

Oman expresses sympathy with US

The Sultanate of Oman expressed its sympathy with the United States of America (USA) on Hurricane Ian which hit the state of Florida. The Sultanate of Oman, through a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry, expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy with the US government and people and the victims' families, wishing the injured a speedy recovery. – ONA



P10

ARSENAL STAY TOP WITH DERBY WIN AS TOTTENHAM SELF-DESTRUCT



P13

S&P AFFIRMS OMAN'S CREDIT RATING AT BB- WITH STABLE OUTLOOK



P20

WILD OMAN: WONDER OF ARABIA



**■ SAMAYIL**

**PRAISE FOR CARE OF OF PRISON INMATES**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) hailed the humane treatment that the inmates of the central prison receive, the regular family visits available for them and the provision of a monthly stipend for the inmates of the central prison.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights praised the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to apply international laws and observe human rights by regularly following up ex-inmates to ensure that they integrate into the society and lead a normal life. **SEE P2**

**■ SETTLEMENTS DATING BACK TO 3,000 YEARS FOUND**



An archaeological survey conducted in the Wilayat of Qurayat has uncovered a large number of archaeological and human settlements some of which date back to 3,000 years ago or more. **SEE P3**

**■ MUSCAT**

**ALZHEIMER'S MONTH CONCLUDES**

Like every other disease, early diagnosis makes it easier to treat Alzheimer's. It is a disease mainly of forgetfulness, which takes an alarming proportion up to the level of forgetting everything, including recognising family and friends. The Sultanate of Oman marked World Alzheimer's Month along with other nations and threw light on the seriousness of the disease and precautions that can help prevent or minimise its impact. To mark the conclusion of World Alzheimer's Month, the Oman Alzheimer's Society hosted an event involving doctors and caregivers at City Seasons Hotel. **SEE P 3**



OMAN OBSERVER  
FIRST DEDICATED ENGLISH NEWS APP IN OMAN

INSIDE



STAGGERING SCALE OF WRECKAGE IN FLORIDA

P7



THE FAITH-BASED REAGANOMICS OF LIZ TRUSS

P9

## Oman and US back extension of Yemen truce as deadline ends today

**MUSCAT:** Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidy, Foreign Minister, received a phone call from Antony Blinken, US Secretary of State. They reviewed bilateral relations between the two countries as well as the regional and international issues of common concern.

The ministers stressed their support to the efforts currently being made to extend Yemen truce, which expires on Sunday, underscoring the importance of joint action to enhance confidence and dialogue among all parties. As a ceasefire deadline in war-ravaged Yemen draws near, civilians hope the truce will be extended — fearing any fresh fighting would wipe out the small gains they have made.

A UN-brokered ceasefire, which took effect in April and has twice been renewed, has reduced casualties by 60 per cent and quadrupled fuel imports into the port of Hodeida, more than 40 humanitarian groups said on Thursday.

The truce has largely held, although the rival sides have traded blame over violations.

On Friday, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on each side to extend the ceasefire.

“I strongly urge the Yemeni parties not only to renew, but also to expand the truce’s terms and duration,” his spokesman said in a statement.

Under the truce, commercial flights have resumed from Sanaa to Jordan and Egypt, while oil tankers have been able to dock in Hodeida. The successive truces have brought some respite to people exhausted by eight years of war, in a country where about 23.4 million of the 30 million population rely on humanitarian aid.

— ONA with agency inputs

**I strongly urge the Yemeni parties not only to renew, but also to expand the truce’s terms and duration**

**ANTONIO GUTERRES**  
*UN Secretary-General*

## Muscat, Salalah to host world’s formidable fitness challenge

**STAFF REPORTER**  
Muscat, Oct 1

Oman will host the Spartan races, one of the world’s formidable fitness challenges, in the third week of this month in Muscat and Dhofar.

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) has partnered with Spartan Arabia to host Spartan Races as part of the Group’s continued efforts to bring some of the world’s most renowned sporting events to the country. Such events draw in a large number of contestants and spectators from all over



the world and contribute to the promotion and visibility of Oman as a prominent global tourist destination.

Inspired by the warrior culture of ancient Sparta and featuring dozens of obstacles designed to test strength, stamina, endurance and perseverance, Spartan races have become popular across the

globe since launching in 2010, with more than 2,500 annual events across 42 countries to date.

Timed to coincide with Al Sarb (the spring season) and with the support of Dhofar Municipality, the Dhofar Governorate will host the first Spartan race in the Wilayat of Salalah, adjacent to Ad Dahariz Beach, on October 14. The second will be held in the Governorate of Muscat as part of the Oman World Cup Programme on December 16 and 17.

OMRAN Group CEO Hashil bin Obaid al Mahrouqi said, “The partnership with Spartan Arabia embodies our efforts to provide visitors and residents with diverse tourism products in line with the National Tourism Strategy. Furthermore, these races represent the tireless efforts of several parties in developing Oman’s sports tourism sector, which in return contributes to the promotion of various tourist destinations across the country and attracts visitors from both inside and outside Oman. This also further strengthens the tourism sector’s role in achieving the goals of Oman Vision 2040.”



**STAFF REPORTER**  
Muscat, Oct 1

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is the largest trading partner of Oman, Khalifa bin Shaheen al Murr, Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE, said in a statement to ONA on Saturday.

He said that cooperation between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates will enhance promising economic and investment opportunities by facilitating procedures for investors, industrialists and business people.

He said that the signing of 16 memoranda of understanding during the visit of UAE President Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan to the Sultanate of Oman, which covered various sectors like rail transport, space, medicine agricultural technology and aviation, is an indication of support for cooperation and coordination.

He pointed out that the agreement to establish Oman and Etihad Rail Company, owned equally by two countries, was worth \$3 billion. The partnership agreement signed between the Oman Investment Authority and the UAE Holding Company, worth about RO 1 billion, aims at the two countries’ keenness to deepen and expand bilateral relations to promote growth in vital and priority sectors.

The value of non-oil trade exchange between the two

countries in 2021 amounted to more than 46 billion dirhams, a growth of 9 per cent compared to 2020, which makes the Sultanate of Oman the second largest Gulf trading partner of the UAE, with 20 per cent of its total trade with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The average growth in the two countries’ trade over the previous five years was about 10 per cent, according to statistics revealed during the second session of the UAE-Oman Economic Forum, which was held last February in Dubai.

Both countries are working to enhance trade and investment activities and develop partnerships across many vital economic sectors, including energy, renewable energy, water solutions, financial services, logistical support, construction, real estate and entrepreneurship.

The cultural and social relations between the two countries are intertwined and deep, reaching the level of family relations and the sharing of customs, costumes and the arts as a result of shared history and geographical contact.



# OHCHR praises treatment of inmates at central prison

**SAMAYIL:** The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) hailed the humane treatment that the inmates of the central prison receive, the regular family visits available for them and the provision of a monthly stipend for the inmates of the central prison.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights praised the Sultanate of Oman's keenness to apply international laws and observe human rights by regularly following up ex-inmates to ensure that they integrate into the society and lead a normal life.

Mohammad Alnsour, Chief of the Middle East and North Africa Section at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and his accompanying delegation inspected the prison's facilities and sections and



examined the services rendered to the inmates.

The delegation also reviewed training programmes whereby prison inmates produce antiques, gifts, pottery, and other handicrafts. They visited the lecture halls and the library which provides book borrowing services to the inmates. They also reviewed the sports and cultural activities that are available in the central prison.

The delegation visited the prison hospital and reviewed medical services provided to the inmates and the ways for treating various diseases, emergencies and chronic diseases.

The delegation members voiced their satisfaction over the cooperation between Oman Human Rights Commission (OHRC) and the Directorate-General of Prisons regarding the rights of the inmates and allowing the OHRC specialists to conduct field visits in accordance with the international laws on the rights of prisoners.

The delegation was accompanied during the visit by a team from OHRC, Colonel Ali bin Hassan al Balushi, Director-General of Prisons, and a number of officers. — ONA

# Railway project may take 7 years to complete

VINOD NAIR  
@vinot\_nair

The Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology has said that the railway project linking Suhar and Abu Dhabi is estimated to be completed in seven years.

The first meeting of the board of directors of Oman Rail and Etihad Rail will be held this month.

Speaking to the media, he said that the train is expected to carry 12,000 passengers per day and 250,000 containers at the start of the line's operation.

If completed, the project will be the first of its kind to link the two GCC countries.

He said that the railway project linking the Sultanate of Oman and the sisterly United Arab Emirates will connect the Sohar Port and the Free Zone, through the industrial and economic zones of the United Arab Emirates and boost the movement of transport and goods, thereby increasing the volume of trade exchange between the two countries.

He said that the project is key

to industrial localisation as it will encourage transportation and passage of raw materials.

It may be noted that the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recently discussed a number of long-term and short-term plans and projects related to the transport and logistics sector.

After his meeting with his Saudi counterpart Saleh bin Nasser al Jasser, Al Maawali said nearly half a million tonnes of goods and nearly 400,000 passengers have used the new direct road between the two countries, which was opened only last year.

"We expect this number to double and triple in the next five years easily because currently the movement on this road does have much transit or third-party traffic."

He said that the long-term goals discussed between both sides include a feasibility study for a direct railway link and the short-term goals include agreements for the quick turnaround of goods via sea and land border crossings.



دار الأوبرا السلطانية مسقط  
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE MUSCAT

# Flamenco Meets Tango

A World Premiere Performed by  
Compañía Flamenca Antonio Andrade  
and Tango Legends



6, 7 October | 7:00 PM

Two incredible, dramatic forms of dance, beloved around the world and emblematic of the national heritage of two wonderful parts of the world, Flamenco from Seville meets Tango from Buenos Aires.



BOOK NOW  
rohmuscat.org.om

SEASON 2022-2023

# Tale of two Salalahs!

KAUSHALENDRA SINGH  
@patsalalah

Here is a tale of two Salalahs — one in the southernmost part of the Sultanate of Oman and another in the Indian state of Telangana. The Salalah in India is not just a coincidence of a name but a solid connection between the two cities that date back hundreds of years.

In Telangana's capital city, Hyderabad, there is an Arabian colony, which resembles everything that the original Salalah has in terms of food, way of life and language. It is a beautiful example of the assimilation of cultures and the emergence of the best of both.

The history of Salalah in Hyderabad dates back to pre-independence India and the days of the Nizams, the then rulers of Hyderabad.

As history goes, the Nizams of Hyderabad had great trust in people from Yemen and kept many of them in their army. They were said to be the most trusted of the then rulers. Since they were coming to Hyderabad through the Sultanate of Oman's Salalah, the place somehow got its name after it. The place is also known as Barkas, a distorted form of 'barracks' where these trusted guards were living.

Mustafa Sabeet Rabee, who lives in Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman, has a deep-rooted connection with Salalahs of both sides. His father, Sabeet Rabee Subeet was married to a girl from Hyderabad and Mustafa was born in Barkas.

"As I could understand from my forefathers, the history of people travelling to Hyderabad from Yemen dated back to hundreds of years, and then there was hardly any difference between Salalah and Yemen. People from both sides were freely visiting here and there without any restrictions,"



he said. The port of Salalah being a natural port, Mustafa assumes that the people might be using the Salalah port to go to Hyderabad via some other Indian ports, and thus the place where they settled in India got the name 'Salalah'.

He, however, admits not to have much knowledge about the history behind it but confirms that Barkas or Salalah is very close to Arab culture.

"Yes, the people love football as we do in Salalah; they have Qahwa, Sulaimani tea, Gosht, Mandi, Kabsa and Harees. These are popular dishes in the Sultanate of Oman's Salalah," says Mustafa.

The assimilation of cultures reflects in people's way of dressing and the food they eat. Apart from dishdashas of various types, Barkas people wear Hyderabad kurta, pyjamas and other Indian dresses. Food also has variations of different kinds of biryanis, and variations exist in food items.

"Now they have a variety of Mandi (Arabic food consisting of meat and rice) like prawn Mandi, butter Mandi and fish Mandi etc. Similar is the case with sweet dishes, which got variation under the local influence," says Mustafa.



## Seminar on women's role in education and economy held

**MUSCAT:** A national seminar titled 'Omani Women in Education and Economic Sectors, a Strategic Vision, Outlook and Challenges', was held at Oman Institute for Oil and Gas, recently.

The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Social Development in collaboration with Sultan Qaboos University.

Dr Madeeha bint Ahmed al Shaibaniyah, Minister of Education, presided over the seminar which was attended by HE Dr Laila bint Ahmed al Najjar, Minister of Social Development, and senior officials, specialists and stakeholders.

The seminar highlights the regulatory legislation and rules pertaining to the education and economic sectors and aims to draw up ambitious goals for improving the services provided to Omani women in these sectors. This objective can be attained by identifying innovative ideas and methods, enriching ideas and

possibilities for solutions. The seminar sought to identify points of strength and weakness as well as the mechanisms for developing the two sectors to devise applicable recommendations that aid the empowerment of Omani women.

The seminar came out with several recommendations including building a national database of Omani women's expertise and competencies in all sectors including the education and economy sectors, employing Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), preparing and designing educational programmes and producing educational software for Omani girls and women in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

It also highlighted the importance of building knowledge and knowledge-based economy in light of the data of the digital age. — ONA

# Archaeological settlements dating back to 3,000 years unearthed

**QURAYAT:** An archaeological survey conducted in the Wilayat of Qurayat has uncovered a large number of archaeological and historic human settlements some of which date back to 3,000 years ago or more.

Dr Mohammed bin Abdulhamid al Hussain, Head of the Department of Archaeology, College of Arts and Social Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU), who led the research team, said the current stage of the survey focuses on Al Mazarei village in the Wilayat of Qurayat and the surrounding areas. Archaeological evidence unearthed so far shows that human settlements in the area began in the



iron age, some 3,000 years ago at the very least.

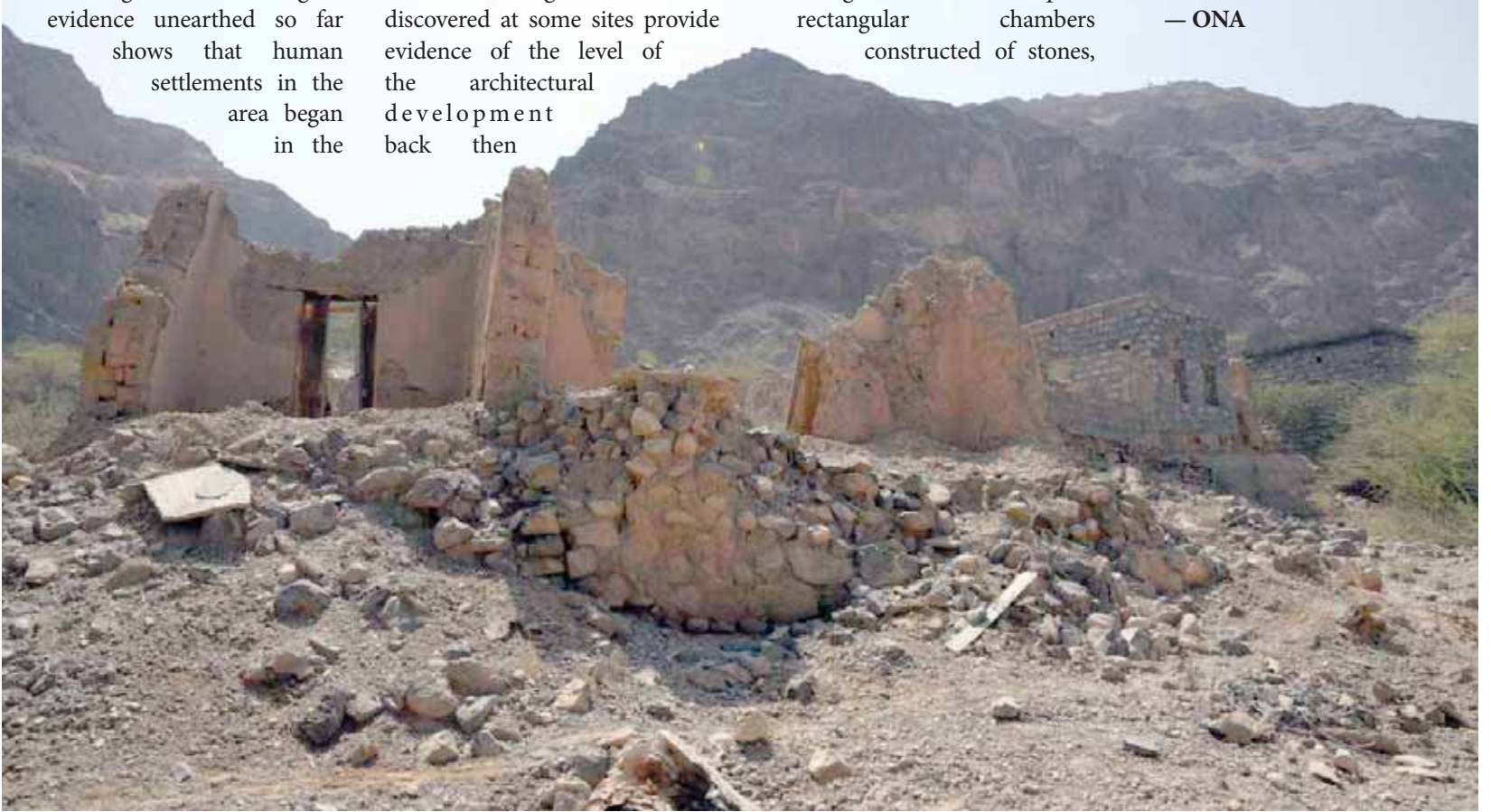
The buildings which were discovered at some sites provide evidence of the level of the architectural development back then

as some of these settlements contained huge buildings with a great number of square rectangular chambers constructed of stones,

he said. The current survey is part of a project that aims at surveying the endangered archaeological and historic landmarks of the Sultanate of Oman with funding from SQU and the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, he said.

The head of the department of archaeology concluded that the project is aimed at documenting the archaeological sites in Muscat Governorate and drawing a risk map of these sites and making proposals on how to benefit from the archaeological and historic sites in sustainable development in line with Oman Vision 2040.

— ONA



## International Non-Violence Day to be celebrated today

**STAFF REPORTER**  
MUSCAT, OCT 1

The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement and pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.

According to General Assembly resolution A/

RES/61/271 of 15 June 2007, which established the commemoration, International Day is an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness". The resolution reaffirms "the universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and the desire "to secure a culture of peace,

tolerance, understanding, and non-violence".

Embassy of India Muscat, in collaboration with Raja Yoga Centre for Self Development, is celebrating the UN International Day of Non-violence, which is marking the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The event will be held at the Sur Ball Room of Hotel Muscat Holiday

in Al Khuwair at 7 pm. Amit Narang, Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman, will speak about the importance of the event.

