

QUEEN ELIZABETH II APPOINTS LIZ TRUSS AS UK'S NEW PM

Queen Elizabeth II on Tuesday appointed the Conservative Party leader Liz Truss as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Queen received Liz Truss at Balmoral Castle on Tuesday.

>A6



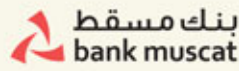
HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil on his country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and wellbeing to President Bolsonaro. His Majesty also wished the people of Brazil further progress and prosperity. -ONA



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PROBE BEGINS INTO MONDAY'S MASSIVE POWER OUTAGE



Several schools and colleges were shut on Tuesday in parts of Oman following the power outage

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Authority for Public Services Regulation (APSR) confirmed that it is taking the necessary measures to ensure that licenced companies comply with the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the technical investigation following the power outage.

Dr. Mansour Talib Al Hinai, APSR Chairman, said: "The visit to the "400/200 KV" station in Ibri came as part of the procedures of technical investigation conducted with Oman Electricity Transmission Company following the power outage in the main network."



He stressed that the technical failure that occurred in the transmission network and causing the power outage was due to purely technical reasons.

He pointed out that the Authority started a technical investigation to review and evaluate the measures taken by the company while addressing the outage.

Al Hinai expects that the two networks in the north and south of Oman will be interconnected by 2026, with the first phase of this process to be completed by 2023.

He added that studies are underway on the implementation of the

second phase of the interconnection process.

It may be mentioned that yesterday, a number of regions in the Sultanate witnessed power outage from 1 pm till it was fully restored at 2:22 am on Tuesday.

Long hours of power outage in Oman, had put citizens and residents to great inconvenience, in houses as well as on roads, in the extreme summer heat.

"In some places the power came back late last night so we could sleep at night," one of the resident said.

The power outage that hit

most of the parts of the Sultanate on Monday was the 'biggest' in the last 15 years, experts say. Electrical engineers recalled the last time such wide coverage of power outage happened in June 2007 when the tropical storm Gonu had hit the country. Several schools and colleges were shut, following the power outage.

The second round of the General Education Diploma exams was also postponed on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 due to the power outage in a number of the wilayats of the Sultanate of Oman.

-With inputs from ONA

Power cut leads to surge in generator enquiries

Times News Service

MUSCAT: After the massive power outage in several governorates of the Sultanate of Oman on Monday, enquiries for backup generators have gone up rather drastically.

Mohammed Al-Ansari, father of four children from the Wilayat of Seeb in Al-Khouth area, said: "Power outages continued till late in the night. My four children, my wife and I suffered a repressive heat after power snapped around 1:30 pm. Although we opened the windows of our house, there was little reprieve, especially for my youngest son who is two-year-old."

Mohammed added: "My wife is five months pregnant and she needed rest and cool



air. I didn't know what to do. My children started crying. All my food, fruits, vegetables and meat in the refrigerator got spoiled. So I am thinking of buying a generator as a backup."

He said: "I went this morning to buy a generator and fetched an electrician to fix the wirings. I can use the generator whenever power snaps. My family is everything to me and I will work for their comfort." >A2

Oman seeks solution for Palestinian people

A4



TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Assessment begins for development projects

1 The Ministry of Economy's special team for assessing and choosing priority development projects today began its first seminar with various government units to highlight the new development projects submitted for 2023. The seminar also aims to evaluate and choose priority projects throughout its eight-week long sessions. >A3

WORLD

UAE to launch long term visas from next month

2 UAE has announced multiple long-term visas for expats starting from October 3. New visa schemes include: 5-year green visa, which distinguishes between work permits and residencies. >A6

SPORTS

Arjun Dhiman named skipper of U-19 team

3 Arjun Dhiman has been named captain of the Oman squad for the forthcoming ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup (CWC) Division 2 Qualifiers. >A8

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

EA monitors air quality for pollution-free environment

MUSCAT: The Sultanate of Oman will join other countries across the world on Wednesday 07 September 2022 to celebrate the third International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies under the theme, 'The Air We Share'.

The event highlights the need for immediate and strategic international and regional cooperation for more efficient implementation of mitigation policies and measures to address air pollution.

The Sultanate of Oman, represented by the Environment Authority, will highlight, on the occasion, the environmental dimension of the development process at the local, regional and international levels.

SDGs

Besides, it will underscore the balance between development requirements and the integrity of the environment to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The Environment Authority, it may be mentioned, monitors and takes measures to control air pollutants. It ensures its quality by monitoring substances, gases or toxic substances in the air that lead to a change in its natural, chemical or biological properties and cause harm to humans, animals, plants or buildings or negatively affect life or property.

These measures and controls are represented in the distribution of ambient air quality monitoring networks in industrial and urban areas, which include approximately 35 monitoring stations scattered in various governorates.



The Environment Authority also obliges companies to implement measures to reduce the concentration of emissions from fixed sources such as chimneys, as well as the installation of continuous monitoring devices on these chimneys, with the help of

more than 100 continuous emission monitoring systems.

The Environment Authority is currently working, in coordination with partners, to enhance the monitoring system for air, water and marine environment pollutants, and to conduct several studies and projects to achieve the strategic objectives of Oman Vision 2040, in particular the goal related to high-quality and pollution-free environment. - ONA



34°
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PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:10pm
Asr.....	3:38pm
Maghrib.....	6:25pm
Isha.....	7:36pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:35am

MSX-listed companies highlight huge opportunities to businesses

The Investor Roadshow, which began on Monday, included several panel discussions by companies listed on the Muscat Stock Exchange

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The two-day investor roadshow, promoting investment opportunities in Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX), that kicked off on Monday continued to witness a whole range of discussions and presentations on Tuesday as well.

The mega roadshow was attended by more than 300 participants representing financial organisations, banks and investment companies, as well as managers from different parts of the world, besides representatives from Oman's capital market, investors and financial brokerage companies.

The conference was aimed to attract investments and to boost initial public offering opportunities and development of the corporate sector.

The conference focused on many mega companies listed in Muscat Stock Exchange which presented details of their future public offerings.

The conference also reviewed the main features of Oman Vision 2040 and the exit-plan for Oman Investment Authority (OIA) and other companies.

On Tuesday Investor Roadshow included several panel discussions by companies listed on the MSX.

They provided visual presentations of the companies that are expected to be in the exit-plan of the OIA.



These companies include Majis Industrial Services Company, Abraaj Energy Company, OQ Group's gas pipeline network and a real estate fund.

Speaking to Hasan Abdulamir Shaban, General Manager of National Bank of Oman (NBO) stressed in an interview with *Times of Oman's* sisterly publication *Al Shabiba* about the significance of such conferences.

He said that the participation of NBO comes as strategic patronage within the NBO's belief in the role the Capital Market Authority (CMA) plays in attraction of investment and promotion of national companies.

The conference also aimed to acquaint the participants with the investment environment in the Sultanate, mainly during the past two years, he added.

The NBO had participated by presenting a working paper in the presence of a number of investors and CEOs of banks and mega companies listed with Muscat Stock Exchange. The meetings were also held with investors from the AGCC States and the Middle East countries.

Speaking regarding the relation and integration between MSX and the banking sector, the GM of NBO said that one of the key elements of Oman Vision 2040 is the partnership between the public sector and the private sector and the integration of role between the banking and investment sectors and Muscat Stock Exchange.

He also pointed to the robust trading of MSX-listed shares with and several of the mega companies that are interested in investment in the capital market on account of the good revenue on investment and the stable financial condition in the Sultanate. There were key challenges during the past years due to the concerns of local, regional and international investors in investing in the Sultanate, however, following the upgrade of the Sultanate's credit rating the percentage of investors interested in investing in the Sultanate has improved, he said.

Strategic investors seeking long-term investments is due the their confidence on companies to achieve targeted profits, he said.

"This is reflected in the performance of banks as many banks reported strong results in the first half of 2022 and expect to finish the year with better results," he added.

The amendment of the legislations and laws and the presence of MSX play a key role in attraction of investments, he said.

"Such conferences and meetings are of great advantage to the Sultanate of Oman as they provide the opportunities obtainment of the opinion of investors besides the development of laws and legislations," he added. This gives the investors the confidence in the securities market, he added.

MSX expects that the ease of legislations would help attract more investments and would contribute to the investors' taking the right decisions, he said pointing to that all such legislations and laws give MSX the opportunity to play a grater role in terms of attraction of investments and promotion of Omani companies.

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT OMAN

Oman's representatives at Arab Parliament for the Child honoured

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) has recently welcomed the Sultanate of Oman's representatives at the Arab Parliament for the Child and briefed them on the specialised food security projects in the field of fisheries as well as the local and international investment opportunities that aim at empowering a global, profitable and sustainable fishing sector.

Eng. Nabil Salim Al Bimani, GCEO of FDO, said: "We are pleased with the Sultanate of Oman's representatives at the Arab Parliament for the Child are honoured for their distinction after being awarded the Diploma in Parliament skills, Grade Excellent (with honours).

Al Bimani added, "The visit aimed to educate them about the company's efforts towards food security in the Sultanate of Oman's and the latest technologies in the field of aquaculture, as well as preparing a leading generation that has the knowledge."

He further explained that, "The Sultanate of Oman benefited from its geographical location and its long, diverse coasts that have all required success enablers for



such kind of projects."

Al Bimani stressed, "The company gives priority to supporting and enabling the private sector and specialised companies to invest in the aquaculture sector and utilise promising investment opportunities in this vital sector,

which in turn would bring significant financial and economic returns."

The students visited the Blue Waters Company, one of Fisheries Development Oman subsidiaries, to have an idea about the latest technologies that contribute to

realising the national targets relating to sustainability and food security.

It is worth mentioning that the Sultanate of Oman representatives participated in the fourth and closing sitting of the second session of the Arab Parliament for

the Child on food security.

It is important to note that Arab Parliament for the Child, one of the Arab League's institutions, is a regional organisation in which each member state in the Arab League is represented by four children, boys and girls.

POWER FAILURE

Enquiries continue to buy generators

< FROM Salem Al-Nahdi from the Wilayat of Al-Amerat in Muscat Governorate, said: "I went to one of the stores selling electrical appliances in Al-Wadi Al-Kabir industrial area to buy a generator for my house." Salem added: "My mother lives with me. She is old and suffers from chronic diseases such as diabetes and blood pressure. She needs rest and a cool environment. Yesterday, after power went off, I almost lost my mother. I had to hurry her to the health centre near my house."

Salem said: "Now I am confident about my mother's health after I purchased a generator."

Mustafa Anwar, an expatriate living in Samail in Al Dakhliyah Governorate, who owns a shop selling fruits and vegetables, said: "When I realised the outage would be there for a long duration, I went to one of the generator shops and bought one and connected it to the power line." Mustafa said: "Had I not used the generator, all the fruits and vegetables would have got spoiled, and I would have lost about a thousand Omani riyals."

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TEJARAH TALKS

Shift towards green economy influencing govts worldwide

Times News Service

MUSCAT: While the responsibilities of governments in combatting climate change are widely acknowledged and their obligations well documented, there is a powerful belief among consumers that brands have equally strong obligations in taking action to mitigate their environmental impact and the transition to a green economy.

This economic transformation along with its business repercussions and opportunities is the topic slated for discussion at the next Tejarah Talks, the recently launched discussion forum organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Investment Promotion (MoCIIP) in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth, Oman Business Forum and supported by HSBC, Sohar Port & Freezone and Omwintel. Entitled “Green Transition” the event will be held 7:30pm, on Wednesday 14 September at Omantel’s Headquarters in Airports Heights.

Moderating the evening’s discussions will be His Highness Sayyid Dr. Adham Al Said, Managing Partner, The Firm while the panel comprises Rayan Al Kalbani, Partner & Executive Director, METS; Dr. Sausan Al Riyami, Director, Oman Hydrogen Centre, GUtech; Talal Hasan, Carbon General, 44.01; and Sayyid Fahar Al Said, Co-founder and CTO, YUZU Agriculture.

