

HM RECEIVES LETTER FROM CROWN PRINCE OF ABU DHABI

His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a written message from Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). **>A4**



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HM ISSUES ROYAL DECREE

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has issued a Royal Decree No.2/2022, on the establishment of the Royal Academy for Administration, determining its competence and approving its organisational structure. Article (1) stipulates that an academy to be named "Royal Academy for Administration" shall be established and that it shall have a legal identity and enjoy financial and administrative autonomy. **>A2**



Founded 1975 · Volume 46 No. 224 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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YOUTH AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S CONCERNS, SAYS HIS MAJESTY THE SULTAN

His Majesty the Sultan delivers Royal Speech on 11th of January Anniversary

MANAH: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Tuesday gave a speech on the occasion of the day on which he assumed the reins of power in the country, the 11th of January, reading as follows:

"Almighty Allah. Thanks be to You for bringing back this blessed occasion at a time when our march of development is forging ahead

and our renaissance renewed and deriving impetus from a glorious history. It is anticipating the future with strong will based on the solidarity of its citizens.

Loyal people of Oman,
To safeguard our gains and the accomplishments made on this benign land and, to establish a prosperous future for our young

generation in all parts of this country, we will spare no effort in utilising all means to realise the objective.

We are confident that you all perceive the volume of challenges that we have been through, that we have tackled with tact and patience, and then, with the Almighty's divine support, proceeded with the implementation of our social and economic plans and programmes, guided by Oman Vision 2040. Our economic and fiscal performance has improved, and we started to accomplish for you and with you the march of growth and prosperity.

Sustaining the State's ability to meet its financial obligations

has been the prime aim of the current stage. We feel satisfied with the positive change in fiscal performance which, thanks be to the Almighty Allah, has improved fairly well.

This has been further consolidated by the expansion in economic stimulus policies and the establishment of a social protection scheme catering to the welfare of citizens, thus giving this improvement a humanitarian dimension.

Dear Citizens,

We have placed youth at the forefront of our government's concerns. We have followed up the efforts made to engage youth in

the nation-building process. We will ensure that this partnership is more comprehensive and more effective. The State's institutions and officials are endorsing a sustainable course of action focusing on highlighting the salient contributions of youth in this auspicious march and organising their roles in serving society.

We are impressed by the achievements made in the field of recruitment during this year, which saw the employment of a good number of Omani jobseekers, despite the difficulty of this stage. We look forward with hope, combined with determination, that all sectors of the State and the private sector will play the

role expected of them in promoting employment, being the cornerstone of the economy and development. The aim is to provide jobs for our qualified sons and daughters and to qualify those who require to gain the necessary skills to join the labour market. As for our sons and daughters from among entrepreneurs who wish to establish their private projects, we are resolved to lend them our support and encourage their entrepreneurship programmes. We will offer necessary support and incentives to small and medium enterprises, given their vital role in stimulating economic activity and employment opportunities.

>A4

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN

Interior Minister inaugurates public park

1 At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior opened Manah Public Park. The opening coincides with the Royal presence of His Majesty the Sultan in the Governorate of Al Dhakhiliyah. **>A4**

WORLD

UN makes aid appeal for Afghanistan

2 In the "biggest-ever appeal" for humanitarian aid for a single country, the United Nations has sought \$4.4 billion (€3.9 billion) for Afghanistan. **>A6**

MARKET

CMA gets Supreme Sharia Board

3 Minister of Finance and Chairman of the CMA's BoD issued Decision No. 171/2021 establishing the Supreme Sharia Supervisory Board (SSSB) in the CMA. **>B1**

RECOGNITION

HM grants Royal Commendation Order to some Omani personalities

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Tuesday granted the Order of Royal Commendation, 2nd Class, to some Omani personalities in recognition of their scientific and research achievements, as well as their societal contributions.

The orders were handed over by Sayyid Khalid Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court when he received them in his office on Tuesday.

The orders were conferred to:

- Prof. Sabah Ahmed Al Sulaiman, in the fields of research, innovation and the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).
- Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Al Sa'adi, in the fields of research, innovation and the fourth industrial revolution (4IR).
- Prof. Khalifa Saif Al Jabri, in the field of health.
- Sheikh Suhail Salim Al Mukhaini, in the fields of civil initiatives, social responsibility, economy, labour market and recruitment. **>A2**



OMAN

PRAYER
TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:20pm
Asr.....	3:23pm
Maghrib.....	5:44pm
Isha.....	6:59pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:31am

<FROM
A1

His Majesty granted the Royal Orders, Sayyid Khalid affirms

On his behalf, the order was received by his son Shiekh Ahmed Suhail Al Mukhaini.

- Dr. Mohammed Ali Al Barwani, in the fields of labour market, recruitment and economy.
- Saleh Mohammed Al Shanfari, in the fields of environment and natural resources (food security).
- Hareb Abdullah Al Kitani, in the fields of environment and natural resources (liquefied gas).
- Hunaina Sultan Al Mughairy, in the fields of administrative and institutional development (diplomatic work).

During the meeting, Sayyid Khalid affirmed that the orders were granted by His Majesty in appreciation of their efforts. He wished them continuous success in their current and future endeavors in serving the homeland. -ONA



WELCOMED

DECREE

Royal Academy for Administration's role outlined by Minister of Diwan

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Tuesday issued a Royal decree establishing the Royal Academy for Administration (RAA) under the honorary patronage of His Majesty the Sultan.

Sayyid Hilal Al Busaidi, Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Royal Academy for Administration, said that the establishment of the RAA stems from His Majesty's keenness on developing human resources and aligns with the requirements of Oman Vision 2040.

"It is a manifestation of Royal objectives of coaching Omani cadres to perform their role in serving the national economy and managing its resources at the level of public and private sectors. The RAA is envisaged to be an international edifice tasked with developing modern methodolo-



gies in line with basics of competitiveness and innovation," said Al Busaidi.

He added that the RAA functions three broad lines, which are Oman Vision 2040, the future needs of the new Omani economy and the employment of modern learning methods, notably Blend-

ed Learning. Al Busaidi affirmed that the programmes and initiatives that will be launched by the RAA will

endorse the 2040 Administrative Capabilities Framework, which defines the skills required for the long-term vision.

The RAA will make use of its connections with global institutions, take the latest methodologies and apply them in accordance with the Sultanate of Oman's needs, he said.

The RAA will introduce applied studies to help develop the most modern intellectual content and enrich the repertory of public sector resources with the prime aim of instilling a culture of productivity and innovation, Al Busaidi explained.

The RAA will design specialized programmes for the development of the skills of employees in governorates. The academy will also enable its trainees to access digital educational platforms, electronic libraries and other digital resources. -ONA

<FROM
A1

Under HM's patronage

Article (2) states that the Royal Academy for Administration shall come under the honorary patronage of His Majesty the Sultan.

Article (3) states that the Royal Academy for Administration shall have its headquarters in the Governorate of Muscat and that, with a decision from the board of trustees, the academy may have branches in other governorates.

Article (4) determines the competence of the Royal Academy for Administration as per annex No.1 attached to this decree.

Article (5) approves the organizational structure of the Royal Academy for Administration as per annex No.2 attached to this decree.

Article (6) states that, as an exemption from the system (law) of the State Administrative Apparatus promulgated by Royal Decree No. 75/2020, the Royal Academy for Administration shall have a board of trustees under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Diwan of Royal Court. The Council

of Ministers shall issue a decision appointing members of board of trustees and determining the duration of their membership.

The board of trustees shall have the same powers assigned to boards of directors of public entities cited in the State's Administrative Apparatus System.

Article (7) states that the Royal Academy for Administration shall have a chairman with the Special Grade and that the chairman shall be appointed under a Royal decree.

The Chairman shall have the powers assigned to a Head of Unit cited in all laws and Royal decrees. The Chairman attends all meetings of boards of trustees without having a counted vote as stated in the aforementioned State's Administrative Apparatus System.

Article (8) states that all allocations, rights, obligations and assets of the Institute of Public Administration and the Institute of Capability Development at the Diwan of Royal Court shall be transferred to the Royal Academy for Administration.

Article (9) states that all employees of the Institute of Public Administration and the Institute of Capability Development at the Diwan of Royal Court shall be transferred to the Royal Academy for Administration, along with their financial grades.

Article (10) says that Chairman of the board of trustees of the Royal Academy for Administration shall issue regulations/bylaws and decisions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this decree. Till such time, the existing regulations, bylaws and decisions shall continue to be enforced without prejudice to the provisions of this decree.

Article (11) cancels the Institute of Public Administration and the Institute of Capability Development at the Diwan of Royal Court, as well as all that contradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions. Article (12) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue. -ONA





HM greeted by Sayyid Fahd on 11th of January Anniversary

Oman is exerting sincere efforts to consolidate the march of comprehensive development aimed at securing a decent life for citizens

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received greetings from His Highness Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for the Council of Ministers, on the 11th of January Anniversary, the day when His Majesty assumed reign of power, reading as follows:



“Your Majesty, May the Almighty Allah protect you.

On the second anniversary of the day on which Your Majesty assumed the reins of power in the country, I am greatly honoured to greet Your Majesty on my own behalf and on behalf of the Council of Ministers, praying to the Almighty Allah to protect Your Majesty and grant you good health, happiness and long life.

The Sultanate of Oman, under Your Majesty’s wise leadership and by the will of its people, is pressing ahead with firm resolve to safeguard the accomplishments made in all economic and social spheres. It is exerting sincere efforts to consolidate the march of comprehensive and sustainable development aimed to secure a decent life for citizens in a stable, forward-looking society where equality in rights and duties prevails.

We pray to the Almighty Allah to assist Your Majesty with success to continue the benign march of progress and prosperity.” -**ONA**

Information Ministry launches Ayn platform

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Information on Tuesday celebrated the official launch of Ayn platform, which is considered the largest Omani audiovisual content outlet.