B K Jayanti Kirpalani, European Director of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University from London, who is also a representative of the United Nations, Geneva, will deliver the keynote address.

## 18 people receive marriage counselling training in Nizwa



**AMAL AL RIYAMI**  
NIZWA, OCT 1

The Ministry of Social Development conducted a training programme for 18 individuals in marriage counselling in Nizwa recently. The trainees included psychologists, counselling and family guidance specialists, and social workers.

The programme was presented by Dr Kafalah bint Hamoud al Omairiyah (pictured), Assistant Director of the Family Development Department

at the General Directorate of Social Development, in the Al Dakhiliyah Governorate. Dr Al Omairiyah said: "The training of these counsellors aims to achieve family and social stability as well as raise awareness about achieving psychological stability."



**DR KAFALAH BINT HAMOUD AL OMAIRIYAH**

The programme addressed several aspects such as duties and responsibilities of man and woman in marriage. It also discussed several problems like marital problems, its solutions, and management of family budget.

## Alzheimer's Awareness Month concludes with call for compassion, early diagnosis

**LAKSHMI KOTHANETH**  
@lakshmioman

Like every other disease, early diagnosis makes it easier to treat Alzheimer's. It is a disease mainly of forgetfulness, which takes an alarming proportion up to the level of forgetting everything, including recognising family and friends.

The Sultanate of Oman marked World Alzheimer's Month along with other nations and threw light on the seriousness of the disease and precautions that can help prevent or minimise its impact.

To mark the conclusion of World Alzheimer's Month, the Oman Alzheimer's Society hosted an event involving doctors and caregivers at City

Seasons Hotel.

An interactive session titled 'Know Alzheimer's, Know Dementia' threw light on memory factors in day-to-day life. The event was supported by Apollo Hospitals Muscat and powered by Oman Observer's Podcast GreenMent.

The event presenter began the event with a short documentary titled 'Memories are not Forever'.

The Chairman of Oman Alzheimer's Society, Dr Hamed al Sinawi, provided an insight on various symptoms that could be considered early signs of Alzheimer's, ranging from misplacing keys to having problems communicating. He pointed out that invariably the family members detect the early signs.

"Early diagnosis makes it easier," said Dr Al Sinawi.

The event was attended by the family members of Alzheimer's patients who are also caregivers.

Dr Al Sinawi also highlighted the difficulties caregivers face and the support they require and accordingly proposed the concept of an Alzheimer's cafe for the caregivers to meet every month for mutual support and knowledge sharing.

Dr Ummar Khurshid, Internal Medicine Specialist, Apollo Super Speciality, explained the medical conditions of Alzheimer's patients and said, "What Alzheimer's patients need the most is compassion."

Rajyalakshmi Saranathan, a senior citizen who promotes a healthy life style and promotes

the intake of food for the benefit of Health, said, "Age is just a number; what is important is to see the sunrise and sunset daily so that you practice early to bed, early to rise. Alzheimer's is a Disorder, and we come across many disorders in life; what is also important is acceptance."

The children and spouses of Alzheimer's patients, as well as patients, talked about their own experiences as caregivers. The doctors also answered various queries from the attendees.

Dr Al Sinawi said the children often find a reversal of roles while taking care of their parents. And the most difficult part is losing loved ones even when they are next to them, as Alzheimer's patients, in some cases, forget the family members.



# TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEART

DIABETES, OBESITY, INCREASED INTAKE OF FATTY FOODS AND PHYSICAL INACTIVITY CONTRIBUTE TO THE HIGHER PREVALENCE OF HEART FAILURE IN THE REGION

VINOD NAIR  
[@vinot\\_nair](#)

**H**eart Failure is a serious and growing health problem across the Middle East and Africa (MEA), where prevalence is markedly higher than the global average.

Around one in five people in the general population after 40 years of age in the Middle East is expected to develop Heart Failure (HF) at some point in their lifetime, according to a recent report published in the Saudi Heart Association,

Even here in the Sultanate of Oman, as per the 2017 survey, non-communicable diseases (NCD) represent a major public health issue and currently cause 185.75 deaths per 100,000 population in Oman.

To improve this outlook, an assembly of experts from across the region has been discussing ways to address the increasing burden of heart failure based on their real-world, professional experiences.

The report, also authored by the participants of the assembly, lays out their recommendations on how to reverse current trajectories by urgently improving awareness, diagnosis and prevention of heart failure in MEA.

Heart failure is associated with significant morbidity and mortality and considerably impacts patients' quality of life.

The average age a person will develop heart failure in the Middle East is significantly lower than elsewhere - Africa (53 years), the Middle East (56.4 years), North Africa (58.79 years), Asia (60 years), and Europe (70 years).

Heart failure incurs a substantial economic burden in the MEA region (total estimated costs is \$1.92 billion), with recurrent hospitalisations accounting for the bulk of the cost.

According to health experts, risk

factors such as diabetes, obesity, smoking and socioeconomic transition, as well as a marked **increased intake of fatty foods** and physical inactivity, contribute to the higher prevalence of heart failure in the region.

Lack of community-level awareness and high prevalence of associated conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, compounded by poor accessibility and affordability of healthcare, is a significant barrier to the prevention of heart failure in the region.

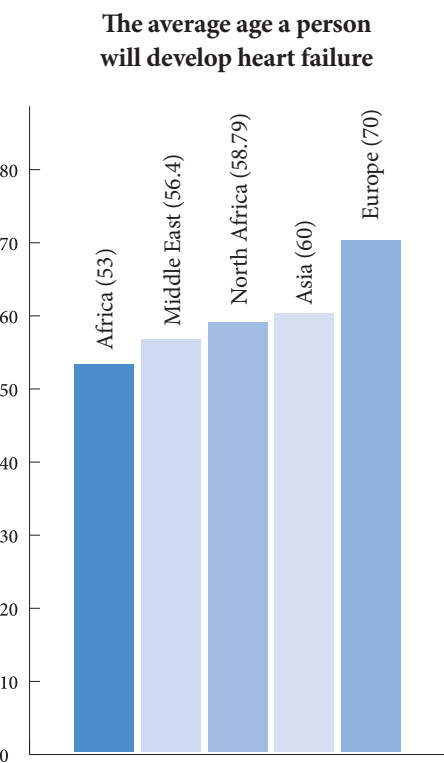
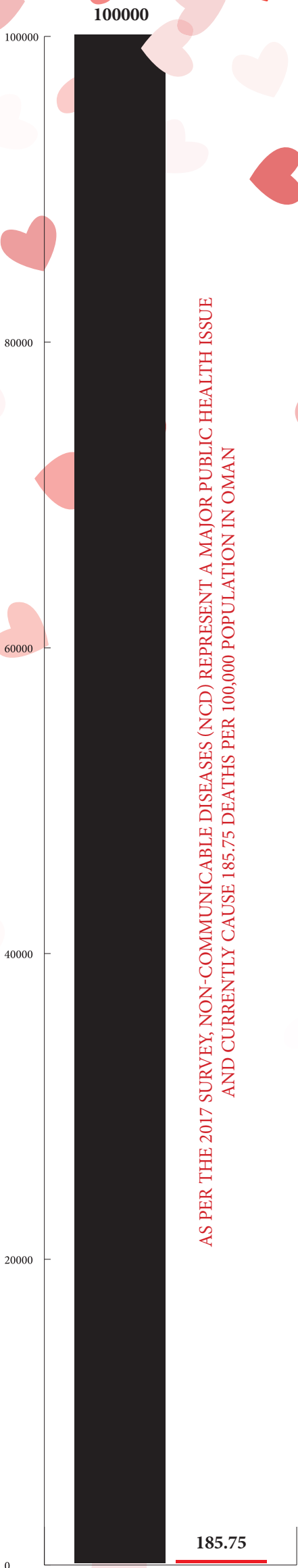
The wide variations in epidemiology, risk factors, clinical interventions and availability of resources across geographies warrant better insights into the region-specific practices.

There is a paucity of region-specific guidelines that would provide a blueprint of care. The scarcity of specifically trained care workers reduces the region's ability for early detection of at-risk patients.

Recommendations in the report were to prioritise heart failure and

its associated comorbidities, such as chronic kidney disease and type 2 diabetes, alongside other infectious diseases, develop region-specific guidelines on heart failure and monitor their implementation, and create local registries to increase the available data on heart failure, train health workers in the early identification of high-risk patients, such as people with hypertension and ischemic heart disease.

In this regard, a physical activity and community health course, organised by the Oman Olympic Academy (OOA), will start on Monday as part of the efforts to engage all groups, including specialists and workers in the health and physical fields, due to the increasing incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases), which are the leading cause of death in the world, with physical inactivity being the fourth leading risk factor for premature death globally.





Follow us on **LinkedIn**  
omanobserver

world

OMANDAILYOBSERVER

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 2 | 2022

5

# Violence as thousands rally in Baghdad

BAGHDAD: At least 28 civilians and security personnel were injured on Saturday in clashes in Baghdad, where thousands rallied to commemorate the third anniversary of street protests demanding reforms in the country.

Nineteen members of security forces were injured after “infiltrators among demonstrators” threw rocks, glass balls and Molotov cocktails at troops in the Iraqi capital, the military-linked Security media cell said.

Nine civilians were also injured in the violence, the



An Iraqi protester amid clashes with security forces at Al Jumhuriya bridge leading to the capital Baghdad's high-security Green Zone as they mark three years since nationwide demonstrations erupted against endemic corruption. — AFP

military added in a statement without elaborating.

Earlier on Saturday, security forces on Baghdad's Al Jumhuriya Bridge fired tear gas after dozens of demonstrators approached concrete barriers set up as part of security measures, causing many to suffer breathing problems, witnesses said.

Thousands of Iraqis from across the country have converged on Baghdad since the early hours of Saturday to mark the anniversary of the start of the 2019 mass protests.

— dpa

# Kabul classroom bombing death toll rises to 35

KABUL: The death toll of a bombing on a Kabul classroom has risen to 35, the UN said on Saturday, as Hazara women who bore the brunt of the attack staged a defiant protest against the “genocide” of their minority community.

On Friday, an attacker blew himself up in a Kabul study hall as hundreds of pupils were taking tests in preparation

for university entrance exams in the city's Dasht-e-Barchi area.

The neighbourhood is home to the Hazara community -- a historically oppressed group that has been targeted in some of Afghanistan's most brutal attacks in recent years.

“The latest casualty figures from the attack number at least 35 fatalities, with an additional 82 wounded,” the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said. More than 20 of the killed were girls and women, it said. The UN mission's casualty figure is higher than the toll Kabul authorities have given. — AFP

**MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**Advertisement No. (35/2022)**  
Muscat Municipality would like to announce that there is an amendment on the bids dates which were mentioned at the Advertisement No. (35/2022) dated 20/09/2022 as per the following:

| Serial | Bidding No. | Bidding Description                                                                                                       | Document Fee | Deadline for obtaining bidding docs. | Deadline for inquires submission | Deadline for submission |
|--------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1      | AB/05/2022  | Building & Operating of Luxury Camping Tenets in Hawiyat Najim "Bimmah Sinkhole" at Wilayat Qurayat in Muscat Governorate | 360/- OMR    | 16/11/2022                           | 20/11/2022                       | 23/11/2022              |
| 2      | AB/07/2022  | Manging & Operating of Innovative Activities in Hawiyat Najim "Bimmah Sinkhole" at Wilayat Qurayat in Muscat Governorate  | 360/- OMR    | 16/11/2022                           | 20/11/2022                       | 23/11/2022              |

Website: [www.mm.gov.om](http://www.mm.gov.om)

# North Korea fires ballistic missiles



A man walks past a television screen showing a news broadcast with file footage of a North Korean missile test, at a railway station in Seoul. — AFP

SEOUL: North Korea fired two ballistic missiles early on Saturday, South Korea's military said, the nuclear-armed country's fourth launch this week as Seoul, Tokyo and Washington ramp up joint military drills to counter Pyongyang.

South Korea, Japan and the US staged anti-submarine drills on Friday -- the first in five years -- just days after Washington and Seoul's navies conducted large-scale exercises in waters off the peninsula.

US Vice-President Kamala Harris was in Seoul on Thursday and toured the heavily fortified Demilitarised Zone that divides the peninsula, on a trip that aimed to underscore her country's “ironclad” commitment to South Korea's defence against the North.

With talks long stalled, Pyongyang has doubled down on its banned weapons programmes, conducting a record-breaking blitz of tests this year and revising its laws to declare itself an “irreversible” nuclear power.

South Korea's military said it had “detected two short-range missiles between 0645 and 0703 fired

With talks long stalled, Pyongyang has doubled down on its banned weapons programmes, conducting a record-breaking blitz of tests this year

from the Sunan area in Pyongyang into the East Sea”, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

The missiles “flew approximately 350 km at an altitude of 30 km at speed of Mach 6”, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement, calling the launches “a serious provocation”.

Tokyo also confirmed the launch, saying the missiles had landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zones.

Toshiro Ino, Japan's vice-defence minister, said the missiles “appear to have flown in irregular trajectories”.

Experts say the irregular trajectories indicate the missiles are capable of manoeuvring in flight, making them harder to track and intercept. — AFP

**TENDER NOTICE**

**The Ministry of Economy**  
**Announces the following tender:**

| Tender No. | Tender Title                                                                                                                                                          | Document Fees  | Last Date For Tender collection | Last Date For Tender Submission |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2022/6     | Request for Proposal (RFP) to Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Support, and Maintenance of Servers, Storage, DLP, Data Classification and XDR Solutions. | 25 Omani Rials | 6/10/2022                       | 13/11/2022                      |

**First** ● All specialized and interested companies that are registered with the Tender Board can participate and collect the specifications and conditions of the tender from the following website: [www.etendering.tenderboard.gov.om](http://www.etendering.tenderboard.gov.om). The bidders must submit their offers electronically via the website and attach an electronic copy of the temporary insurance in the form of a bank guarantee or a cheque certified by one of the banks operating in the Sultanate with a value of (1%) of the value of the tender submitted and valid for (90) days from the last date of submission of bids. It has to be addressed to HE Chairman of the Tender Committee of the Ministry of Economy.

**Second** ● Tenders that does not meet the above conditions shall not be considered. The ministry shall have the right to reject any tender, and shall not be obliged to award the tender for the lowest bid without giving reasons.

●

For inquiries regarding tenders, please contact through the website of the electronic tendering system: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>

For inquiries regarding the technical support of the electronic tendering system, please contact via e-mail and phone :

[etenderhd@mtc.gov.om](mailto:etenderhd@mtc.gov.om)

+ 96824402200

**Sultanate of Oman**  
**Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**  
**TENDERS NOTICE**

**The Tenders committee of Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources Announces the following Tenders:-**

| Tender No.                      | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Tender Documents Price (R.O) | Class       | Last Date for Collection of Documents | Last Date for Submission of Documents |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 28/2022/MAFWR/HQ-4-Recall - 1   | Supply and Installation of Hydroponic Systems for Rural Women's Homes                                                                                                                                                       | 25/-                         | Specialized | Thursday 29/9/2022                    | Monday 10/10/2022                     |
| 144/2022/MAFWR/HQ-10-Recall - 1 | Maintenance of CCTV System at Various Fisheries Harbour                                                                                                                                                                     | 25/-                         | Specialized | Thursday 29/9/2022                    | Monday 10/10/2022                     |
| 155/2022/MAFWR/HQ-13-Recall - 1 | Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works in Villas affiliated in the Directorate of Agricultural and Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources in North Al Batnah                                                                    | 25/-                         | Fourth      | Thursday 29/9/2022                    | Monday 10/10/2022                     |
| 545/2022/MAFWR/HQ-59            | Supply and Installation of ICPIMS and EIP System (RANDOX or Equivalent) in Central Laboratory of Food Safety                                                                                                                | 25/-                         | Specialized | Wednesday 5/10/2022                   | Tuesday 11/10/2022                    |
| 547/2022/MAFWR/HQ-60            | Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works at of Agriculture and Water Resources Department Clinic at Haima, Wusta Region                                                                                                         | 25/-                         | Third       | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 549/2022/MAFWR/HQ-61            | Maintenance and Repair of Al Malki Falaj at Nizar and Yaman Villages at Wilayat Izki In Al Dakhila Governorate                                                                                                              | 25/-                         | Fourth      | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 550/2022/MAFWR/HQ-62            | Supply and Installation of two sand filters at Mirbat Aquaculture Station                                                                                                                                                   | 25/-                         | Specialized | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 551/2022/MAFWR/HQ-63            | Supply and Installation of two freezing units for Cold Store at Mirbat Aquaculture Station                                                                                                                                  | 25/-                         | Specialized | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 553/2022/MAFWR/HQ-64            | Supply & Installation 2 nos. of Laboratory Microscopes for Fisheries Research Center at Musandam                                                                                                                            | 25/-                         | Specialized | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 555/2022/MAFWR/HQ-65            | Renting Cars for the project to Combat Marine Ghaf Trees in the General Directorate of Agricultural Wealth and Water Resources in Al Buraimi Governorate                                                                    | 25/-                         | Specialized | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 556/2022/MAFWR/HQ-66            | Consultancy Services for Feasibility Study and Detailed Design and Construction Supervision of Protection Scheme in Lima Village, Wilayat Khasab Sultanate of Oman                                                          | 300/-                        | First       | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 557/2022/MAFWR/HQ-67            | Maintenance of the Marine and Fisheries Science Center                                                                                                                                                                      | 25/-                         | Second      | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 558/2022/MAFWR/HQ-68            | Maintenance of Metal Roof for Fish Market at Suwaig Fishery Harbour                                                                                                                                                         | 25/-                         | Fourth      | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |
| 554/2022/MAFWR/HQ-13            | Removing and Leveling the Land of the Integrated Agriculture Project in the Wilayat of Al-Kamel and Al-Wafi of the General Directorate of Agricultural Wealth, Fisheries and Water Resources in South Sharqiyah Governorate | 25/-                         | Second      | Sunday 9/10/2022                      | Monday 31/10/2022                     |

- Interested Companies registered with Tender Board (in the above mentioned Grade) may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document.
- The value of the document will be paid & submitted on line on given website.
- The Tenderer should attach Bank Guarantee issued by any bank in the Sultanate of Oman (as required in the tender), and addressed to the Ministry of Agricultural, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources. And the bidders can contact the Esnad technical support team at the number listed below to find out how to request electronic guarantees from local banks.
- All correspondence pertaining to the tender inquiry must be online at e-tendering System.
- All correspondence pertaining to the e-tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phonenumbr: +968 24402200 or [etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om](mailto:etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om).