Speaking ahead of the event, MoCIIP Director and Tejarah Talks organiser, Maymuna Al Adawi said: “The effort needed for this change in the way business and industry operate cannot be underestimated. It requires a fundamental rethinking of all sectors, from manufacturing, logistics and mining to energy, tourism and transport. And we have to recognise that despite recent



Sayyid Fahar Al Said, Co-founder & CTO, YUZU Agriculture



Talal Hasan, Carbon General, 44.01

positive economic figures, many Omani businesses – like their international counterparts – are still recovering from what has been a very difficult few years. So, we need to help them as they reimagine their business models, procedures and processes.”

Resource consumption

The Tejarah Talks organiser went on to explain that the Omani public are more and more aware of the impact businesses are having on natural resource consumption and emissions, adding: “More recently the evolution towards a low carbon future has shifted from being a topic of debate to a matter of urgency for many Omani companies. In fact, greening initiatives like offering more environmentally friendly products or services, introducing green processes internally, hiring employees to promote sustainable practices, or going beyond compliance requirements, are helping Omani firms capture new business opportunities as well as spur innovation.”

Al Adawi also noted that the shift toward a green economy is influencing the way governments worldwide think about competitiveness and investment attraction.

Expanding on this point, she explained: “As multinationals look to decarbonise their supply chains, robust national green policies and local supplier capabilities will become a key selling point to prospective investors, as they in turn look to meet the sustainability standards expected by end consumers.”

She continued: “This is an exciting time for local businesses who want to make this switch and we are delighted to have a panel of experts who are helping lead Oman’s efforts towards a sustainable and more resilient economy. Let us be clear, employees, customers, funders and shareholders alike are all demanding more from businesses when it comes to their environmental credentials. This session could not be more timely. Preserving and improving the environment are central features of Oman Vision 2040 and we hope the 14 September Tejarah Talks will encourage more Omani businesses to understand their importance as well as the rewards they offer.”

Tejarah Talks is free-of-charge and open to everyone. To reserve your seat at “Green Transition” email your name and mobile number to: TT@tejarah.gov.om

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY



FIRST SEMINAR: The seminar also aims to evaluate and choose priority projects throughout its eight-week long sessions. – ONA

Matrix model prepared to assess and pick development projects

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Economy’s special team for assessing and choosing priority development projects on Tuesday began its first seminar with various government units to highlight the new development projects submitted for 2023. The seminar also aims to evaluate and choose priority projects throughout its eight-week long sessions.

The Ministry of Economy prepared a matrix model for the assessment and picking of development projects which meet current and future needs in line with Oman



Vision 2040, the Tenth Five-year Development Plan (2021-2025) and national strategies.

The special team comprises representatives from the Ministry of Economy, the Secretariat General of the Tender Board, the Ministry of Finance, Government Projects Management Office, the team of the National Programme for Fiscal Balance and departments concerned with each project. – ONA

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA



45,262 REACH Oman

When did the electricity come back in your area?



Story on power outage disrupting normal life in Oman

A story on power outage disrupting normal life in Oman reached 45,262 people and had 8,273 link clicks on Facebook.



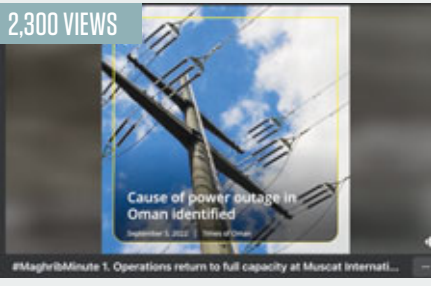
1,158 VIEWS

Oman contributes to protection of ozone layer



The Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video on Oman actively contributes to protection of ozone layer had 1,158 views and 50 likes on Instagram.



2,300 VIEWS

Cause of power outage in Oman identified



Maghrib Minute news update video

The Maghrib Minute news update video had 2,300 views and reached 10,600 people on Facebook.



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ARAB LEAGUE

Oman seeks just solution for Palestinian people

CAIRO: The Sultanate of Oman underscored the importance of establishing a just solution for the Palestinian people, recognising the independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital, the 1967 borders, and its accession to full-fledged membership in the United Nations (UN).

This was stated during Oman's participation in the 158th session of the Council of the Arab League in the Arab Republic of Egypt on Tuesday.

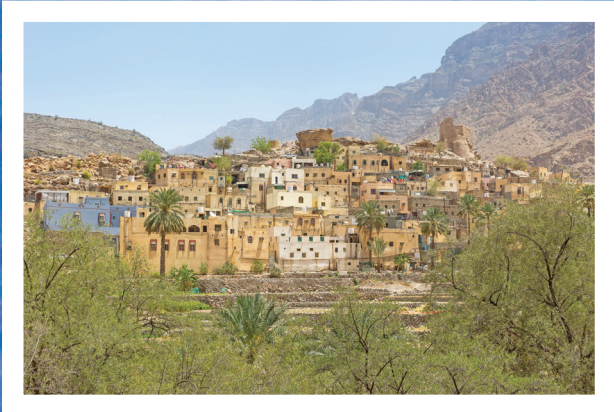
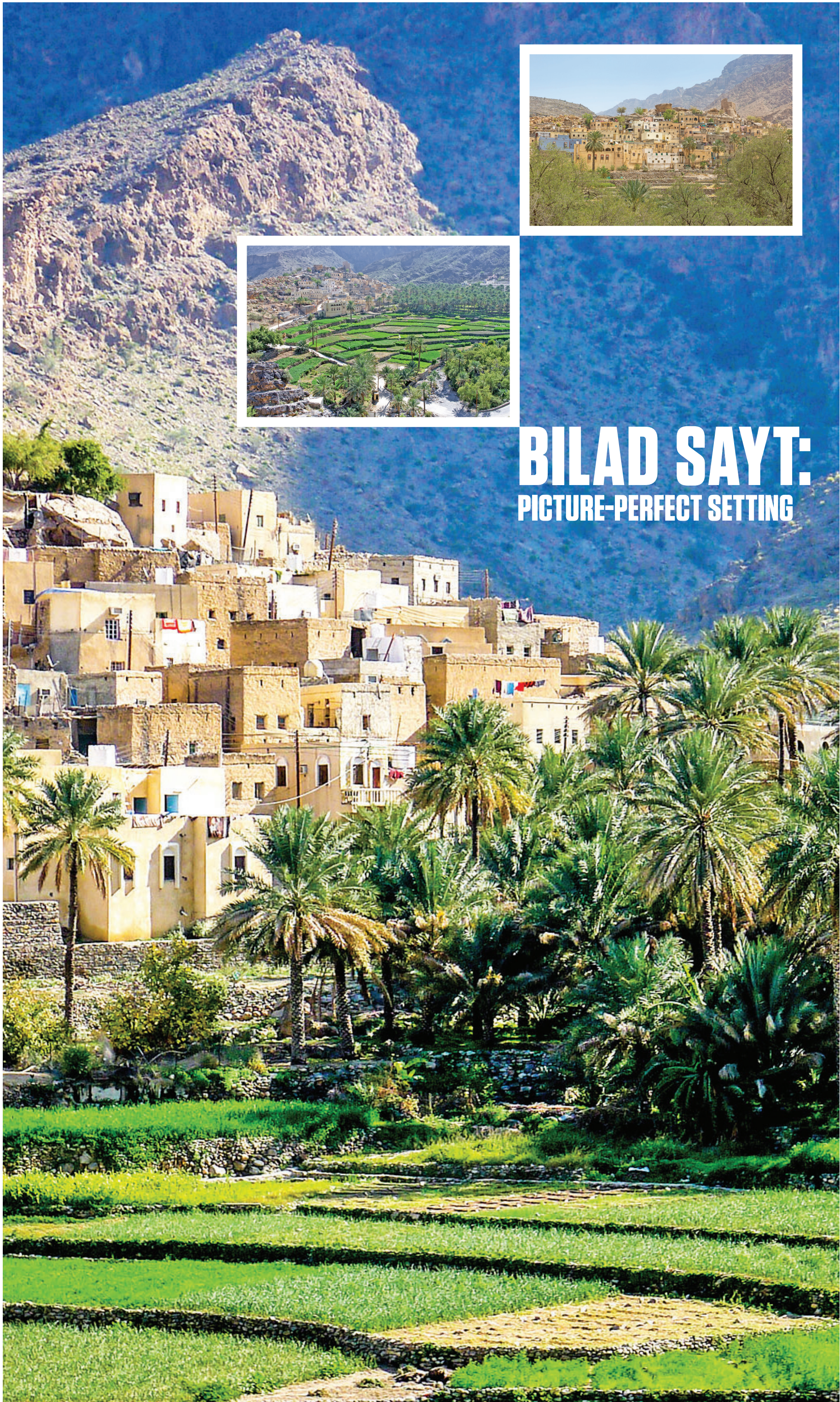
In his speech, Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister and head of Oman's delegation participating in the meeting, underlined Oman's aspiration for the return of Arab solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic's restoring its membership in the Arab League, based on the belief in the authentic Arab fundamentals sought to be consolidated by all countries in a bid to achieve ambitions and prospective goals.

The Council's members also

stressed the significance of Arab solidarity, joint cooperation and action to realise aspirations of the Arab people.

The delegation accompanying the Foreign Minister comprised Abdullah Nasser Al Rahbi, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Arab Republic of Egypt and its Permanent Representative to the Arab League, Sheikh Faisal Omar Al Marhoon, Head of the Department of the Arab League, and officials at the Foreign Ministry. -ONA





BILAD SAYT: PICTURE-PERFECT SETTING

B

ILAD SAYT is a quaint village seated at the foot of towering and dramatic Hajar mountain ranges. There are two ways to reach the Bilad Sayt — either via Nizwa, Al Hamra or via Barka, Nakhal, Wadi Bani Awf. The Nizwa route will take more time as you have to descend from Sharfat Al Alamayn and the track is dangerous because you have to drive so slowly. Even if it is only 12-15km from the view point to Bilad Sayt, it will require almost two hours. For a day trip the Wadi Bani Awf route is much preferable. Starting from Muscat in the morning, you will reach there only by lunch.

With its picture-postcard perfection of terraced fields and sun-baked houses, it's one of the prettiest villages in Oman. The villagers prefer visitors to park outside and walk in or simply view the village from a distance.



A little haze blanketed the village that was built up on a hill with closely clustered homes made of mud and stone. The village is surrounded by date palms within it is terraced green fields making it look like a dream village. Jagged brown mountains surrounded and loomed over Bilad Sayt, dwarfing the whole village.

Water gently trickled throughout the whole village via the falaj system giving it a feeling of tranquillity on top of the picture perfect setting. The panoramic beauty of the village can best be captured from afar on the drive into the village. A walk around Bilad Sayt will reveal the details of the people and their life here, secluded from the rest of the Sultanate.

Old-world charm

Bilad Sayt's old-world charm lies in its cluster of stone-and-mud buildings built like steps along the slope of a hill. A labyrinth of narrow ways connects these blocks, some of which are even two or three storeys high. A tower, now in ruin, stands on top of the hill overlooking the village. What is disturbing the natural beauty is a mobile telephone tower. From somewhere from these mountains flow crystal streams of water that eventually feed the village's canal system.

Adding to the village's rustic charm is the sight of farmers in the green fields, and womenfolk returning from the mountain springs with pots of fresh water gingerly balanced on their heads. In summer, men from the village set out early every morning to scour the nearby mountains for the bhoot tree that produces a type of sweet, purple-coloured berry. The tree usually grows along the ridges of high mountains. The villagers also collect honey stashed away by wild bees from caves and crannies in the hills. Because of its location high in the mountains of the Jabal Shams range, Bilad Sayt enjoys moderate daytime temperatures even in summer.



