for 25 then skittled Pakistan out for 128 to register a record 228-run win for India.

The flight and drift - things Kuldeep did not want to lose in his remodelled action - and the mixing of traditional leg-break and googly were on show as he bamboozled the opposition batters.

Speaking after the game, Kuldeep, who was "very happy" with how his past one and a half years

have gone, said his maiden ODI five-for against Pakistan was a "big deal." "When I retire, I will always remember that I picked up five wickets against Pakistan. It is a big deal because they are a team that plays spin well. If you do well against a side that plays spin well in the subcontinent, it motivates you."

"It's been over one and a half years since I had surgery," Kuldeep said after the match. "The run-up has become straighter. The rhythm

has become aggressive. The approach is nice. Maybe my hand used to fall over but that is well in control and faces the batter more."

"At the same time, I did not lose my spin and drift, and my pace increased - all of which helped me. If a leg-spinner lands the ball on a good length, there are more chances of [him] picking up a wicket. If you are a leg-spinner, you tend to bowl a lot of loose balls but if you become consistent, you can succeed."

"After my surgery, I was out of the game for about five months," he said. "There were a lot of people who suggested a lot of things, but I did not want to lose my zip, nip or drift. After my three-month rehab post-surgery, my physio - Ashish Koushik at the NCA - suggested that I must do something [to my action] to reduce load on my knee."

"I worked on making my rhythm faster, bowled it in a practice game in Kanpur and found that the bats-

men found it difficult [to face]. Then I returned to the Indian team for the tour of the West Indies but couldn't find my rhythm. Even in the IPL, my rhythm was breaking. It took about six to seven months for [the new action] to work."

Kuldeep started in fine fashion with the ball. He saw Rohit Sharma drop Fakhar Zaman at slip before deceiving him in flight to bowl him. After trapping Agha Salman lbw, he dismissed Shadab Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed - taking a fine diving catch off his bowling - and Faheem Ashraf in successive overs to end Pakistan's innings prematurely with Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf.

India batter Virat Kohli made his 47th ODI century as he surpassed 13,000 ODI runs in the win over Pakistan. Kohli and Rahul helped India post 356-2.

"KL [Rahul] and myself are both conventional players. It's tough to break these partnerships because we don't play fancy shots," Kohli said. "We didn't think about the partnership too much - the idea was to keep batting. It is one of the memorable partnerships we've had and for Indian cricket as well."

India had resumed on 147-2 after rain ended play early on Sunday and pushed the match into an additional reserve day.

Half-centuries from skipper Rohit Sharma and fellow opener Shubman Gill on Sunday had already given India a solid platform.

Rahul smashed 12 fours and two sixes in his 106-ball knock while Kohli's assault off 94 balls included three sixes and nine fours. - Agencies

AFC U23 QUALIFIERS

Oman end U23 campaign on a winning note

MUSCAT: Oman ended their campaign in the AFC Asian Cup U23 Qualifiers on a winning note when they outplayed Brunei Darussalam 3-0 in their concluding Group A match on Tuesday.

Playing in Zarqa City in Jordan, Oman needed a win to keep their hopes alive to advance and will have to wait for the other group match against hosts Jordan and Syria, later on Tuesday night, to know their fate.

Oman came into the game after a narrow loss to Jordan [1-0] following their 2-0 win over Syria in their opening match.

Against Brunei, Akram Habreesh-coached Oman struck early as they hammered three goals in the first ten minutes. Nibras Al Mashari drew the first blood in the fifth minute and three minutes later Salem Al Abdul Salam found the target. Mamoun Al Araiimi made it 3-0 two minutes later but after that failed to find the target.

The Asian Cup will be held in Doha, Qatar from April-May, 2024.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by November 2023 reaching \$92.31, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by 73 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$91.58. - OMA

MARKET
BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,695.65 points, down by 0.05 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.10 per cent at 466.43 points. Voltamp Energy, up 7.76 per cent, was the top gainer while United Finance, down 5.00 per cent, was the top loser.

Hydraulic expo focuses on carbon resilient energy development

SPE International Hydraulic Fracturing Technology Conference and Exhibition aims to enable the growth of the oil and gas energy resource base while discovering how hydraulic fracturing can contribute to achieving more cost and carbon-resilient energy development

MUSCAT: The SPE International Hydraulic Fracturing Technology Conference and Exhibition kicked off at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre yesterday.

The event, held from September 12-14, is organised by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Minerals and Petroleum Development Oman (PDO).

The conference is themed "Fracturing — Growth Engine for Developing Global Oil and Gas Resources". It aims to enable the growth of the oil and gas energy re-

source base while discovering how hydraulic fracturing can contribute to achieving more cost and carbon-resilient energy development.