**TENDERS COMMITTEE**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources**

**Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care & Research Center**  
**Tender Advertisement**

**Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care & Research Centre**  
**announces the following tender:**

| Tender No.        | Tender Title                                                 | Site Visit Date                                          | Last date for Collection of Tender Document | Bid Submission Closing | Tender Fees |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| CCCRC/T/ 602/2022 | Design and Build External Wall Boundary For CCCRC            | 16/10/2022 at 10:00 AM, Meeting Point: SQCCRC Main Lobby | 13/10/2022                                  | 20/10/2022             | 70 OMR      |
| CCCRC/T/ 603/2022 | Design and Build Medical Gas Cylinder Store & Chemical Store | 17/10/2022 at 10:00 AM, Meeting Point: SQCCRC Main Lobby | 13/10/2022                                  | 19/10/2022             | 50 OMR      |

Qualified companies interested in participating in this tender shall collect the tender specifications from the date of this advertisement from the following address:

**Sultan Qaboos Comprehensive Cancer Care and Research Centre – Purchase Department.**

Biddings that meet the above requirements should be submitted in a sealed envelope (hardcopy & softcopy) and should be delivered and deposited in the tender box at SQCCRC.

**Please note:**

- Bids received after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, will not be considered.
- Queries/ clarifications should be submitted immediately, but not later than One week before the date of tender submission.
- For Queries you may Contact via e-mail: [purchase@ccrc.gov.om](mailto:purchase@ccrc.gov.om)
- The committee is not obliged to accept the lowest price of the bid or any other bid.



# Putin annexes Ukraine areas, Kyiv vows to fight back

KYIV: Ukrainian forces entered the eastern stronghold of Lyman on Saturday after encircling thousands of Russian troops, Kyiv said, in a battlefield rebuttal to the Kremlin a day after it proclaimed a swathe of its territory part of Russia.

The capture of Lyman would be a major setback for Moscow after President Vladimir Putin proclaimed the annexation of the Donetsk region, along with three other regions, at a ceremony on Friday that was condemned by Kyiv and the West as a farce.

“We’re already in Lyman, but there are battles,” Serhii Cherevatyi, spokesperson for Ukraine’s eastern forces, said.

Two grinning Ukrainian soldiers taped the yellow-and-blue national flag on to the “Lyman” welcome sign at the town’s entrance in Donetsk region’s north, a video posted by the president’s chief of staff showed.

“October 1. We’re unfurling our



A Russian reservist bids farewell to relatives before his departure for a base in the course of partial mobilisation of troops in the town of Gatchina in Leningrad Region, Russia. – Reuters

state flag and establishing it on our land. Lyman will be Ukraine,” one of the soldiers said, standing on the bonnet of a military vehicle.

Russia had 5,000 to 5,500 troops at Lyman but the number of encircled troops could be lower because of casualties, Cherevatyi

said.

“The Russian grouping in the area of Lyman is surrounded,” the spokesperson, he said on television.

The Russian Defence Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

As Ukraine forces enter Lyman, Russian troops are surrounded. Ukraine soldiers raise flag at Lyman’s entrance as battles rage in town, as it is the key logistics hub in eastern Donetsk region

Russia’s last operational update was on Friday evening. On Saturday, the ministry’s Telegram channel published a series of congratulatory messages, including one from Putin, to mark an army holiday, Ground Forces Day. Russian military bloggers said the loss of the town would be a serious setback and that it was obvious Moscow had taken the decision to abandon the town and pull out its forces.

Neither side’s battlefield assertions could be independently verified. — AFP

## HEAD OF UKRAINE N-POWER PLANT ARRESTED

MOSCOW: Russian authorities have informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the head of Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, Ihor Murashov, has been “temporarily detained to answer questions,” according to an IAEA spokesperson in Vienna.

According to Ukrainian sources, Murashov was abducted by Russian troops. The president of the

Ukrainian operating company Energoatom, Petro Kotin, said that the power plant boss had been stopped on the road by a Russian patrol at the Enerhodar nuclear power plant site the previous day, dragged out of the car and taken blindfolded to an unknown location.

“There are no findings on his fate,” Kotin told the Telegram news channel. He accused Russia of nuclear terrorism against the management and staff of the power plant. Murashov, who bears the main responsibility for the safe functioning and nuclear safety of the plant, must be released immediately, he said. Kotin also called on the IAEA head Rafael Grossi to press for Murashov’s release.

— dpa

## EU, AU condemn new coup in Burkina Faso

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Saturday condemned a new coup in Burkina Faso, the second one this year to hit the deeply poor and restive West African country.

The coup “puts in danger efforts to supervise a transition, undertaken for several months, notably on the part of the ECOWAS” regional grouping, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

The bloc called for authorities to respect agreements undertaken on July 3 “in order to accompany Burkina Faso to a return to constitutional order no later than July 1, 2024.”

“The European Union also deplores the degradation of the security and humanitarian situation in the country,” he said.

Junior officers toppled a junta leader on Friday, saying he had failed to fight attacks in the



Burkina Faso and a Russian flag are seen as young men demonstrate while Burkina Faso soldiers are seen deployed in Ouagadougou. – AFP

country.

Meanwhile, the African Union on Saturday condemned the “unconstitutional change of government” in Burkina Faso.

“The chairperson calls upon the military to immediately and totally refrain from any acts of

violence or threats to the civilian population, civil liberties, human rights,” the AU said in a statement, calling for the restoration of the constitutional order by July 2024.

AU chief Moussa Faki Mahamat said he was deeply

concerned about the resurgence of unconstitutional ousters in the West African nation and elsewhere on the continent.

In Burkina Faso’s capital, Ouagadougou, an uneasy calm reigned as soldiers in armoured vehicles and pickup trucks guarded the national television centre but traffic slowly resumed on arterial roads.

Shops slowly started reopening in the dusty and spread-out city, where pre-dawn gunfire on Friday around the presidential palace culminated in the latest coup, that drew wide condemnation.

Burkina Faso’s former colonial ruler France told its citizens in Ouagadougou, believed to number between 4,000 and 5,000, to stay home, while the European Union expressed “concern” at the unfolding events. —AFP

## UK to face severe railway disruption as strikes resume

LONDON: A 24-hour walkout by railway staff in Britain on Saturday was set to create severe disruption as strikes resumed following the mourning period for Queen Elizabeth II.

Members of four trade unions kicked off the action after workers halted work stoppages following the death of the queen on September 8.

It is the latest industrial action by rail workers demanding wage increases to keep pace with decades-high inflation amid a cost-of-living crisis.

Tens of thousands of staff in various industries — from the postal and legal systems to ports and telecommunications — have also gone on strike across Britain since the



Pedestrians walk past closed gates outside Euston Station as strike action by railway staff restarts. – AFP

summer.

Workers at Britain’s largest container port, Felixstowe in eastern England, are currently conducting a second eight-day walkout over pay and conditions that is only set to end on Wednesday. — AFP

سلطنة عُمان  
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات  
Sultanate of Oman  
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology

### إعلان مزايده

### Bidding Announcement

#### Develop, Manage and Operate Dhalkut Port in Dhofar Governorate

Internal investment committee at The Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology announces the following request for investment proposals for local and global companies specialized in developing, managing, and operating ports to participate and submit their investment proposals for developing, managing, and operating Dhalkut Port in Dhofar Governorate in the Sultanate of Oman

| NUMBER | DOCUMENT PURCHASING DATE | CLARIFICATION PERIODS   | CLOSING DATE           | DOCUMENT FEES                       |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1/2022 | 02/10/2022 – 16/10/2022  | 16/10/2022 – 30/10/2022 | 30/11/2022<br>00:12 PM | 500 Omani Rials<br>(non-refundable) |

- Document fee should be paid by a transfer only to the Ministry’s account number **032500136130017**
- The payment receipt must be sent to **investment@mtcit.gov.om**
- Investment proposal must be valid for at least 12 months and should be signed and stamped.
- The RFP document will be sent by E-mail only.
- All investment proposals should be sent as PDF to **investment@mtcit.gov.om**
- For any other inquiries please contact us through the following numbers:

| PHONE NUMBER         | E-mail                  |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 24685066<br>24685094 | investment@mtcit.gov.om |

@mtcitoman

www.mtcit.gov.om

Turkey renews threat to block Swedish, Finnish Nato bids

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned Turkey would not ratify the Nato membership bids of Sweden and Finland until the two Nordic countries “kept” promises they had made to Ankara.

“Until the promises made to our country are kept, we will maintain our principled position,” Erdogan said in a Parliament speech in Ankara.

“We are closely following whether the promises made by Sweden and Finland are kept or not, and of course, the final decision will be up to our great parliament,” he added.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February saw the two Nordic countries abandon decades of military non-alignment and in May apply to join Nato.

Although the Nordic countries hoped for a speedy entry, Turkey delayed the process by objecting to their membership.

Erdogan has accused both countries of being havens for Kurdish fighters. — AFP

### MUSCAT MUNICIPALITY

### Public Auction Announcement No. (36/2022)

Muscat Municipality, represented by the Auction Sale Committee, announces a public auction will be held to sell movables (various items) as per the following statement:

| Type of movables to be sold                                                                                                                                       | Auction’s site                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Light and heavy vehicles, equipment & motorcycles                                                                                                                 | The auction arena in Al Wadi Al Kabir in Wilayat Muttrah |
| Miscellaneous movables (electric generators, cooling tanks, air conditioners, refrigerated trucks, water coolers, mobile caravans, boats, furniture & iron scrap. |                                                          |

Those interested in participating in the auction have to comply with the conditions set out hereunder:

- Have to pay (4/- OMR) (Four Omani Rials) non-refundable, in addition to payment of a participation fee in the form of a temporary deposit (refundable) amounted to (500 OMR) (Five Hundred Omani Rials). The payment is to be made electronic at the Committee’s accountant, the Directorate General of Administrative & Financial Affairs at municipality’s headquarter in Darsait.
- The person who wins the auction is obligated to pay price of the movables in full once the auction has been placed upon them in addition to brokerage’s fees totaling (3%) of the total value of the items through electronic payment.
- The movables are to be sold as-is, and the Muscat Municipality shall not be held responsible for loss or damage incurred to any part thereof after the payment has been made nor does it holds any commitment with respect to that the description of any displayed item does not match. It also does not guarantee the validity or the technical status of the displayed vehicles and the movables. Participants shall inspect the movables in the indicated days.
- Sold movables are not returnable nor their values are to be decreased. Petition of any kind submitted in this regard shall not be accepted.
- The buyer is obligated to transfer, dismantle and remove the materials that have been awarded to him after making payment in full within a period not exceeding a week from the date of the purchase. They bear full responsibility against the movables not have been shifted during the indicated period. In the event that they have not been transferred during the designated period, the municipality may resell the items on their expenses.
- The date and location for inspecting and selling the movables are as follow:

|                                                                  |                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Location                                                         | The auction arena in Al Wadi Al Kabir in Wilayat Muttrah                                                        |
| Date/ time of inspection                                         | From 03/10/2022 to 05/10/2022<br>From 08:00 am to 01:00 pm                                                      |
| Date for submitting requests for the participation               | From 03/10/2022 to 05/10/2022                                                                                   |
| Location of submitting requests and paying fees of participation | Head office in Darsait at the Committee’s accountant, Directorate General of Administrative & Financial Affairs |
| Auction’s date                                                   | Tuesday 11/10/2022 at 7:00 am (extendable)                                                                      |
| Inquires and coordination                                        | Please contact the committee on (98070900)                                                                      |

Other terms

- The VAT specified in the law will be applied to successful bidder.
- It is not allowed to enter the auction arena until after showing the receipt of the subscription fee and amount of insurance.
- Muscat Municipality may cancel or defer the sale without providing any justification.
- The security deposit will not be refunded in cases:-
  - If he does not pay the value of the movables.
  - If he does not transfer the movables from the site within the specified period.

# Hurricane Ian leaves behind a staggering scale of wreckage in Florida

PATRICIA MAZZEI, NICHOLAS BOGEL-BURROUGHS, FRANCES ROBLES AND JACK HEALY

The extent of Hurricane Ian’s destruction became clearer as people across southwestern Florida — left without electricity, drinking water or inhabitable homes — began to assess the damage and gird for what Gov Ron DeSantis said would be a years long recovery.

The scale of the wreckage was staggering, even to Florida residents who had survived and rebuilt after other powerful hurricanes.

The storm pulverised roads, toppled trees, gutted downtown storefronts and set cars afloat, leaving a soggy scar of ruined homes and businesses from the coastal cities of Naples and Fort Myers to inland communities around Orlando.

Although state officials had not released a death toll by late in the day, DeSantis said on Thursday night that “we absolutely expect” to learn of storm-related fatalities as rescuers work through a backlog of 911 calls and scour the most devastated neighbourhoods.

More than 500 people in Charlotte and Lee Counties, the hardest hit, had been rescued, the Florida Division of Emergency Management said; the small town of Fort Myers Beach, on a barrier island just off the coast, appeared decimated.

Although Ian left Florida on Thursday afternoon as a tropical storm, South Carolina residents were bracing for lashing winds and heavy rain as it quickly became a hurricane again at sea; forecasters said it could strengthen again before doubling back onto land there by Friday.

Photos from several areas of the state showed homes crunched together in a chaotic jumble, or smashed into what looked like toothpicks. Fishing boats and pleasure cruisers had been hurled onto the ground as if they were bathtub toys. The streets were a perilous obstacle course of toppled trees and downed wires.

In North Fort Myers, where Marion Burkholder, 84, survived the storm by clambering into a dinghy inside a neighbour’s screened-in porch and floating up with the rising waters, Thursday brought dreaded news. Her carpets were sopping and her floors were covered with a dark-brown liquid. Her fridge lay on its side.

“Everything floated,” said Marvis Long, 96, who lives nearby. “The water was coming in just like waves in here.”

Mayors, sheriffs and other officials surveying the damage struggled to even describe its scope. The sheriff in Volusia County, near Orlando on the state’s east coast, said by text message that the coastal county was seeing “unprecedented flooding.” DeSantis said there had been “biblical” storm surge on Sanibel Island, normally a tourist haven of gleaming beaches and mangroves southwest of Fort Myers.

“The damage that was done has been historic,” DeSantis said in a briefing. “We’ve never seen a flood event like this. We’ve never seen storm surge of this magnitude.”

On Fort Myers Beach, a laid-back strip dotted with hotels, bars and restaurants that for many Southwest Florida residents offered a cherished escape from the mainland, the storm had laid waste to beloved landmarks, including the



Flooding in Port Charlotte, Florida last week.

fishing pier and Times Square, the communal gathering spot where sunset was celebrated each night. Several residents of the island reported not hearing from friends who rode out the storm there.

“When you look at Fort Myers Beach in particular, there’s no words to describe it,” Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno said after taking a helicopter tour of his county, which is just to the north of where Hurricane Ian came ashore as a Category 4 hurricane on Wednesday with winds up to 155 mph.

The causeway to nearby Sanibel Island had a missing section and a collapsed section, said Jared Moskowitz, Florida’s former emergency management chief, who flew over the area.

“Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel Island look like they will need to be 80 per cent rebuilt,” he estimated.

The storm’s heavy blow to infrastructure complicated efforts to gauge the damage — early estimates said insured losses could reach up to \$40 billion — and to reach hard-hit barrier islands, where homes and businesses were now heaps of wood pulp and broken concrete. Cell service was spotty or non-existent up and down the coast, another agonizing impediment to residents’ efforts to seek help or reach missing family members.

“You’re powerless to help,” said Julie Hittle, who lives in Texas and has been anxiously waiting for updates from her brother, who fled his flooding apartment in Naples by crawling out a window and onto the roof of a minivan.

When a flicker of cell service returned on Thursday

evening, her brother, Chip Aldridge, 56, recounted how he, his fiancée and dog, Kobi, had walked 2 miles through the storm and ended up at a La Quinta Inn, where they were now staying because their apartment was a mildewy shambles. Aldridge had lost everything in Hurricane Irma in 2017 and was now facing the prospect of starting over, once again.

“We’re survivors,” Aldridge said in a telephone interview.

“Last night was shock and just exhaustion. This morning was, OK, what’s next? Tomorrow we go face the actual reality.”

At least 2.6 million people remained without power on Thursday, although Florida officials said there were 20,000 utility workers poised to start getting power back on.

The storm severed sections of two bridges connecting mainland Florida to barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico and reduced some roads to rubble while littering others with trees and power lines. Rescuers were arriving by air and sea to reach people who had not evacuated.

Across the region, people waded back home and trudged up debris-covered streets that had been raging waterways just a day earlier to see what, if anything, had survived.

People who decided not to evacuate described harrowing escapes through chest-high floodwaters. Some made it out on a kayak or jet skied down a four-lane road. Some huddled on top of cars. Some had to flee to their second floors and watched couches and furniture float through their living rooms.

Photos from several areas of the state showed homes crunched together in a chaotic jumble, or smashed into what looked like toothpicks

# This will help get you through exasperating airport delays

Flight cancellations. Site visitors jams. Practice delays. Is any mode of transportation protected from massively irritating obstacles?

It appears not. Airline and vacationers alike have felt the results of elevated demand and employees shortages all summer season.

If that is the new regular of journey, the one technique to make it by way of infinite hours stranded in a terminal is to plan forward. By packing the good carry-on, you’ll have all the pieces you could make the delay slightly extra tolerable. Right here’s the gear we’d carry to get by way of the stress and frustration of a journey delay. Most airports and prepare terminals have charging stations, but when the world is full of pissed off vacationers making an attempt to juice up their gadgets, chances are you’ll not have the ability to discover a free outlet.



ELISSA SANCI

Bringing alongside a moveable energy financial institution ensures that your gadgets don’t die earlier than your departure. Compact and light-weight, the Zendure SuperMini 20W doesn’t take up a lot house in your carry-on, and it has the power to cost a number of gadgets directly, so no must play favourites between your cellphone and pill.

## ZENDURE SUPERMINI 20W

This energy financial institution will be the measurement of a deck of playing cards, however it nonetheless accommodates sufficient juice to cost most smartphones (and different small digital gadgets) as much as thrice.

## A COMPACT JOURNEY PILLOW AND AN EFFICIENT EYE MASKS

When you’ve got hours (or a complete night time) to attend out earlier than a flight, a nap could assist stave off crankiness. A comfy journey pillow, together with an eye masks to dam out harsh fluorescent lights, can flip an uncomfortable scenario right into a barely extra comfy one.

The Trtl Pillow, best for facet sleepers, helps your head from one facet. It’s basically a shawl with a plastic plate in it, so it packs right down to the scale of a sandwich and lays flat towards the again of your bag. The Alaska Bear sleep masks, made of soppy mulberry silk, breathes even when pressed towards the pores and skin and blocks exterior gentle effectively. You may not get the most effective sleep of your life, however some relaxation is best than none.

## TRTL PILLOW

This space-saving journey pillow is right for facet sleepers: It’s a fleece scarf with a built-in one-sided plastic brace. It’s

If this is the new normal of travel, the only way to make it through endless hours stranded in a terminal is to plan ahead

not best for folk who shift place whereas they sleep, however side-sleepers will love its consolation and comfort.