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NEW LOOK

NEW LOOK

Oman-Egypt joint exercise begins

During the exercise, the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) is represented by the Sultan of Oman's Parachute Regiment, while the Egyptian army is represented by units of the Special Forces, paratroopers and El Sa'ka Forces



MILITARY DRILL: The exercise comes within the framework of RAO's training plan that aims to sustain preparedness. - ONA

AL JABAL AL AKHDAR: The joint Oman-Egypt military exercise "Mountain Castle" began at the military drills zone in the Wilayat of Al Jabal Al Akhdar on Tuesday. The drill will run till 15 September 2022.

During the exercise, the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) is represented by the Sultan of Oman's Parachute Regiment, while the Egyptian army is represented by

units of the Special Forces, paratroopers and El Sa'ka Forces.

The exercise comes 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



ARMY SUSTAINER

RAO takes part in British drill

GRANTHAM: The Royal Army of Oman (RAO), represented by the Sustainment Directorate, is taking part in the British drill "Army Sustainment", which runs from 3-10 September 2022.

Sustainment units of different armies are taking part in this international exercise.

The drill, held annually, is carried out at Prince William of Gloucester Barracks near Grantham, the United Kingdom (UK).



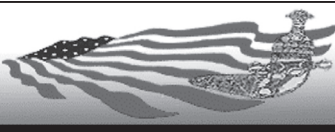
RAO's participation aims at enhancing the preparedness of sustainment units and benefiting from the experiences of other armies in logistics and management. - ONA

RNO VESSEL

Shabab Oman II docks at Tangier Port

RABAT: Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) vessel, Shabab Oman II, has arrived at the port of Tangier in Morocco as part of its sixth international voyage themed "Oman, Land of Peace". The vessel, through its voyage, continues introducing visitors to Oman's maritime history and culture. - ONA





U.S. Embassy Muscat

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

18/2022 & 18S/2022

ECONOMIC ASSISTANT: Monitor and report on economic activities and development; aid the Economic Officer in analyzing and reporting economic activities and developments; facilitate environmental cooperation between the United States and Oman, maintain contacts in the Omani public and private sectors, routinely brief the supervisor, Political/Economic Section Chief, and Front Office on economic activities and development. Maintain files on economic statistics, economic development, business sectors, and Omani businesses.

TO APPLY:

Please note that there are two separate Vacancy Announcements (VA) for the same position. Both cite different set of education and experience requirement. Interested applicants may apply to the VA that best suit their education/experience. It is not required to submit your application to both VAs.

All applications must be submitted through Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA) to be considered. For more information on the position and the required qualifications, please visit the U.S. Embassy website in google Chrome (<https://om.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>) and click on "jobs at the Embassy" then click on "Electronic Recruitment Application (ERA)" to see the vacancy announcement.

THE NATIONAL VETERINARY VACCINE CO LLC ANNOUNCES
THE FOLLOWING TENDER

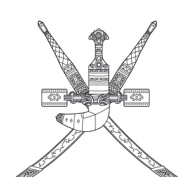
Tender No.	Tender Name	Tender Float Date	Last Date for Obtaining Tender Documents	Deadline for Submitting Bids	Companies that are eligible to participate	Document Price
NVVCO/PM/001/2022	Tender for the selection of the Engineering Consultant for the design and construction supervision of the veterinary vaccine factory in Sohar Free Zone	7/9/2022	6/10/2022	13/10/2022	Specialized Companies (Excellent Class)	Two Hundred Omani Rials non-refundable

Companies specialized in such works can participate and obtain technical specifications and tender conditions from the office of the National Veterinary Vaccine Co LLC at the location shown below:
Office Location: Ghala, Way Number: 5001, Building Number: 1/176, Office Number: 602

For those wishing to participate and obtain the technical specifications and conditions of the tender shall transfer the value of the document (two hundred Omani riyals is not refundable) to the account of the National Veterinary Vaccine Company LLC as shown below:

Bank Name /Branch: Alizz Islamic Bank / Main Branch
Account Name: National Veterinary Vaccine Company LLC
Account No: 0010054829001001
SWIFT Code: IZZBOMRXXX

For inquiries about the tender, please contact the National Veterinary Vaccine Co LLC via the e-mail and phone number shown below:
Phone: +968 91391625, Email: amr@nvvc.com



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)
156/2022	Supplying sports rehabilitation equipment for the national autism center in AL-Khoud	Companies specialized in supplying sports equipment and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the excellent, first or second degree	Sunday 25-9-2022 02:00 PM	Wednesday 12-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=
157/2022	Supplying rehabilitation of office equipment for the National Autism Center in Al Khoud	Companies specialized in supplying office and educational tools, materials, and supplies that are registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board with excellent, first or second degree	Sunday 25-9-2022 02:00 PM	Wednesday 12-10-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

- ❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the **Tender Board** may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>), On Wednesday 7/9/2022
- ❖ 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 though 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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FOR EXPATS

UAE to launch long-term visas from next month

MUSCAT: UAE has announced multiple long-term visas for expats starting from October 3.

New visa schemes include: five-year green visa, which distinguishes between work permits and residencies, enables highly skilled individuals, investors, entrepreneurs and top students and graduates to sponsor themselves.

The green visa also involves: - sponsorship of young people



until the age of 25 instead of 18 and extending the grace period for leaving the country upon job loss or retirement to 90-180 days instead of 30. Visa reforms include a significantly expanded Golden Visa scheme, a five-year green residency and new entry permits, including one for job seekers. The new system also offers additional benefits to sponsor family members.



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Queen Elizabeth appoints Liz Truss as new Prime Minister of Britain

The Truss government will be expected to deal with an energy crisis and soaring inflation

LONDON: Liz Truss is the United Kingdom's Prime Minister after travelling to meet Queen Elizabeth at her Scottish residence Balmoral before appointing a new cabinet.

Outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson had already handed over his resignation to the UK monarch.

What are Truss' plans for when she takes office?

The Truss government will be expected to deal with an energy crisis and soaring inflation, driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit.

UK inflation has risen above 10% for the first time in four decades, and the Bank of England forecasts it will reach 13.3% in October. The bank said that Britain could enter recession by the end of the year. Truss says that her priority is cutting taxes and reducing regulations to fuel growth.



NEW PM: Outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson had already handed over his resignation to the UK monarch.

Household bills are due to jump by 80% in October — triple the cost of a year ago.

During her leadership campaign, Truss promised help for people struggling to pay their bills,

but did not give further details.

In a speech on Monday, Truss promised to help Britain weather the economic crisis.

Truss said she would continue British support to Ukraine, and

promised to increase British defense spending to just over 2-3% of GDP. She has said that her first phone call with a world leader will be with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Truss defeated rival Rishi Sunak in a vote of Conservative Party members on Monday.

Truss' Cabinet

Current Secretary of State for

Business Kwasi Kwarteng is likely to be named Chancellor of the Exchequer — the UK's finance minister — under Truss.

After the resignation of Home Secretary Priti Patel on Monday, attorney general Suella Braverman is expected to take on the interior affairs brief.

Meanwhile, James Cleverly is touted to take over from Truss as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. If correct, those appointments would mean that — for the first time in UK history — there would be no white males in any of Britain's four "Great Offices of State."

Johnson bids farewell

Outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave his final Downing Street speech on Tuesday before heading to Scotland.

Johnson said that his successor would do "everything" to get people through the crisis.

He said "it's time for politics to be over," in an apparent reference to the election for leadership of his party. He urged Conservatives to "get behind Liz Truss." He vowed that he would support Truss "every step of the way."

Johnson said that Britain would "come out stronger" from economic downturn. "This is a tough time for the economy," he said. "This is a tough time for families up and down the country. We can and we will get through it, we will come out stronger the other side." **DW**

ARRESTED

Police arrest 35 suspected mafia members in Sicily

MILAN: Italian law enforcement arrested 35 suspected mafia members on Tuesday, police said.

The suspects were arrested in a series of raids aimed at capturing Matteo Messina Denaro, a boss of the Sicilian Cosa Nostra mafia. Denaro has been on the run since 1993.

Who was targeted in the raids?

The raids focused on alleged mafia members in the province of Trapani in the far west of Sicily.

Those arrested are suspected of criminal conspiracy, extortion and gambling, among other offences. The operation involved searches and asset seizures from other suspects, and targeted 70 people in total, the Carabinieri police force said.

Police said Messina Denaro was still able to issue commands despite his disappearance.



Messina Denaro has been sentenced in absentia to a life term for his role in the death of anti-mafia prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, who were murdered in separate incidents in 1992. He is also wanted for his role in bomb attacks in Florence, Rome and Milan in 1993 which killed 10.

Italian law enforcement has re-

cently conducted a number of raids targeting alleged mafia members.

On Monday, police in Bergamo in the northern Lombardy region arrested 30 suspected members of the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta mafia.

The suspects were accused of money laundering, racketeering and trafficking stolen goods. **DW**

SASKATCHEWAN

One of the two Canada's mass stabbing suspects found dead

OTTAWA: One of the two men charged in fatal Saskatchewan stabbings was found dead on Monday, while the second accused who is his brother is still at large.

Damien Sanderson, 31, was found dead with wounds that did not appear to be self-inflicted, said Rhonda Blackmore, commanding officer of the Saskatchewan RCMP, reported CBC. Myles Sanderson, 30, is still at large and is wanted. The RCMP also confirmed Monday at the media briefing that the two are brothers.

Ten people died in the attacks Sunday in various locations in the province, including James Smith Cree Nation. The injury toll has risen to 18. Myles faces three counts of first-degree murder; Damien had been charged with one count of first-degree murder. Both men were also charged with

attempted murder, breaking and entering, reported CBC.

Police from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were searching for the Sandersons after the attacks prompted a dangerous-persons alert. Police said Myles may have sustained injuries, though that has yet to be confirmed.

"We do want the public to know this because there is a possibility he may seek medical attention," Blackmore said.

"Even if he is injured, it does not mean he is not still dangerous," Blackmore added, noting Myles has a lengthy criminal record involving both persons and property crimes.

CBC has confirmed Lana Head, 49, is one of the deceased from James Smith Cree Nation. She leaves behind daughters Sable, 31, and Sage, 30, reported CBC.

Saskatoon police earlier confirmed they've been searching for Myles Sanderson since May when he stopped meeting with his assigned caseworker and was classified as "unlawfully at large."

He had been serving a nearly five-year federal sentence for assault, robbery, mischief and uttering threats. He got a statutory release, and then disappeared, reported CBC.

Before the latest police briefing, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addressed the country, expressing his condolences to those affected.

"This kind of violence, or any kind of violence, has no place in our country," he said. Trudeau said the federal government continues to monitor the situation closely and has spoken with the leadership of James Smith Cree Nation, reported CBC. **ANI**

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WORLD 

India, Bangladesh hold talks to strengthen economic partnership

India and Bangladesh signed seven Memorandum of Understanding in the presence of PM Modi and PM Sheikh Hasina

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday held an extensive discussion on a range of bilateral issues as they decided to start negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) to sustain momentum in the bilateral ties.

India and Bangladesh signed seven Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) in the presence of PM Modi and visiting prime minister Sheikh Hasina. These agreements were signed after delegation-level talks were held at the Hyderabad House. Speaking at a special briefing here, Indian foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, said both leaders agreed to build resilient supply chains in both countries and across the region.

“India is the largest market for Bangladeshi products in Asia. “And despite the pandemic, the bilateral trade between the two countries reached an all-time



high of USD 18 billion in the last financial years,” he added.

“To sustain this momentum, both leaders have directed the concerned ministries to commence negotiations on a bilateral comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) this year in 2022 and complete it in time for Bangladesh’s final graduation from the LDC status,” he added.

Both leaders also exchanged views and perspectives on regional and global issues. The foreign secretary informed that there was a strong agreement between the two leaders on the significance of further strengthening bilateral, and subregional cooperation to sustain prosperity in these challenging times.