This project comes to keep pace with the tremendous developments in the media in terms of content, model and technology.

The platform presents Oman’s civilization through its history, present and future to broaden the prospects and influence of the media’s message.

A statement was issued on this occasion by Dr. Abdullah Nasser Al Harasi, Minister of Information during which he said that the launch of this platform coincides with Oman’s celebrations of the 11th of January anniversary, the day when His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik assumed reins of power as the architect of Oman’s Renewed Renaissance. This move comes to keep pace with the digital transformation within the goals of Oman Vision 2040, affirmed Dr Abdullah.

Electronic media

He added, “Ayn platform represents a complete shift in the field of modern electronic media services that are based on high efficiency. The platform increases the Omani presence in various electronic mediums. It also sheds light on national achievements. The platform, through its website and smart devices application, offers a unique experience, which is more fun and easy to use.”

Ayn’s library contains a huge collection of audiovisual content produced by Oman’s radio and television over a span of decades.

The Ministry of Information invites all people to use the platform by downloading the Ayn app on their smart devices or through the website to give feedback that will contribute to developing and enhancing the provided services.

-**ONA**

ROYAL PRESENCE

Interior Minister opens Manah Public Park

MANAH: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik, Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, Minister of Interior on Tuesday opened Manah Public Park in the Wilayat of Manah.

The opening coincides with the Royal presence of His Majesty the Sultan in the Governorate of Al Dhakhiliyah.

The park was set up as per the Royal orders of the late Sultan Qaboos bin Said bin Taimour.

Locals of Manah and the neighbouring wilayats can benefit from the park, which also serves as a haven for travellers on Nizwa-Thumrait road.

The park is built on a space



of 120,000 square metres and includes several facilities and amenities, such as four open theatres. Two of the theatres have a capacity of 500 people each, which makes them suitable to hold events.

Green landscapes occupy approximately 45,000 square metres of the park’s space. In addition, over 130 palm trees, 800 saplings of flowers and various ornamental trees were planted.

The park also contains shaded



nurseries on a space of 800 square metres.

As per the royal orders, the management of the park shall come under the purview of the Al Dhakhiliyah Governor’s Office.

The opening ceremony was at-

tended by the Secretary-General of the Royal Court Affairs, the Governor of Al Dhakhiliyah, Walis of Manah and Adam, as well as Sheikhs and members of the Municipal Council of the two Wilayats. -**ONA**

ROYAL SPEECH

< FROM

A1 Praise for security forces

Local investment constitutes one of the basic pillars of diversification of the national income. After we launched a set of national programmes and furnished proper suitable grounds, we hereby urge all to invest funds locally. We have lucrative investment opportunities at hand in all fields, and we look forward to seeing our country a destination for pioneering investments, notably in spheres that consolidate our approach to expand the volume of the national economy and diversify the sources of income. Our country, thanks be to the Almighty Allah, boasts a wide range of competitive incentives, great potentials and promising opportunities that need to be utilised.

The government will unleash all its efforts and capacities to serve cooperation and integration that ensure channelling development to the governorates. They will enhance their preparedness for investment and develop their local role based on the comparative advantage of each governorate in a manner that creates development models. This will be substantiated by a set of strategic goals to be executed by the government within the context of five-year plans.

Thus, the march of development can be perfected and empowered to cover all parts of this

dear homeland.

Over the next stage of the Renewed Renaissance, we will take action to transform government performance from the level of emergency solutions to a more sustainable level having a set of lasting and comprehensive solutions that place economic growth, fiscal sustainability and social welfare at the forefront of its priorities.

Dear citizens,

It was the Almighty Allah’s will that our country was subjected to adverse climatic conditions. Based on our keenness to provide maximum levels of protection and care for citizens and residents, we hereby direct the government to speed up the rate of support and development of the early warning system and to endorse the best urban planning schemes to curb the impact of such climatic conditions.

Dear citizens,

Elevating Oman to the higher strata of progress that it deserves is a national duty and an immense responsibility to be shouldered by each and every citizen.

We hereby urge all our sons and daughters to stick to the values and principles emanating from our glorious history. Let’s take

pride in our identity and the core essence of our personality, while at the same time opening up to the world in a balanced and objective manner and in a positive stance that does not compromise our originality or identity or make us lose or forget either of them.

Loyal citizens of Oman,

The sincere national efforts have always been the object of our appreciation and pride. In this context, we would like to register an expression of commendation for our military and security services. We salute them for the honourable national roles they have undertaken in protecting the nation and defending its interests and sovereignty, at every time and place, willing to offer their lives in sacrifice for every inch of this dear homeland. To you, armed and security services, we proclaim our deep thanks and praise for your valuable contribution towards building the dear homeland and elevating its status. We pray to the Almighty Allah to lend us all support to bear this great responsibility. We pray to Him to grant us success to realise the good of the nation and its citizens.

May the Almighty Allah protect Oman. May He protect you all, loyal citizens of Oman!” -**ONA**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

HM receives written message

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik has received a written message from Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The message deals with bilateral relations and cooperation, and means of promoting them between the two countries and their peoples.

The message was delivered to Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaid, Foreign Minister when he received on Tuesday Mohammed Sultan Al Suwaidi, UAE Amb-



sador to the Sultanate of Oman.

During the meeting, UAE Ambassador conveyed greetings and best wishes of Sheikh Mohammed to His Majesty the Sultan. On

his turn, Sayyid Badr asked the Ambassador to convey His Majesty’s greetings and best wishes to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed and the UAE people. -**ONA**



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GREETINGS

His Majesty the Sultan greeted by Sayyid Shihab on 11th of January Anniversary

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik on Tuesday received greetings from His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, on the 11th of January Anniversary, the day when His Majesty assumed reins of power, reading as follows:

“Your Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the Supreme Commander, may the Almighty Allah protect you.

On this anniversary of the 11th of January, the day when Your Majesty assumed the reins of power in the country, Oman is witnessing an immersive spirit of happiness that prevails everywhere. A new era unfolds within the purviews of a Renewed Renaissance envisaging a bright future of progress and prosperity. On this auspicious national occasion, I am honoured to greet Your Majesty on behalf of myself and on behalf of all personnel of your Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence, praying to the Almighty Allah to endow Your Majesty with good health and happiness and to make Oman an oasis of peace and prosperity.

Your Majesty the Sultan,

The celebration of the 11th of January is an embodiment of manifestations of eternal days of Omani history. This day adds a brick stone to the great accomplishments of Oman and the con-



tribution of its sincere citizens.

Your Majesty, the Supreme Commander,

Your Armed Forces constitute one of the greatest achievements of the Omani renaissance. While they earn their establishment and transformation to the founder of their modern setup, the Armed Forces forge ahead with confi-

dence under Your Majesty’s wise leadership in a new renewed attire, armed with all means of progress, and they continue to be a model of Your Majesty’s renewed renaissance.

Your Majesty,

While living through this atmosphere of celebration, all personnel of Your Majesty’s Armed

Forces reiterate the pledge of loyalty and allegiance to Your Majesty and they vow to be the defenders of this great renaissance. They pray to the Almighty Allah to protect Your Majesty and to bring back this occasion at a time Your Majesty enjoys good health and happiness.”

-ONA

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Secretary General receives Chief of BDF

MUSCAT: Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al Zaabi, Secretary General at the Ministry of Defence received in his office at Al Murtafa’a Garrison on Tuesday Lt. Gen Theyab Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and his accompanying military delegation. The two sides exchanged viewpoints and discussed several matters of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Rahbi, Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), Brigadier Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Manthri, SAF Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and a number of senior COSAF officers. -ONA



U.S. EMBASSY - MUSCAT

RFQ FOR MSG COOK SERVICES

The U.S. Embassy Muscat has a requirement of a contractor who can supply a cook and cleaner to the Marine Security Guard (MSG). For complete details regarding this requirement, please refer to the embassy website under Contracting Opportunities at Embassy/ Solicitation # RFQ PR10339298 - MCT-MSG Cook contract

<https://om.usembassy.gov/embassy/contracting-opportunities/>



ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

28,125 REACH

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Around 25 international passengers were de-boarded at Delhi airport on Monday.



TIMESOFOMAN.COM

25 passengers offloaded at Delhi airport after testing positive for COVID-19



Story on passengers being offloaded after testing positive at Delhi Airport

A story on passengers being offloaded after testing positive at Delhi Airport reached 28,125 people and had 1,654 engagements on Facebook.



MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

749 VIEWS



749 VIEWS



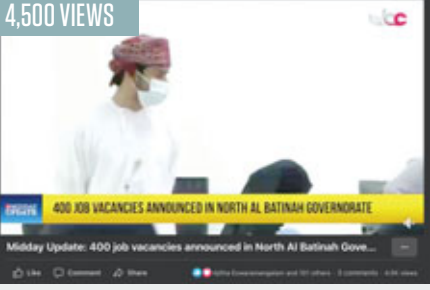
Maghrib Minute video

The Maghrib Minute video in Hindi had 749 views and 39 likes on Instagram



MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

4,500 VIEWS



4,500 VIEWS



Midday Update on new jobs

The Midday Update episode on new jobs in Oman had 4,500 views and reached 15,100 people on Facebook.



Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

ANNOUNCEMENT

SELLING USED COMPUTERS AND THEIR ACCESSORIES IN SEALED ENVELOPES

Sultan Qaboos University announces its desire to sell used computers and their accessories in sealed envelopes. Those wishing to enter the auction must adhere to the following conditions:

- Interested parties can view used computers and their accessories in auction stores and receive the bidding form on Sunday and Monday, 16-17/01/2022, from 03:00 to 05:00 pm.
- Deposit of (200) OMR in cash as an insurance. This amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
- Submitting the offer in a sealed envelope after viewing the items, entitled by the name of the head of the committee for selling used computers and their accessories and putting the envelope in the bid box.
- The presented offer is binding on its owner if it is placed on it, and in the event that the buyer does not pay the purchase price on time, the insurance amount will be forfeited, and the sale will be awarded to another applicant.
- Those who win the bidding will be contacted. They must pay the remaining sum, and they are responsible for moving their items on Wednesday and Thursday, 19-20/01/2022 from 08:00 am to 02:00 pm.
- The devices are sold in their current condition, and SQU is not responsible for any loss or damage to the sold items if the moving is not completed after the end of the sale, and (10) OMR will be imposed for each day after 23/01/2022.

Note:

- Prices are sorted according to groups and the higher price is taken.
- Funds will be collected electronically through Visa Card.
- Commitment to Precautionary measures and wearing a mask and only one person is allowed to enter the auction's location with the buyer.
- Entering the auction stores through Gate No. (2).
- For more information, please contact 95721637.





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UN makes 'biggest-ever' aid appeal for Afghanistan

UN wants \$4.4 billion for Afghanistan to prevent the world's most rapidly growing humanitarian crises



Where is the aid needed?

The UN said 22 million people inside Afghanistan and a further 5.7 million in neighboring countries need vital relief this year.

"Help us scale up and stave off widespread hunger, disease, malnutrition and ultimately death," Griffiths pleaded.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, reminded the international community "that there is a regional dimension to this crisis."

He asked for a further \$623 million to support refugees and host communities in neighboring coun-

tries. "The needs of refugees cannot be dismissed nor can the generosity of host countries be taken for granted. They need support and they need it today," he said.

The UN estimates 4.7 million people will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2022, including 1.1 million children with severe acute malnutrition.

Since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in mid-August, foreign aid stopped, and the country's overseas assets were frozen, sending the fragile economy into freefall.

Afghanistan also suffered its

worst drought in decades in 2021.

Griffiths said the donor money would not support the Taliban administration.

Instead, the UN plans to distribute the money to 160 nongovernmental organizations plus UN agencies delivering aid. They will use it to provide food and agricultural support, health services, nutrition, emergency shelter, water and sanitation, protection and emergency education.

The UN warned that if it fails to raise enough money this year, it would need to ask for \$10 billion next year to tackle the crisis. **bw**



Printed and published by:
Muscat Media Group
Post Box: 770,
Postal Code: 112



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MISSILE TEST

North Korea fires second suspected ballistic missile in less than a week

PYONGYANG: North Korea on Tuesday launched what appeared to be a ballistic missile more capable than the "hypersonic missile" it launched less than a week ago, South Korea's military.

The early-morning launch came as the UN Security Council finished discussions in New York on how to respond to Pyongyang's reported testing of a suspected hypersonic weapon last week.

"Our military detected a suspected ballistic missile fired by North Korea from land towards the East Sea at around 7:27 a.m. today," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. Initial estimates found that the missile traveled more than 700 km (435 miles) to a maximum altitude of 60 km at a top speed up to 10 times the speed of sound (12,348 kmh/7,673 mph), the JCS said.

"We assess that this is more advanced than the missile North Korea fired on January 5," it added. The South's National Security Council (NSC) held an emergency meeting and expressed "strong regret" over the latest missile test.

"Members of the NSC urged North Korea to swiftly respond to the international community's expectations for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and agree to resume dialogue and co-operation," the presidential Blue House said in a statement.

Tuesday's projectile appeared



to have landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), according to Japanese media.

"That North Korea continues to launch missiles is extremely regrettable," Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said.

6 countries condemn last week's test

The United States, joined by France, Ireland, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Albania, issued a joint statement on Monday, ahead of the UN Security Council closed-door meeting, urging North Korea to cease "destabilizing actions."

"These actions increase the risk of miscalculation and escalation and pose a significant threat to regional stability," US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said in the statement.

The six countries called on Pyongyang "to refrain from further destabilizing actions... and engage in meaningful dialogue towards our shared goal of complete denuclearization." **bw**

RECORD HOSPITALISATIONS

US hospitalisations may top 142,000 mark

WASHINGTON: United States on Monday recorded 141,385 COVID-19 cases in hospitals with medical staff struggled to treat the infected patients amid an unprecedented surge of the coronavirus.

This number fell just short of the record of 142,273 cases which was reported on January 14, 2021, when the pandemic was at its peak in the country, *The Washington Post* reported.

Meanwhile, Colorado, Oregon, Louisiana, Maryland and Virginia had declared public health emergencies or authorised crisis standards of care, which allow hospitals and ambulances to restrict treatment when they cannot meet demand.

There seems to be no respite as the corona cases continue to increase in the country.

Nurses and other hospital staff continued to fall sick themselves, raising nurse to patient ratios in some places to high levels, reported the *Washington Post*.

But the highly transmissible omicron variant threatens to obliterate that benchmark. If models of omicron's spread prove accurate -- even the researchers who produce them admit forecasts are difficult during a pandemic -- current numbers may seem small in just a few weeks. **-ANI**

PARTY DURING LOCKDOWN

Johnson accused of hosting another party during COVID-19 lockdown

LONDON: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson face renewed criticism on Monday of his government's conduct during the first nationwide coronavirus lockdown in 2020.

According to a leaked email as seen by broadcaster ITV, a "bring your own" alcohol garden party took place at Downing Street on May 20, 2020, amid restrictions that limited social interactions to two people from separate households, while pubs and restaurants remained closed.

More than 100 invited to 'bring your own food'

An email was sent by the PM's Principal Private Secretary Martin Reynolds to over 100 employees. "After what has been an incred-



ibly busy period it would be nice to make the most of the lovely weather and have some socially distanced drinks in the No. 10 garden this evening," Reynolds said in the email. "Please join us from 6 p.m. and bring your own food!"

Around 40 staff eventually gathered in the garden for the party, including Johnson and his wife Carrie, according to ITV.

Alleged lockdown breaches leave Johnson on the ropes

Johnson's premiership has been tarnished by several accusations of lockdown breaches that occurred during 2020, including other gatherings in the garden at his Downing Street residence and a Christmas party, as well as the social event highlighted by ITV on Monday.

An investigation, conducted by a senior government official, is already underway for at least five parties that were held in governmental departments last year during lockdowns. **bw**



INDIAN SCHOOL AL MAABELA
P.O Box 134, P.C 122, SULTANATE OF OMAN
Tel. No. 90690565/93219687

TENDER NOTICE

Ref: ISAM/Tender/2022 dated 12/01/2022

Sl. No.	Item Description
1.	Fencing of the School Play Field
2.	Staff Medical Insurance Service
3.	Supply of Sports Uniform
4.	Erection & Setting Up of Toddlers Play Area
5.	Providing Safe School Transport Facility
6.	Supply of Staff Room Furniture

Competitive Tenders are invited from the establishments specialized in each area.

The Collection of Tender documents from School should be done on or before 19/01/2022 after a payment of R010/-.

Tender Submission is on or before 30/01/2022

The completed tender in all aspects should be dropped in the Tender Box kept in school office. A separate tender for each item should be submitted in a sealed envelope & addressed to:

The Chairman, Purchase Sub-Committee, Indian School Al Maabela.

The School reserves the right to reject any tender without providing any reason and does not find itself to accept the lowest or any tender.



Royal Oman Police

ANNOUNCEMENT

On the occasion of ROP Annual Day, Royal Oman Police - Directorate of Public Relations -

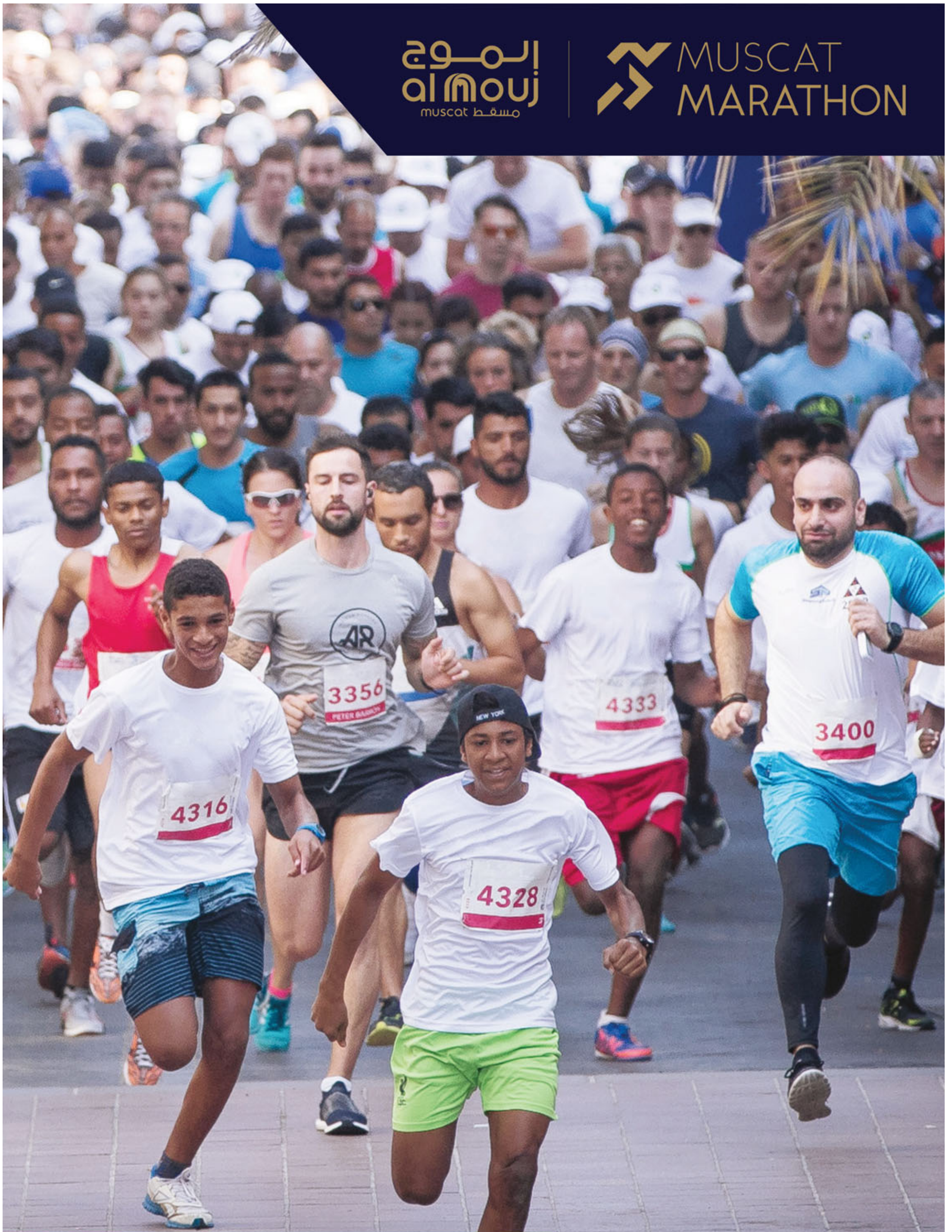
announces to all citizens and residents that Thursday 13/01/2022 shall be observed as an official holiday for ROP formations that follow the official-working-hours system.