## A RELAXING RECREATION FOR THE NINTENDO CHANGE

Sure video games might be a good way to calm down. Commerce the chaos of the airport for a chilled island that’s all your individual. Within the Nintendo Change favourite Animal Crossing: New Horizons, you might be plunked down onto a abandoned island that you simply assemble over time. If the thought of spending a number of hours fishing, gardening and catching bugs seems like a soothing reprieve, this recreation (or one thing related) could also be for you.

## A TECHNIQUE TO LEARN (OR HEAR) TO BOOKS

In case you lean on books to get you thru bouts of boredom, an e-reader is monumental. We advocate the Amazon Kindle Paperwhite Children: It has waterproof (hardware), a large, reasonably priced e book catalog, and the power to connect with your library. The Paperwhite Children Kindle can also be capable of play audio books from Audible should you’re a hybrid reader who likes to change between the 2.

For folk who strongly choose audio books, an Audible subscription is right. Every month, subscribers get entry to 1 audiobook and two Audible originals.

All you want is an effective guide and a pair of noise-cancelling headphones to get pleasure from.

# Good habits and bad habits



**Dr Hamed al Sinawi**  
@alsinawi

The writer is a senior consultant psychiatrist at Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

Many of us are struggling to maintain a healthy lifestyle by exercising regularly and sticking to a healthy diet, yet this can be challenging sometimes so we find ourselves going back to our bad habits.

Charles Duhigg’s best selling book ‘The power of habits’, explores how habits are formed and how we can adopt new good habits and get rid of bad ones.

Such habits are not limited to personal issues but can involve organisations as well. The author explains how habits are often linked to some form of motivation, we go to the gym to lose weight and have better body shape.

He explains it by the simple equation (Cue > Behaviour >

Reward). So in the previous example the cue is that going to the gym keeps you fit, you go to the gym regularly (behaviour), you become fit (reward).

Most of us understand this link but certain outside forces discourage us from keeping up with regular visits to the gym.

The second point the author mentions is that one good habit can motivate the organisation to adopt other good habits as it creates positive energy.

Organisations that announce the employee of the month who gets recognised and rewarded not just financially but psychologically.

Such a small initiative can motivate others to work hard to get the same reward.

‘WE ALL HAVE SOME HABITS THAT WE NEED TO KEEP AND OTHER WE NEED TO GET RID OFF’

A BESTSELLER FROM CHARLES DUHIGG EXAMINES THE POWER OF HABITS IN SHAPING OUR PSYCHOLOGY”

The third point explains the power of routines.

Think about the people who start their day by jogging then eating a healthy breakfast before heading to work. Such a routine makes it easier for them to keep up the good habit of jogging every morning.

The fourth point emphasises the

importance of work-life balance, something we are struggling to keep with the advances of technology and how you can access your work desktop from your smartphone.

Therefore using psychological techniques such as mindfulness helps the person keep focusing on what’s in front of him or her, so when at work you are 100 per cent at work, not ruminating on personal issues and while at home, you are fully focused on your personal life.

The fifth point talks about the link between positive habits and self-discipline which is a key issue to success.

You study hard before your examinations, you stop yourself from partying or going out with friends so this eventually pays off

and you pass with good grades. Getting rid of bad habits is also challenging, like smoking and eating junk food or spending longtime one social media.

In order to break such habits one needs to understand their origin and what purpose they serve and what enforces them.

For example if you eat a lot of junk food it is because your friends are doing the same, hence the peer pressure.

Or is it that you have no time to prepare healthy meals, hence it’s time management that you need to focus on or is the food itself provides you with comfort as you escape facing your problems, hence the need for reflection and using problem solving techniques.

## Forecast of heavy rains in Oct raises concern about India’s crops

RAJENDRA JADHAV AND MAYANK BHARDWAJ

India is likely to receive above-average rainfall in October, an official with the state-run weather office said last week, posing risks for summer-sown crops such as rice and the planting of wheat.

Monthly rainfall is expected at 115 per cent of the long-term average, Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director-General of the India Meteorological Department, told a virtual news conference.

Heavy rains in October could damage ripening crops such as rice, pulses, cotton and soybeans, and may delay wheat planting in parts of India, the world’s leading producer of an array of farm goods. Scant rain in eastern and northern India in the first half of the June-September monsoon season had already hit rice planting, forcing the government to cut output estimates and restrict exports to ensure adequate supplies for the country’s 1.4 billion people.

The curbs came on the heels of a ban on overseas sales of wheat after a sudden rise in temperatures in March and April shrivelled the crop. Although monsoon rains were patchy in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and parts of West Bengal - some of India’s major rice-producing states - overall summer rains were 6 per cent higher than average during the four-month season as central and southern regions received torrential downpours.

India is increasingly seeing uneven monsoon rains, raising concerns about food output.

Rains are also getting more intense during the tail end of the season, and lingering.

This year, the monsoon could last longer than normal, especially in northern India, Mohapatra said.

Although a longer monsoon tends to help winter crops by leaving the soil moist and replenishing reservoirs, unusually heavy downpours hamper agricultural activities.

“Crops are getting ready for harvesting and they need dry weather,” said a New Delhi-based dealer with a global trading firm.

“Excessive rainfall could damage crops, especially rice in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal,” said the trader who did not wish to be identified in line with his company’s policy.

Within weeks of harvesting the rice crop, millions of Indian farmers start planting wheat in October. Growers harvest the wheat crop in March and April. — Reuters

# Putin’s speech on annexation paints a stark picture of a face-off with the West



**ANTON TROIANOVSKI**

The writer is a Soviet-born American journalist

Russian President Vladimir Putin has asserted that Russia would take control of four Ukrainian regions and decried the United States for “Satanism” in a speech that marked an escalation in Moscow’s war against Ukraine and positioned Russia, in starkly confrontational terms, as fighting an existential battle with Western elites he deemed “the enemy.”

Speaking to hundreds of Russian lawmakers and governors in a grand Kremlin hall, Putin said that the residents of the four regions — which are still partially controlled by Ukrainian forces — would become Russia’s citizens “forever.”

He then held a signing ceremony with the Russian-installed heads of those regions to start the official annexation process, before clapping hands with them and chanting “Russia! Russia!”

Putin’s address came against a backdrop of Russian embarrassments on the battlefield, where Ukraine’s forces have scored stunning victories in recent weeks in the east.

Even as the Russian leader spoke, officials said the Ukrainian army had moved closer to encircling the Russian-occupied town of Lyman, a strategically important hub in the Donetsk region that lies inside the territory Putin is claiming.

Even by Putin’s increasingly antagonistic standards, the speech was extraordinary, a combination of bluster and menace that mixed conspiratorial riffs against the American-led “neocolonial system” with an appeal to the world to see Russia as the leader of an uprising against US power.

He referred to “the ruling circles of the so-called West” as “the enemy,” a word he rarely uses in reference to the West — and struck a tone of spiteful anger and defiance.

“Not only do Western elites deny national sovereignty and international law,” he said in the 37-minute address. “Their hegemony has a pronounced character of totalitarianism, despotism and apartheid.”

Western leaders have condemned



Russian President Putin is seen at Red Square as he addresses a rally and a concert marking the annexation of four regions of Ukraine Russian troops occupy in central Moscow. — AFP

PUTIN’S ADDRESS CAME AGAINST A BACKDROP OF RUSSIAN EMBARRASMENTS ON THE BATTLEFIELD, WHERE UKRAINE’S FORCES HAVE SCORED STUNNING VICTORIES IN RECENT WEEKS IN THE EAST

Russia’s annexations as illegal, and the “referendums” that preceded them — purporting to show local support for joining Russia — as fraudulent. The Biden administration announced new sanctions in response to the Kremlin’s move. President Joe Biden was quick to denounce Putin’s actions to annex the four territories, saying they “have no legitimacy” and adding that “the United States will always honour Ukraine’s internationally recognised borders.”

Ukraine’s government has rebuffed Putin’s claims and vowed to retake territory captured by Russia in the east and south.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy responded to Putin’s speech on Friday by announcing that he was fast-tracking his country’s application to the Nato alliance. In a video, he accused the Kremlin of trying to “steal something that does not belong to it”

“Ukraine will not allow that,” he said.

Putin insisted that Russia’s position on annexing the four territories was non-negotiable, adding that the country would defend them “with all the forces and means at our disposal.”

“I call on the Kyiv regime to immediately cease fire and all military action,” he said, and for the Ukrainian government “to return to the negotiating table.”

“But we will not discuss the decision of the people of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson,” he went on, referring to the four Ukrainian regions being annexed. “It has been made.

Russia will not betray it.”

Putin cast the conflict with the West in even more severe terms than in previous speeches, reeling off centuries of Western military actions to denounce the US-led world order as fundamentally evil, corrupt and set on Russia’s destruction.

“The repression of freedom is taking on the outlines of a ‘reverse religion,’ of real Satanism,” Putin said, asserting that liberal Western values on matters like gender identity amounted to a “denial of man.”

But Putin offered few new details on the matter that is now perhaps of greatest concern in Western capitals — whether, and at what point, he may be prepared to use weapons of mass destruction to force Ukraine to capitulate. — New York Times

Don't worry, and be incredibly happy!



Ray Petersen  
r.j.petersen52@gmail.com

The writer is a media consultant

I have been, at different times in my life, like most of us, a worrier! However, if there is one outstanding learning in this often entertaining, sometimes chaotic, remarkably diverse, always well-intentioned life of mine, it's that it is no use worrying! What will be will be, or "Que sera sera," sounds and looks Spanish, but

is actually of Italian origin. Apparently it is an English mispronunciation of the Italian "che sara sara," that has taken root in the English context, partly due to the Doris Day standard of the same name, which was the theme tune to the film, 'The Man Who Knew too Much,' from 1956, the song winning the Academy Award for the Best Original Song. The chorus of "Que sera sera, whatever will be, will be. The future's not ours to see. Que Sera Sera," has become iconic, and is one of those tunes that, having heard a few words, you will complete the line, and it will be stuck with you all day.

Anyway, we do worry. We are a generation of worriers, as none has before, and we can blame some of that on the anxieties of the global pandemic, where we both worried about getting Covid-19, and made ourselves ill, or we couldn't care less about it, and made those around us anxious. It was a strange situation, something unseen was attacking us.

THE WORRIES WE COMMONLY FALL VICTIM TO, ARE RELATIVELY MINOR, OFTEN STUPID, INCONSEQUENTIAL CONCERNS THAT WE SHOULDN'T WASTE OUR TIME OR ENERGY ON

Ironically, most of us were more concerned about infecting, or passing the virus to our loved ones, rather than for ourselves, which is a positive perspective in many ways.

However, the worries we commonly fall victim to, are relatively minor, often stupid, inconsequential concerns that we shouldn't waste our time or energy on... and yet, that's exactly what we do. An expert in Clinical Behaviour, Angela Fields, wrote last year that the transitions from childhood to adolescence, then adolescence to adulthood, and those that follow in terms of relationship development, parenthood and the like, have become significantly more challenging, and require more support than ever.

The things that worry us, that keep us awake, are often the least important, and if we try to think of the things we were worrying about yesterday, we won't remember! Hmmmm, I wonder if we will worry about that! Winston Churchill recalled a man who had so many troubles in his life, who looked back on all of his worries and reflected that most actually never, ever happened, while another famous inspirational figure, Dale Carnegie, commented that "if you can't sleep, do something! It's the worry that stops you sleeping, not the lack of sleep!" The thing is, that despite what the experts or celebrities say, much of what the younger generation exhibit as boldness and certainty, is actually false bravado. They don't know! They are just making it up as they go along, and the similarly facile social media support for inanity simply convinces them of the 'right' of their perspective.

Bluff and bluster, feeding volatility, follow... yet again, meaningless, in terms of right and wrong, and though difficult to justify, on the flimsiest of pretences, will be fought for most adamantly! So how can you teach yourself to worry less? It's easy to say "just chill..." but not so easy to do, and with the best of intentions, telling someone that they must will just wind them up more. What should happen is to approach it from a different perspective, maybe by helping them understand that worrying just makes you tired! Also, identification of what is a genuine problem, and what is truly inconsequential, and not a concern, is important. Finally, we must all be patient, change doesn't happen in five minutes, it may take months, as this is a form of therapy, or intervention.

The key though, is to keep the objective in sight, and that not worrying about progress can be contagious! "Worry," someone said, "has about as much effect as trying to drive through a dead end street." It ain't gonna work, and it ain't gonna happen.



FESTIVAL RETURNS

People participate in the Bang Neow Shrine procession during the annual vegetarian festival, observed by Taoist devotees from the Thai-Chinese community in the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, in Phuket, Thailand, on Saturday. - Reuters

The faith-based Reaganomics of Liz Truss



CHRIS PATTEN

The author is the last British governor of Hong Kong and a former EU commissioner for external affairs, is Chancellor of the University of Oxford and the author of The Hong Kong Diaries

The death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II united the British people in grief, highlighting the bonds that hold the United Kingdom together: a shared sense of decency, purpose, and fairness.

But that was days ago. Since then, the UK has found itself on a new political landscape, with a new king and a new government unlike any in recent memory.

The government of Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss is neoliberal to its core. Its recently unveiled plan to fight inflation and stimulate economic growth through sweeping tax cuts and deregulations is a hodgepodge of Thatcher-era theories fashioned from a thousand free-market think-tank pamphlets.

It is no wonder that the government's fiscal plan caused the pound to drop to its lowest level ever against the US dollar this week. The plan is ideological and reckless.

It may trigger a full-blown economic crisis, and its authors will pay a political price for their role in implementing it.

But at least now we finally know what Truss stands for. Ever since she became a prominent political figure 12 years ago, Truss has been a shapeshifter.

She started as a Liberal Democrat before becoming a Conservative, and she voted to remain in the European Union before championing Brexit.

As a minister, it is hard to think of anything she accomplished. She signed a few EU trade deals as Secretary of State for International Trade, but most of those were rollovers. In fact, the most remarkable thing about Truss's political career is that she seemingly managed to rise to power merely by ventriloquising boilerplate Tory sentiments.

When the time came to pick Boris Johnson's successor as Conservative leader, Truss won relatively few endorsements from her fellow Tory MPs, but defeated former Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak when the vote shifted to rank-and-file party members. She did so by blandly repeating slogans that appealed to a predominantly elderly, white, male, and middle-class group of Europhobic electors, most of them from Southeast England.

This is an odd way of choosing a party leader, let alone a prime minister.

Nevertheless, despite her unlikely victory, Truss did not attempt to reach out to those who had not supported her. When forming her new government, competence and experience appear to have mattered far less than personal loyalty.

But if until recently it seemed that Truss was driven solely by political ambition, her government's "mini-budget" proposal sheds light on her deeper ideological affinities.

Ten years ago, Truss wrote a book titled Britannia Unchained with a group of fellow right-wing MPs. There was nothing particularly original about the book, which bore the stamp of free-market think-tanks like the Institute of Economic Affairs.

It was the sort of text that is regularly churned out by ambitious young MPs who want to be taken seriously as future policymakers.

Today, it is mainly remembered for accusing British workers of being "among the worst idlers in the world."

But it also advocated a warmed-over version of trickle-down economics, whereby cutting taxes for the rich and scrapping business regulations would reverse the UK's decline, spur growth, and turn the country into Singapore-on-Thames.

THE UK GOVERNMENT'S NEW FISCAL PLAN IS AS RECKLESS AS IT IS IDEOLOGICAL. IN THE FACE OF RECESSION AND SURGING PRICES, PRIME MINISTER LIZ TRUSS AND HER CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT HAVE CHOSEN TO DISREGARD FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FAVOUR OF OUTDATED NEOLIBERAL THEORIES, RAISING THE RISK OF A FULL-BLOWN ECONOMIC CRISIS.

Can anyone still seriously believe this? Apparently, Truss can.

The new prime minister immediately agreed to sack the well-regarded Tom Scholar, the most senior civil servant in the Treasury, and appointed Kwasi Kwarteng - her Britannia Unchained co-author - as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Earlier this month, the new government announced a large and necessary package

to help households and businesses pay their skyrocketing energy bills this winter - a measure that will most likely have to be repeated, given that the war in Ukraine is expected to keep energy prices high.

Kwarteng then announced a plan for a massive tax cut that would mainly benefit corporations and high-income households. The government's tax cuts ostensibly aim to stimulate economic growth. But in effect, they represent a departure from longstanding Conservative Party principles like fairness and fiscal prudence.

The tax cuts will help the rich far more than the poor, who will be hit harder by surging energy prices, and will likely lead to an enormous increase in government borrowing. Moreover, the government has refused the Labour Party's demand to fund the energy relief programme by taxing energy companies' windfall profits.

The combined cost of these measures has naturally spooked markets, causing the UK's borrowing costs to soar. And with the pound in free fall, interest rates are also sure to rise.

Yet, in the face of surging prices and a recession, the UK's new Conservative government has decided to disregard its predecessors' efforts to practice fiscal responsibility.

Instead, it seems to rely on the faith-based Reaganomics that the United States discarded years ago, in defiance of experience and available evidence.

One former Conservative minister asked rhetorically whether Truss's plans were brilliant or crazy. So far, the evidence leans heavily towards the latter.

But if this experiment is as disastrous as it seems, Truss and her government will not be its only victims. Our children, who will be left to pay off a mountain of debt, will suffer the consequences of this government's foolish profligacy.

© Project Syndicate, 2022



# sport

Follow us on  
omanobserver.om/sports



## ARSENAL STAY TOP WITH DERBY WIN AS TOTTENHAM SELF- DESTRUCT

**LONDON:** Arsenal meted out their usual punishment to north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur at The Emirates with Thomas Partey, Gabriel Jesus and Granit Xhaka all on target in a 3-1 win to stay top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Spurs' Emerson Royal only added to the visitors' misery when he was sent off in the second half for a reckless tackle on Gabriel Martinelli.

Harry Kane's first-half equaliser for Tottenham saw him set yet more scoring records, but his side self-destructed after halftime as their 12-year wait for a league win in the fixture continued.

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal have now won seven of their opening eight games and lead the standings by four points with second-placed Manchester City facing Man Utd on Sunday.

An absorbing derby with top-spot up for grabs was evenly poised after Partey's sublime 20th minute opener was cancelled out by Kane's penalty just past the half-hour mark -- making him the first player to score 100 away goals in the Premier League.

But Arsenal were gifted back the lead in the 49th minute when a dreadful mix-up between Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris and defender Cristian Romero allowed Jesus the easiest of tap-ins.

Royal was then red-carded in the 62nd minute for a needless kick out at Martinelli deep in Arsenal's half, and five minutes later Xhaka swept in Arsenal's third to leave Tottenham reeling.

There was a celebratory mood around the stadium after that as Arsenal moved to 21 points.

Previously unbeaten Tottenham could have gone top with a win but have now managed only one victory in their last 30 league visits to Arsenal. They are third with 17 points.