“Both prime ministers held

extensive and productive discussions on the entire range of bilateral issues including political and security cooperation, energy partnership, water corporation, trade and economic ties, development partnership and strengthening people-to-people ties. They also exchanged views and perspectives on regional and global issues,” Kwatra said.

Both leaders unveiled and inaugurated important development projects including Unit I of the joint Maitree power plant and Rupsha bridge and witnessed the exchange of seven MoUs in the areas of water resources, capacity building, railway, science and technologies.

Highlighting the key issues that came under discussion, the In-

dian foreign secretary said both leaders emphasised the importance of security cooperation, counter-terrorism, and cross-border crimes.

“Both leaders underscored the importance of continuing our close security cooperation in the fields of counter-terrorism, border management, and cross-border crimes. They agreed to further enhance our development partnership including upgradation of railway infra projects in Bangladesh,” he said.

“Bangladesh is one of India’s important development partners both in terms of value and concessionality of terms and the range of cooperation in the entire spectrum of the development partnership,” he added. **ANI**

Heavy floods pose threat to many cities in Pakistan



SINDH: Floodwater in Main Nara Valley (MNV) drain in Pakistan has surged to pose threat to Dadu and other cities and towns in the district, ARY News reported on Monday.

The people of the town have been advised to evacuate their families to a safer place as an upsurge in the floodwater is posing a serious threat of flooding in Dadu, Mehar and Juhi, sources said. The water exerts pressure over the ring dykes of Mehar and Johi with the serious threat of drowning Johi town, according to ARY News.

In view of the serious situation, SHO Johi police has appealed the people to come out of the hotels immediately to join hands to save the city from flooding. “I will be forced to close hotels if you people do not reach the city’s ring embankment,” he warned to people.

Meanwhile, the officials are mulling over two more cuts in the lake to release the pressure of water and save major urban centres in the area from drowning. Floodwater still exerting pressure at the ring dykes of Johi, Mehar and Dadu cities.

Meanwhile, Pakistan government agencies and private NGOs continue with their relief operations described as a “humanitarian disaster of epic proportions”. Large parts of the country remain submerged - particularly the prov-

inces of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh in the south. At least 180 people have died in Sindh followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (138) and Balochistan (125).

At least, 1,468,019 houses have been partially or totally damaged, while 7,36,459 livestock have been killed due to the floods.

As heavy monsoon rains and floods continue to create havoc in the country, early 1,300 people have lost their lives in different provinces of the country.

The death toll since June has reached 1,290 with 29 people dying in the last 24 hours, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Saturday, reported ARY News.

The southern province of Sindh, which has been badly hit by the flooding, has asked for 1 million tents, while nearby Balochistan province has requested 100,000 tents. Since mid-June, when the monsoon began, more than 3,000 kilometres of road, 130 bridges and 495,000 homes have been damaged, according to NDMA’s last situation report.

At least, 1,468,019 houses have been partially or totally damaged, while 736,459 livestock have been killed due to the floods.

The floods that have inundated a third of the country -- affecting more than 33 million people **ANI**

CONDEMNED

France condemns prison sentence handed down to Myanmar’s Aung Suu Kyi

PARIS: France has condemned the new prison sentence, with hard labour, imposed on Myanmar’s deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar’s ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi last week was sentenced to three years in jail with hard labour after a court found her guilty of electoral fraud. A Zabuthiri Township judge handed down the sentence at a junta-controlled closed court in the Nay-pyitaw Detention Centre, News Agency, Myanmar Now reported.

Apart from Suu Kyi, and the other two leaders from the ousted civilian government, whose National League for Democracy (NLD) party won the 2020 election in a landslide, were accused of unfairly influencing the election commission, the report said.

The French government said that this new sentence is arbitrary and politically motivated, adding that it was delivered by a judicial system in the hands of generals and shows the junta’s contempt for the rule of law and fundamental rights.

“The electoral fraud accusation on which the sentence is based

aims only to justify the coup d’etat of 1 February 2021, which goes against the will of the Burmese people expressed democratically in the general election of 8 November 2020. This decision makes the prospect of political dialogue requested by the international community, in which Aung San Suu Kyi must be involved, even more distant,” the French Diplomacy said in a statement.

In the same statement, France reiterated its call for the immediate, unconditional release of all those people being arbitrarily detained, including State Counsellor Suu Kyi and President Win Myint.

“It maintains its support for the action of ASEAN and its special envoy, and the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General’s special envoy, and recalls that the establishment of a political dialogue including the democratic opposition is an essential requirement for finding any way out of the crisis,” the statement added. Suu Kyi, 77, has already been sentenced to 17 years in prison for corruption and sedition charges. **ANI**

MEETING

Top Quad officials discuss regional, global developments in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: A two-day meeting of top Quad officials was held in New Delhi where the representatives from Australia, India, Japan and the US discussed regional and global developments.

Senior Officials from the foreign ministries of the four countries met on September 5-6 and reaffirmed their vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. “Quad Senior Officials Meeting held on 5-6 Sep 2022 in New Delhi. Senior Officials from the Foreign Ministries of Australia, India, Japan and USA discussed regional and global developments, reaffirming their vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific,” Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a tweet.

“They also reviewed ongoing cooperation and progress of initiatives announced under the Quad Framework,” he added.

This latest meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue comes in the backdrop of the Joint Leaders’ summit that took place in Japan in May this year. The head of states of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States renewed



their steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient.

Just over one year ago, leaders of the four countries including Prime Minister Narendra Modi met for the first time. During the summit in Tokyo, they convened

their fourth meeting, and second in person. They held the key meeting and demonstrated, at a time of profound global challenge, that the Quad is a force for good, committed to bringing tangible benefits to the region.

“In our first year of coopera-

tion, we established the Quad’s dedication to a positive and practical agenda; in our second year, we are committed to deliver on this promise, making the region more resilient for the 21st century,” a joint statement had said. **ANI**

TYPHOON HINNAMNOR

Thousands flee as Typhoon Hinnamnor makes landfall in South Korea

SEOUL: Thousands of people were forced to evacuate as Typhoon Hinnamnor made landfall in South Korea on Tuesday.

It is one of the most powerful storms to hit the country in decades, authorities said.

It comes weeks after the capital Seoul and nearby regions were hit by heavy rainfall and flashfloods that killed at least 14 people.

What effect has Typhoon Hinnamnor had?

The typhoon left the Korean peninsula off the southeastern city of Ulsan at about 7:10 am, after landing on the coastal city of Geoje, the Korea Meteorological Administration said.

“Heavy rains, strong winds and a storm surge are expected until

Tuesday,” the country’s weather agency said, warning against “very” high waves in the coastal areas.

Strong rains and winds destroyed trees and roads in southern regions. More than 20,000 homes were left without power.

As of early Tuesday, 3,463 people had been evacuated and one 25-year-old reported missing in Ulsan, authorities said.

More than 600 schools were closed or moved to online classes, and more than 250 flights and 70 ferry services were grounded. More than 66,000 fishing boats evacuated to ports.

President Yoon Suk-yeol held emergency response meetings, urging officials to take precau-

tions until the typhoon is completely gone.

Where is Hinnamnor headed next?

North Korea also braced for damage from the typhoon as leader Kim Jong Un presided over a two-day meeting on disaster prevention work, ordering the release of water from a dam near its border with its southern neighbor.

Despite South Korea’s repeated requests for notice before releasing water downstream, Pyongyang has remained unresponsive.

The typhoon is expected to head northeast and pass about 400 kilometers northwest of Sapporo in Japan at about midnight on Tuesday. **dw**



Frances Tiafoe stuns Rafael Nadal, storms into quarter-finals

The 24-year-old played fearlessly throughout the three-hour, 31-minute thriller to clinch the match against Nadal

NEW YORK: Frances Tiafoe of America stunned four-time champion Rafael Nadal on Monday at the US Open to reach his second Grand Slam quarter-finals.

Playing in Arthur Ashe Stadium, the 24-year-old played fearlessly throughout the three-hour, 31-minute thriller to clinch the match against Nadal 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Tiafoe slammed the ball off both wings and rallied from a breakdown in the fourth set to become the first American man to reach the last eight in New York since John Isner in 2018. The American struck 49 winners to turn the tables in style.

The 22nd seed will next play Andrey Rublev after the ninth seed downed Briton Cameron Norrie 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

After claiming the first set and



losing the second, Tiafoe made a stunning comeback to clinch the third. In a tight fourth set, the Spaniard hammered first to move 3-1 ahead.

Tiafoe stuck to his game plan, though, and worked his way back into the set. He swung freely and held his nerve, cruising off five straight games to seal a historic win.

"I'm beyond happy, almost in tears, I can't believe it. I played unbelievable tennis today. I really

don't know what happened," Tiafoe said in his on-court interview.

"At 4-3 [in the fourth set], when I went up 40/0, my legs were like cement. I just needed to get out of the game and then pray to god that I don't have to serve for it. I was lucky enough to get out of that game. I came out not giving Rafa all the respect. I came out to win a tennis match if front of you guys," Tiafoe said.

"When I first came on the scene

I felt like a lot of people had a lot of expectations on me on how I would do. I wasn't ready for it mentally. I wasn't mature enough for it. These past couple of years, when the tension hasn't been on me I have been able to develop. I have a great team behind me. I am just putting my head down and I am happy with where I am in life in general. I am able to do me and do it my way and enjoy the game I love," the American said. **ANI**

US OPEN



Iga Swiatek scripts epic win against Jule Niemeier, to meet with Jessica Pegula

NEW YORK: World No. 1 Iga Swiatek conjured a stunning comeback victory over Jule Niemeier to reach the quarter-finals of the ongoing US Open in New York on Monday.

It was the stark contrast in Louis Armstrong Stadium when Niemeier came tantalizingly close to defeating the World No. 1, in the end, Swiatek escaped 2-6, 6-4, 6-0. With the win, Swiatek became the first Polish woman to reach US Open quarter-finals. Swiatek will play Wednesday's match against No. 8 Jessica Pegula.

Swiatek hadn't dropped a set through four matches, but Niemeier broke the French Open champion in the first game and raced to the first set.

The hard-hitting 23-year-old

German produced 14 unforced errors in the third set, compared to one for Swiatek.

She also hit 13 double faults in the match. Swiatek, meanwhile, broke Niemeier's serve seven of 13 times.

"Honestly at the beginning [of the second set] I felt like I'm just making a little bit fewer mistakes, but she also started playing less aggressively. It was easier for me to just play the ball in. Yeah, I think I started being more solid and I used a little bit more of the chances that I had," Swiatek told reporters.

"I'm just proud that I didn't lose hope. I had a hard time pushing her back. I'm pretty glad it worked. I used my experience to keep my level the whole match," Swiatek said. **ANI**

U-19 CRICKET WORLD CUP

Arjun Dhiman named captain of Oman squad for forthcoming matches

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Arjun Dhiman has been named captain of the Oman squad for the forthcoming ICC Men's U-19 Cricket World Cup (CWC) Division 2 Qualifiers.

The eight-nation qualifying tournament will be played at the Oman Cricket Academy grounds from September 29-October 7.

Oman are placed along with Bhutan, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in Group A while Group B comprises Hong Kong, Thailand, Qatar and Singapore. The two finalists of Division 2 will progress to the final round of Asia Qualifier. They will join Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal and UAE who are already granted a place in the final stage of qualification.

The winner of the final round of Asian Qualifier will book a place in the ICC Men's U19 World Cup in 2024.

Arjun is one of the most experi-



enced youngsters in the squad and has been part of the Premier Division season for the past couple of years. Oman Cricket selectors and head coach Adeel Shafique picked a squad that boasts of maximum number of allrounders.

Aditya Gurmukhi, another youngster who has been playing in the Premier Division, has been ap-

pointed as the team's vice-captain.

Both Arjun and Aditya are off-spinners and strokeful batters.

Besides the skipper and his deputy, the team revolves around all-rounders with Lakshmi Narayana one of them.