During the opening ceremony, Mohsin Hamad Al Hadhrami, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Energy and Minerals said, "This conference serves as an extended platform for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and harnessing innovative solutions that will continue to propel hydraulic fracturing's contributions to our world. The insights of leading experts, visionary researchers, and



industry trailblazers who participated in the conference and who are charting the course for the future of hydraulic fracturing technologies will illuminate the strides we've made and the challenges we must surmount to ensure the responsible and sustainable development of our oil and gas resources."

Moreover, the conference's programme features an Executive Plenary Session including senior executives from Carbo Ceramics, Occidental of Oman, Petroleum Development Oman, Petronas, NESR and SLB; 3-panel sessions where panellists will discuss fracturing growth and development,



new technologies, digitisation and sustainability.

Over 50 well-experienced industry professionals will present their experiences, research and case studies of projects progressing the energy landscape through 14 technical sessions.

Visitors and delegates can access a comprehensive display of hydraulic fracturing technology where over 20 leading exhibitors unveil the latest innovations, offering an opportunity to explore state-of-the-art equipment, engage with industry experts, and discuss the future of energy production. -OMA



SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT FUND

inma fund finances over 75 projects worth OMR9mn in first half of 2023



MUSCAT: The total loan funding offered by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund (inma) during the first half of 2023 reached OMR9 million distributed over 75 projects in the sectors of services, transport, logistics, infrastructure, oil, gas, commerce, industry and tourism.

Sheikh Salah Hilal Al Ma'awali, CEO of inma fund underscored the

fund's keenness to increase funding rates and boost efforts by increasing funding services to SMEs in Oman in a bid to increase their contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.

Meanwhile, the total amount allocated to funding SMEs by the fund during 2023 is OMR20 million distributed over the fund's branches in Sohar, Salalah and Muscat. -OMA

13TH EDITION

Annual investment meet announces new identity as AIM Congress

ABU DHABI: Under its new identity as 'AIM Congress', the Organising Committee of the World's Leading Investment Platform will once again gather together regional and international leaders, thinkers, and innovators at the 13th edition of the event, which will take place from May 7 to 9, 2024 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.

The event will address the profound changes currently taking place in the global investment

landscape and seek out innovative yet sustainable solutions for navigating these changes in a way that benefits the broader economy.

High-profile events

With a lineup of more high-profile events and activities, next year's AIM Congress will provide an excellent platform to utilise collective expertise and diverse perspectives to drive inclusive, sustainable development. -WAM

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New test to detect early stages of tooth decay at home

WASHINGTON DC: A novel product developed by researchers at the University of Cincinnati can alert consumers to the early stages of tooth decay brought on by conditions like gingivitis and periodontitis.

The earliest stage of gum disease, gingivitis, is brought on by bacteria, but not just any bacteria.

According to Andrew Steckl, an Ohio Eminent Scholar and distinguished research professor in the University of California's College of Engineering and Applied Science, the challenge for researchers was developing a tool to identify the specific kind responsible for the sickness.

"It's been quite the challenge to get to the point where we can detect this toxin created by the

bacteria responsible for gingivitis," he said.

Steckl and UC Senior Research Associate Daewoo Han collaborated with Sancai Xie, a principal scientist at Procter & Gamble Co., and described their results in a paper published in the Royal Society of Chemistry journal *Sensors and Diagnostics*.

Biosensing

Steckl's research team has been exploring biosensing for various applications. They studied stress hormones in sweat in collaboration with the Air Force Research Lab at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Now they are studying saliva.

"There are good reasons to use saliva," he said, adding, "It's rela-

tively plentiful and easy to obtain through noninvasive methods. And saliva has a lot of important elements that can act as indicators of your health."

Bacteria from gingivitis can travel through the bloodstream, leading to cardiovascular disease and other serious health problems, Steckl said. But saliva is a complicated biofluid, said Han, the study's lead author.

Researchers pretreated the sample using potato starch to remove a protein called amylase that could interfere with the test results. Their test uses antibodies that react to the endotoxins found in the bacteria.

"Daewoo worked very hard on many dead-ends before he had success," Steckl said, adding, "I

tell my students that research is search, search and re-search until you find the answer."

At-home health testing has been available for generations in niche uses such as detecting pregnancy. But the Covid-19 pandemic introduced a wide audience of consumers to the concept of monitoring their health with new technology.

The at-home testing industry is expected to generate \$45 billion annually by 2031, according to Allied Market Research.

Steckl said he sees a lot of opportunities for new consumer products. "Our results definitely show promise," Steckl said, adding, "Sometimes it comes easy. Most of the time you have to persevere." -ANI



SPORTS

Portugal slam nine past Luxembourg



The former European champions have won all of their six qualifiers in the Euro 2024 campaign

ALGARVE: Diogo Jota scored twice with Bruno Fernandes also on target as Portugal thrashed Luxembourg 9-0 to maintain their 100 percent Euro 2024 qualification record on Monday.