Tottenham will complain about the harsh decision to send off Royal, but they can have no complaints about the result as they again underperformed away at their fierce rivals.

They have lost five of their last six league matches away to Arsenal despite finishing above them for the past six seasons.

"From the first second I think we were the better team," Xhaka said. "After we conceded we were struggling a little bit, but in the second half we were much better, and I am so happy to score my first derby goal and help the team to win."

A typically frantic start to the game saw Gabriel Martinelli hit the outside of the post for Arsenal while at the other end fellow Brazilian Richarlison was denied by Aaron Ramsdale.

Partey was an injury doubt ahead of the game but produced a moment of stunning quality to put his side in front.

Ben White rolled the ball across to him outside the area and the Ghana midfielder curled a right-footer beyond Lloris's dive.

Tottenham looked dangerous on the counter-attack and Ivan Perisic lashed a good chance wide shortly before Richarlison was fouled in the area by Gabriel.

From the penalty spot, Kane calmly beat Ramsdale down the middle for a record-extending 15th goal in the north London derby and 44th in London derbies overall, taking him past Thierry Henry's record of 43. For a while Arsenal were rattled and Tottenham looked increasingly confident, but everything changed after the interval.

Tottenham began the second half in sloppy fashion, and when Bukayo Saka fired in a shot, Lloris parried it out to Romero who bundled the ball back towards his keeper, only for it to squirm out of the Frenchman's grasp just enough for Jesus to convert.

It was a sweet moment for the Brazilian, whose fifth goal of the season sent a reminder to his national side's manager Tite, who left him out of the squad last month. Tottenham then imploded after Royal's sending off, and Arsenal's Xhaka, back in his home crowd's favour again, beat Lloris with a low shot after a Martinelli dribble, persuading a trickle of Tottenham fans to begin heading home early. — **Reuters**

# JUNAID, SRIVATSAN POST KEY WINS

RAWDA BEAT HANAN KHALIL IN ASIAN AMATEUR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



**ADIL AL BALUSHI**  
MUSCAT, OCT 1

As the Asian Amateur Chess Championship gets closer to the final stage, the competitions get much tougher among the participants at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

The men's section is led by top three ranked players — Kyrgyzstan's Asan Kushof, Lebanon's Mahmoud Maasrani and Pakistan's Suhail Junaid.

No 3 Suhail emerged with a crucial win over Palestine's Othman Jardat 1-0 and claimed two points while India's Srivatsan Karthikeyan edged his rival Owlad Ehsan of Iran 1-0 (two points). Oman's Salim al Amri suffered a 1-0 loss against

Iranian Fooladi Behrooz (two points).

In other fixtures, Oman's players registered mixed results in the second round of the championship as Salim al Amri registered a win over his teammate Imad al Balushi while Mahad al Amri won against Salim Issa. Musallam al Amri managed to defeat Syrian player Ameer Rafaa while Ameen al Ansi beat Said al Mamari. Oman's Anas al Darwashi recorded a win over India's Askat Danag.

The women's section is led by top seed Emirati Rawda al Sarkal, Palestine's Iman Sawan and Salma al Khelaifi from Qatar. Iman Sawan suffered a loss against Sri Lanka's Abeysinghe H



M H Janadani 1-0 (two points). Rawda al Sarkal beat Hanan Khalil from Palestine 1-0 (two points) while India's Binoj Shybi stunned Moza al Mansouri from

UAE 1-0 ((two points). The second round of the tournament was attended by Varun Pankaj, Kairavi Pankaj Khimji and in presence of OCC officials.

## SPECIAL OCCASION

Mehrdad Pahlevanzadeh, Arbiters committee head from Iran, said that the tournament is a very special occasion for the amateur players to compete.

"Many players who are attending this event are not ranked as professional players. However, some of them are making efforts to join international amateur events regularly. For Asia, we have been organising the amateur events for many years. The players in this event are rated under 2000. These events were impacted with the Covid pandemic for the past two years. Last year, Oman represented by Oman Chess Committee (OCC) had organised the event online and this year over the board as everybody joined the

tournament physically and are enjoying the event," he added.

Pahlevanzadeh explained that Asian Amateur Chess Championship has two sections including open and women categories. "In the Open section, ladies can join in the event while in the women's section, it is dedicated for them only. There are 146 players from 20 countries in the Open section and this is a record while in the women's section, there are 51 players from 13 countries. Thanks to OCC for providing all the facilities as everybody is enjoying the hospitality and the venue is covered with good lighting. It is a very special occasion and Muscat delivered a perfect edition of the tournament," he concluded.

## Al Harthi returns from Nice Côte d'Azur by UTMB

Oman's long-distance runner, Hamed al Harthi, has returned from the Nice Côte d'Azur by UTMB race with a lot of learnings. The race which started in the snowy peaks of the French Alps to the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea in Nice had its diverse set of challenging conditions but determined Al Harthi pushed the limits to complete 115km out of the 165km distance in 33 hours but had to withdraw due to injury. From the start to the withdrawal point, Hamed accumulated a total elevation of 6,500 metres, with the conditions ranging from terrestrial rains, slippery slopes to frost, but with 51km still to go he was left with no option but to stop running.

He said, "Immediately after the start of the race there was a very steep hill with 1,600 metres in elevation, from the summit of 2,600 metres we crossed the peak in extreme cold conditions



and I fell a couple of times on the rocks. At night the weather became treacherous, and I could not feel my fingers. After more

than 115km the pain in my hands and the blisters in my feet was too much and unbearable, so I decided to withdraw to prevent further



injuries." "It was tough, very challenging, but I have learned a lot and will continue to train for the next challenge," he added.

Oman was also represented by a host of star runners and promising athletes like Saud al Nasibi, Naama al Hashhmi, Sami al Saidi, Essam

al Zadjali, Issa al Abri, Hamed al Qassabi and Yahya al Abri, who all gave their best performance in tough ultra run.

Despite this setback, 64-year-old Hamed is certain this experience will not be the last of his illustrious ultra-marathon career. Speaking upon his return to Oman, he was enthusiastic about learning a lot from this race and his desire to continue training. Hamed is a lifelong runner and has finished many of the world's most challenging races, including Oman by UTMB in 2018, Argentina's

Ushuaia by UTMB in 2019 and UTMB Mont Blanc 2021. He has also reached the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro and completed the epic 560km 'Border to Coast' challenge from Um Zumul, where the borders of Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates converge, to Sur in eight days. He was supported by Vodafone Oman in this venture in Nice, France.



## ICC U19 Men’s CWC Division 2 Asia Qualifier

**MUSCAT:** Singapore and Hong Kong recorded convincing victories on day two of the ICC U19 Men’s Cricket World Cup Division 2- Asia Qualifier at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) grounds in Al Amerat on the outskirts of capital Muscat on Friday.

A strokeful century by Sidhant Srikanth and a half-century by Aaryan Modi powered Singapore to a convincing 155-run win over Qatar while Ahan Trivedi’s five-wicket haul guided Hong Kong to a nine-wicket win over Thailand in Group B opening round matches.

Opting to bat first at the OCA 1 ground, Singapore skipper Jeevan Santhanam’s decision seemed to have backfired. Qatar bowlers met with early success as Singapore lost Santhanam and Vihaan Maheshwari with the total at 17. Pratham Somani (16) and Abhuday Chhajer (29) tried to rebuild the innings but by the 20th over were back in the pavilion.

It was Srikanth who then got the team firmly back on track as he first shared a 63-run fifth wicket stand with Pranav Maheshwari (23).

After Pranav’s exit, Srikanth found an able ally in Aaryan Modi and both the batters sent the Qatar bowlers on a leather hunt as they smashed them all around the park to share a 133-run sixth-wicket partnership.

Modi’s 41-ball 53 knock ended when he was run out and Srikanth in an effort to accelerate departed soon after for a 117-ball 122 with the total at 289. His inning was studded with eight boundaries and a maximum. Singapore managed to cross the 300-run mark in the penultimate over and finished their innings at 310/9.

For Qatar, Aryan Ramesh Surani and Riyan Khan took three wickets each. Chasing a formidable target, Qatar’s opener Anantha Madhavan started on a positive note, slamming three boundaries but his knock was brief and his 10-ball 13 ended when he was caught by Aaryan Menon off his own bowling in the third over.

Qatar suffered a double blow in the seventh over when Aryaveer Chaudhary sent back Jayden

Fernando and Hetul Patel to leave them at 27/3. At

the innings’ halfway stage, Singapore had a firm grip on the match with Qatar down to 74/5.

The team’s hopes were all but over when Taha Shahbaz was caught by Chaudhary off Santhanam in the 40th over for a 100-ball 77 and the team’s total at 144/7. With the target beyond reach for the tailenders, Qatar was bowled out for 155 in 42.1 overs.

Santhanam was the pick of bowlers with 4/16 while Chaudhary claimed two wickets. Pranav, Menon and Adwitya Bhargava bagged a wicket each.

Man of the match Srikanth said: “I’m very pleased with the way we dominated the game in all aspects.

A plan was given to us by our coaches and we stuck to it. “It is nice to see our team gel well and adjust to the conditions well. Our early arrival in Muscat certainly helped us.”

On his century, he said: “I’m very much looking forward to contributing with more runs and with the same intent in the games ahead.”

All-round display by Hong Kong Hong Kong raced to victory, backed by an all-round display at the OCA 2 ground.

Captain Trivedi’s call to bowl first after winning the toss was justified as the Thai batters failed to counter the strong rival bowling attack.

Right-arm off-spinner Trivedi led from the front as Thailand were skittled out for 89 in 27.2 overs.

Trivedi was the most successful bowler, picking up 5/30 in his nine overs and was ably assisted by Parth Bhagwat (2/10). Darsh Vora, Mudassar Khan and Aarush Garg took a wicket apiece.

Thailand captain Chalermwong Chatphaisan was the top run-getter with 25 while Danuphon Fuangyotpinit (12) and Thanadon Buri (14) were the only other batters with scores in double digits. Thailand lost their opener Jirasak Pakhiaokajee for a duck in the very first over and by the 10th over they were struggling at 37/3. Chatphaisan departed next in the 12th over with the total reading only 41/4.

Trivedi continued to trouble the middle and lower order and struck at regular intervals as Thailand innings folded for 89.

# Oman, Bahrain reach semifinals at Cricket World Cup Qualifier

**MUSCAT:** Oman and Bahrain recorded their second successive victories on Saturday to assure themselves of a berth in the semifinals of the ongoing ICC U19 Men’s Cricket World Cup Division -2 Asia Qualifier at the Oman Cricket Academy (OCA) grounds.

Both Oman and Bahrain had it easy in their respective Group A matches as the hosts defeated Saudi Arabia by six wickets while Bahrain beat Bhutan by 169 runs.

At the OCA 2 ground, Oman skipper Arjun Dhiman elected to bowl first after winning the toss and his bowlers justified the decision as Saudi Arabia batters were left struggling against some tidy bowling. Saudi openers were back in the hut in five overs with the team’s total only 13.

Sashwath Prasad and Zuhair then did some repair work as they shared a 34-run third wicket partnership. Following Prasad’s departure, there were no big partnerships as Oman spinners put a firm stranglehold.

Zuher top-scored with a sedate 29 off 70 deliveries.

Aryan Bisht mesmerising spell of 4/19, including a maiden, had the Saudi batters in all sorts of trouble. Bisht was supported by medium pacer Mohammed Arafat Islam who picked up two early wickets.

Glenalexei Menezes, the left-arm spinner, claimed 2/14 as Saudi Arabia were bowled out for 103 in 37.3 overs. A sizeable contribution in Saudi total came from extras with Oman conceding 21 including 20 wides.

With a modest target, Oman lost an early wicket in the seventh over when Lakshmi Satish departed for seven. Though Oman lost couple more wickets, they were never in trouble as they chased down the target in 27 overs scoring 104/4.

Skipper Arjun Dhiman top-scored with 32 while Aditya Gurumukhi (23), Devansh Loya (16) and Aryan Bisht (13) were the other run-getters.

Aryan Bisht, man of the match, said: “It was a positive approach by everyone in the team. It’s quite impressive to have performed collectively in both the games. The wicket was spin-friendly and we stuck to a plan to reap the rewards.



I hope we keep this winning momentum.

“It’s great feeling to have contributed to the team’s victory and I am looking forward to more such opportunities ahead.”

Captain’s knock by Bahrain’s Ashwin A skipper’s knock by Aryan Ashwin led Bahrain to a comfortable victory over Bhutan at the OCA 1 ground on Saturday. Batting first, Ashwin slammed a solid half-century (56 off 95 balls) to lay the foundation of a good score as Bahrain batters relished the rival attack.

With the middle-order batters

– Rishabh Ramesh (28), Aaryan Koul (36) and Muhammad Ali (30) – making handy contributions, Bahrain consolidated their strong start. A late flurry of strokes by lower-order duo of Abhinav Girish (27) and Vishwaesh Gurumurthy (28) saw the team end their innings at 244/9.

The target was always going to be a challenge for Bhutan as they lost quick wickets to be 25/5 at the end of 21 st over. Some late contributions by Karma Dorji (18) and Tashi Chophel (14) took the team past the 50-mark as the team was bowled out for 75 in 33.1

overs.

Shashank Shukla was the wrecker-in-chief with 4/25 while Nadiith Tennakoon bagged 3/23. Muhammad Ali was economical and effective with 2/8 in his five overs.

Aryan Ashwin, Bahrain skipper and man of the match, said: “It was a team effort. A good victory that will keep our morale high. While batters did their job, the bowlers also did well to bowl out the opposition. We are all confident going into the semifinals and feel we can win the tournament if we play to our potential.”

Both Oman and Bahrain have four points each after two successive wins and their clash on Monday will decide the Group A topper.

Saudi Arabia will take on Bhutan on the same day to complete their group engagements before flying back.

On Sunday, Thailand will take on Singapore while Hong Kong will meet Qatar in Group B matches. Both Hong Kong and Singapore have won their opening round matches and a win on Sunday will assure themselves of a place in the semifinals.

# Verstappen seethes after Singapore fuel blunder



Red Bull Racing’s Dutch driver Max Verstappen drives during a practice session ahead of the Formula One Singapore Grand Prix night race at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore on Saturday. – AFP

Verstappen, who was trying to take advantage of the track drying out from earlier rain and quickening up. The team had sent

him out with enough fuel for five laps in the final qualifying run but Verstappen went for a sixth, backing off his previous lap to

take advantage of the evolving track conditions.

“When you under-fuel it or you don’t plan to do six laps, then at least you track it throughout the session that you’re not going to make it,” said Verstappen, who said he could have taken pole had he been informed of the fuel situation.

“They should have let me finish the lap before where I think we were already on a pole position lap,” said Verstappen.

“I can’t see how much fuel is in the car, but we have all the sensors in the world to track these things.

“We should have seen that way earlier. I’m not happy at all at the moment,” he seethed. — AFP

# business



Follow us on  
omanobserver.om/business



**For the first time in the Sultanate,  
BankDhofar introduces the PaySticker**

Now you do not have to worry about forgetting your debit card. Place the sticker on your mobile phone and use it to pay by tapping your mobile phone on the POS machine.\*

\*The maximum payment via the PaySticker is OMR 40 per transaction, OMR 100 per day.

For more information  
<https://www.bankdhofar.com/en-GB/PaySticker.aspx>



\*Terms & conditions apply

the best bank for you

24/7/365 [www.bankdhofar.com](https://www.bankdhofar.com)

## S&P affirms Oman’s credit rating at BB- with stable outlook

**NEW YORK:** Leading international ratings agency Standard & Poor’s has affirmed the Sultanate of Oman’s credit rating at (BB-) with a stable outlook, citing financial and economic initiatives and measures for sustainability, as well as improved oil prices.

The New York headquartered agency said in its report issued on October 1, 2022 that the financial measures taken by the government within the framework of the medium-term fiscal plan and the improvement in oil prices are expected to contribute to strengthening the financial position of the Sultanate of Oman for the current and next year. S&P Global expects oil prices to reach an average of about \$100 per barrel during the current year and \$85 per barrel in 2023.

The report noted that average oil prices are expected to decline from 2024 to approximately \$55 per barrel on an annual basis, noting that the fall in oil prices will lead to burdens on public finances, and the Sultanate of Oman should be aware of this when developing its upcoming



policies and procedures.

The agency stressed that the rise in production, oil prices and the increase in the frequency of investment projects contributed to the growth of the Omani economy, pointing to the growth of GDP at constant prices of 3 per cent in 2021, and its rise to about 3.9 per cent in 2022.

S&P said that the average GDP growth rate at constant prices will reach about 2.2 per cent during the period 2023-2025. It also expects the non-oil sector to grow

by an average of 2 per cent during the period 2024-2025 compared to a growth of about 1.8 per cent in 2022.

Standard & Poor’s also notes that the government has benefited from higher oil revenues to reduce the size of public debt, bringing the public debt-to-GDP ratio to 63 per cent, down to 45 per cent in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

It pointed out that the credit rating of the Sultanate of Oman may rise during the coming period if the financial consolidation

measures continue to strengthen the financial position and balance of payments of the Sultanate of Oman, as the rating may be affected in the event of lax implementation of financial measures or the occurrence of unexpected factors that lead to high levels of fiscal deficit and the volume of net public debt beyond the expectations of S&P. In April this year, Standard & Poor’s improved Oman’s rating from its previous rating of (B+) to become the rating index (BB-).

— ONA

## Oman-Australia undersea cable is ready for service

**JOMAR MENDOZA**  
@JmObserver

Australian-based submarine cable development specialist SUB.CO announced that the Oman-Australia undersea cable is live and is ready for service.

The Oman Australia Cable (OAC) — a 9,800 kilometre system manufactured and installed by SUB.CO — has landing points in Perth, Australia; West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Muscat, Oman.

It is the first fully diverse cable between EMEA and Asia that avoids the Malacca Strait — a narrow stretch of water between Indonesia and Malaysia — that has a high level of seismic and marine activity causing regular outages on submarine cable and a single point of geographical risk.

OAC is Australia’s first express subsea cable to Europe, the Middle East and Africa creating a pathway of diverse connectivity from Australia to Oman, Europe and onwards. A cross-connection to the Indigo cable system gives SUB.CO a route from Australia

to Europe and the USA.

Bevan Slattery, founder of SUB.CO, said on LinkedIn: “Super stoked to announce Oman Australia Cable is live!”

He added, “Massive thank you to the entire team at Subco especially Lee, Carlos and Celia who have been there since day 1 on this journey and Jason S and Tom who have played a major role in getting the network up. One more month of testing and we pass commercial traffic!”

The 9,800 km cable landing at Barka, was completed earlier, as it neared entry into service. A key differentiator for the cable is its route.