As for police stations, they will be practicing their regular duties and providing all services entrusted to them around the clock.

Best wishes for all

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Stories



India bowled out for 223, skipper Virat Kohli fights a lone battle

The South African pacers bowled tightly and did not allow Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli to bat freely

CAPE TOWN: Hosts score 17/1 at stumps on day-1 here at Newlands trailing India by 206 runs after the visitors were bowled out for 223. Earlier in the day Indian captain Virat Kohli won the toss and despite a bit of overcast conditions chose to bat first. Opener Mayank Agarwal got a life on his individual score of zero as South African pacer Kagiso Rabada got the outside edge but Keegan Petersen dropped a tough chance at third slip. The duo from there on batted steadily start to put on 31 runs for the opening wicket. Proteas bowlers kept on persisting as Duanne Olivier bowled three maidens and along with pacer Kagiso Rabada bowled 24 balls in a row. The pressure finally got in as Rahul edged the ball to wicket-keeper



Kyle Verreynne for 12 off pacer Olivier. In the next over, Mayank Agarwal was dismissed by Rabada caught in the second slip by Aiden Markram for 15. Agarwal's wicket meant skipper Virat Kohli's arrival and Rabada welcomed him with a bouncer of the very first ball. The Indian captain batted patiently along with Cheteshwar Pujara negotiating three maiden overs. Kohli too opened his account with a cover drive after facing 15 dot balls. Pujara and Kohli took India's total beyond the 50-run mark. The duo ensured that there was no further damage as the visitors scored 75 for 2 at lunch on day-1. Resuming the post lunch session at 75 for 2 the South African pacers bowled tightly and did not allow Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli to bat freely. The duo managed to put up a fifty run partnership to deny Proteas any breakthrough. Pujara was more aggressive of the two batting capitalizing on the opportunities coming his way. The gritty 62-run partnership was finally broken as left arm pacer Marco Jansen dismissed Pujara caught behind by wicket-keeper Verreynne for 43 to leave India in a spot of bother at 95 for 3. Ajinkya Rahane came in to bat after Pujara's dismissal and Jansen managed to find his outside edge too but the ball went in the

third slip region where there was no one standing. India reached the triple figure mark but the intriguing contest between bat and ball continued as Rabada went past Virat Kohli's bat missing the edge by a whisker but captain Kohli replied back with a six of the very next ball. Rahane's lean patch continued as he was dismissed for 9 by Rabada who bagged his second wicket caught behind by keeper Verreynne who took his third catch of the innings. The Mumbai lad did take a review but it did not go his way to leave India tottering at 116/4. Wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant joined Virat Kohli and got off the mark with a boundary towards gully with the ball going over the fielder's head. Virat Kohli hung in and kept on fighting to take his side to 141/4 till Tea scoring 66 runs in the session losing two wickets. Resuming the post Tea session at 141/4, Captain Virat Kohli and wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant took the team's beyond the 150-run mark. Virat Kohli notched up a resilient half century and his 28th Tests and in process the Kohli-Pant duo also notched up a fifty partnership. The 51-run partnership was finally broken with Pant getting out to Left arm pacer Marco Jansen for 27 caught by Keegan Petersen.

Jansen struck once again in his next over dismissing Ravichandran Ashwin caught by wicket-keeper Kyle Verreynne for just who took his fourth catch of the innings. Despite losing partners at the other end Virat Kohli kept on scoring to keep the scoreboard moving. Shardul Thakur walked in to bat after the dismissal of Ashwin and struck a six to take India's total to 200. Thakur was later dismissed by Keshav Maharaj caught in short covers by Petersen for 12 of just 9 balls as India lost their 7th wicket for 205. Jasprit Bumrah came in to bat but was dismissed without troubling the scorers by Rabada who bagged his third wicket to leave India tottering at 210/8. Virat Kohli's gritty knock of 79 finally came to an end as Rabada dismissed him caught behind by wicket-keeper Verreynne who took his fifth catch of the innings and Rabada took his fourth wicket. With a bit of resistance from Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav the Proteas bowled India out for 223 with Lungi Ngidi taking the wicket of Shami. With only 223 runs in first innings Indians needed an early wicket and Bumrah did exactly that taking the wicket of South African captain Elgar with a score of 10 dismissing him for 3. -ANI

NEW ZEALAND VS BANGLADESH

Ross Taylor bids adieu to Test cricket with final wicket as NZ thrash Bangladesh



FAREWELL MATCH: Bangladesh started their second innings following on New Zealand but were bowled out for 278 as the Kiwis sealed a win.

CHRISTCHURCH: New Zealand batter Ross Taylor on Tuesday picked his third wicket in the longest format to help the Kiwis register a thumping win over Bangladesh by an innings and 117 runs in the second Test. It was an eventful farewell match for Taylor, who wrapped up the Bangladesh innings after dismissing Ebadot Hossain as he picked his third wicket in Test cricket. On Tuesday, Bangladesh started their second innings following on New Zealand but were

bowled out for 278 as the Kiwis sealed a win. The visitors were folded for 126 in the first innings. Unlike their first innings, Bangladesh got off to a cautious start but Kyle Jamieson and Neil Wagner wreaked havoc to dismantle the batting lineup. Liton Das (102) was the lone fighter for Bangladesh as tried hard to carry the visitors' innings. With this win, New Zealand levelled the series 1-1 and have earned 12 points in their quest for the World Test Championship

(WTC). On Monday, before stumps, Bangladesh was bowled out for 126 in the first innings, giving New Zealand a lead of 395 runs. For the hosts, Trent Boult returned with five wickets. Coming to Taylor, the 37-year-old has been a mainstay in the BLACKCAPS batting order since making his debut in 2006, amassing a plethora of records and achievements, most notably rising to the top of New Zealand's runs scoring (18,074) and appearances (445) charts. -ANI

FOOTBALL



Manchester United survive Villa to advance into fourth round

MANCHESTER: Manchester United are through to the fourth round of the FA Cup after beating Aston Villa 1-0 in a controversial tie at Old Trafford. The Reds will face Middlesbrough in the next round thanks to Scott McTominay's early eighth-minute winner against Steven Gerrard's Villa side. It was an edge-of-your-seat watch throughout a pulsating first half and the visitors dominated the second 45 minutes but couldn't find the equaliser. Villa had an Ings goal ruled out after a nail-biting VAR check that led to referee Michael Oliver overturning his decision after a look at the pitch-side TV monitor. The Midlands also had one ruled out by Ollie Watkins for offside. But a much-improved home side survived the onslaught and squeezed through to secure the tie against Boro. -ANI

COMMENTARY

Can Virat Kohli conquer the final frontier?

Anis Sajan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

India's final frontier resumed at Cape town when they met South Africa for the third test match with the series tantalizing poised at 1/1 after two test matches. India won the first test convincingly at Centurion where they had never won before and South Africa bounced back well to beat India and square the series in the second test match at Wanderers where they had never beaten India till date. It now boils down to the final test match at a venue where India has never beaten South Africa but this team under Virat Kohli has shown in the past that they are up for challenges and overcome it. After missing the second test match with back spasms, Virat Kohli would be rearing to achieve this feat of winning a series in South Africa for the first time after the drama with the selectors which had unfolded before the start of the series. Even though Virat Kohli has not scored a test century for two years and his average is below 30 since the beginning of 2020, his live wire presence on the field leading the team brings out the best from his team. Hanuman Vihari who had replaced the skipper had done a decent job in the second test scoring 60 runs while dismissed only once might still have to miss out as both Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane did show



some form in the second innings scoring half centuries and also putting on a important partnership of 111 runs together. Virat Kohli said at the pre match press conference that the experience of both his senior players is priceless and in overseas conditions they have proved in the past and he is confident that the duo will step up with impact performances. He had that crucial knocks in crucial situations, in crucial scenarios and that has lot of value for him. India will have to do a forced change for the injured Mohammed Siraj and my gut feeling says it might be Ishant Sharma who might get the nod ahead of Umesh Yadav who had a decent series in South Africa in 2018. Nothing succeeds like success and winning the first ever test series in South Africa will be Virat Kohli's final frontier in the games highest format where he has been the leader of the pack for the number one team in world cricket since the last five years.