The teenager shone with the bat last season when he hammered a record unbeaten 213 in an inter-

school match [30-overs-a-side].

A handy leg-spinner, he will be joined by couple of other leg-spinners in Prateish Ramesh and Ashish Kumar, the latter being a right-arm leggie and a left-handed batter.

The team's spin attack is bolstered by Glen Menezes, who has tasted good success at the school

cricket level and with national U16 side. Experienced Siddh Mehta's off-spin will be one of the ingredients in the national team's attempt to win the group and finish among the top-two teams to qualify for the final round of Asian Qualifiers. Siddh is also a useful middle order batter and brings along a lot of experience, having played along with senior cricketers over the past few seasons.

Another off-spinner in the side is Tanuj Sivakumar, whose batting skills have been honed in the domestic A Division league last season. Aryan Bisht completes the line-up of allrounders.

Born in Muscat, Aryan has been playing competitive cricket in the Indian state of Uttarakhand for the past couple of years.

Rahil Habibulla is the lone wicketkeeper and the batting keeper has been among runs in the domestic cricket with a tidy showing behind wickets. The pace battery

is led by Mohammed Arafat Islam, whose raw pace has impressed the coaches. Another pacer who will shoulder lot of responsibility is Devansh Loya. The lanky seamer has made good use of his height [6'3] while picking up wickets on the local school circuit and is considered to be one of compact batters in the squad with couple of centuries under his belt.

Ahmed al Zadjali is another bright prospect included in the team and the only Omani will be hoping to make his debut for his country. A trainee at the Oman Cricket Academy for the past three years, he is a promising hope. Oman Cricket's endeavour to make the national team all inclusive has met success with the drafting of Ahmed, a young and passionate medium pacer.

The pace quartet is completed by Chaitra Thanki, the most experienced fast bowler, who is also playing in the Premier Division.

FOOTBALL

Bayern, Liverpool, Man United hope to sign Gavi



MADRID: Gavi is yet to renew his contract with Barcelona, which means that big clubs across Europe are keeping a very close eye on the future of the highly-rated midfielder.

The 18-year-old La Masia youth player is already a regular starter for Xavi and a full international with Spain, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported.

However, the English and German press have explained that Bayern Munich, Liverpool and Manchester United are dreaming

of signing the player who will be out of contract in 2023 and who could leave Barcelona for free in June. German newspaper Bild is reporting that Bayern Munich are very keen to bring in the young midfielder for their long-term project and that they're keeping a close eye on whether he renews his contract at Barcelona.

The British Sun and the Daily Mail newspapers have added that Manchester United and Liverpool are the two English Premier League (EPL) sides most inter-

ested in signing Gavi.

Even though Gavi's current deal will expire in less than a year, he is believed to have an agreement with his current club.

Gavi turned 18 on 5 August 2022 although his renewal with Barcelona has still not been made official.

It was thought that he'd take a spot in the official first team for 2022/23, but he remains registered with the B team for the time being, even though he can still play first-team fixtures. **ONA**

ICC RANKINGS

Suryakumar, Babar Azam, Rizwan battle for top spot in ICC T20I Batting Rankings

DUBAI: India's star batter Suryakumar Yadav, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan are battling for the top spot in the ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings set to be released on Wednesday.

Asia's great batters are battling it out in the ongoing Asia Cup in UAE, but there's another brawl going on in the batting rankings with Azam, Suryakumar and Rizwan in a close tussle for the No.1 spot in the T20I batting rankings. Babar has continued to hold onto the top spot despite not scoring big runs in the Asia Cup. But a string of low scores from Babar, and half-centuries from Rizwan and Suryakumar in the past week could see changes at the top of the rankings this week when the ICC releases the Player Rankings on Wednesday.

Rizwan is the top run-scorer in the Asia Cup so far with 192 runs, decorated with the two fifties in three matches.

Suryakumar, on the other hand, scored a sensational unbeaten 68



runs in 26 balls against Hong Kong. Babar hasn't had a great run in the tournament with scores of 10, 9 and 14 in the three matches so far.

Currently, Babar sits on top of

the batting rankings with 810 rating points. Rizwan with 796 points and Suryakumar with 792 points followed the Pakistan skipper close on his heels. **ANI**

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by November 2022 reaching \$95.09, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 34 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$95.43. - **OMA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,544.54 points, down by 1.63 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 1.02 per cent at 487.75 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 2.33 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Chromite, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser.

Treasury bills worth OMR40mn issued

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from September 7 until December 7

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR40 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from September 7 until December 7, 2022.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.419 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.270 per OMR100.

The average discount rate and the average yield reached 2.33139 per cent and 2.34536 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 li-

quidity 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. - **OMA**

CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER

Renaissance Services appoints Haitham Al Taie as its CCO

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Renaissance Services has appointed Haitham Nasser Said Al Taie as its Chief Commercial Officer (CCO).

Previously Chief Operating Officer at Oman Drydock Company, Haitham took charge at Renaissance in August 2022 and will be spearheading the company's commercial initiatives and overseeing their technical and financial aspects.

As a forward-focused and result-oriented growth strategist, Haitham brings over 20 years of experience in successfully executing numerous initiatives of significant commercial values and turnarounds for organisations in sectors ranging from banking to transport and logistics.

Haitham is an MBA from the University of Bedfordshire, and a Leadership Program alumnus of the London Business School. Haitham has also sat on a number of Boards such as Hutchison Ports Oman and Duqm Development Company.

Stephen R Thomas, CEO, Re-



naissance said, "His strong experience in commercial and treasury roles, critical leadership and stakeholder management skills besides a deep understanding of existing and emerging markets make Haitham a valued addition to the management team and all initiatives under Renaissance 2.0. Renaissance welcomes Haitham and wishes him the very best."

ENERGY SERVICES

Abraj showcases successful corporate track record at MSX Investor Roadshow

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Following the successful roll-out of its new brand identity, Abraj Energy Services (Abraj), a leading Omani oilfield and gas services company and a wholly owned subsidiary of OQ, participated in the Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) Investor Roadshow that included potential IPO candidates.

The company demonstrated to investors and key stakeholders its robust business model underpinned by strong financial and operational performance.

The MSX Investor Roadshow emphasised the extensive reforms being implemented to boost the Sultanate's capital markets and bolster its privatisation efforts. Abraj's newly appointed CEO Saif Al Hamhami was joined by Business Development Director Salah Al Harthy in presenting the company's role as an Omani oilfield services champion to a group of



Salah Al Harthy, Business Development Director, Abraj Energy Services

local, regional and global investors. Al Hamhami said, "Through targeted investments and an experienced workforce, Abraj has grown into a leading Omani oilfield services company that is underpinned by strong financial per-

formance, a modern drilling fleet and an unwavering commitment to providing clients with quality services. At Abraj, we promote consistently high standards of excellence and a culture of safety across our operations. Abraj is fo-



Saif Al Hamhami, CEO, Abraj Energy Services

cused on strengthening its role as a quality oilfield services provider that enhances the in-country value and seeks to develop more productive, efficient and greener services that contribute to the Sultanate's sustainable economic growth."

They highlighted that Abraj's commitment to excellence has sustained the company's robust financial standing, which is supported by stable, contracted income from a diversified blue-chip customer base. In 2021, the

Abraj demonstrated to investors and key stakeholders its robust business model underpinned by strong financial and operational performance

company generated \$323 million in revenues and \$121 million in EBITDA, which grew at a 21 per cent CAGR in the last 3 years.

They attribute this success to their experienced management team and dedicated workforce. Abraj's team of experts is part of a strong base of more than 2,500 dedicated employees, 93 per cent of which are Omani citizens.

DATA

Coal production from captive and commercial blocks in India jump by 58%

NEW DELHI: Coal production from captive and commercial coal blocks in India jumped by 58 per cent year-on-year to 43.93 million tonnes in the April-August period of 2022-23, as per data released by the Ministry of Coal.

Coal production from coal blocks during April-August for fiscal 2022-23 has been reviewed by the Additional Secretary & Nominated Authority, of the Ministry of Coal, in the presence of project proponents, as per an official statement released by the Ministry of Coal.

Coal production achieved during April-August, 2022-23 is 43.93 million tonnes which is 57.74 per cent higher than 27.85 million tonnes coal produced during the same period 2021-22.

Two mines auctioned in 2021 under commercial auction reforms have become operational and produced 2.36 million ton coal in April-August, 2022-23. At present, 37 captive and commercial mines are under production and it is expected that at least 11 more new mines will start production during the year. This will significantly contribute to meet coal demand in the country.

The ministry appreciated the efforts of coal blocks allocattees

Coal production during April-August 2022-23 is 43.93 million tonnes which is 57.74 per cent higher than 27.85 million tonnes coal produced during the same period 2021-22

in attaining such high growth and is hopeful that the target production of 141.78 million tonnes from these coal blocks during FY 2022-23 will be achieved. At the same time, it was noted with concern that Parsa East & Kanta Basan coal block production has stopped and Parsa coal block production has not started. The continued stoppage may adversely impact the achievement of the target this year. - **ANI**

PARTICIPATION

Bank Muscat extends its support to MSX Roadshow with dedicated stall

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has extended its strong support to the first ever hybrid meeting of the rebranded Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX).

Titled the MSX Investor Roadshow, the event, which was held at Shangri-la Barr Al Jissah from September 5-6, was designed to attract the attention of the global investment community to listed companies in the Sultanate of Oman and also introduce the latest developments and growth prospects of the locally listed companies on the MSX to global funds.

The two-day event was attended by a number of the bank's management team members. Bank Muscat also participated in the event by hosting a stall where bank employees were able to explain more about the bank's operations, various financing facilities and solutions to local and international investors and analysts alike.

The participation of the bank is in line with its aim to partner with different governmental institutions within the parameters of Oman Vision 2040. The banking sector in Oman has performed relatively well over the last few years and remained resilient to the challenges brought about by the pandemic. Thanks to proactive measures taken by the Government and the Central Bank of Oman (CBO), today,



the sector is well positioned with good capital and liquidity levels supported by promising economic prospects, lower budget deficit, higher levels of oil prices and the lifting of pandemic-related restrictions. Improved money supply as a result of the implementation of the Supply Chain Financing Scheme and greater business opportunities stemming from projects related to education, fisheries, logistics and transportation, housing welfare schemes and tourism are expected to further boost Oman's banking sector in the coming years.

Building on the government's

emphasis to diversify the economy, developing human resources and encouraging private sector participation in national development, Bank Muscat has been playing an integral part in projects, developments and efforts of national importance in the Sultanate of Oman over the last 40 years. The bank has been associated with major syndicated financing programmes across various sectors as the Mandated Lead Arranger. The Bank's clients include domestic companies engaged in activities across all sectors of the economy such as contracting, trading, power,

water, telecommunications, oil and gas, aviation, shipping, airport and ports, petrochemicals, real estate and international trading. The bank is also complementing government efforts in strengthening the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the economic development of Oman.

The largest bank in the Sultanate by total assets, Bank Muscat continued its financial performance and growth by posting a net profit of OMR99.26 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022, an increase of 4.9 per cent compared to the same period in 2021.