When the cable landed in Perth in July 2021, Slattery said: “Currently, every submarine cable that connects Europe/ Middle East to Asia goes through a single 100 mile stretch of water in the Malacca Strait that is also one of the most earthquake prone, most fished, most active shipping areas in the world. It is the Suez Canal of the Cloud.”

The OAC is a three-fibre pair system with an option to upgrade to four fibre pairs based upon final demand.

## Oman Fisheries signs pact to boost yellowfin tuna fishing

**QASIM AL MAASHANI**  
MUSCAT, OCT 1

Oman Fisheries Company (OFC) has tapped an Ecuador-based company for the provision of a commercial fishing vessel that will support the Omani firm’s yellowfin tuna fishing operations.

In a disclosure to the Capital Market Authority (CMA), publicly traded Oman Fisheries said it has signed a commercial fishing agreement with Transmarina SA covering the use of its vessel which is equipped with refrigeration capabilities with freezing temperatures of -40 degrees centigrade.

“In the initial stages, the vessel will target 500 metric tonnes of Yellowfin Tuna using long-liner fishing methods. Oman Fisheries Company will prepare, process, value add and distribute and export to local and international markets. The company is finalising the necessary procedures with the local competent authorities,” the company stated.

The agreement is the latest in a flurry of pacts concluded by Oman Fisheries — a subsidiary of Fisheries Development Oman (FDO) — aimed at expanding



and modernising its capabilities to enhance the contribution of the sector to the country’s GDP.

Recently, well-known Omani logistics firm Al Madina Logistics Services Company (AMLS) signed a long-term agreement for cold chain storage and logistics with Oman Fisheries Company. The agreement provides Oman Fisheries with multi-temperature on-demand storage and handling at multiple AMLS distribution centres, as well as value-added services and inland transportation.

Last month, Oman Fisheries signed a purchase and marketing agreement with Al Wusta Fisheries Industries LLC, also a subsidiary of FDO, that was

established in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources as part of the nation’s desire to further develop the fisheries sector.

The company has been tasked with raising production from the pelagic fish stocks that abound in Oman’s coastal waters and the Indian Ocean.

The agreements come on the back of a key investment decision by Gulf Japan Food Fund (GJFF), an international private equity fund focused on the food and beverage industry, to acquire 31.4 per cent of Oman Fisheries’ capital for a consideration of \$10 million.

Through this transaction, GJFF, and backed by prominent Japanese institutions including Mizuho Bank and The Norinchukin Bank of Japan as well as sovereign investors in the GCC, and Mizuho Gulf Capital Partners (MGCP), GJFF’s Investment Manager, will provide support and assistance on various initiatives to achieve the long-term success and growth of Oman Fisheries and enhance capability and expansion of Oman’s fisheries sector.



**“We look forward to working collaboratively with partner countries and energy companies in harnessing the Sultanate of Oman renewable energy resources towards the development of clean energy fuels and derivatives for the domestic, as well as, international markets.”**

**HE Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi**  
Minister of Energy and Minerals  
Sultanate of Oman

**وزارة الطاقة والمعادن**  
Ministry of Energy and Minerals

[www.greenhydrogensummitoman.com](http://www.greenhydrogensummitoman.com)



# IATA urges commitment to net zero CO2 emissions

VINOD NAIR  
MUSCAT, OCT 1

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) urges the 41st Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to address top industry issues, including agreeing on a Long-term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) for the decarbonisation of international aviation in line with the aviation industry's

commitment to achieving net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. Strengthening the landmark Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) as the single economic measure used by governments to manage aviation's carbon footprint and implementing lessons learned from the economically and socially painful destruction of global connectivity that resulted from government attempts to control



the spread of Covid-19. Airlines are committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To support this commitment, IATA asks governments to adopt an LTAG of equal ambition that can guide consistent policymaking globally. Furthermore, IATA urged governments to strengthen the single global economic measure to manage aviation's international emissions. This means avoiding

new taxes or emissions pricing schemes; and eliminating the plethora of duplicative measures that has evolved in recent years. As Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is at the core of aviation's energy transition and is expected to deliver some 65 per cent of carbon mitigation by 2050, IATA calls on governments for coordinated policy measures to incentivise production. IATA is also calling for the

establishment of a global "book and claim" system to enable the most efficient uptake of SAF by airlines. IATA calls on governments to be better prepared for future health emergencies and to avoid the fragmented response to Covid-19. Where Covid-19 measures are still in place, these must be reviewed considering lessons learned during Covid-19 and evaluated against global best practices.

## Sohar International CEO conferred 'CEO of the Year' title

MUSCAT: Continuing to drive change and innovation for growth and set new benchmarks in banking and finance excellence, Ahmed al Musalmi, Chief Executive Officer, was conferred the 'CEO of the Year' title at the 2022 edition of the Alam al-Iktisaad Awards. This award comes as a true testament to the resilient growth strategy that has been set in full gear with an exemplary leadership style enabling the bank to reach new heights and continue to redefine banking. The event also witnessed Sohar International claim the title of 'Best Performing Company in the Large Cap' and 'Leadership in Corporate Social Responsibility'.



Extending his compliments to Ahmed al Musalmi, Mohamed Mahfoodh al Ardhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors at Sohar International said, "Sohar International's keen focus on excellence is based on key pillars that are geared at achieving a qualitative leap while delivering meaningful impact for customers, employees, and the society at

large. In this regard, the bank has not only achieved commendable milestones under the exemplary leadership of its CEO, Ahmed al Musalmi, but his influential style of management has also inspired the team to consistently attain remarkable results. At Sohar International, we believe that strategic transformation requires an increased understanding of customer demands, a conducive culture that encourages innovation, and the innate zeal to thrive on change. As the bank continues to chart the road to progress, these awards will act as a catalyst for the bank to further its winning journeys."

## United Securities Chairman and CEO wins lifetime achievement award

MUSCAT: United Securities' Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) — Mustafa Ahmed Salman — has won the coveted 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his ongoing contribution and leadership to the industry, at the Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards under the auspices of Salim bin Mohammed al Mahrouqi, the Minister of Heritage and Tourism. The Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards felicitate top corporate leaders, business performers and achievers. A leader and passionate advocate for the Investments and Securities industry in the Sultanate of Oman, Mustafa Ahmed Salman has demonstrated tireless commitment to the sector for decades. He is known for his efforts in bringing the private sector, as well as regulatory and legislative leaders together, to strengthen the investment products and services industry. "When you give back to an industry that has given you so much, there is nothing more rewarding," said Mustafa Ahmed Salman. "I am passionate to continue being a part of a solution that makes the investment



and securities sector a better place. My family, my team at United Securities, and our customers inspire me every day to do more and be better. I am grateful to be a part of this industry and honoured by Alam Al-Iktisaad's recognition which I am delighted to share with my team."

## NBO named best performing company Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards



MUSCAT: National Bank of Oman (NBO) has been named Best Performing Company in the Large Capital category at the Alam Al-Iktisaad Awards. The awards recognise the top achievers in Oman's corporate world, and reward the best performing companies across the country. NBO received the award for its commitment to excellence in all operations, innovation in the banking sector and exceptional customer service. The red carpet awards ceremony was held on September 28, 2022 in the Crystal Ballroom at the Hotel Grand Millennium in Muscat, and under the auspices of Salim bin Mohammed al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism. Hassan Shaban, Chief Government and Alliance Officer at NBO, said, "It is a huge honour to receive this award, and testament to the progress we have made in our five year strategy. Our success is a testament to the outstanding work of our teams and our ability to cater to the needs of our valued customers. We have dedicated ourselves

to exploring new possibilities with our customers in mind and relentlessly pioneering a customer-centric and innovative financial sector in Oman. NBO is committed to unlocking new opportunities to make banking more accessible and personal, and build enduring connections with our clients, and we will continue to develop an intuitive banking experience at every stage of the journey." NBO has recorded a growth in net profit of 66.8 per cent in 2021, and has maintained momentum into the first half of 2022, recording a net profit of 41.1 per cent from the year-earlier period. The bank remains at the forefront of world-class banking by enhancing digital channels, launching the first multi-purpose banking kiosks in Oman and self-service machines to offer customers even greater convenience. The bank will continue to deliver a consistently superior experience and innovative solutions, contributing to the socio-economic prosperity of Oman.

## Discover next-level motoring comfort with the 2022 Cadillac XT4 SUV

MUSCAT: The epitome of motoring comfort and convenience, Cadillac's XT4 is far more than just an award winning SUV with stunningly good looks. It has been designed and equipped to make every journey a positive and even invigorating experience, particularly for those with busy lifestyles. This distinctive characteristic is strongly evident in the 2022 edition of the XT4, which blends an athletic design and innovative technologies with fun-to-drive agility and a turbocharged performance. Available in three trims — Luxury, Premium Luxury and Sport — Cadillac's compact SUV exudes elegance and sophistication. Standard across the XT4 range are the parent brand's signature styling elements, which includes advanced LED lighting technology, front and rear, with front LED low- and high-beam headlamps and an LED-illuminated light blade for the daytime running lamps. Powering the XT4 is Cadillac's 2.0L turbo engine paired with a nine-speed automatic transmission featuring next-generation Electronic Precision Shift. A twin-clutch, decoupling AWD system is available on all trims. Automatic stop/start helps optimise performance and efficiency in all driving conditions. Leveraging Cadillac's industry-leading technologies, the XT4 takes motoring comfort and convenience to the next level. A bold, refined and spacious cabin echoes the exterior design



themes, offering a great balance of style and comfort. In addition to an 8-inch colour touch-screen, technology options include colour reconfigurable display, head-up display, wireless phone charging, and power telescopic steering column. Cabin space is a notable facet of the XT4. Thanks to ample rear leg room and knee clearance for backseat passengers, every seat in the XT4 is clearly the 'best seat in the house'. Furthermore, cargo room is exponentially increased when the rear seats are folded. Ensuring a smooth drive regardless of road conditions is the brand's rotary control feature that allows the driver to adjust the drive mode depending on the need with simple motions. Adding to the cabin ambience is an expansive ultraview panoramic sunroof which spans

the front and rear passenger seats. Connectivity and infotainment are outstanding features of the XT4, which integrates the all-new Cadillac user experience system based on wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Also available is a premium Bose system, complete with 13 high-performance speakers with Centerpoint and Surround sound technologies. This system also features active sound management — engine harmonic cancellation technology. Safety features and other thoughtful innovations ensure peace of mind when driving the XT4. They include: eight airbags, front pedestrian braking, automatic emergency braking, forward collision alert, safety alert seat, rear seat reminder, HD rear vision camera and rear park assist. Also optional are some highly

acclaimed features, notably the driver awareness package, safety package, comfort and convenience package, and enhanced visibility package, which include several additional features available on the Luxury and Premium Luxury trims. OTE Group, exclusive distributors of Cadillac in the Sultanate of Oman, is offering a number of complimentary benefits against the purchase of the XT4. Bundled with the competitive price offer is a Premium Care package that includes 4 years/100,000 km warranty coverage, 5 years/100,000 km service and maintenance coverage, and 4 years roadside assistance coverage. Check out the complete XT4 line-up at Cadillac showrooms distributed across Oman.



## Token 2049 brings back crypto excitement to Singapore

STEFANO VIRGILLI  
stefano@virgilli.com

The author is a member of the International Press Association

Token 2049, the world's premier crypto event was back to Singapore last week, and I attended the main conference on September 28 and 29, 2022.

The conference was hosted in Marina Bay Sands Convention Center and accommodated more than 7,000 attendees. It has been an amazing networking opportunity. For someone as curious as me, while walking from a booth to next one, it was quite easy to put together 100 connections for each of the two days. Founders, Venture Capitals, and crypto enthusiasts from all over the world attended the event to make sure that they did not miss any actions in the industry.

On top of the main event, and as part of the Asia Crypto week, over 150 side events and after parties, ushered the comeback of the Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix, a refreshing display of Singapore's return to pre-pandemic normalcy.

During the conference I had the opportunity to observe the most interesting trends in the industry and I would like to summarise a few ideas in this column.

First of all, I found particularly interesting to observe that despite the cryptocurrency market being in the winter season (or bear market), there are a number of exciting new projects venturing the crypto space. An indication that technology and finance are not necessarily moving at

the same speed or in the same direction.

I do not remember a single conversation around the price of Ethereum or Bitcoin throughout the two days. Meaning that the community as a whole is more interested in innovation and new opportunities.

Secondly, although crypto trends like DeFi and NFT experienced an incredible growth in 2021, followed by a shocking collapse in early-mid 2022, the segments are far from dead. Most of the players are still very much excited about what can be done, more than what has already happened. It is also clear though, that the industry has learned what works and what does not. And as a consequence, new iterations of innovation are built on the foundation of failure.

For example, while earning 20 per cent Annual Percentage Yield (APY) was considered basic or average in 2021, now it is considered close to impossible. I overheard a conversation in the elevator between someone claiming that their Decentralised Finance (DeFi) protocol granting 10 per cent APY, and the other person in the lift saying that it was simply not possible. That is a sharp shift in the public expectation.

I cannot prove that, of course, but I am quite confident that the same person that doubted the performance might have been "bullish" on a 20 per cent APY less than 6 months ago. But the Terra/Luna crash taught a lesson that cannot be forgotten in the community.

Lastly, despite the NFT market being significantly reduced overall — with some verticals down 95 per cent from a year ago — the space is still quite active, with plenty of new projects and new thought experiments being launched on a regular basis.

The Non-Fungible Token (NFT) concept can be applied to so many use cases, that some people might find surprising if they were to just disappear. On the contrary, the whole digitalisation of assets seems to be transiting through NFT as a necessary step towards new possibilities.

## Telecom tower sales to unlock \$1.6 bn in value: Omantel CEO

PROMISING POTENTIAL: Proceeds to be re-allocated to Omantel's long-term growth projects

CONRAD PRABHU  
MUSCAT, OCT 1

Sales of telecom towers in Oman and other geographies where majority Omani-government-owned Omantel has a presence through its Zain telecom subsidiary will culminate in the establishment of one of the largest telecom tower companies in the region, a top official has revealed.

Talal al Maamari, CEO – Omantel, said the initiative – first launched in 2021 with the sale of thousands of its telecom towers in the Sultanate of Oman – has since been expanded to cover Zain-linked infrastructure in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait, and will be enlarged to include Zain towers in Bahrain, Iraq and Sudan as well. Significantly, the exercise will unlock an estimated \$1.6 billion in value, which will be ploughed into Omantel's long-term growth projects, he stated.

"Unlocking value over the last 12 months, we have announced a number of initiatives that are part of our goal to remove anything that is noncore from our portfolio," Al Maamari said.

"So the tower deal that you've heard about here in Oman, and in KSA, Kuwait and Jordan etc are basically part of these initiatives. So far, we are unlocking approximately \$1.6 billion worth of value. And we have an ambition to continue with Zain Bahrain, Zain Iraq and Zain Sudan, thereby establishing one of the largest tower companies in the region," he added in a presentation to investors during a forum hosted by Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX) recently.

Telecom towers are part of an operator's passive telecom infrastructure that falls outside



of the scope of the company's regulated assets. By selling these towers to a specialist tower entity, the latter can then offer the same infrastructure to other operators on lease arrangements, thereby providing value to all stakeholders concerned.

Last year, Omantel – a subsidiary of Oman Investment Authority (OIA) – entered into an agreement with UK-based Helios Towers to sell its passive tower infrastructure portfolio of 2,890 sites for a cash consideration of \$575 million and representing an enterprise value of \$615 million.

The deal has resulted in the establishment of a new joint venture holding company owned 70 per cent by Helios Towers and the balance 30 per cent by Muscat-based Rakiza Telecommunication Infrastructure. The latter is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oman Infrastructure Fund (Rakiza Fund), a fund that is co-managed by the Oman Infrastructure Investment Management (OIM) and Equitix.

The transaction will enable Helios Towers to establish a presence in the Middle-East

region and become a leading independent tower infrastructure provider in Oman. Importantly, the proceeds from the tower sales are being re-allocated towards Omantel's long-term growth, Al Maamari said in his presentation.

"Over the journeys of both Omantel and Zain, we have invested in many companies that complement the ICT ecosystem. Some of the highlights are the Oman Data Park, which was initially started as a data centre company, but is today a SaaS (software as a service) company that delivers many cloud services targeting the domestic market of Oman."

Global data infrastructure leader Equinix, in a 50:50 joint venture partnership with Omantel, has set up a data centre in Barka and has just announced plans for a second data centre in Salalah, said Al Maamari. Further, to consolidate its B2B offerings, Omantel subsidiary Zain Tech has been launched with an eye on multinational and regional organisations. Service offerings include blockchain, fintech and MVNOs, he added.

### ONEIC WINS ORDERS LINKED TO DUQM GREEN ENERGY PROJECT



**MUSCAT:** Publicly traded company Oman National Engineering & Investment Co SAOG (ONEIC) has announced that it has signed a framework agreement with India-based renewable energy developer ACME Group to support the development of its green hydrogen project in Duqm.

A partnership of India-based ACME Group and JV partner SCATEC of Norway is establishing one of the world's largest and first Omani green hydrogen and green ammonia project under the banner of Green Hydrogen & Chemicals SPC. As part of the agreement, ONEIC is undertaking two contracts for the construction and maintenance of camp facilities and chainlink fencing works at a total cost of RO 1.360 million.

ONEIC CEO Rashid bin Mohammed al Ghailani said in a press statement that the contracts awarded to a local Omani company attested to ONEIC capabilities as a provider of engineering services linked to a mega green energy project. ONEIC anticipates further contracts linked to the implementation of the project, he added. The ACME – SCATEC JV plans to invest in a mega-scale venture with a production capacity of 1.2 million tonnes of green ammonia across two phases.

## MSX30 index ends September lower by 1.24 per cent

**MUSCAT:** MSX30 index ended the week higher by 1.24 per cent. The financial index was higher by 1.50 per cent, the services index also ended the week up by 0.66 per cent. The industrial index closed down by 0.31 per cent. The MSX Shariah index went up by 0.39 per cent.

Bank Muscat and Galfar Engineering and Contracting Company have signed an agreement for a RO 39m financing facility. Through this agreement, Bank Muscat will provide Galfar with additional project-specific credit facilities of nearly RO 39m, the bank said.

The agreement was signed by Ahmed bin Faqir al Balushi, Chief Banking Officer of Bank Muscat, and Dr Hamoud al Tobi, CEO of Galfar, in the presence of Ilham al Hamaid, General Manager, Corporate Banking at Bank Muscat, and senior officials from both institutions. Bank Muscat noted that Galfar is one of its largest and oldest corporate customers

with a relationship spanning decades.

The Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed at Al Alam Palace the following 16 agreements and MoUs in various areas. This came within the context of the current state visit of Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed al Nahyan, UAE President to the Sultanate of Oman.