TRAINING

Oman Cricket staff benefit from ICC Curator Training Workshop

MUSCAT: Two of Oman Cricket's most capable ground staff recently completed the ICC Curator Training Workshop online and came out richer in knowledge and experience required to create playing conditions conducive to international cricket games. Anoop C Kandy and Muhammed Ehtesham ud Din attended the 10-week extensive workshop conducted by Andrew Atkinson, ICC Pitch Consultant, and Iqbal Sikander, ICC Development Officer, Asia Region. The topics covered during the workshop included preparation of pitches for T20, ODI and Test matches, post-match and pre-season preparation, irrigation and rolling techniques, drainage and equipment, and ICC tournament preparation. "The workshop aimed at develop-

ing a sense of belonging and relating to every second of the experience to bring the best out of the participants. We are grateful to the ICC officials Andrew and Iqbal for every thought and experience shared with us," said Anoop, who heads the ground staff at Oman Cricket Academy. "Their earnest effort in sharing the knowledge was not just to enhance the skills but to highlight the challenges one can experience during the match. The experiences and thoughts gathered over the years through different seminars and workshops we had attended mostly focused on ground rules and norms and dos and don'ts. However, we always felt the need for learning in the light of practical experiences so that we have the skills and knowledge to

move from the domestic mode to the international method of preparation; something we experienced during this ICC workshop," Anoop added. "The participants admired the simplicity in collating the learning and practical experience and combining it in such a way that kept every participant involved and thinking. The workshop really helped them to correct and reorganize themselves to be able to know how to view and react to instances encountered during the game. It just kept everyone on their toes and wondering what would come next," said Ehtesham. They thanked Madhu Jesrani, OC Secretary, and Duleep Mendis, Chief Development Officer, for giving them the opportunity to participate in the workshop.



WORKSHOP: OC ground staff Anoop C Kandy and Ehtesham ud Din with OC Secretary Madhu Jesrani, CDO Duleep Mendis and Board Member Younus Sakhi Mahmood Al Balushi.

OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS
The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by March 2022 reaching \$79.97, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by 41 cents from the price of Monday, which was \$80.38. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,224.66 points, up 0.07 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.31 per cent at 526.04 points. SMN Power Holding up 8.70 per cent, was the top gainer while, Vision Insurance down 9.78 per cent, was the top loser.

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



CBO issues treasury bills worth OMR313mn

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR313 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from January 12 until April 13, 2022.

The average accepted price reached 99.821 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at 99.820 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.71781 per cent and 0.71910 per cent, respectively.

Treasury bills are short-term highly secured financial instruments issued by the Ministry of Finance, and they provide licensed commercial banks the opportunity to invest their surplus funds. The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) acts as the Issue Manager and provides the added advantage of ready liquidity through discounting and repurchase facilities (Repo).

The interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.5 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 0.75 per cent.

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

CAPITAL MARKET AUTHORITY

Supreme Sharia Supervisory Board established at CMA

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Sultan Salim Said Al Habsi, Minister of Finance and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Capital Market Authority issued Decision No. 171/2021 establishing the Supreme Sharia Supervisory Board (SSSB) in the Capital Market Authority and issued its Articles of Association pursuant to Article 5 of the Takaful Insurance Law promulgated by Royal Decree No. 11/2016.

SSSB was established to enhance the legislative and regula-



tory processes for the companies operating in the Takaful insurance business based on best international practices. The SSSB will put in place the general policies regu-

lating such types of companies and advise the CMA on the Sharia aspects related to Takaful insurance and contribute to developing the legislation related to the Sharia

beside advice on the compatibility of the products, services and contracts of the Takaful insurance companies and deciding on issues of fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence) disputes among the members of Sharia supervisory committees in Takaful insurance companies.

The Articles of the SSSB states that the board must be constituted by the board of directors of the CMA comprising five members including the chairman of SSSB and at least three members must have a bachelor's degree in Islamic Sharia or an equivalent degree besides

knowledge of Islamic transactions (Fiqh Al Muamalat) or Islamic banking or Islamic finance or capital market or insurance in addition to ten years experience.

The establishment of the SSSB comes in line with the evolution in the Takaful insurance market in Oman during the past years as the volume of the market reached about OMR64.8 million representing 14 per cent of the total insurance portfolio with two companies specialised in providing Takaful insurance products out the 20 insurance companies operating in Oman.

Take a test drive.

Get a free trip to Oman Aquarium.

Walk into the Mall of Muscat on January 13th - 14th from 4pm to 8pm to test drive a Vitara, Jimny, Swift or Dzire and get 1 free pass to Oman Aquarium.

First 10 customers to test drive the cars get a free pass to Oman Aquarium. After that all customers can buy one pass to the Oman Aquarium and get one free.

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HM ACCESSION DAY

OUR LEADER. OUR PRIDE. OUR INSPIRATION.

The Chairman, Board of Directors and all the staff of Alizz Islamic Bank extend their heartiest congratulations and best wishes to **His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik** on the anniversary of his accession to the throne.

MARKET

MSX index ends higher

SMN Power Holding up 8.70 per cent, was the top gainer while, Vision Insurance down 9.78 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,224.66 points, up 0.07 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.31 per cent at 526.04 points. SMN Power Holding up 8.70 per cent, was the top gainer while, Vision Insurance down 9.78 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Vision Insurance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while OIFC were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 624 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR4.14 million, with more than 26.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 43 traded securities, 11 advanced, 12 declined and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, Domestic investors were net buyers for OMR263,000 while foreign

investors were net sellers for OMR243,000 followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR20,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,714.85 points, up 0.12 per cent. Al Anwar Investment, Global Investment Holding, Al Sharqia Investment, Bank Muscat and National Bank Oman were up 2.13 per cent, 1.52 per cent, 1.09 per cent, 0.78 per cent and 0.51 per cent respectively. Vision Insurance, Al Madina Investment, United Finance, Oman & Emirates Holding and Madina Takaful were down 9.78 per cent, 6.25 per cent, 1.69 per cent, 1.54 per cent and 1.05 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,069.33 points, up 0.36 per cent.

Services Index was up by 0.15 per cent before closing at 1,646.31 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,229.34	4,223.40	4,224.67	4,221.58	3.09	0.07
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,727.06	6,712.42	6,712.42	6,714.85	-2.44	-0.04
Industry Index	6,076.09	6,038.16	6,038.16	6,069.33	-31.17	-0.51
Services Index	1,661.70	1,646.16	1,661.70	1,646.31	15.39	0.93
MSX Shariah Index	527.69	526.04	526.04	527.69	-1.65	-0.31
MSX TR INDEX	5,089.40	5,082.25	5,083.78	5,080.06	3.71	0.07

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
26,938,657	4,145,319	624	22,389,937,686	11	12	20	43

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

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

OM0000001525	OMAN INVST & FIN.	6,815,532	1,083,134	82	0.154	0.163	0.153	0.159	0.153	0.006	3.922	0.163	0.160	0.163	0.100	37,683,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	3,140,834	301,296	100	0.097	0.097	0.095	0.096	0.094	0.002	2.128	0.095	0.095	0.096	0.100	19,200,000
OM0000000440	AL SHARQIA INV.	189,294	17,576	15	0.092	0.094	0.092	0.093	0.092	0.001	1.987	0.094	0.093	0.094	0.100	8,370,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER.	127,850	55,743	7	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.436	0.432	0.004	0.926	0.436	0.432	0.436	0.100	103,074,760
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	17,23,855	893,937	44	0.518	0.520	0.516	0.518	0.514	0.004	0.778	0.518	0.500	0.518	0.100	1,851,577,942
OM0000002188	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	10,000	4,400	1	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.438	0.002	0.457	0.440	0.430	0.440	0.100	96,800,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	36,404	4,798	9	0.131	0.132	0.131	0.132	0.132	0.000	0.000	0.131	0.122	0.132	0.100	11,230,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	1,691	524	1	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.310	0.000	0.000	0.310	0.306	0.316	0.100	207,193,282
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	247,900	14,676	7	0.060	0.060	0.059	0.059	0.059	0.000	0.000	0.059	0.059	0.060	0.100	18,121,633
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	2,100	2,066	2	0.960	1.005	0.960	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000	1.005	0.940	1.005	0.100	89,700,000
OM0000000277	AL OMANIYA FIN.	752,000	97,780	27	0.129	0.131	0.129	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.134	0.100	37,951,572
OM00000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	183,795	71,744	18	0.392	0.392	0.390	0.390	0.390	0.000	0.000	0.392	0.392	0.392	0.100	48,710,204
OM00000003026	OMAN TELECOM	63,023	48,412	4	0.772	0.772	0.768	0.768	0.768	0.000	0.000	0.768	0.768	0.776	0.100	576,000,000
OM00000003396	SOHAR INT BANK	919,100	107,335	16	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.100	349,857,288
OM00000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	17,870	8,027	7	0.450	0.450	0.448	0.450	0.452	-0.002	-0.442	0.448	0.442	0.448	0.100	24,750,000
OM00000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	15,000	5,250	5	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.350	0.352	-0.002	-0.568	0.350	0.344	0.350	0.100	21,421,496
OM00000002200	AHLI BANK	194,032	22,802	9	0.119	0.119	0.117	0.118	0.119	-0.001	-0.840	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	322,134	72,507	35	0.228	0.229	0.220	0.225	0.230	-0.005	-2.174	0.225	0.223	0.248	0.100	45,000,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	10,000	2,430	3	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.243	0.250	-0.007	-2.800	0.243	0.243	0.250	0.100	80,402,069
OM00000006920	VISION INSURANCE	8,555,555	710,265	63	0.084	0.084	0.083	0.083	0.082	-0.009	-9.783	0.083	0.083	0.087	0.100	8,300,000
Total		20	23,327,959,324,901	455												