Without the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo, who was suspended because of an accumulation of yellow cards in earlier Group J games, Portugal, the 2016 Euro champions, were 4-0 ahead at half-time with two goals apiece from Goncalo Inacio and Goncalo Ramos. Jota made it 5-0, Ricardo Horta got a sixth and Jota added a seventh.

Fernandes, who also made three goals, scored the eighth and former Chelsea player Joao Felix added a late ninth.

Manchester United midfielder Fernandes created the first goal with a cross from the right wing with the outside of his boot and also was involved in the build-up to Portugal's fourth and fifth goals.

Manchester City's Bernardo Silva set up their second goal and Liverpool forward Jota, who also hit the crossbar in the first half, played the pass for Horta to score.

It means Portugal have won all six of their Euro 2024 Group J qualifying matches since Roberto Martinez became head coach in January when he replaced Fernando Santos, who resigned after Portugal's quarter-final defeat by Morocco at the World Cup in Qa-



tar. Leaders Portugal have scored 24 goals in their six matches and conceded none. They will qualify for next summer's Euro 2024 in Germany with three games to spare if they win at home against second-placed Slovakia on October 13 and third-placed Luxembourg fail to win away at Iceland.

"It was a satisfactory aspect that, being 4-0 or 5-0 up, the team kept playing the same way as if it was 0-0," Portugal coach Roberto Martinez said. "When you get that, it shows you the values of the players and that the respect toward the team is essential - that was really good to see."

Martinez's team stayed five points ahead of Slovakia and moved eight ahead of Luxembourg. The top two in each group qualify automatically.

Germany's 13-0 thrashing of San Marino in 2006 remains the biggest-ever win in European Championship qualifying.

In other matches in the group, Slovakia beat Liechtenstein 3-0 and Iceland defeated Bosnia-Herzegovina 1-0.

Croatia edge Armenia

In Group D, Croatia's 1-0 win over Armenia in Yerevan was delayed for about 70 seconds in the

first half when a drone carrying the flag of Nagorno-Karabakh, a breakaway Armenian-populated region of Azerbaijan, flew over the field - to cheers and applause from many home fans, according to footage on social media.

Andrej Kramaric's early goal sealed the victory for Croatia that lifted the World Cup semifinalists into first place in the group.

The striker tapped in at the far post after a 13th-minute corner from Luka Modric deflected off an Armenia player and went straight to Kramaric, who stuck out a foot and diverted the ball in. The goal was checked for offside as it appeared Croatia defender Josko Gvardiol got a touch, too.

After starting Group D with a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Wales, Croatia has won three straight matches and gone above Turkey on goal difference, having played one game fewer.

Wales won 2-0 in Latvia thanks to goals by Aaron Ramsey and David Brooks and joined Armenia on seven points, three behind Croatia and Turkey. It was a relieving win for Wales coach Robert Page, who has faced growing pressure after back-to-back defeats against Armenia and Turkey in the group.

Wales have beaten Latvia all three times the teams have met and never conceded a goal against them. Victory over Latvia lifts some of the gloom but, according to senior figures at the Football Association of Wales, Page's position will still be reviewed.

The former Northampton Town and Port Vale boss was a national hero last year when he became the first man to lead Wales to a World Cup since 1958.

However, after beating Ukraine in their World Cup play-off final in June 2022, Wales mustered only one win in their next 13 games, a 1-0 home victory over Latvia in March. - Agencies

FRANCE INTERNATIONAL



Juventus' Pogba provisionally suspended after failed drugs test

TURIN: Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba has been provisionally suspended from playing after a drugs test found elevated levels of testosterone in his system.

Italy's national anti-doping tribunal (Nado) said Pogba was tested after Juve's 3-0 win at Udinese on 20 August.

The 30-year-old France international, an unused substitute, was randomly selected for post-match drug testing.

If found guilty of doping, he could face a ban of between two and four years.

Juventus said in a statement: "Juventus Football Club announces that today, 11 September, 2023, the footballer Paul Labile Pogba received a precautionary suspension order from the National Anti-Doping Tribunal following the results of tests carried out on 20 August, 2023. "The club reserves the right to consider the next procedural steps."

Pogba's agent, Rafaela Pimenta, said she was "awaiting the second sample and cannot have an opinion before the results".

"What is certain is that Paul Pogba never wanted to break a rule," Pimenta added.

Nado said Pogba had violated anti-doping rules when it found the prohibited substance "non-endogenous testosterone metabolites" and the results were "consistent with the exogenous origin of the target compounds".