- MoU was signed in the field of energy between the Ministry of Energy and Minerals in Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE.
- MoU in the field of cooperation on transport and logistics was also inked between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE.
- MoU in the field of maritime transport was inked between the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology in Oman and the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure in the UAE.



- MoU for cooperation and investment in fields of industry was also signed between the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in Oman and the Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology in the UAE.
- In the fields of culture and youth, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth in Oman and the Ministry of Culture and Youth in the UAE signed an MoU.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Oman and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in the UAE also signed

an MoU on cooperation in areas of agriculture, livestock, fisheries and food safety.

- In the field of higher education, research, innovation and vocational training, an MoU was signed between the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Oman and the Ministry of Education in the UAE.
- Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information, represented by Oman News Agency (ONA), signed an MoU with Emirates News Agency (WAM) in the field of news and information exchange.
- In the field of cooperation in exchanging information related to money laundering and its predicate offence and the financing of terrorism, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Centre for Financial Information in Oman and the UAE Financial Intelligence Unit.
- A cooperation agreement was

also signed between Oman Rail and Etihad Rail.

- An MoU was signed between the Omani Group for Communications and Information Technology 'ITHCA Group' and Abu Dhabi Development Holding Company.
- An MoU was also signed between Muscat Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.
- An agreement was also signed for the remote trading of brokerage companies through electronic trading (Tadawul).
- In the field of dual-listing of securities, an agreement was signed between Muscat Stock Exchange and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange.
- A memorandum of cooperation was signed between Muscat Clearing and Depository Company and Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange Company.

[Courtesy: U-Capital]

WJ Towell Group Company

**Quality car rentals at competitive prices.**

Muscat 9014 6672, 9679 0684  
Sohar 9731 6218 Salalah 9429 9325  
www.orbit-oman.com

Fleet of 2,000 vehicles  
Choose from a wide range of brands & models  
PDO, OXY and BP spec vehicles available  
Attractive rates for short-term & long-term lease

أوربت ORBIT  
Car Rental & Lease

# Classifieds

شوبين جفت Shoppinggift

**GET FREE SHOPPING VOUCHER** with every purchase of TallyPrime single user

Contact: Guruprasad +968 79248644, 98753781  
Email: guru.prasad@asiasolutions.net  
<https://www.asiasolutions.net>

ASIA SOLUTIONS  
TALLY GOLD PARTNER  
TALLY FOR VAT

SUNDAY

OCTOBER 2, 2022

RABEE AL AWWAL 6, 1444 AH

## Observer Classified Section

Mohammed al Rashdi: 99841230  
m.alrahdi86@yahoo.com

Ali al Maashari: 99639264  
ali.almashari@omandaily.com

Saada al Rashdi  
95919344

94501166  
24649593  
24649595

**STORE HOUSES FOR RENT IN GHALA INDUSTRIAL AREA**

1350 Sq.m 540 Sq.m

Contact: **24817008/99606116/99072735** ● Phase No. 2 ● Plot No. 715

● **WORLDWIDE DOOR TO DOOR CARGO** ● **PACKING & SHIFTING SERVICE** ● **WAREHOUSE FACILITY**

www.pcsinternational.co.in

**PCS CARGO**  
Prompt Cargo Services LLC

**TOLL FREE 800 22822**

Head Office: **AL GHUBRA**  
Near Makkah Hypermarket  
91 787 812  
91 787 814

**AUDIT, ACCOUNTING, VAT, TAXATION**

Contact: **97239696 95355638**

Gulf Center Consultancy & Audit  
Muscat, Sohar, Salalah, Sur

TallyPrime  
The Best Your Business Can Get

**TALLY CERTIFIED PARTNER**

**HURMUZ ACCOUNTANCY CONSULTANTS & SERVICES L.L.C.**

Office 21, MIC Building, Al Khuwair, PO Box No. 264, Mina Al Fahal- 116  
Sultanate of Oman - Tel: 968 2448 9222 / 9941 1762

**ACCOUNTS OUTSOURCING**

Outsource your accounts to highly qualified professionals having 25 years of experience in the field of Trading, Contracting & Construction.

Contact: **99092585**

### SIT. WANTED

Indian female, 25 years, B.Tech chemical engineer, seeking job in water treatment, environmental pollution control, monitoring operations. 2 years experience in water and environmental quality monitoring, design instrumentation and customer support. NEBOSH holder for certificate in environmental management. Available in Oman and can join immediately. Contact: 96901134. E-mail: honeysreelaya@gmail.com

INDIAN, male, 16 year's experience building caretaker and office boy, valid Oman driving licence, looking for job. Contact 78688105.

### SIT. WANTED

INDIAN, female, (M.B.A Finance) 4yrs experience in US Indirect Tax. Looking for a job, Tax, Accounts and Finance any sector's. Ready to join immediately now am in visit visa. Call: 78596005/ 96089545 Email: sravanthi5275@gmail.com

PLANNING engineer, PMP. Indian male Civil Eng. Around 10 years experience in construction projects. Softwares: Primavera P6, MS Office, ERP, having Oman driving licence. Ready to join, email: engineer4planning@gmail.com, Call: 78002582.

INDIAN female (M Tech Civil Structural Engineering) having 7 years experience as Quantity Surveyor cum Quality Control Engineer, looking for suitable position. Contact: 96154505.

**Driving School**

Special offers for those wishing to learn driving in (Aziba - Khwair Qurum - Ruwi Al Amirat)

Contact No: **99074072**

مركز السلامة الطبيع د. نور بركات  
Modern Al Soloma Polyclinic  
DERMATOLOGY AND AESTHETICS MEDICINE SPECIALIST

**DR. NORA BARAKAT** MD, MS

CONSULTATION AVAILABLE SAT TO WED 10AM TO 6PM THU 9AM TO 2PM

CONTACT US: +968 24451726 - +968 79235354  
AL MARBAY (NEAR TRAFFIC SIGNAL) - SULTANATE OF OMAN  
AL SOLAMA@ALMARBAY.COM

EMERGENCY NO: +968 94302100

### SIT. WANTED

BANGLADESHI, male, looking for work, age 55 years, experience 15 years, house cook. 99537821

GENERAL manager with 16+ years experience in Oman, MBA — BE, seeks suitable placement. Contact: 94008034.

INDIAN Female, MCom, Good experience in VAT, payroll, Inventory, Book keeping until finalisation. Seeking suitable position and available for join immediately. Contact: 96974566

### SIT. WANTED

INDIAN male graduate Executive Secretary/ Stenography/ Oman DL and Muscat experience available. Contact: 79256679.

### FOR RENT

FLATS 2bhk and 1 bhk in Mumtaz. Contact 99341138 and 90991079

BUILDING of 1.500 sqm 3 stories, accommodation, store and office at Misfa. 99432177, 99010964.

**LAMASAT BUSINESS CONSULTANCY SERVICES**

Accounting Services, VAT and Consultancy Services

Contact: **24571454** GSM: **95392251**

النماني للشحن  
AL NAMANI CARGO  
DOOR TO DOOR AIR AND SEA CARGO WORLD WIDE

**WORLD WIDE DOOR TO DOOR CARGO**

INDIA • BANGLADESH  
NEPAL • SRILANKA • INDONESIA  
PHILIPPINES • AFRICA • EUROPE  
USA • ALL GCC

TOLL FREE NUMBER **80066766**  
www.alnamanicargo.com

95587410, 9988 1554, 99638698, 94940231, 98523831  
Branches : Ruwi, Hamriya, Ghala, Sooh, Barka, Soowag, Sohar

**FREE PICK UP 24/7**

**HAVE A PROPERTY FOR RENT?**

Advertise with us.

Contact us on: **99639264**

سماء الخضراء للتجارة  
SAMA AL KHADRA TRADING

**SERVICES:**

PIPING SYSTEMS VALVES  
DRAINS INTERCEPTORS

Tel: **24501568, 24502479** • Fax: **24503566**  
Email: sales@samaalkhadra.com  
Website: [www.samaalkhadratradingco.com](http://www.samaalkhadratradingco.com)

**SERVICES**

AUTOCAD/ REVIT ARCH  
MER, part/full-time. Contact  
WhatsApp: 79037728.

AL SUMRI AC  
maintenance. We are ready to repair and install all types of Air-Conditioner within Muscat Governorate. 94301888.

**RENT A CAR**

Buttercup Rent A Car  
**AMAZING OFFERS**

- Rent a car for 10 days and get an extra free day.
- Rent for one month and get 5 days free.

All the cars are 2016 brand new special prices for public departments, companies and long-term contracts. 972494490.

LUXURIOUS  
Toyota bus 2016, air-conditioned, 30 passengers, offered for daily/monthly/annually, Muscat. Contact: 98080609, 96316269.

To receive news updates from OMAN OBSERVER.

WhatsApp <your name> to **96473232**

**PEST CONTROL OMAN CO. L.L.C.**

Supply of Pesticides, Gel (crocroches), Public Health chemicals, Agriculture chemicals, Snake repellent, Rodent baits and other insect repellent from UK & USA

PROFESSIONALS in Pest Control Service, Bedbug Treatment, Rodent Treatment, Snake Treatment and Termite Treatment [Pre & Post Construction]

Tel: **24787606, 24787503**  
Direct Line: **24786077**  
GSM: **99382355, 99172309**  
pcomctom@omantel.net.om  
P.O. Box 565, Al Wadi Al Kabir 117, Sultanate of Oman

**URGENT REQUIREMENT**

**1. INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER - 1 No.**

- Candidate should have experience in Road, Sewage, Pipeline, Telecom Networking, Electrical works in the Sultanate of Oman.
- Should have worked with MOTC, Municipalities, Madayan and other related Govt. Bodies.
- Should be able to liaise with the Govt. Authorities.
- Should be willing to lead team of qualified engineers.
- Should be a qualified Civil Engineer with qualifications in Mechanical Engineering will be an added advantage.
- Should have 25 years of work experience.

**2. PROJECT ENGINEER - 1 No.**

- Candidate should have experience in Construction of Roads and other civil works in the Sultanate of Oman.
- Should be able to liaise with the Govt. Authorities.
- Should be a qualified Civil Engineer with 15 years of work experience.

Candidates holding NOC / Transfer availability preferred.  
Right Salary for Right Candidate.

Interested candidates may forward their CV & Expectations etc by Email : [reachhr2022@gmail.com](mailto:reachhr2022@gmail.com)

Now get news on the go

To receive news updates from OMAN OBSERVER.

WhatsApp <your name> to **96473232**

OMAN OBSERVER

**For Advertisements**

Please Contact with our Team:

**Head Office**  
Mohd Al Rashdi  
99841230  
m.alrahdi86@yahoo.com

**Salalah Office**  
Baikhit Al Shihri  
92998577  
baikhit.omandaily@gmail.com

**Ali Al Maashari**  
99639264  
wadiameeh@yahoo.com

**Nizwa Office**  
Abdullah Al Abri  
99429094  
nizwaofc@omandaily.net.om

**Suham Office**  
Musalam Al Saidi  
99429192  
soharaiddaily@outlook.com

#Living\_with\_COVID19

## Wild Oman: Wonder of Arabia

Launching 'Wild Oman: The Wonder of Arabia' last week, Masia al Hooti, founder of Oman in Focus spoke of the unique experiences that the team had during the production of the documentary... **P20**



## Balmain turns fashion show into music fest featuring Cher

**FRENCH DESIGNER OLIVIER** Rousteing pulled out all the stops on Wednesday in his latest collection for Balmain at Paris Fashion Week, closing his show with US star Cher on the catwalk.

The show began with Cher on a screen, saying: "All of us invent our-

selves. Some of us just have more imagination than others."

But that was only a teaser before Cher appeared in person with her 1999 hit "Strong Enough" booming around the event at a rugby stadium.

Dubbed the "Balmain Festival",



Rousteing unveiled his designs with clear African influences and mythological references including Apollo and Venus.

A particularly poignant moment during the finale came when black models

walked down in a variety of textured dresses, some with the corseted look Rousteing favours and a song by Youssou N'Dour featuring the lyrics: "And when a child is born into this world, it has no concept, of the tone the skin is

living in."

After the show ended, the rising Nigerian star of Afrobeats, Kcay, performed on stage for thousands attending the event.

The devil was in the detail, with straw dresses as well as models wearing large gold earrings, large-brimmed hats and necklaces almost completely covering the neck, while others had nose rings.

The glamour oozed at the Balmain event, with celebrities attending including US singer and actor Dove Cameron, Belgian artist Stromae and American reality TV star and close friend of Rousteing, Kylie Jenner.

There were stars on the catwalk too with famous American plus-size model Ashley Graham modelling one of Rousteing's creations.

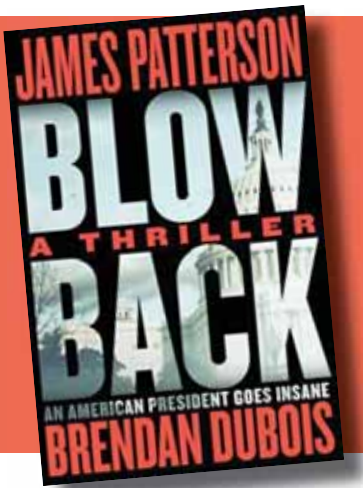
Rousteing, 37, has been artistic director at Balmain since 2011 and is known for pushing the brand into new territory and working with celebrities such as Jenner and her famous half-sister Kim Kardashian.

As cosmetics becomes an ever-bigger industry, Balmain this week announced plans to launch a beauty line as part of a partnership with Estée Lauder. — **AFP**

### READ

**BLOWBACK**  
BY JAMES PATTERSON  
AND BRENDAN DUBOIS

*President Keegan Barrett's power grab tests the loyalties of two C.I.A. agents.*



### ENTERTAINMENT

Indian former tennis player Leander Paes and Bollywood actress Kim Sharma pose for pictures as they attend the players auction of the 4th edition of the Tennis Premier League (TPL), in Mumbai. — **AFP**



### TRAVEL TALES

Tourists visit the site of Al-Khazneh (Arabic for treasury), believed to have been the mausoleum of the Nabatean King Aretas IV in the 1st century AD, in the ruins of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan. — **AFP**





# Made in Madrid: The Spanish tailors outfitting world cinema

WITH A VAST WARDROBE catering to everything from "House of the Dragon" to "The Crown", Spain's Peris Costumes has carved out a well-tailored niche for itself, renting costumes to producers across the globe.

"Here, you can find everything," says CEO Javier Toledo showing off a vast array of costumes and accessories — from suits of armour to frock coats, sailor suits and monastic robes.



giants such as Netflix, Disney+ and HBO. "We have responded to the changes that have taken place in the market," he said, pointing notably to the explosion in popularity "of the series".

When he bought the company, Peris Costumes only had a dozen staff, all based in Madrid.

Today, the group employs 250 people and has offices or workshops in 15 capital cities, including Budapest, Berlin,



scratch is practically impossible because of the time and costs involved," says Toledo.

And producers appreciate "having costumes that have been worn in and aged with time," he explains.

To expand its catalogue, Peris Costumes in recent years has bought up millions of gowns, hats, pairs of shoes and uniforms from studio giants like Warner Bros.



Elizabeth Taylor in the 1963 epic "Cleopatra" and the papal cross worn by Jude Law in the 2016 series "The Young Pope".

**- DAMAGED BUT NEVER DISCARDED -**  
At Peris Costumes, the rule is to never throw anything away, not even if it is damaged during filming.



"We have an area called 'The Walking Dead' in which we put everything that is broken or damaged but that could be reused," Wais says, the term referencing a TV series about zombie apocalypse survivors.

With demand showing little sign of ebbing, this Spanish outfitter has recently started digitising some of its catalogue with the help of a studio equipped with 144 high-resolution cameras.

Dubbed Peris Digital, this service lets production companies "create 3D images" of costumes which can be used "during post-production", Wais says.

And this "virtual wardrobe" has also proved popular with the makers of video games, the company says. — AFP



All around him mannequins dressed in 18th-century gowns stand next to posters of the many films his company has worked on in recent years.

"There are starting to be rather a lot," admits the 63-year-old entrepreneur with white hair and a neatly trimmed goatee whose business is based in Algete, a small town just outside Madrid.

Since Toledo took over 10 years ago, the business has been transformed.

What began as a small family firm set up by tailor's specialising in theatre costumes in the eastern coastal city of Valencia in 1856 has become a world leader in costume hire for the film industry.

And it's a success story closely linked to the rise of on-demand streaming

Paris and Mexico City.

"During the first half of the year, we were involved in almost 600 productions. And by the end of the year we're hoping that will be more than 1,000," says marketing director Myriam Wais.

**- ELIZABETH TAYLOR'S 'CLEOPATRA' JEWELLERY -**

Among the films and series that have chosen the company are numerous super-productions which are very demanding in terms of period or fantasy costumes.

Whether it's "The Rings of Power", "Mulan" or "Marco Polo", many productions prefer to rent costumes rather than invest in making their own.

"Trying to make (the costumes) from

And all these complement its own in-house collections put together in the workshops of its costume designers.

"In total, we have more than 10 million articles" of clothing and accessories, says Wais, reeling off a list of the most popular styles and eras.

It is, she says, "the biggest wardrobe in the world".

In a nearby room, four garment makers are working with pieces of leather, with a hammer-like maul and pliers on hand.

"Right now, we're working on our inventory but there are also orders," she says.

In another room is the jewellery workshop, where close to 20,000 pieces are stored, including the jewels worn by

ART

## Britain's Queen Elizabeth and the artists who captured her



**FILMED, PHOTOGRAPHED** and painted from all angles over many decades, Queen Elizabeth II sat for a string of renowned British artists whose works have been brought together in a new exhibition.

At the entrance to London's Quantus gallery, more used to showing the works of street artists like Banksy or Stony, a bronze bust of the queen who died on September 8 welcomes visitors.

It is one of the centrepieces of Majesty: A Tribute to the Queen which features works by three artists who portrayed Elizabeth at different stages of her life and through a range of mediums.

Frances Segelman did three sessions with the monarch in 2007.

"I didn't want to portray her like some artists do, they distort things, they want to make a sensation, and I didn't want to do that," she said.

Her sculpture was testament to Elizabeth's "solid, strong rock" like presence in British life.

But meeting the queen in person, she said, threw up some surprises.

There was "this wonderful woman there, who I had looked at all my life and she's just sitting there, she's just lovely, talking about different things".

Segelman was relieved that her subject proved so friendly, but soon realised it was also preventing her from concentrating.



**MA'AM YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEAK TO ME**

Worried about how to ask the queen to stop talking, she eventually plucked up the courage to tell her "Ma'am you don't have to speak to me, you can just relax if you like".

The queen, however "just carried on talking, it didn't make any difference", she recalled.

The exhibition also features artworks by Christian Furr, the youngest artist to be commissioned to paint an official portrait of the queen.

"I wanted to do something different, that captured her personality, her liveliness, her life, her humour, and also her humanity," Furr said.