Parallel Market

OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	184,500	9,225	6	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.046	0.004	8.696	0.050	0.050	0.050	0.100	9,981,780
OM00000004735	SEMI CORP SALALAH	10,000	796	3	0.079	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.075	0.005	6.667	0.080	0.071	0.080	0.100	78,365,756
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV. H.	369,000	24,050	13	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.067	0.066	0.001	1.515	0.067	0.060	0.068	0.100	13,400,000
OM00000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	1,064,731	209,752	13	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.196	0.001	0.510	0.197	0.197	0.197	0.100	320,313,432
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	116,465	11,186	8	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.100	12,480,000
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	31,000	1,787	5	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.057	0.000	0.000	0.057	0.057	0.059	0.100	7,123,000
OM00000002549	BANK DHOFAR	12,960	1,685	3	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.130	0.135	0.100	389,525,687
OM00000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	157,820	11,968	9	0.077	0.077	0.076	0.076	0.076	0.000	0.000	0.076	0.075	0.076	0.100	15,428,970
OM00000003661	VOLTAMP ENERGY	27,492	3,039	13	0.110	0.112	0.109	0.111	0.111	0.000	0.000	0.112	0.110	0.112	0.100	9,035,705
OM00000004669	SHARQIYAH DESALIN.	45,000	4,950	4	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.108	0.110	0.100	10,758,238
OM00000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	42,000	3,024	4	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.000	0.000	0.072	0.072	0.072	0.100	7,200,000
OM00000005983	PHOENIX POWER	342,566	17,067	17	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	73,130,073
OM00000007884	MCT DESALINATE	6,106	532	4	0.087	0.090	0.087	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.087	0.080	0.090	0.100	13,532,855
OM00000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	257	17	2	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.000	0.000	0.065	0.060	0.065	0.100	14,445,600
OM00000004420	BANK NIZWA	27,745	2,747	5	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.100	-0.001	-1.000	0.099	0.099	0.100	0.100	221,458,350
OM00000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	814,256	78,696	41	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.094	0.095	-0.001	-1.053	0.094	0.090	0.094	0.100	16,450,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	9,800	627	1	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.064	0.065	-0.001	-1.538	0.064	0.062	0.066	0.100	7,800,000
OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	46,000	2,668	2	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.059	-0.001	-1.695	0.058	0.057	0.059	0.100	20,250,376
OM00000001319	ALIMINUM PROD.	47,000	6,086	6	0.130	0.130	0.128	0.129	0.132	-0.003	-2.273	0.129	0.128	0.129	0.100	4,330,717
OM0000001962	AL MADINA INV.	34,000	1,519	6	0.045	0.045	0.044	0.045	0.046	-0.003	-6.250	0.044	0.045	0.048	0.100	3,150,000
Total		20	3,379,698	389,401	165											

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

IMF appoints Gourinchas as chief economist replacing Gita Gopinath

NEW DELHI: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has appointed French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the next chief economist, replacing Indian origin Gita Gopinath.

"I am very pleased to announce that Pierre-Olivier will join us as

the Fund's next Chief Economist. He brings a stellar track record of scholarship and intellectual leadership in macroeconomic areas critical to our work—from global imbalances and capital flows to the stability of the international monetary and financial system, and more recently, to economic

policies for the pandemic era," Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of IMF said in a statement on Monday.

Gourinchas will succeed Gita Gopinath, a US national of Indian origin. Gopinath has been appointed the first deputy managing director of the IMF. — **ANI**

OIL PRICE

Oil rises to \$82 as demand recovery seen on track

LONDON: Oil rose to around \$82 a barrel on Tuesday, supported by tight supply and hopes that rising coronavirus cases and the spread of the Omicron variant will not derail a global demand recovery.

Opec supply additions are running below their allowed increase under a pact with allies due to a lack of capacity in some countries. Major economies have avoided a return to severe lockdowns, even as coronavirus cases soar, Reuters reports.

Brent crude gained \$1.14, or 1.4 per cent, to \$82.01 a barrel at 1134 GMT, after dropping 1 per cent in the previous session. US West Texas Intermediate rose \$1.16, or 1.5 per cent, to \$79.39, after falling 0.8 per cent on Monday.

"Omicron has yet to wreak the havoc of the delta variant and may never do so, keeping the global recovery on track," said Jeffrey Halley, analyst at brokerage OANDA.

Brent rose 50 per cent in 2021 and has rallied further in 2022 as investors see demand rising while Opec and its allies, known as Opec+, slowly ease record output cuts made in 2020. A weaker US dollar also helped support oil as it makes oil cheaper for those holding other currencies. — **BNA**

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Email msahammed@gmail.com

Indian male 2 years experienced in accounts, administration and sales seeking for suitable job opportunities. Contact 78674856. Email: muhammedrafidvp@gmail.com

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CONTACT: 91183601
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E-mail: terancefranklin25@gmail.com

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Contact: 79056363, 99501396
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Contact: 92187572
Email: sifathhasan1995@gmail.com

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Contact: 95476011
Email: noblesimon1985@gmail.com

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Contact +968 95555865

Senior Accountant

Indian male M. Com with PG in computers, working as Senior Accountant in Oman with over 12 years with advanced knowledge in MS Dynamics, ODDO, Tally Erp/Prime (Tally customising with developer), looking for suitable position.

Contact on +96871551938

ACCOUNTS

Indian Male, 38yrs (age), 13 years of experience in accounts in Oman, Having D/L, NOC is available, Can join Immediately.

Contact No: 95920740,
Email ID: alhameed1527@gmail.com

FINANCE

B.Com ICWAI (Intermediate), 18+ years Finance/Accounts/Reporting/Credit Control/ Finalisation, Expd in MFG/Retail/Service Ind, Expd in ERP-Orion/Focus/JD Edwards/D/L, NOC available, can join immediately.

Mobile: 97634372

SENIOR MANAGER SUPPLY CHAIN

Indian Male with +25 years of Experience in Supply Chain, Purchase, Sales & Distribution, MIS, Inventory & Credit Control seeks placement.

CONTACT 94619442

FINANCE

MBA, Mcom, ICWA (inter) 21 years experience in Oman working as Manager in Business / Accounts / Finance / Operations. Looking for Senior positions in Business / Finance and Operations.

CONTACT: 96211885

JOB WANTED

IT

Indian Male - BE, MCSA, 6+ years experience IT Admin, known SAP-ERP, Oman D/L. Contact 91614839

LOST

WALIDI SHAHER HAYEL has lost Tanzanian passport AB802566. Finder please handover to ROP.



FORAGED FOODS

FROM SURVIVAL TO FINE DINING

Foraging food started as a vogue some ten years back — a push back to proliferating globalisation and homogenisation of food. The reaction, it was claimed, was to restore our link with Mother Earth and persuade us to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle full of enjoyment of fresh, rejuvenating flavours.

Noma in Denmark was the trendsetter more than a decade back with the partner chef arguing persuasively that wild food connects people with nature and allows them a wonderful opportunity to slow down, reflect, introspect and discover themselves. It continues to retain its position at the top of the charts as Noma 2.0.

What appeared as a passing fad has over the years become a powerful addiction for the gourmet. Traders are constrained to employ professional foragers to cope with the demand.

South Africa and Australia are home to many renowned restaurants with food inspired by the tradition of foraging. Australian Bush foods and ingredients from Outback form. Large part of the menu - Blue cornmeal, sweet potatoes, Bunya nuts, Yam Daisy find a prominent place in the carte.

Most chefs content themselves with adding a foraged twist to traditional recipes. But then there is a growing breed of innovators who accept foraging as their creed.

In Denmark, Faviken's chefs use only food foraged from 20,000 acre grounds that the restaurant has access to. The only exceptions are salt, sugar and vinegar. Much of the fare comprises dishes smoked dried pickled fermented, salted or burned.

Alex Atala in Sao Paulo is one of the leading exponents of going back to indigenous roots. His food celebrates his ancestral Amazonian culture.

Miyamasou a Japanese restaurant with Two Michelin stars is famed for its Kaisiki (evening meal) offering an exceptionally eclectic selection covering a wide range of foraged ingredients from fresh flowers to wild bear. Another restaurant utilises everything from edible clay, corn, quinoa mahogany clams and horse mussels. There are other eateries specialising in foraged foods in different continents.

Chef Vigilio Martinez Veliz has a 17 dish tasting menu covering all the radians of Peru.

Kwan, a Korean Zen Buddhist nun prepares purely vegan repast from ingredients foraged from the



Baekyangsa temple's garden and the adjacent forest. This is part of her spiritual discipline.

Locavore philosophy emphasises consuming only whatever is locally available. It also reminds the diners that in nature there is no waste and hence we shouldn't waste any food we forage!

The modern city is often referred to as a concrete jungle but recently those who dwell in these mega settlements have started discovering the 'forests' it cradles inviting foragers to look for nourishment there.

How easily we forget that Indians in the rural hinterland have for generations subsisted on gatherings from the forest. Moringa (drumsticks) are widely used in Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Madhya

Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The nutritional value of Moringa is well known and according to local lore that Fidel Castro once sent a Cuban expert to study if it could help meet the nutritional needs of his compatriots.

In Andhra Pradesh gongura (Roselle) leaves are the wild-growing greens that add a distinct sour tang to most savoury dishes. In Nepal, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and in the northeastern states linguda/lingdi (fiddlehead ferns) are relished as a stir-fried vegetable or in pickled form. Stinging Nettles were once the staple for the abjectly poor in the same belt. According to legend the mystic saint poet Millerappa had once sustained himself during a forty day-long fast on a diet

of these nettles.

Tarud is a yam resembling the elephant foot yam that was painstakingly foraged in the Himalayan region. Bhutanese continue to farm asparagus in the wilderness and bamboo shoots in the northeastern states. Wild honey continues to be gathered from hives precariously perched on the ramparts of the thousand-year-old fort at Kalinjar in UP.