Testosterone is a hormone that increases the endurance of athletes. Pogba has three days to produce a counter-analysis of the result to Nado. Juventus re-signed Pogba on a four-year deal in July 2022 after the player ran down his contract at Manchester United and left as a free agent.

However, Pogba's return to Turin has been beset by persistent injury problems which also saw him miss last year's World Cup in Qatar. Pogba has played a total of 51 minutes as a substitute this season in games with Bologna and Empoli.

Last season he managed 108 minutes over six Serie A games, three brief appearances and one assist in the Europa League, and 11 minutes in the Coppa Italia - a total of 162 minutes and no goals.

Pogba's injury problems resurfaced recently, with Juventus boss Massimo Allegri saying the player picked up a minor back problem following his appearance against Empoli. - Agencies

LIGUE 1

Lyon manager Blanc sacked after team's disappointing display

PARIS: Lyon manager Laurent Blanc was sacked with the team bottom of Ligue 1 on Tuesday.

A 4-1 home defeat by Blanc's former club Paris Saint-Germain proved to be his final match in charge of the club, who said Blanc left by "mutual agreement".

Lyon have only one point from four games this season and Ligue 1's worst goal difference.

Technical director Jean-Francois Vulliez, who oversees Lyon's renowned academy, will manage the first team on an interim basis.

Blanc, 57, was appointed Lyon manager in October and the club ended last season in seventh, outside Ligue 1's European places.

It was his first managerial role in France since leaving PSG after the 2015-16 season, although Blanc had managed Al Rayyan in Qatar in the interim. Results were disappointing and Blanc's average of 1.53 points per game is the worst of any permanent Lyon manager of the past 25 years aside from Sylvinho, who lasted just nine league matches.



Blanc previously won three Ligue 1 titles managing PSG and another in charge of Bordeaux.

Former Brighton and Chelsea manager Graham Potter, 48, was reported to have turned down the Lyon job last week.

Gennaro Gattuso, 45, is another manager strongly linked to the vacancy, having left his previous job in charge of Valencia in January.

During Blanc's tenure, American businessman John Textor - who also owns shares in Crystal Palace - completed a takeover of the club. - Agencies

CONTROVERSY

Spanish judge opens investigation of former Spanish FA president

MADRID: A Spanish high court judge has opened an investigation of former Spanish Football Federation president Luis Rubiales.

Spain forward Jenni Hermoso filed a legal complaint last week over Rubiales kissing her on the lips following her country's Women's World Cup final win.

Hermoso, 33, said the kiss was not consensual, while Rubiales claimed it was "mutual" and "consensual".

Rubiales quit as Spanish FA president as a result of the controversy. Last week, Prosecutor Marta Duran Perez filed a complaint with Spain's high court against Rubiales for a non-consensual act and coercion.

On Monday, Judge Francisco de Jorge of the National Court accepted the complaint.

A magistrate will be assigned to lead an investigation, which will conclude either with a recommendation for the case to go to trial or be dismissed.

The charge of such an act under Spanish law can carry a punishment ranging from a fine to four years in prison.

Pachuca player Hermoso released a long statement on social media on 25 August saying the kiss was not "consensual".

"I feel the need to report this incident because I believe no person, in any work, sports or social setting should be a victim of these



types of non-consensual behaviours. I felt vulnerable and a victim of impulsive-driven, out-of-place act, without any consent on my part," she continued.

"Quite simply, I was not respected." Spain men's coach Luis de la Fuente asked for "forgiveness" after applauding the speech in which Rubiales said he would not resign for kissing Hermoso.

Asked about the resignation of Rubiales prior to his side's game against Cyprus on Tuesday, De la Fuente said: "In here we think about football and we live in a bubble to be isolated."

"I think we have to focus on football and on what we football professionals can control."

"I have total and absolute respect for the decision taken by Mr Rubiales. People make decisions when they think they have to make them."

De la Fuente was also questioned on whether he felt the need to send a message to Rubiales, who hired him as manager in December.

"I have been working at the RFEF for 11 years. I have lived a long time before Luis Rubiales arrived," added De la Fuente.

"I am a football coach. Nobody has gifted me anything, I have earned it. I am grateful to all the people who have helped me throughout my life. And, no, I have not spoken to him." - Agencies

ARA Petroleum signs agreement with Green Universe Enterprise

The MoUs support the research and development of projects within the oil & gas sector in Oman with the first involving the research and development of a water sampling drone

MUSCAT: ARA Petroleum Exploration & Production, the energy & natural resources arm of the Zubair Corporation recently signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Green Universe Enterprise, a Small and Medium



Enterprise (SME). The MoUs support the research and development of projects within the oil & gas sector in Oman with the first involving the research and development of a water sampling drone. The second MoU is for the research and building of an Automated Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV).