Although there was an "ordinariness" to the queen, she was also "majestic", he said.

Only 28 when she sat for him in 1995, he said he felt out of tune with the nineties when so-called Britart — known for its use of new materials and creative processes — dominated the art scene.

"I was completely out of fashion. It was (all) Britart when I created that painting. It was completely anachronistic."

His portrait stands in contrast to the black and white works of Rob Munday, a holograms specialist, that create a 3D effect by combining several images of the same subject.

Entitled "Equanimity", his main work, produced with Chris Levine in 2004, has become one of the most iconic images of the queen.

It has been featured on stamps and banknotes and on the cover of Time magazine in 2012 to mark the queen's diamond jubilee.

From the front, looking straight at the lens, the queen appears dressed in black, wearing a crown and white fur teamed with a string of pearls.

Moving around her, the viewer can see different images of the monarch.

In the early 2000s "it was still very new technology" that required the model to be perfectly still, he said.

The queen however was "very accommodating".

The monarch was "very used" to sitting for artists and so was in many ways the "perfect sitter", he said.

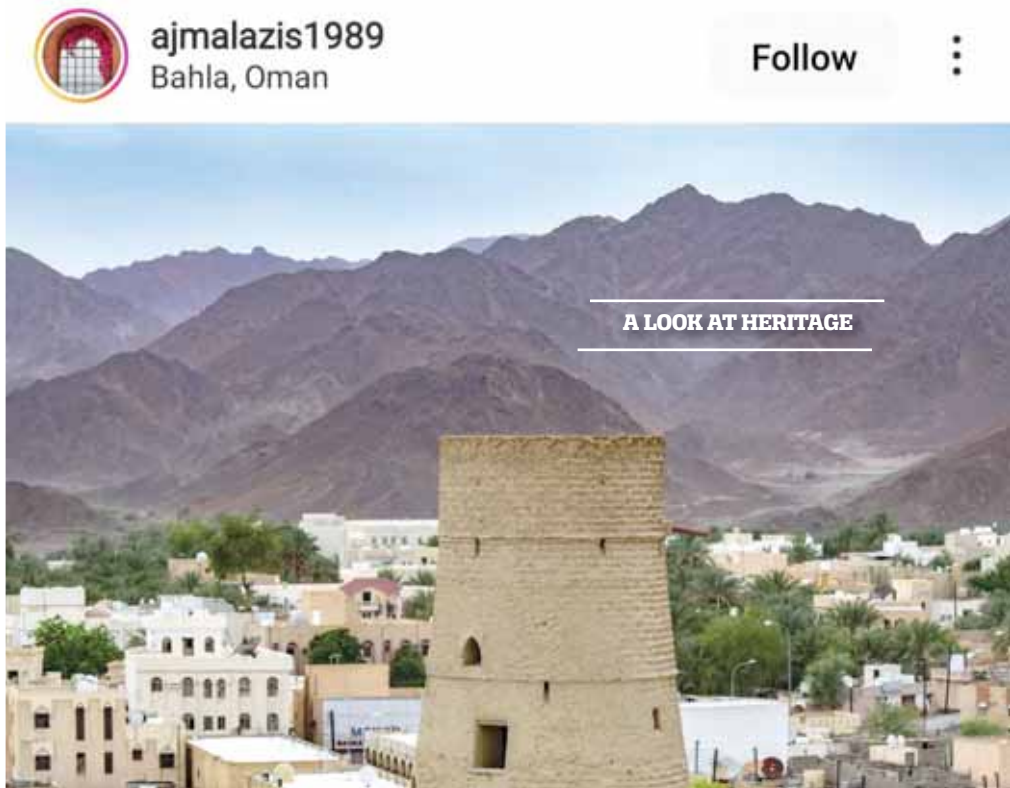
He was still slightly nervous about her reaction to the final result but need not have worried.

"Of course I was a bit worried about what she is going to think about such a realistic portrait, but she was fine with that," he recalled. — AFP



find us on  
**TWITTER**  
Scan the QR Code or follow us on  
[www.twitter.com/omanobserver](https://www.twitter.com/omanobserver)

## INSTAGRAM TOP PICKS



**SHARE A SLICE OF YOUR LIFE**

We select three photos daily for our Instagram Top Picks of the Day. The rules are simple. Follow us on Instagram. Upload your photos. Tag us and use **#OmanObserver** and **#BeAnObserver**.



## AROUND THE WORLD

### CHANGING WORLD

Anti-colonialist sculpture unveiled in London's Trafalgar Square



**SAMSON KAMBALU'S** post-colonial sculpture "Antelope" was unveiled on Wednesday as the new sculpture on the empty Fourth Plinth of London's Trafalgar Square.

The bronze resin sculpture features Baptist preacher and educator John Chiblembwe, who led an uprising in 1915 against British colonial rule in Nyasaland — now Malawi.

He was later killed by colonial police and is commemorated in Malawi on John Chiblembwe Day, which marks the beginning of the Malawi independence struggle.

The sculpture is the latest in a rolling programme overseen by the mayor of London that began in 1998 to showcase contemporary art on the empty plinth.

Previous installations have included a giant ship in a bottle and a swirl of replica whipped cream, topped with a sculpted cherry, fly and drone.

At Chiblembwe's side in Kambalu's sculpture is his friend and supporter, the European missionary John Chorley.

The artist said it was designed to shed light on Britain's colonial legacy in southern Africa.

"People present colonialism as a kind of conqueror and victim (story)," Kambalu told AFP at the unveiling.

"But actually, it's more complex than that. There are heroes on both sides. There is dignity on both sides."

Chorley is life-sized, while Chiblembwe is "larger than life" — elevating the pastor's story and Britain's colonial past into the public eye.

"There's a lot to be addressed," said Kambalu.

Kambalu said that by highlighting what he said was Britain's failure to address its colonial legacy in southern Africa, such as Malawi, he hoped his work would shed light on this "hidden history".

Both figures in the sculpture wear hats — a banal feature at a first glance but evoking the colonial prohibition which barred African men from wearing hats in front of a white person.

"Antelope" is the 14th commission in the programme.

"It sparks conversation with the general public. Everyone loves to have an opinion about the Fourth Plinth. It generates debate," said Justine Simons, deputy mayor for culture and the creative industries.

The sculpture will be succeeded in 2024 by Teresa Margolles' "850 Imprints" (850 Imprints), which features casts of the faces of 850 transgender people from around the world.

Recent calls by MPs and others have urged the Mayor of London to feature a statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II on the Fourth Plinth.

"That will be a decision for His Majesty the King, at the appropriate moment," said Simons.

"It's a programme that's been going for 20 years, and we've got at least another four years of sculptures already commissioned." — **AFP**

### HERITAGE

## Tunisian tattoo artist revives Berber designs for new generation



**TUNISIAN TATTOO** artist Manel Mahdouani is reviving traditional Berber designs that had long been considered unfashionable but are now gaining in popularity among a hip new generation.

Few Tunisians now speak the Berber languages more commonly found in Algeria and Morocco, and outward signs of Berber cultural identity are often relegated to motifs found on the hand-crafted mass-produced for tourists.

Among Tunisians, they were seen as symbols of an impoverished past but some younger people are now becoming interested in their Berber roots and turn to Mahdouani, 35, to connect them to it with tattoos.

"Every symbol and tattoo has a meaning," said Loula, who had had a series of dark blue dots tattooed across her upper chest. She said she prized the way each marking signified a part of a woman's tribal or family identity.

"It means a woman's history is written on her. It's like a Facebook wall and this is my wall," she said, asking not to give her family name.

As tattoos took off around the world, some younger Tunisians took up the trend, but without looking back at their own tradition of body art.

Mahdouani said many Tunisians had grown to see Berber tattoos as low class or disreputable. "People used to say it was backwards," she said. "I wanted to change this idea. Just as there are Maori



and other tribal tattoos known all around the world, we should take pride too in a tradition going back 6,000 years in Tunisia," she said.

Mahdouani has researched the traditional "tekaz" tradition of Berber tattoos, collecting designs and learning about the custom of using body art to ward off disease or bad luck through particular symbols on different parts of the body.

In a village outside the central city of Kairouan, Mahdouani quizzed Seida Issaoui, an elderly woman

with ink marks on her forehead, cheeks, nose and chin, about the prevalence of tattoos when she was young.

"Everyone was tattooed. On their legs, arms and chests as well," Issaoui said.

Later, Mahdouani carefully copied down Issaoui's designs.

"My goal is to let the youth know that this is part of their civilisation, their country and their history and even if they don't want it themselves they will at least know what it means when they see it on a woman in the street," she said. — **Reuters**

### DISCOVERY

## Half world's birds in decline, species moving 'ever faster' to extinction



**ALMOST HALF** of all bird species are in decline globally and one in eight are threatened with extinction, according to a major new report warning that human actions are driving more species to the brink and nature is "in trouble."

The four-yearly State of the World's Birds report, which provides a snapshot of the plight of species globally and more broadly a barometer for biodiversity, comes as the United Nations steers an international process to protect nature.

"One in eight bird species is threatened with extinction, and the status of the world's birds continues to deteriorate: species are moving ever faster towards extinction," said the report released this week by BirdLife International.

Using data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the report said 49 percent of bird species worldwide have declining populations, with populations falling even in species not normally rare or at risk.

Roughly 13 per cent are considered threatened.

The main threats include the growth of unsustainable agriculture, logging, invasive species, over-exploitation and climate change.

Most bird populations face a combination of

human-caused threats.

"The natural world is in trouble. Human actions are driving species rapidly towards extinction, undermining ecosystem functions and services vital to our own survival," the report said.

BirdLife International, which has decades of survey data, said there are now 2.9 billion fewer individual birds in North America than there were in 1970, an estimated drop of 29 per cent.

The European Union has seen a net loss of around 600 million birds, roughly 18 per cent since 1980.

In both cases, the losses



are most acute among long-distance migrants and farmland birds.

BirdLife said many key bird preservation zones were in a poor state and called for a global push to protect and restore habitats.

In December, nations gather to finalise a treaty to halt the decline of biodiversity and set humanity on a path to "live in harmony with nature" by mid-century.

BirdLife International chief Patricia Zurita said the framework under negotiation was "the world's best and perhaps last chance to halt the loss of nature" and restore biodiversity.

"The birds and the rest of nature are depending on us. And we are depending on them," she said. — **AFP**

# art & life

## Local Scene

f t i y v @omantobserver

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 2 | 2022

# Wild Oman: Wonder of Arabia

**OMAN IN FOCUS**, last week at Royal Opera House Muscat in partnership with Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) and Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest) hosted the premiere event for the release of their latest documentary project "Wild Oman: The Wonder of Arabia". The event was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Bilalrab bin Haitham bin Tarik al Said, along with a number of their highnesses, ministers and prominent guests from both public and private sector institutions.

At the onset of the event, Masia al Hooti, founder of Oman in Focus spoke of the unique experiences that the team had during the production of the documentary, "Our team had the opportunity to capture some rare and unique footage, which makes this documentary so special. This project is the result of the combined efforts of government and corporate entities who have supported us."

The audience were shown a shortened version of the documentary "Wild Oman: The Wonder of Arabia", which offers an overview of the full two-hour film. The documentary explores the marvels of the Sultanate of Oman's wildlife, which includes some of the world's rarest and most endangered species such as the Arabian Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, and several sea turtles, to name but a few. All the animals were filmed in their natural habitat over the course of a year by experienced and well-acclaimed local and international documentary film-makers.

Khalid bin Muhammad al Zubair, Chairman of Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest) said in a statement, "By supporting Oman in Focus, we drive a corporate citizenship strategy that focuses on preserving the environment. Oman in Focus not only encourages environmental conservation but also the development of eco-tourism in Oman, showcasing its natural beauty to the world."

Steven Lauver, President and General Manager of Oxy Oman added, "This documentary showcases many Omani features not known to the rest of the world. Oxy is very excited for the opportunity to be able to help showcase these treasures for the rest of the world to see."

Maisa al Hooti, an Omani entrepreneur and photographer, began the Oman in Focus projects in 2014 with the purpose of promoting the Sultanate of Oman to the rest of the world through photography and film, thereby contributing to growth in the tourism sector, as well as raising awareness of environmental concerns in the region, goals aligning with Oman Vision 2040 as laid out by His Majesty, Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

This is the third edition of the Oman in Focus Projects. The first project had a team of international photographers touring the Sultanate of Oman to capture the Faces and Landscapes of Oman. The second project was held in 2015, which had a group of international underwater photographers producing a work entitled "Oman's Underwater Treasures in the World's Spotlight."

The latest project "Not Discovered Yet" started in 2020 already with pre-production. During the year 2021, a team of critically acclaimed film-makers documented the incredibly rich wildlife of the Sultanate. of Oman Travelling from Musandam all the way to Dhofar, the Oman in Focus team filmed some of the world's rarest and most endangered species, ranging from the majestic Arabian Sea Humpback Whale to the elusive Arabian leopard.

The resulting documentary "Wild Oman: The Wonder of Arabia" is a two-part blue-chip programme taking viewers on an epic journey throughout the Sultanate of Oman. The film shows the remarkable biodiversity that can be found in Oman. Animals such as the Arabian Oryx, Egyptian Vulture, and several turtle species are all shown in their natural habitat. The documentary also features some unique, never-seen-before sequences.

The film is a co-production between Oman in Focus and South African based Obsessively Creative. The crew working on the film combined international talent with local expertise. Directors of Photography Darryl MacDonald and Willem van Heerden worked alongside local experts such as Mohammed al Mashani, Ahmed al Busaidy, Dr Hadi al Hikmani and Dr Andrew Spalton. The team was also supplemented by Lubabalo Mayaba, Lerlynn Landsman and Anel Rademeyer.

The documentary will be featured on various renowned channels across the globe, such as Arte France and ZDF. Additional broadcasters are still being added and will be announced upon confirmation.

"The aim of this documentary is to both promote Oman internationally as well as to encourage further conservation efforts locally" Maisa al Hooti, Founder and Managing Director of Oman In Focus. "My aim is to use Oman in Focus to show the world just how beautiful my home country is. The Sultanate of Oman has so much to offer in terms of its natural environment, and it is our responsibility to cherish it and keep it safe for future generations" she added.

Stefania Müller, director, producer, and writer for the documentary said "Oman is an incredibly beautiful country! It is truly a land of amazing diversity and

surprising landscapes. Last year, my crew and I, had the privilege of being invited by Maisa al Hooti, to come and film this amazing country."

Oman In Focus presents what is Not Discovered Yet, of Oman's hidden treasures.

After a gap of seven years from their last work, this year's edition comes under the theme, "Not Discovered Yet" and features a comprehensive Wild Life documentary, with never seen before glimpses into Oman's wild wonders.

"I have always wanted to capture the breathtaking beauty and its authentic culture and civilisation with my camera, wherever I go, and highlight its natural biodiversity and the uniqueness of its location on the Arabian Peninsula. However, more was needed to be done, to shed light on all dangers that loom over Oman's fragile and unspoiled nature, and showcase all the efforts the Omani government is exerting to protect it and reserve its natural habitats for generations to come," she explained.

This made her think of an initiative titled "Oman In Focus" that kicked off in 2014 with a photography exhibition depicting the authenticity of Omani way of life and its harmony with nature. "For that, we hosted 12 international photographers, who toured the Sultanate of Oman from north to south for two weeks and took hundreds of photos of Omani portraits and landscapes. These photos were displayed in a special exhibition held at the Royal Opera House Muscat, and attracted a huge crowd," Masia reflected.

"According to her, due to the success they had in 2014, and as she is passionate about underwater photography, she thought of the idea to invite some world-class marine photographers and take them on a coastal tour from Musandam to Qurayyat to capture Oman's marine life, and the fascinating sea creatures that inhabit Omani waters, including the rare species. The result was overwhelmingly amazing, as hundreds of stunning photos were produced, that show creatures and marine flora and fauna, never seen before. We presented the best of these images in a special exhibition at the Royal Opera House Muscat, entitled "Oman's sea treasures". It was dazzling and intriguing at the same time, which motivated us to think of our next project; a mission to discover what hasn't been discovered yet!"

With fruitful collaboration and generous sponsorship from the Omani government and private sector institutions, the team managed to produce a first of its kind natural history documentary about Oman's wild life. An epic journey throughout the Sultanate of Oman, showing some of the world's rarest and most extraor-



dinary creatures.

"Frankly speaking, the idea initially was limited, as we wanted to explore the hidden world of turtle species, that visit the coasts of Oman to breed and lay eggs for example. However, with the expansion of our research and the desire we received from a bunch of international underwater photography companies, keen to work with us, we decided to go big and include all the elements of exclusive wild and marine life in the Sultanate of Oman. The rarest and most precious species from mountains, deserts, seas across Oman were put as a target of our work, and we were set."

It was two years in the making, and a whole year in filming, a fascinating experience, challenging nevertheless.

"First, we had to select the best production company to entrust with a huge national project, and getting all the gear, cameras, equipment, etc. to Oman.

Another sensitive aspect we had to consider was picking the right time and season to film these animals, some of which are extremely rare and elusive and you cannot be easily spotted. Therefore, we had to climb

mountains, camp and wait for hours and days, just to be able to photograph these amazing creatures.

We were lucky to be able to study, monitor and film rare kinds like the Arabian leopard, the Omani Caracal, The Arabian wolf and the Striped Hyena, to name a few, all in their natural habitat without human intervention."

She asked, "Did you know that there are seven different types of sea turtles that visit Oman's beaches every year?"

"They flock in hundreds, lay their eggs and leave. There are also very few numbers left of the Arabia Sea Humpback Whale, found nowhere else in the world. There are literally hundreds of indigenous species to Oman, some of them are on the brink of extinction, and we all need to work hard to preserve them," she noted.

The next step for the Oman In Focus team is to highlight the efforts of HM the Sultan's and his wise leadership's efforts protecting the Omani environment and its sustainability, as well as raise people's awareness of the need to protect, preserve and sustain all forms of life in Oman, and work to increase numbers of all

these animals in the wild.

"There is so much work still to be done. Our beloved Oman is rich in wonders and always arouses the passion of researchers to discover and explore its secrets," she said.

Oman in Focus would like to thank their sponsors and partners for their generous support throughout the project. The main partners for the project are Occidental Petroleum and Oman International Development and Investment Company. Governmental entities include the Diwan of Royal Court, the Office of the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Environmental Authority, Ministry of Information, and Royal Opera House Muscat. Oman in Focus would also like to thank corporate sponsors Sohar International, Oman Air, Omran, OQ, Vale, Petroleum Development Oman, Mr Faisal bin Murtadha al Lawati, Omantel, Be'ah, Al Mouj, Mazoon Dairy, Duqm SEZAD and many others. Contributions were also made by Madayyan, Oman LNG, Omifco, Huawei, ESO, AhliBank, Barzman, Oman Oil and Lulu.