Palm Hearts (Sea Cabbage) are not usually encountered in India but Amaranths and Mulberry (Shehtoot) are foraged along with other berries and edible flowers. Guchhi are Kashmiri yellow morels that selling at about Rs 30 thousand per kilo are arguably the most expensive foraged food item. -ANI



FEATURE



Amid ongoing controversy over a lack of diversity, the Golden Globes were announced via social media. “Power of the Dog” and “West Side Story” dominated the top prizes.

The usual glitz and glamour was absent during the Golden Globes on Sunday, with celebrities staying away and longtime broadcaster NBC not covering the event after complaints about a lack of diversity and the ethics policies of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which chooses the winners.

New Zealand director Jane Campion became the second woman to helm a film that won the best drama film prize with her dark Western “The Power of the Dog,” following Chloe Zhao’s win last year with “Nomadland.” Campion also scooped the best director award.

Will Smith won the best actor in film drama prize for his role in “King Richard,” a biopic about the father and coach of Venus and Serena Williams: Nicole Kidman took the best actress award for her portrayal of Hollywood icon Lucille Ball in “Being the Ricardos.”

Steven Spielberg’s “West Side Story” remake was honored for best comedy or musical, and took home lead and supporting actress prizes for young stars Rachel Zegler and Ariana DeBose.

Korean O Yeung-su won best supporting actor at the 79th awards for his role in the hit Netflix series, “Squid Game.”

“Pose” star Michaela Jae Rodriguez also became the first transgender woman to win a Golden Globe, taking the prize for best

actress in a TV drama. She quickly took to social media to celebrate her triumph.

“This is the door that is going to Open the door for many more young talented individuals,” she wrote on Instagram. “They will see that a young Black Latina girl from Newark New Jersey who had a dream, to change the minds others would with love. Love wins.”

Among the other television awards, corporate family saga “Succession” took home the best drama award; and “Hacks,” about a fading female comedian, was awarded best comedy.

Netflix led all studios with four film awards.

A real commitment to diversity?

Michaela Jae Rodriguez and 20-year-old “West Side Story” lead Rachel Zegler were among the few star performers to acknowledge receipt of Golden Globes, which were announced via social media and a live blog.

Controversy continues to rage around the film and TV showcase that began in 1943, after a February 2021 article published by the Los Angeles Times blasted the press organization behind the event for not having a single Black member on the 87-person body that hands out its awards.

Tom Cruise has since handed back his three awards, while broadcaster NBC has again canceled its commitment to broadcast the gala. Netflix also ended its association with the event.

In May, the Hollywood association voted for sweeping reforms pledging more diversity and transparency, including adding

six Black members to the group of more than 100 journalists who decide the second-most important film awards ceremony (after the Academy Awards).

“This has been a year of change and reflection,” said Hollywood Foreign Press Association President Helene Hoehne during presentation of the nominations in Los Angeles last month.

During the behind-closed-doors ceremony on Sunday, the association tweeted videos from Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie Lee Curtis praising the group’s community work.

“I’m proud to be associated with them in this venture,” said Curtis, referring to funding by the association for community programs.

No longer a party, but still a good Oscars guide

With three wins apiece, “The Power of the Dog” and “West Side Story” confirmed that they will be hard to beat during the upcoming Oscars ceremony in March.

Set in 1920s Montana, Jane Campion’s anti-Western “Power of the Dog,” starring Benedict Cumberbatch, was released by Netflix with a limited theatrical run. It has been widely praised by critics and already took home the Silver Lion for best film in Venice.

Spielberg’s “West Side Story” was also adored by critics, even if it flopped at the box office.

And Kenneth Branagh’s “ Belfast,” a coming-of-age film set amid sectarian violence in 1960s Northern Ireland, won best screenplay but picked up seven Globe nominations and is still considered a strong award-season contender. -w



ROUND-UP

Barka Desalination to launch IPO

The company will offer 40 per cent of its share capital to the public through an IPO

MUSCAT: Barka Desalination Company SAOG (under transformation) or BDC, owner of Oman's largest operating water desalination plant (Barka IWP), announced its intention to launch its Initial Public Offering(IPO).

The company will offer 40 per cent of its share capital to the public through an IPO. Accordingly, BDC will offer 30,208,800 shares to the public through listing on Muscat Stock Exchange (MSX). As anchor investors in the IPO, National Power & Water Co. LLC (an investment arm of Bahwan Engineering Group), and Bank Muscat SAOG have committed to invest up to 10 per cent of the IPO at Bzs 145 per share i.e. the highest end of the IPO price range.

BDC has been promoted by global leaders with vast experience in



the water industry: ITOCHU Corporation from Japan, ENGIE and SUEZ from France along with WJ Towell Group from Oman. BDC caters to c. 23 per cent of water demand in Oman. BDC owned plant with proven desalination technology is a strategic asset located close to Muscat and is thereby a key water supply unit for Muscat city and the northern part of the Sultanate.

BDC generates its revenues under a 20-year contracted water purchase agreement (WPA) until 2038 with the Government of Oman owned Oman Power &Water Procurement Company (OPWP), ensuring stable and predictable cash flows. Backed by this contracted WPA, BDC plans to offer the shares in the IPO on the book-building basis in a price range of Bzs 115 to Bzs 145 which

translates into an attractive dividend yield of 8.4 per cent p.a. to 10.6 per cent p.a.to IPO investors.

Barka IWP uses proven and reliable Sea Water Reverse Osmosis (SWRO) desalination technology providing an environmentally friendly and sustained supply of high-quality drinking water at record low electrical energy consumption. The plant has achieved excellent operating performance

with over 99 per cent reliability in the last 12 months. It is worth noting that the Plant uses SeaD-AFTM technology which helps it deliver water even in 'algae bloom' phenomena wherein other water desalination plants in Oman typically face technical complexities with respect to the operations of their plants.

The IPO of BDC is going to be the first IPO in Oman under the Rules for Pricing Mechanism in Public Offering of Shares introduced by the Capital Market Authority (CMA) last year. The IPO of BDC will adopt several recent mechanisms in Oman, including a two-phased approach. Phase I will be an offer to large and institutional investors through a book-building method that is aimed at finding a fair value for the offer shares. This will be followed by a Phase II offer to the retail investors which are based on a fixed price and E-IPO for investor convenience. The CMA has designed the new rules to provide a clear legal framework for determining fair offer prices objectively and transparently.

Commenting on the proposed IPO, Patrick Thienpont, CEO of BDC said, "Barka Desalination Company officially commenced commercial operations in June

2018 after the remarkable construction of the Barka IWP plant, which was completed in less than 30 months. The IPO is a unique opportunity to invest in a strategic asset that will continue to be held and managed by the marquee founders. We look forward to welcoming new partners in our future journey."

BDC's Chairman Murtadha Sultan said, "Water is an essential commodity and a precious resource that forms the foundation of economic and social development in Oman. As the largest water supplier to the Sultanate's desalinated water production, we are proud of our contribution to Oman. Investors have a rare opportunity to invest in the water sector in Oman through BDC's IPO. We are confident that both institutional and retail investors will make the best of this opportunity."

Bank Muscat Investment Banking, Oman's largest and most experienced investment banking team, is the financial adviser and sole issue manager for the IPO transaction. BDC has also appointed a large collection syndicate for the IPO, consisting of five banks and two prominent brokerage firms who would be accepting application forms from potential investors in the IPO.

NATIONAL BANK OF OMAN

NBO extends remittance services to Bangladesh embassy in Muscat



MUSCAT: Continuing to make banking even more accessible and convenient, the National Bank of Oman (NBO) has introduced remittance services to the Embassy of Bangladesh in Muscat.

Taking advantage of the bank's secure and approved international transfer network, the new service will help the Bangladesh community to make affordable and fast transfers to friends and family in their native language.

With competitive exchange rates in several currencies, NBO customers can also instantly send funds of up to OMR7,500 from their account using the bank's digital remittance service available anywhere at any time through the NBO mobile app.

Tariq Atiq, Chief Retail and Digital Banking Officer at NBO said, "At NBO we know how vital sending

money home is to our expatriate customers, and so we are always trying to find ways to make it even easier. Adding to the growing number of affiliations with embassies, we are proud to partner with the Embassy of Bangladesh to provide our customers working and visiting there with greater access to our services. At the same time, we continue to strive to deliver seamless, convenient and flexible banking experiences that are accessible to all."

NBO's remittance service continues to offer a fast and easy way to send money abroad. Meanwhile, the bank encourages its customers to take advantage of its digital banking app, which allows them to remit safely and securely, any time of the day or night, to Bangladesh as well as India, Pakistan, Egypt, Philippines, Indonesia and the UAE.

ATTRACTIVE VEHICLE FINANCE

Get set, get driving with Bank Muscat Sayyarati auto finance

MUSCAT: In line with its customer-centric vision 'To serve you better, everyday', Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has evoked a strong response for its attractive vehicle finance which offers some of the most competitive rates in the market.

This product is designed to help customers who are looking forward to buying new or pre-owned vehicles at low-interest rates (starting from 3.25% and available until January 31, 2022) and absolutely no need for post-dated cheques.

With its fast turnaround time, the feature-rich Sayyarati finance can be obtained within the shortest possible time. Options available include loan tenure up to 8 years for new and used vehicles, the lowest monthly payment options in the country and on-the-spot approvals. Unique in all aspects with unparalleled benefits, Sayyarati is the preferred vehicle finance in Oman.

Speaking about the popular Sayyarati package, Abdullah Tamman Al Mashaani, General Manager - Products, Bank Muscat, said: "In line with our commitment to provide the best services possible to our valued customers and meet their aspirations and needs, Bank Muscat is constantly developing products and services that can further enhance customers' experience with their trusted banking partner. We are glad to see the positive feedback from our customers and we thank them for their strong confidence and trust in our products.