The Green Universe Corporation has operated in the field of renewable energy and drone technology since 2019 and specialises in designing, supplying, installing, and maintaining solar systems, as well as supplying drone services. The company also provides many products that rely on solar energy such as unmanned automated ve-

hicles and charging stations. Inked by Dr. Omar bin Salem Al-Jaidi, the General Manager of the company and for Green Universe Enterprise by Somaya bint Nasser Al Rawahi, the founder, and CEO, the agreement highlights ARA Petroleum's commitment towards enhancing safety for employees as well as preserving the environ-

ment. ARA Petroleum aims to always drive sustainability and improve safety across all operations within the organisation. Speaking on the association, Dr Omar bin Salem AlJaidi said, "This agreement aims to support research and development of solutions that revolutionise oilfield operations as well as influence

environmental preservation in line with best industry practises. Our association rests on the common goal of developing a robust and sustainable oil & gas sector within Oman and across our operations through scientific research and innovation in line with Oman Vision 2040." Sumaya bint Nasser Al Rawahi, on behalf of the Green Universe Enterprise, stressed how this partnership will enable the company to take serious steps in providing innovative solutions in the field of measuring environmental pollution. "Cooperation between conglomerates and SMEs to achieve sustainable development goals is the future of growth. "We aim to pioneer green & renewable energy solutions through extensive research for sustainable industry practices that give way for a better tomorrow. Established in 2014, Ara Petroleum owns several companies, namely ARA Petroleum Exploration and Production, ARA Petroleum B44, ARA Petroleum B31, and ARA Petroleum Tanzania amongst others.

THOUGHT LEADER

Bank Nizwa continues to drive knowledge on Islamic banking at IFN Forum 2023

MUSCAT: Cementing its position as a pioneering thought leader in Oman's Islamic finance landscape, Bank Nizwa recently participated as the lead partner in the 8th annual IFN Forum, held by the acclaimed Islamic Finance magazine. The forum highlighted Bank Nizwa's enlightening stance on a number of noteworthy subjects associated with the Islamic banking sector. The IFN Forum 2023 brought together the brightest minds in the Islamic finance space to discuss pivotal developments and the ethical impact of Sharia-compliant banking practices. Attended by key dignitaries, industry experts and potential investors, the forum witnessed prominent participation of Bank Nizwa's executive management in panel discussions that shed light on building momentum with innovative Islamic banking services and driving the development of Sharia-compliant investment and asset management. Reflecting on the illuminating discussions at the IFN Forum, Khalid Al Kayed, CEO, Bank Nizwa, said, "As the Sultanate's most trusted Islamic bank, Bank Nizwa is dedicated to raising awareness about best Islamic banking practices, and partnering with the IFN Forum was in line with this objective. The forum gave us and our peers a platform to engage in insightful discussions and collabo-



rate to ensure the Islamic Banking sector continues to flourish. It gave us the opportunity to recognise gaps in available Islamic banking services in the market and helped us visualise a bright future for Sharia-compliant banking with our customers at the centre." As Lead Partner at the forum, Bank Nizwa reaffirmed its position as an irreplaceable part of the Islamic Banking landscape in Oman and the Middle East. Actively engaging in insightful conversations, Bank Nizwa's CEO Khalid Al Kayed was a key panellist at the 'Omani Islamic Financial Services: A Successful

Strategy for Building Momentum' discussion, where the progress of the Islamic finance sector, market developments and regulatory framework were deliberated upon. The bank's top personnel including Salman Kabani, head of enterprise Risk and strategy; and Mohamad Noranuar Sajari, Head of Sharia Structuring also participated in thought-provoking sessions that reinforced the significance of ethical and sustainable banking practices in the modern world and highlighted the growth potential of the Islamic finance industry. Recognising the bank's remarkable contribution to Oman's Is-

lamic banking industry, Bank Nizwa was honoured with the 'Best Islamic Bank in Oman Award' at the forum. Additionally, the bank was awarded the premier title in the 'Best Banks Poll 2022', and named 'Best Retail Bank in Oman' and 'Most Innovative Bank in Oman'. Furthermore, the 'Oman Deal of the Year' was awarded to the syndicated Wakalah for the Towell infrastructure project with Bank Nizwa as a major investor. These accolades are a testament to Bank Nizwa's remarkable contribution to the Islamic banking industry in the Sultanate and applaud the bank's unwavering pursuit of offering its customers a suite of modern banking solutions that are fully Sharia-compliant. Bank Nizwa's partnership with the IFN Forum has further reaffirmed its primacy as a preeminent thought leader in the region's Islamic finance sector. Through such collaborations, the Bank actively pursues avenues to educate and raise awareness about ethical Islamic banking best practices with the mission to aid in the community's welfare and contribute to the Sultanate's economic growth. Bank Nizwa continues to blaze the course as the leading Islamic Bank in the country through a host of initiatives and engagements that drive change, development and innovation in the competitive banking landscape.