MARKET



MSX index ends lower

Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 2.33 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Chromite, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,544.54 points, down by 1.63 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 1.02 per cent at 487.75 points. Dhofar Cattle Feed, up 2.33 per cent, was the top gainer while, Oman Chromite, down 7.69 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Al Anwar Investment 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 478 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.28 million, with more than 10.44 million shares changing hands. Out of 46 traded securities, 7 advanced, 27 declined, and 12 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR526,000 while foreign investors were net sellers for OMR385,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR141,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,254.99 points, down 1.65 per cent. Prices of Oman Arab Bank, Al Anwar Investment and Bank Muscat were up by 1.63 per cent,

1.22 per cent, 0.34 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman & Emirates Investment, Sohar International Bank, Al Madina Takaful, HSBC Bank Oman and Global Financial Investments were down by 4.44 per cent, 3.7 per cent, 3.26 per cent, 3.23 per cent and 3.03 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 6,485.39 points, down 0.26 per cent. Prices of Dhofar Cattle Feed and Galfar Engineering were up by 2.33 per cent and 1.23 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Chromite, Gulf Mushroom Products, Raysut Cement, Oman Cement and A'Saffa Foods were down by 7.69 per cent, 4.59 per cent, 1.32 per cent, 1.31 per cent and 1 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.92 per cent before closing at 1,659.41 points. Prices of Phoenix Power and Muscat Desalination were up by 2.27 per cent and 0.88 per cent respectively. Prices of Dhofar Generating, SMN Power Holding, Al Jazeera Services, Al Suwadi Power and Al Batinah Power were down by 6.78 per cent, 2.63 per cent, 2.44 per cent, 2.33 per cent and 2.33 per cent respectively, – **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,622.22	4,541.79	4,544.54	4,619.79	-75.26	-1.63
FINANCIAL INDEX	7,384.86	7,254.99	7,254.99	7,376.96	-121.98	-1.65
Industry Index	6,505.99	6,461.48	6,485.39	6,502.58	-17.19	-0.26
Services Index	1,678.17	1,659.41	1,659.41	1,674.85	-15.44	-0.92
MSX Shariah Index	492.77	487.75	487.75	492.77	-5.02	-1.02
MSX TR INDEX	5,829.69	5,728.26	5,731.72	5,826.04	-94.32	-1.63
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,727.43	7,591.29	7,591.53	7,719.17	-127.63	-1.65
SERVICES TR IDX	1,742.63	1,723.14	1,723.14	1,739.17	-16.03	-0.92
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,752.13	6,705.93	6,730.74	6,748.58	-17.84	-0.26

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
10,446,447	2,284,505	478	23,344,190,133	7	27	12	46

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	P/B VALUE	MARKET CAP
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REGULAR MARKET

OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	812,060	485,620	25	0.596	0.600	0.596	0.598	0.596	0.002	0.336	0.598	0.598	0.598	0.100	2,244,412,722
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	276,958	31,483	24	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.113	0.114	0.114	0.100	15,820,000
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	4,812	2,858	1	0.594	0.594	0.594	0.594	0.000	0.000	0.594	0.594	0.640	0.640	0.100	33,553,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	113,400	32,939	10	0.290	0.291	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.294	0.294	0.100	36,220,408
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV	5,000	425	1	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.083	0.093	0.093	0.100	7,650,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	339,043	145,793	13	0.430	0.432	0.430	0.430	0.000	0.000	0.430	0.430	0.448	0.448	0.100	23,650,000
OM0000001097	OMAN UNITED INSUR.	31,000	8,700	4	0.282	0.282	0.280	0.280	0.282	-0.002	0.280	0.274	0.280	0.280	0.100	28,000,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	73,500	37,480	5	0.510	0.510	0.506	0.506	0.510	-0.004	0.784	0.506	0.502	0.510	0.100	119,623,460
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	80,040	24,182	18	0.304	0.306	0.294	0.302	0.306	-0.004	1.307	0.302	0.294	0.300	0.100	99,923,558
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	679,574	265,079	21	0.392	0.394	0.390	0.394	0.400	-0.006	1.500	0.394	0.390	0.394	0.100	256,472,027
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	48,138	12,942	3	0.269	0.269	0.265	0.265	0.270	-0.005	1.852	0.265	0.000	0.269	0.100	430,675,784
OM0000003000	AI MADINA MARKTING	529	514	2	0.830	0.830	0.804	0.804	0.830	-0.016	1.951	0.804	0.804	0.820	0.100	55,476,000
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	108,658	100,700	12	0.932	0.932	0.912	0.912	0.932	-0.020	2.146	0.912	0.912	0.912	0.100	684,000,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	20,118	2,676	2	0.136	0.136	0.133	0.133	0.136	-0.003	2.206	0.133	0.133	0.136	0.100	259,304,443
OM0000002226	ALAZEEZA SERVICES	295,808	83,029	33	0.287	0.287	0.280	0.280	0.287	-0.007	2.439	0.280	0.280	0.287	0.100	17,137,196
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	109,300	7,035	6	0.065	0.065	0.064	0.064	0.066	-0.002	3.030	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.100	12,800,000
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT. BANK	331,000	35,284	10	0.107	0.107	0.104	0.104	0.108	-0.004	3.704	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.100	477,366,478
OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	1,000	55	1	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.059	-0.004	6.780	0.055	0.055	0.063	0.100	12,223,200
Total		18	3,330,018	1,276,794												

Parallel Market

OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	19,287	1,679	8	0.088	0.088	0.084	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.088	0.083	0.088	0.100	7,114,800
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	89,153	4,462	10	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.001	2.273	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.100	65,817,066
OM0000003260	OMAN ARAB BANK	152,239	19,027	8	0.125	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.123	0.002	1.626	0.125	0.120	0.125	0.100	308,670,250
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	938,317	153,785	52	0.163	0.166	0.163	0.165	0.163	0.002	1.227	0.166	0.166	0.166	0.100	33,492,764
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,542,250	215,066	96	0.085	0.086	0.082	0.083	0.082	0.001	1.320	0.083	0.082	0.084	0.100	16,600,000
OM0000007084	AI MADINA INVEST	5,282	206	2	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.115	0.114	0.001	0.877	0.115	0.114	0.114	0.100	17,888,296
OM0000001095	DHOFAR INSURANCE	5,586	1,117	1	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.000	0.000	0.200	0.000	0.200	0.100	30,952,409
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	12,966	1,167	4	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.090	0.081	0.093	0.100	3,021,431
OM0000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	3,577	363	2	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	8,964,303
OM0000004450	BANK NIZWA	709,000	69,484	16	0.098	0.099	0.098	0.098	0.098	0.000	0.000	0.098	0.097	0.098	0.100	219,323,397
OM0000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	1,694	202	2	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.119	0.000	0.000	0.119	0.119	0.130	0.100	11,638,457
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	17,000	765	1	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.100	11,250,000
OM0000001889	SALALAH MILLS	237,000	205,904	4	0.876	0.876	0.872	0.872	0.876	-0.004	0.457	0.872	0.872	0.876	0.100	43,567,792
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	25,000	2,884	3	0.115	0.116	0.115	0.115	0.116	-0.001	0.862	0.115	0.115	0.119	0.100	20,939,016
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	26,000	7,732	8	0.299	0.299	0.296	0.296	0.299	-0.003	1.003	0.296	0.294	0.299	0.100	35,520,000
OM0000001419	RAISUT CEMENT	63,000	14,187	19	0.225	0.225	0.223	0.225	0.228	-0.003	1.516	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.100	45,000,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	2,000	136	2	0.068	0.068	0.067	0.067	0.068	-0.001	1.471	0.067	0.067	0.074	0.100	20,579,804
OM0000004925	ALBATHINAH POWER	10,781	453	3	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.043	-0.001	2.326	0.042	0.042	0.043	0.100	28,345,272
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	9708	412	3	0.043	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.043	-0.001	2.326	0.042	0.042	0.043	0.100	30,005,066
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	252,000	9,949	6	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.037	0.038	-0.001	2.632	0.037	0.035	0.037	0.100	3,280,517
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	182	24	1	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.131	0.135	-0.004	2.963	0.131	0.131	0.146	0.100	392,522,038
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	1,821,060	274,576	19	0.152	0.152	0.150	0.150	0.155	-0.005	3.226	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.100	300,046,919
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	101,000	8,989	6	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.092	-0.003	3.261	0.089	0.089	0.092	0.100	15,573,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	1,594	137	1	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.086	0.090	-0.004	4.444	0.086	0.085	0.088	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	44,683	12,084	5	0.272	0.272	0.270	0.270	0.283	-0.013	4.594	0.270	0.270	0.270	0.100	11,233,423
OM000008447	OMAN RET FUND	14,000	868	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.065	-0.003	4.615	0.062	0.062	0.067	0.100	29,213,556
OM0000001030	OMAN CHROMITE	500	1,200	1	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.600	-0.200	7.692	2.400	2.400	2.600	1.000	7,200,000
Total		27	7,114,839	1,007,668												

TECHNOLOGY

Inside Tesla's drive to keep Musk's battery promise

SHANGHAI: The secret behind Elon Musk's goal of selling 20 million Tesla's a year by 2030 lies in its pioneering battery technology. The good news is that by using bigger cells and a new process to dry-coat electrodes, Tesla could halve the cost of a Model Y battery, saving more than 8 per cent of the car's US starting price, battery experts with ties to the company said. The bad news is that it's only halfway there, according to 12 experts close to Tesla or familiar with its new technology. That's because the dry-coating technique used to produce the bigger cells in Tesla's 4680 battery is so new and unproven the company is having trouble scaling up manufacturing to the point where the big cost savings kick in, Reuters reported. "They just aren't ready for mass production," said one of the experts close to Tesla. The gains Tesla has already made in cutting battery production costs in the past two years



could help boost profits and extend its lead over most electric vehicle rivals. Musk's promised improvements in battery cost and performance are seen by investors as critical to Tesla's quest to usher in an era where it can sell a \$25,000 EV for a profit - and stand a better chance of hitting its 2030 targets.

Battery systems are the most expensive single element in most EVs, so making lower-cost, high-performance packs is key to producing affordable electric cars that can go toe to toe with combustion-engine rivals on sticker prices. Tesla is one of only a handful of major automakers that produce their own EV batteries and by

manufacturing Model Y cells at US plants, the SUV will remain eligible for US tax credits when many rival EVs may no longer qualify. Among the 12 battery experts Reuters spoke with, nine have close ties to Tesla and three of the nine have examined Tesla's new and old battery technology inside and out through teardowns. **BNA**

GLOBAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Energy experts craft engaging programme agenda for Green Hydrogen Summit Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A high-calibre advisory body of local and international energy sector executives gathered together in the mountaintop resort town of Jabal Akhdar recently to put the finishing touches to a thought-provoking and engaging programme agenda for the Green Hydrogen Summit Oman 2022 - Global Conference and Exhibition, due to be held in Muscat later this year.

The three-day event, set to take place from December 5 - 7 at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre (OCEC), will help shine a powerful spotlight on Oman's potential to evolve into a global-scale producer and exporter of green hydrogen. Backed by 2040 Vision Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, GHSO 2022 has the support of a wide array of prestigious international and local energy organisations, notably the International Energy Agency (IEA), OQ Group, Energy Development Oman (EDO), Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Asyad Group, and Opal. Crafting an innovative and impactful conference agenda is the responsibility of the GHSO Technical Committee, whose members met to brainstorm and finalise the programme. The technical committee comprises Prof. Michael Modigell



(Chair); Dr Ruth Prelicz, Expert on Sustainable Energy and Hydrogen, AHK Oman; Basil Elzein, Integration Manager, Shell Oman; Dr Khalil Al Hanashi, Energy Technology Lead - Energy renewable unit, PDO; Monica Trench, Hydrogen Origination and Business Development, BP; Dr Zakiya Al-Azri, Corporate Research and Development Advisor, PDO; Maher Ayed, Regional Director - Energy Transition: hydrogen-carbon capture and storage geothermal, Baker Hughes UAE; Olav Carlsen, Founder and CEO, Hydrogen Rise; Dr Rashid Al Abri, Assistant Professor, SQU; and Mohammed Al Tae, Project Engineer Manager, Oman LNG. Delighted to have influential energy sector executives meeting in his resort town, Ali Al Busaidi, Wali of Jabal Akhdar, attended the opening to extend a warm welcome to the committee members. Speaking on the occasion, he pro-



NOISE

CAN HELP TO IMPROVE LEARNING POTENTIAL



Though many of us prefer a peaceful environment in which to study, ‘noise’ may play an important role in assisting some people in improving their learning ability.

The study titled ‘Using noise for the better: The effects of transcranial random noise stimulation on the brain and behaviour’ was published in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews.