INTEGRATION

NLGIC and Al Ahlia Insurance policies to be serviced under new brand name Liva Insurance

MUSCAT: National Life & General Insurance Company SAOG (NLGIC) and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance (Middle East) B.S.C. (c), along with their Omani subsidiary Al Ahlia Insurance Company SAOC (Al Ahlia), joined forces with the vision of creating a fully integrated multi-line insurance powerhouse in the region. The two entities came together to form a fully integrated multi-line insurance company in the region which now has a new brand identity- "Liva". Following the integration, all existing NLGIC and Al Ahlia insurance policies will soon be serviced under the new brand Liva Insurance SAOC with no change to the terms and conditions of the policies. This will take place after obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals which is expected to be completed swiftly within the coming few weeks. In this transition to the new brand Liva, both NLGIC and Al Ahlia will ensure the maintenance and continuity of services across all the product ranges.

"We are delighted to share the union of NLGIC and Al Ahlia Insurance, now united under the banner of Liva Insurance. With the combined experience and technical expertise of NLGIC and Al Ahlia Insurance, we are confident that we will enhance the insurance experience of our customers and stakeholders, we look forward to a new chapter of excellence and innovation," said Hanaa Al Hinai, CEO, of Al Ahlia Insurance, which will become Liva Insurance SAOC. The integration of NLGIC and Al Ahlia's existing personal and commercial lines businesses will make the newly combined company, Liva Insurance SAOC a multi-line insurer, allowing for the development of a diversified portfolio for both individuals and corporates to drive strategic growth. Both NLGIC and Al Ahlia will continue to update their customers, intermediaries and business partners on these recent developments and ensure continuity of services.

ADVANCED FEATURES

Start memorable journeys with impressive Toyota Crown

MUSCAT: Toyota Crown makes an impressive mark with its inspiring style and range of advanced features that make it one of the most amazing vehicles in its segment. Building on the legacy of one of the world's best-loved vehicles since the 1950s the Crown has been built to provide an intuitive driving experience that will exceed expectations and establish a new benchmark. When the first generation was launched, the Crown came to symbolize "innovation" and "pushing the limit" within Toyota. Since then, it has gained recognition in Japan as Toyota's premium sedan. The Toyota Crown is built around the Toyota New Global Architecture (TNGA-K) platform. The new Crown comes exclusively with a choice of two environmentally friendly powertrains. The first hybrid electric powertrain consists of a front electric motor and Toyota's first-ever 2.4-liter inline four-cylinder turbo engine with All Wheel Drive, paired with direct shift six-speed automatic transmission with a combined power of 340 HP and 40.7 Kg.m torque. The second hybrid electric powertrain consists of two electric motors and a 2.5-liter four-cylinder petrol engine, generating a total power of 222 HP. The hy-



brid-electric system, paired with an Electric Continuously Variable Transmission (e-CVT), achieves the lowest fuel efficiency, with a consumption rate of 21.6 km/l. The Toyota Crown has been engineered for both supreme visual appeal and peerless performance. Drivers can choose from several driving modes, including NORMAL, ECO, SPORT, SPORT+ which allows drivers to adjust sys-

tem settings individually to their exact driving habits. Striking a seamless connection between stylish design, exquisite luxury, and enhanced convenience and comfort, the new Crown's cabin is accentuated by a range of advanced features. These include a 12.3-inch touchscreen multimedia system with Apple CarPlay® and Android Auto™ compatibility, a 12.3-inch TFT colour meter

that allows users to choose from 12 patterns to suit their tastes, a colour head-up display (HUD), a dual-zone automatic air conditioning system with rear AC vents, a 11-speaker JBL surround sound system, a panoramic roof, multi-adjustable power and ventilated front seats, and 60/40 split and reclining rear seats. For added convenience, the new Crown is equipped with a hands-

free, electrically powered trunk that can be activated using a foot-operated system when the user's hands or arms are full. As with any Toyota model, the Crown comes complete with a comprehensive array of safety features. The Crown is equipped with Advanced panoramic view monitor system for all-round coverage of the vehicle's surroundings for efficient parking. The next generation Toyota

Safety System delivers cutting edge safety technology like pre-collision system, Dynamic Radar Cruise Control, Lane Trace Assist, and Adaptive high beam system. The new Crown also features Toyota's first-ever Safe Exit Assist (SEA) which uses the Blind spot Monitor (BSM) to help prevent accidents. Enthusiasts looking forward to experiencing the Crown can visit any Saud Bahwan Automotive showroom.

ROUND-UP

Exclusive ‘dine and meet’ with Michelin-starred Chef Rohit Ghai

The culinary gem at the heart of the iconic Shangri-La Al Husn presents the much-anticipated launch of its new menu revealed by the maestro himself

MUSCAT: Save the date this September 19 to 23 for an exclusive and intimate dinner at Aangan hosted by Chef Rohit Ghai.

The culinary gem at the heart of the iconic Shangri-La Al Husn presents the much-anticipated launch of its new menu revealed by the maestro himself.

Diners are invited to embark on a remarkable gastronomic journey with a specially curated six-course dinner, meticulously crafted by Chef Rohit Ghai himself. Priced at just OMR19 per person, this exclusive event promises a culinary adventure like no other. For cherished vegan patrons, a delectable six-course plant-based feast awaits at OMR17 nett. As an emblem of Shangri-La's warm hospi-



talità, a signature beverage will be complimentary upon arrival for each guest.

This isn't merely a dinner—it's a rendezvous with culinary brilliance as privileged guests will have the extraordinary opportunity to meet and converse with Chef Rohit Ghai in person. This in-

imate interaction offers a glimpse into the culinary genius's secrets behind his innovative approach to Indian cuisine.

Following the exclusive five-day dinner event, the new menu will continue to grace the tables of Aangan until September 30, allowing more connoisseurs to sa-



avour the artistry and innovation that Chef Rohit Ghai has meticulously woven into each dish he will present.

Aangan, located within the iconic Shangri-La Al Husn in Muscat, Oman, is a culinary abode that celebrates the art of Indian cuisine. With its opulent ambience, impec-

able service, and now a revamped menu by Chef Rohit Ghai, Aangan offers an exceptional dining experience that transcends traditional Indian flavours into a realm of modernity and creativity.

This exquisite culinary transformation, orchestrated by the celebrated Michelin star chef,

Chef Rohit Ghai, is set to redefine the gourmet dining experience in Muscat.

With credentials spanning renowned London restaurants and numerous accolades for his culinary prowess, Chef Rohit Ghai promises a culinary odyssey that Muscat will remember.

ACHIEVEMENT

ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum) showcases spectacular achievement at World Scholar's Cup, Global Academic Meet - Bangkok

MUSCAT: ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum) the distinguished educational institution, Oman's sole representative, shines on the World Stage and is elated to announce a momentous achievement that underscores its unwavering commitment to academic excellence and holistic student development.

A six-member delegation from ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum) participated in the prestigious World Scholar's Cup (WSC) Global Round 2023 held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Their exceptional performance has not only made the school proud but has also garnered international acclaim.

Competing against 700 teams from around the world, ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum) secured an impressive 13th place at the WSC Bangkok Global Round. This remarkable feat was made possible through the collective efforts of the young scholars, who displayed unparalleled dedication, perseverance and talent throughout the week-long competition.

The team returned to Oman with a remarkable tally of 37 Gold and Silver medals, along with the prestigious International Recognition Trophy. The WSC competition spanned six subjects, including Science & Technology, History, Art, Literature, Music, and Special Area. ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum) delegates participated in both the Junior and Senior divisions, showcasing their academic prowess in various domains.

Distinguished achievements
Among the standout performers, **Krish Kamath** shone brightly and secured an astounding 10 Gold and 3 Silver medals. His exceptional performance earned him the privilege of being chosen as the Flag Bearer to represent the Sultanate



of Oman at the event's spectacular closing ceremony, where he was also honoured with the Country Topper Gold Medal.

Samarth Pujari demonstrated his academic prowess by winning an impressive 8 Gold and 2 Silver medals in the fields of writing, debate, quiz and overall team achievement.

Siddarth Shankar with 3 Gold and 4 Silver medals, not only excelled academically but also had the honour of serving as a Judge for the debate showcase — an op-

portunity extended to only 20 selected individuals.

Nikhilesh Itlapuram secured 1 Gold and 3 Silver medals, earning praise for his overall performance.

In the Junior category, **Aariz Kasmani** received recognition with a Gold and Silver medal each for his outstanding achievements in the debate and writing categories. He was also selected as a Country Topper and had the honour of being a Flag Bearer, representing Oman in the Junior Category event.

Additionally, **Ms. Ziana Ghosh's** remarkable performance earned her the coveted Gold - Asimov Award.

Apart from their outstanding academic achievements, the students had the opportunity to savour the vibrant atmosphere of the event, experience warm hospitality, indulge in sightseeing, engage in knowledge exchange and forge connections with peers from around the world. These experiences have left an indelible mark on their lives.

ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum), a beacon of excellence extends its hearty congratulations to all students for their exemplary performance and acknowledges the pivotal role played by the Educator & Team Coordinator Ms. Sophia Vincent, whose dedication and guidance were instrumental in nurturing these young talents.

The students are now eagerly preparing to represent ISWK (Cambridge Curriculum) at the Tournament of Champions (TOC), which promises to be an extraordi-

nary academic experience. TOC provides a platform for interaction with the world's finest scholars and offers a taste of life at the prestigious Yale University, USA, from November 2nd to 8th, 2023.

The School Principal and management convey their best wishes to the students as they embark on this next exciting chapter of their academic journey. They are confident that they young scholars will continue to shine brightly and bring honours to themselves and their beloved #SchoolOfChoice.



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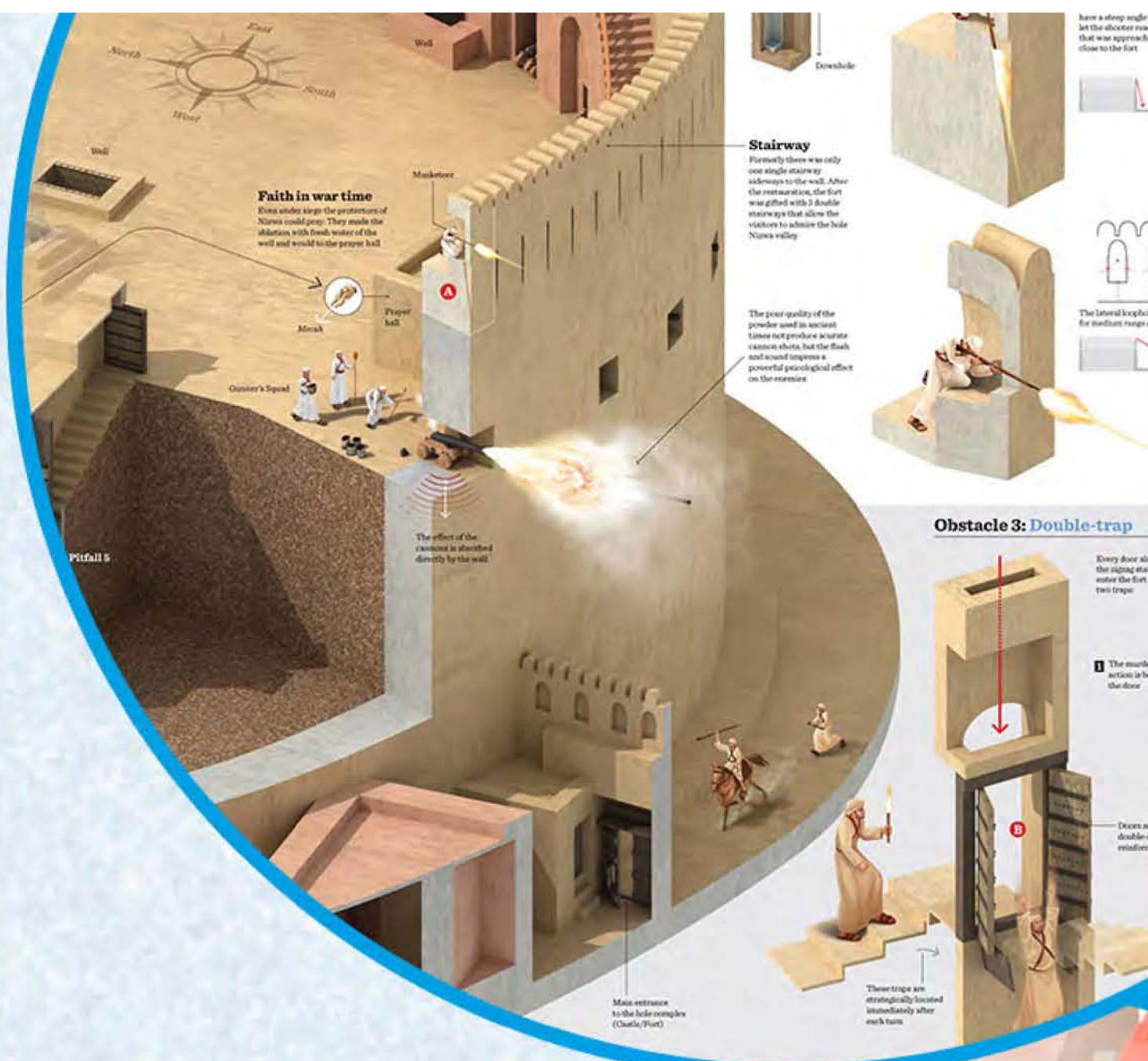
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