Edith Cowan University (ECU) has investigated the effects of transcranial random noise stimulation (tRNS) in a variety of settings and found the technology could have many applications.

Despite its name, tRNS doesn’t utilize noise in the every day, auditory sense of the word. Rather, it sees electrodes attached to the head so a weak current can pass through specific parts of the brain.

Study lead Dr Onno van der Groen said the study showed tRNS has promise as a tool to assist people with compromised learning capabilities.

“The effect on learning is promising; it can speed up learning and help people with neurological conditions,” Dr van der Groen said.

“So, people with learning difficulties you can use it to enhance learning rate, for example.

“It’s also been trialled on people with visual deficits, such as after stroke and traumatic brain injury.

“When you add this type of stimulation during learning, you get better performance,

faster learning and better attention afterwards as well.”

Forming new pathways

Dr van der Groen said tRNS works by allowing the brain to form new connections and pathways, a process known as neuroplasticity.

“If you learn something, there has to be neuroplastic changes in your brain, which allows you to learn this information,” he said.

“And this is a tool to enhance this neuroplasticity.”

Dr van der Groen said tRNS had two effects on the brain: the ‘acute’ effect, which allows a person to perform better while undergoing tRNS, and the modulating effect which saw lasting results.

“If you do 10 sessions of a visual perception task with the tRNS and then come back and do it again without it, you’ll find you perform better than the control group who hasn’t used it,” he said.

“Limitless” potential?

The idea of expanding one’s learning potential via tech such as tRNS raises many questions. While it’s most pertinent to those with deficiencies and difficulties in learning, it also begs the question as to whether a neurotypical person can take their intelligence to new levels, similar to the concept in the movie ‘Limitless’.

Dr van der Groen says the potential is there, but there are

also signs it won’t create a ‘new level’ of intelligence.

“The question is, if you’re neurotypical, are you already performing at your peak,” he said.

“There’s a case study where they tried to enhance the mathematical skills of a super mathematician; with him, it didn’t have much of an impact on his performance, presumably because he is already a top performer in that area.

“But it could be used if you’re learning something new.”

Where it’s headed

Though the technology is still in its infancy and people are only able to access tRNS by entering controlled trials, Dr van der Groen said its practicality and apparent safety meant there was a lot of potential for a range of applications.

“The concept is relatively simple,” he said.

“It’s like a battery: the current runs from plus to minus, but it goes through your head as well. “We’re working on a study where we send the equipment to people, and they apply everything themselves remotely.

“So in that regards, it’s quite easy to use.”

Scientists worldwide are also investigating tRNS’ effects on perception, working memory, sensory processing and other aspects of behaviour, with the technology showing promise as a treatment for a range of clinical conditions.

“We’re still trying to find out how best we can use it,” Dr van der Groen said. -ANI



tRNS works by allowing the brain to form new connections and pathways, a process known as neuroplasticity. If you learn something, there has to be neuroplastic changes in your brain, which allows you to learn this information.

— Dr van der Groen



SPORTS



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FIFTH PLACE FOR AL-ZUBAIR, SCHILLER AND JEFFRIES AT FANATEC GT CHALLENGE RACE



HOCKENHEIM (GERMANY): Oman's Al-Faisal Al-Zubair, German team-mate Fabian Schiller and Zimbabwe's Axcil Jeffries finished fifth in their category and 13th overall in a 49-car field at the three-hour round of the 2022 Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS – Endurance Cup at Germany's Hockenheim circuit on Sunday.

After qualifying their Al-Manar Racing by HRT Mercedes-AMG GT3 in seventh place, they were able to make up two places in the Silver Cup category and finished the race in fifth, a mere 15 seconds off the winners after the grid bunched up in the latter part of the race. The result dropped the trio to fourth in the Drivers' points standings.

Al-Zubair said: "P5 in Silver class and P13 overall out of 49 cars. Honestly, it was not so bad but we were aiming for a win or the podium this race weekend. Coming into the race we realised that the balance of the performance of the Mercedes was not as strong as the Audis. In the race, it was even more difficult for the Mercedes teams.

"Nonetheless, P5 on a very competitive grid is something to be happy with. I am just excited now for the last round in Barcelona. Hopefully we get a good result there and see how it goes."

Al-Zubair drove the first stint and handed over to Jeffries after around 55 minutes.

By the mid-point, after 50 laps had been completed, Konsta Lappalainen, Mick Wishofer and Stuart White led the Silver Cup Endurance category in their Emil Frey Racing Lamborghini. Aurelien Panis, Cesar Gazeau and Nicholas Baert held second position and the Al-Manar Racing by HRT Mercedes was down in seventh place, just under 35 seconds off the category lead.

With a little over an hour to go and 83 laps on the board, Lappalainen, Wishofer and White con-



2022 Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe - Endurance Cup Silver Cup - current positions (Drivers):	
1. Benjamin Goethe/Thomas Neubauer/Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer...	100pts
2. Nicolas Schöll/Alex Aka/Marius Zug.....	68pts
3. Stuart White/Konsta Lappalainen.....	58pts
4. Al Faisal Al-Zubair/Axcil Jeffries/Fabian Schiller.....	54pts
5. Tuomas Tujula/Aurelien Panis/Cesar Gazeau/Nicolas Baert.....	33pts
6. Thomas Drouet/Tommasso Mosca/Casper Stevenson.....	32pts
5. Jordan Love/Alain Valente/Jannes Fittje/Juuso Puhakka.....	31pts, etc

tinued to top the Silver Cup standings from Nicolas Schöll, Alex Aka and Marius Zug in the Attempto Racing Audi R8. Al-Zubair, Schiller and Jeffries had bunched up with the leaders, moved up a place to sixth and were running around seven seconds off the pace-setters.

Lappalainen, Wishofer and White held on to claim victory when the chequered flag was waved after 101 laps. Zug, Aka and Schöll came home in second place

and Al-Zubair, Jeffries and Schiller crossed the finish line in fifth.

Benjamin Goethe, Thomas Neubauer and Jean-Baptiste Simmenauer topped the Silver Cup times in free practice with a best lap of 1min 54.558sec in a session where the Al Manar Racing Mercedes finished eighth with a best run of 1min 56.104sec.

After a further pre-qualifying stint on Saturday afternoon, competitors took part in three



15-minute qualifying sessions on Sunday morning.

Al-Zubair, Schiller and Jeffries were classified ninth in Q1 in a stint where the Silver Cup's fastest lap was set by Lappalainen's, Wishofer's and White's Lamborghini.

The Garage 59 McLaren of Vargas Maldonado, Nicolai Kjaergaard and Dean Macdonald



claimed the top spot in Q2 and the second fastest time amongst all the entrants. Meanwhile, the Al Manar Racing Mercedes slotted into sixth with a best lap of 1min 38.298sec.

The Garage 59 McLaren again topped the Silver Cup times in Q3 and Al Manar Racing by HRT slipped into seventh place. With the times from the three sessions

combined, Silver Cup pole position fell to Goethe, Neubauer and Simmenauer but Al-Zubair, Schiller and Jeffries had to settle for a disappointing seventh place on the Silver grid.

The final round of the 2022 Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe Powered by AWS – Endurance Cup takes place in Barcelona on October 1st-2nd.

OMAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Drift competitions held in Salalah

SALALAH: The Oman Automobile Association presented the popular international drift competitions, Car Park Drift and Tandem Drift, on 24 and 27 August with magnificent success.

The drift events, which took place at Salalah's Celebration Square, proved to be a great achievement, with the crowd admiring and enjoying the races as the drivers showcased their skills on the track.

Memorable moments

Drift Manager, Fahmi Al Busaidi said: "There were many memorable moments we can take out from this series and the audience were very supportive and cheerful all throughout as they turned up in large numbers."

He added: "We had clear objectives set, which we achieved through proper planning and support from all our team members and management, which lead to two successful drift competitions."

The 16 drivers from both the Car Park Drift and Tandem Drift held a terrific performance, with the latter delivering fascinating battles. Prior to the start of the championship, driver Hussein Messemmani from Lebanon, shares his thoughts on the drift tournaments.

He said: "Since our last competition in Muscat we have been waiting for another opportunity to compete in a drift event held by Oman Automobile Association, so we are very happy and excited to be a part of this series. I was also im-



pressed with the beauty of the nature in Dhofar as it made me think I was back in Lebanon with the greenery and the ambience."

The contestants of Car Park Drift, on August 24 th, showed off their skills throughout the obstacle course, skidding at corners and bends as they strategically avoided the cones on the track.

Difficult race

Race Director Ali Al Balushi said: "I created a difficult race track for the contestants, but they dealt with the challenge very professionally, which proved why they are amongst the best drift drivers within the Arab region and from around the world."

Omani driver, Rafaat Al Yahyai was all smiles as he was earned first place in the Car Park Drift

tournament.

He said: "I am really happy to be standing here on this podium. I was excited to be competing amongst really great drivers and to participate in this event in Salalah."

"The competition was tough as this time it was not based on the car look and the smoke produced but only on the skills we performed on the course. This was a difficult track as it was quite tight compared to the arena in Muscat but the crowd and the weather here made up for it."

The battles on August 27 were one of the best OAA had managed due to the smaller size of the track compared to Muscat's Drift Arena. The crowd reacted to every moment of the event, including kids cheering at the top of their voices. Tandem Drift winner, Nikolas

Solomon from the USA, said: "I feel great, I feel over the moon. I'm so happy I was able to take the first place here in Salalah, especially in such a beautiful place with beautiful weather with such great people."

"The track is amazing and to be honest I feel it has better potential and more grip than Muscat. And I want to say thank you to everybody from Salalah, I love this place and hopefully we come back for next season."

The winners of Car Park Drift were: Rafaat Al Yahyai from Oman (1 st Place), Ahmed Al Amri from Oman (2 nd Place) and Mohammed Al Mansori from UAE (3 rd Place).

The winners of Tandem Drift were: Nikolas Solomon from USA (1 st Place), Mohammed Chehab from Lebanon (2 nd Place), Mohammed Al Mansori from UAE (3 rd Place).

The Khareef Dhofar series has been partnered with and sponsored by the following organisations: Sohar International, Sohar Bank, Oman Airports, Redbull Mobile,

Motul Oman, Mohsin Haider Darwish, Salam Air, Ministry of Sports Affairs, Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Salalah Municipality, Tulip Inn, Gang Plank, Salalah Grand Mall, View Park and Khareef Dhofar.

The reception at the OAA facility is open from 9AM to 9PM every day. Karting facilities at Muscat Speedway are open from 3.30PM to 11PM, from Monday to Saturday.

DIGITAL MOTORSPORTS

Classic bikes showcased at Khareef Dhofar event

SALALAH: Crowds gathered around the bike ride show while people queued up for the Digital Motorsports competition at the Salalah Grand Mall.

A selection of the finest modern and classic motorbikes from across the Gulf, were showcased in Salalah Grand Mall on 19 and 29 August for the public to admire and marvel at.

The motorcycles were driven by the clubs, Nizwa Bikers and Oman Riders, from Muscat to Dhofar on separate days. The Nizwa Bikers, who arrived at the mall on the 19 August, consisted of both Omanis and other Gulf nationals, whereas the Oman Riders, who arrived on 29 August, consisted of only locals.

Dr Mustafa Al Hashmi, Board Member of the Oman Riders Club, said: "We faced many challenges during the trip, such as the presence of sand storms in some areas, and the strong winds after leaving Duqm posed a big obstacle for novice riders, but the presence of experienced members in the team helped a lot in overcoming the difficulties we faced on the journey."

He added: "We are very happy to be in the Governorate of Dhofar and in Salalah, the land of originality, and riding on motor-cycles gave us double the pleasure of discovering its natural beauty, which God Almighty has endowed with manylements

of tourist attractions within the Arab region."

Since 2010, the journey from Muscat to Salalah has become an annual ride for the Oman riders, with this year being their twelfth expedition. At the digital corner in the mall, simulations continued to hold the Khareef Digital Motorsport Championship since 15 July, in which the winning champions will be chosen to compete in the MENA Digital Final in Jordan.

The game, Gran Turismo, held an increasing interest among both males and females, as the centre kept busy each day at the mall.

Digital Motorsport Manager, Masoud Al Hinai said: "The main idea was to have this event for drivers all over Oman, from Muscat to Dhofar, to compete in the last stage, the MENA final, and from among these participants we chose the best three drivers to represent Salalah in the next stage, the Oman MENA Digital Motorsport Qualifier."

According to Masoud, there were a fair number of ladies coming back to the centre to practice and get better at the game.

He said: "We did our best to get them out of their comfort zone and try something new, breaking that barrier of shyness."

The winner of this championship series, Jamal Hamad Ramadhad Rihan, held the highest score of the Salalah championship.



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IN PICTURES



Highlight of 2022 Toronto International BuskerFest in Toronto
A busker performs during the 2022 Toronto International BuskerFest in Toronto, Canada. This annual event was held with dozens of buskers from around the world participating the activity. — Xinhua

Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition 2022 held in Doha
An exhibitor shows a falcon during the sixth edition of Katara International Hunting and Falcons Exhibition 2022 at Katara Cultural Village in Doha, Qatar. The exhibition is held here from September 5 to September 10, with the participation of more than 180 companies from 20 countries. — Xinhua



Students make moon cakes to celebrate upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival in Wellington
Students show moon cakes they made at a Chinese class to celebrate the upcoming Mid-Autumn Festival at a school in Wellington, New Zealand. — Xinhua



Cuban students welcome new semester
Students attend class at a primary school in Havana, Cuba. — Xinhua



Trailer launch of upcoming movie 'Goodbye'
Bollywood actresses Rashmika Mandanna, Neena Gupta with Producer Ekta Kapoor during the trailer launch of their upcoming movie 'Goodbye', in Mumbai. — ANI Photo



Diversity lends success to Zimbabwean fashion show
A model presents a creation during the Makanaka Fashion Show in Harare, Zimbabwe. — Xinhua

Indonesia, Philippines agree to strengthen maritime security in border areas
Indonesian President Joko Widodo (left) and Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos inspect the guard of honour at the Presidential Palace in Bogor, Indonesia. Indonesia and the Philippines signed a memorandum of understanding on intensifying maritime security cooperation in the waters of their border areas. — Xinhua



Celebrities walk red carpet at 79th Venice International Film Festival
Producer Graham Broadbent, director Martin McDonagh, actress Kerry Condon, actor Colin Farrell and actor Brendan Gleeson (left to right) pose on the red carpet for the premiere of the film 'The Banshees of Inisherin' during the 79th Venice International Film Festival in Venice, Italy. — Xinhua





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‘Summer Thrills’ offer on Toyota Camry

Toyota Camry is one of the most popular sedans that continues to grow in popularity among its fan base

MUSCAT: Toyota Camry customers have a fantastic opportunity to make the most of this season from ‘Summer Thrills’ campaign.

Customers owning a brand new Camry can benefit with Service 2 years/20,000 km to 3 years/30,000 km (Whichever is earlier) and 1 year insurance (or cash gift in lieu of insurance from OMR250 – OMR275). The campaign is valid until 15th September 2022. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model



year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.

Toyota Camry is one of the most popular sedans that continues to grow in popularity among its fan base. The Camry has made its mark as a dependable, fuel-efficient and longer-lasting companion for numerous journeys.

The Camry is available with a choice of three powertrain options, including a new 2.5-litre four-cylinder Dynamic Force engine that produces 204 hp and 243 nm of torque and is paired with an eight-speed Direct-Shift Multi-mode automatic transmission; a 3.5-litre V6 engine with D-4S fuel injection system that produces

298 hp and 356 nm of torque and is mated to an eight-speed multi-mode automatic transmission; and an electrified hybrid system, which combines a petrol engine and two electric motors. The combined power of the two power sources is 208 hp. It is also paired with an Electrically Controlled Continuously Variable Transmission (ECVT), delivering heightened driving pleasure.

The Toyota Camry is engineered using Toyota New Global Architecture, (TNGA). It offers a comfortable and stable ride with superior handling characteristics. A new front fascia incorporates a more defined lower-intake area, with grille bars extending dynamically to the sides creating a refined look that is enhanced by chrome-plated ornamentation for a premium feel. The sportier grades wear a noticeably different body style than the premium grades, with a bold redesigned lower fascia shape featuring a powerfully expressive gloss black mesh grille and larger side vents.

Khedmah’s 9 fully equipped branches serve North Al Sharqiyah, Al Wusta

MUSCAT: Embracing its commitment to meeting the requirements of its customers and surpassing their expectations, Oman Investments and Finance Company (OIFC) ‘Khedmah’ has continuously worked to augment its network to reach 68 branches in various governorates of the Sultanate.

With a robust digital presence that has contributed to cementing the company’s position in the market, Khedmah aims to enhance its platforms and branches as well as provide advanced solutions that suit the various segments of society.

Masood bin Juma’a bin Saif Al Abarawi, Assistant Regional Director of Khedmah in North Al Sharqiyah and Al Wusta governorates, said, “Khedmah recently witnessed substantial growth in the services it provides to customers. Furthermore, the work culture and environment enhancements have inspired our team, improving their performance. They are dedicated to delivering a top-notch customer experience. The company always keeps abreast of market developments and continuously follows up on customers’ needs and feedback in all branches. Khedmah has achieved remarkable development in the branch network and digital platforms, enhancing customer satisfaction and gaining new customers.”

Management members are keen to communicate and enhance their relationships with customers to understand their



needs and reduce the challenges they may face distinguishing Khedmah branches in Al Sharqiyah North and Al Wusta governorates. In addition to the qualified and trained national cadres, the company is earmarked to support customers and meet their requirements, delivering the highest standards in customer service.

The company provides its various services in the Al Sharqiyah North Governorate through eight branches located in the wilayats of Dima, Al Taiyin, Sinaw, Al Mudhaibi, Samad Al Shaan, Ibra, Al Qabil, Al Wafi, Wadi Bani Khalid and Bidiyah, in addition to one branch in the Wilayat of Masirah in the Al Wusta Governorate. Furthermore, the service provider is working towards expanding further into other governorates.

HEALTHCARE ESTABLISHMENT

Omani workforce plays integral part in Aster Oman’s march

MUSCAT: As one of the leading medical healthcare establishments in the Sultanate of Oman, Aster Oman has been at the forefront in recruitment of local Omani talent and work force, integrating

their contribution towards His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik’s progressive Vision 2040.

Since April ’21, Aster Oman hospital has recruited 78 Omani nationals in various capacities in

their hospital branches at Muscat, Sohar and Ibrai.

With the launch of new hospitals in Muscat and Salalah in the pipeline in the next six to eight months, Aster plans to recruit an

additional work force of at least 60 Omani nationals, thereby effectively opening up more opportunities for the Omanis in the health care sector as a part of their proliferation plan.

2022 SUMMER SCHOOL

Veolia hosts students from UAE, KSA, Oman and Qatar

DUBAI: Veolia, the global benchmark for ecological transformation offering game-changing solutions for water, waste and energy management, hosted a diverse cohort including 10 students from the Near and Middle East (N&ME) for a week of immersion at the heart of the global Veolia Summer School.

The students, who come from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon, shared the coveted global programme with 58 other students from 25 countries. During the digital one-week summer programme, the students took on the task of ecological transformation by solving environmental challenges with the support of Veolia experts.

The students from N&ME comprised the largest and most diverse group in this year’s global programme, accounting for 15% of the total number of global students, 22% of the countries and 21% of the nationalities represented in the programme, and 18% of the total number of universities that participated in the annual project.

Eight of the 10 students from N&ME this year were new to Veolia, while 7 of them were from engineering disciplines – making for a memorable week of creativity, knowledge sharing and commitment to better understand the challenges of ecological transformation, explore the solutions of tomorrow, and create a truly global professional network. The programme combined visits to Veolia sites, small group discussions, plenary sessions, multicultural group work



based on design thinking applied to real business cases, and inspiring meetings with Veolia experts from across the five continents.

In the N&ME, the highlight of the programme was that during a single week in June, every student visited a Veolia site in their country for a guided tour led by a technical manager or team, after a full safety induction.

This included a municipal biogas-to-energy plant which is the first of its kind in the UAE; an industrial waste-to-energy facility which generates energy from the industrial waste of a zone in the world’s largest petrochemical complex in Saudi Arabia; the largest seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant in Oman which produces 20% of the country’s potable water; and the largest wastewater treatment plant in Jordan.

Mohammed Al Turki, a Saudi national and mechanical engineering student from Dhahran was delighted with the outcome of

the 2022 Veolia Summer School as he was offered a direct placement in the company at the end of the programme. “I am deeply grateful to Veolia for this opportunity that follows an enlightening experience across five intense days. It was an exciting journey to tackle the challenge of the ecological issues of our time with Veolia’s experts,” he said.

Taghreed Khalid, an Omani environmental engineering student based in Muscat, commented on her experience at the Summer School: “As a young environmental engineer about to embark on a professional career, the program provided me with valuable insight into Veolia’s environmental services across the water, waste and energy sectors. Along with learning about the company’s efforts to promote ecological transformation, working with people from around the world with various industrial backgrounds further enriched the experience.”

INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Oman Shell awards best NXplorers projects of 2022

MUSCAT: Oman Shell awarded the best Shell NXplorers projects from schools across the 11 governorates of the Sultanate of Oman at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Shell NXplorers, an innovative educational programme that was launched in 2018 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE), aims to build awareness and provide thinking tools and creative and complex problem-solving skills to students in Omani schools across the country.

In 2021, the programme saw the participation of over 500 students and 66 teachers from 22 schools across Oman.

As part of the award ceremony, Oman Shell awarded the best NXplorers projects and the teachers who mentored each student team in the presence of the chief guest, Dr Bakhit bin Ahmed Al Mahri, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation for Higher Education and VIP guest, Dr Abdullah Ambosaidi, Undersecretary of Education, Ministry of Education.

Commenting on the impact Shell NXplorers has had on Oman’s youth, Malak Al Shaibani, General Manager- Corporate Relations and In-Country Value at Oman Shell stated, “Since its launch in 2018, the Shell NXplorers programme has benefitted more than 1964 students with complex thinking tools that drive innovation and equipped over 190 teachers with key skills to mentor and nurture Omani youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Shell is committed to supporting the Sultan-



ate of Oman through sustainable social investment programmes like Shell NXplorers, and seeks to inspire Omani youth by instilling an innovative mindset and a strong interest in STEM-related fields of study at an early age.”

Speaking about the uniqueness of the Shell NXplorers educational programme, Mahra Al Shuaili, a Science Lab Technician at Safiyah bint Al Khattab School who received training and took part in the programme said, “The Shell NXplorers programme is divided into three stages and combines systems thinking, scenario planning and theory of change methodologies. The stages include exploring, creating and finally effecting change. The tools employed at each of these three stages help students to examine issues in context and uncover hidden patterns to solve real-world issues. This approach in itself is unique in creating sustainable change.”

“Nurturing the leaders of to-

morrow is an absolute honour. As a teacher, I wanted to go beyond the classroom and help my students achieve and learn through a more practical and hands-on approach. The Shell NXplorers programme has provided me with the skills required to guide Oman’s young minds in developing an innovative mindset that’ll help us bring out the best in our future leaders,” Mahra Al Shuaili added.

Commenting on how the Shell NXplorers educational programme benefitted them, Khulood Al Muharami, a student from Um Al Fadhl School said, “The Shell NXplorers educational programme has helped me develop a wide range of skills and has enabled me to think and approach problem-solving differently. Through this innovative training programme, I have been introduced to complex and creative thinking skills, and have been equipped with the tools required to apply them to create positive change in my community.”



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