"With its longstanding experience in the banking sector of about four decades, Bank Muscat has the widest network across Oman with 174 branches and more than 800 ATMs and CDMs. Sayyarati is one of the most popular products from Bank Muscat and we hope that it will help make people's dreams of owning their very own cars come true. Bank Muscat reiterates its commitment to making vehicle purchases easy and affordable



through its excellent financing facilities, which can be tailored according to each customer's unique needs."

The hassle-free Sayyarati finance can be obtained from Bank Muscat branches spread across Oman. Loans up to OMR60,000 will be offered for new vehicles and used vehicles. It is important to note that customers availing of the Sayyarti offer can enjoy fast processing without any unnecessary paperwork and signing of cheques. Only the following documents are needed to process the loan facility: buyer's ID card, salary assignment letter, quotation/ car valuation from the approved valuator, driving license, Mulkiya (for pre-owned cars only) and seller ID card (for pre-owned cars only).

The monthly loan instalments are automatically deducted from the customer's account once the mandate to do so is provided to the bank. With some of the world's best and safest vehicles available for purchase in the Sultanate, the bank aims to do its part to improve road safety and the security of all road users. It is noteworthy that loans are disbursed within 24 hours subject to applicants meeting the concerned requirements.

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Pact inked for development of Omani SMEs

MUSCAT: Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) and Business Gateways International (BGI), which manages IT strategic platforms in Oman, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) aimed at providing joint support and promoting the growth of Omani SMEs by taking advantage of the available opportunities related to the In-Country Value on the Joint Supplier Registration System (JSRS) in Oman and supporting the expansion of these businesses in global markets.

JSRS is an In-Country Value platform to certify suppliers and utilise their services, initiated by the Oman Ministry of Energy and Minerals who launched JSRS on www.businessgateways.com. JSRS connects the community of Buyers, which include all oil & gas operating companies in the energy sector and many large institutions and companies from other sectors - with thousands of certified suppliers on JSRS Certified Suppliers Network (CSN), to source and award procurement-related opportunities with specific emphasis on SME obligation contracts and



sub-contracts to Omani SMEs.

JSRS CSN includes many Omani service providers, including SMEs, companies approved by Riyada, Local Community Contractors (LCCs) and large corporates in addition to international companies from more than 100 countries that benefit from the procurement opportunities offered by the JSRS Buyers Community.

Based on this MoC, BGI will implement a special OCCI SME platform for Omani SMEs registered

with OCCI on JSRS, integrate the OCCI SME Committee on JSRS and provide business-related support services exclusively to JSRS certified SMEs through the OCCI SME platform.

This MoC is the beginning of a number of new initiatives that will be mutually implemented by OCCI and BGI with a common goal, which is to help SMEs communicate with each other and develop their businesses and services and provide information about

OCCI current activities to those who are registered on the OCCI SME platform.

OCCI recommends that all Omani SMEs register in JSRS and obtain the JSRS Supplier Certification to benefit from the upcoming services that will be offered on the OCCI SME Platform.

OCCI and BGI will soon launch awareness campaigns in all Omani governorates for all OCCI companies and introduce the advantages of the JSRS OCCI SME platform.

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ROUND-UP

Ford unveils New Year delights across its range

Customers owning a brand new Ford can benefit with service 3 Years / 60,000km, petrol card worth OMR100 and registration for 1 year

MUSCAT: Ford has recently announced a range of exclusive benefits across the range to add to a delightful start to the New Year. Customers owning a brand new Ford can benefit with service 3 Years / 60,000km, petrol card worth OMR100 and registration 1 year. (Conditions apply. For details visit a Ford showroom.) The offer is valid until March 9, 2022. Ford's range in Oman includes



the all-new F-150 XLT. This powerful truck raises the standard for all light-duty trucks. It boasts best-in-class towing and payload capability, introduces all-new features to increase customer productivity. The Ford F-150 is equipped with a 3.5-litre EcoBoost twin-turbo V6 engine that produces 400 horsepower and 677 Nm torque to give it impressive payload capabilities. The all-new F-150 starts with a durable, proven foundation – a fully boxed high-strength steel frame with a high-strength, military-grade, aluminium alloy body. All-new F-150 offers the latest driver-assist features as part

of Ford Co-Pilot360™ 2.0. More features are now standard, including Pre-Collision Assist with Automatic Emergency Braking and Pedestrian Detection to help avoid a possible collision with another vehicle or a pedestrian, rearview camera with dynamic hitch assist, auto high-beam headlamps and auto on/off headlamps. The Ford Explorer comes standard with a 2.3L i-4 Ecoboost engine. The Ford Explorer now sports abundant new features; better cargo space behind the third row and a quiet highway ride, Intelligent 4WD Terrain Management System, BLIS with Cross-Traffic Alert,

Individual Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, 360-Degree Camera, Tri-Zone Electronic Temperature Control and more. The Expedition is the most powerful and fuel-efficient Ford SUV till now, offering customers a full-size utility vehicle with a 3.5L V6 EcoBoost Engine producing 400 HP, stylish design and fresh interiors. It also features rotary gear shift and 10-speed automatic transmission and safety features like Pre-collision assist with pedestrian detection and much more. The Ford Taurus has been redesigned with a focus on safety and practicality. The Taurus has the effortless power to match its sporty appearance. The Taurus is powered by a 2.0-litre EcoBoost inline four-cylinder petrol engine that produces 240 horsepower and an impressive 390Nm torque. The engine is mated to an eight-speed automatic transmission which is operated by a contemporary rotary gear shifter on the centre console.

In Oman, Ford vehicles are brought to you by Arabian Car Marketing Co.

PRIZE ACCOUNT



Maisarah Islamic Banking Services closes year-end mega draws

MUSCAT: Maisarah Islamic Banking Services – BankDhofar's Islamic banking window – celebrated the success of its groundbreaking prize scheme, under Prize Account, and conducted the long-awaited 2021 year-end mega draws.

The event was held at Maisarah's Azaiba Branch with Sayyid Salim Musallam Al Busaidi, Human Resources Development Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labour, as the chief guest, and was attended by BankDhofar's CEO Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili, as well as members of Maisarah's executive management team, customers and staff.

During the event, winners of valuable cash prizes were announced where three lucky customers from across the Maisarah branch network won OMR 100,000 in the Priority Banking category, OMR 10,000 in the Standard and Affluent Banking category and OMR 2,000 in the children category.

Distributed from the shareholders' funds, these Sharia-compliant cash prizes had been allocated as part of a personal

savings account based on the Islamic concept of Mudarabah, in addition, to the standard expected profit. Each OMR 100 gave customers the chance to win cash prizes as per terms and conditions of the scheme, and winners were randomly selected by an automated system in line with the approved procedures for the prize draws.

In addition to the year-end, mega-prize draws, there were also weekly prizes of OMR 100 each granted to three winners from each branch, with a total number of 30 winners every week. Moreover, there were exclusive prizes for children in the monthly draws where one winner per branch was awarded OMR 100, with a total number of 10 winners. For Standard and Affluent Banking customers, there were monthly prizes of OMR 500 each for one winner per branch, with a total number of 10 winners. Meanwhile, Priority Banking Customers had the chance to win OMR 2,000 each for one customer from every branch, with a total number of 10 winners in monthly draws.

STATE-OF-THE-ART

Capital Pharmacy opens new retail outlet

MUSCAT: Cygnus Division expanded its network of community pharmacy outlets offering quality medicines with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art retail outlet at Wadi Adai - Muscat. Cygnus Division also plans to add a few more retail outlets in and around Muscat and Dhofar regions shortly.

The new retail pharmacy outlet was inaugurated by Jihad Bin Abdullah Bin Saeed Al Fannah, Majis Al Shura – Wilayat Sur, in the presence of Board of Directors Representative, Ali Al Ashry and Suresh A. Gandhi, CEO of Capital Pharmacy & Al Hashar Pharmacy recently.

Jihad Al Fannah congratulated Capital Pharmacy on this inauguration, which he said is a milestone of its incessant efforts to improve



the health, hygiene and living standard of the whole society. "Enhanced personalised patient services, prevention of diseases and complications and thus the enhanced quality of life are our motto," said Suresh A. Gandhi, CEO. He also

reiterated Capital Pharmacy's commitment to work towards providing high-quality, patient-focused, cost-effective healthcare medicines to the communities served. The newly opened retail pharmacy outlet opposite Al Nahdha

Hospital, equipped with personalised community healthcare services, is the latest addition to Cygnus Division's growing number of healthcare services, focusing primarily on improving accessibility, convenience and affordability. Cygnus retail pharmacies offer patient education initiatives for managing chronic diseases, and also have plans to support respiratory patients by better counselling and device demonstration to enhance patient awareness about inhalation therapy and respiratory outcomes for a "Breathe Free" experience.

To celebrate the opening of the Wadi Adai branch, a free blood pressure awareness camp was conducted at the new outlet on an inaugural day. Around 30 people participated in the awareness camp.

NEW OFFER

ahlibank announces 10% cash reward on salary transfers

MUSCAT: Continuing to provide special offers and benefits to its customers in line with their expectations, ahlibank has announced a new offer under which the customer who starts transferring their salary to ahlibank will receive an immediate one-time cash reward of 10% of their monthly salary, with maximum cash reward amount capped at OMR500.

Under the 3-month offer, which started on January 10, and runs until the end of March 2022, the bank offers its Omani and expatriate, new salary transfer customers the opportunity to enjoy a lucrative benefit. Customers who transfer their monthly salary to the Bank with an amount of OMR1,000 or above are eligible for this reward offer.

Muneer Al Balushi, AGM – Head of Retail Distribution, said, "We are pleased to announce this offer, which seeks to strengthen and establish our relationship with our existing and new customers. The promotion reflects ahlibank's leadership in being



innovative when it comes to enhancing customer experience and providing solutions that meet various customer requirements through tangible benefits. These could be in the form of cash rewards, cash backs, lifestyle promotions, and more."

"This is not just a one-time benefit, but a strategic step encouraging customers to adopt practices which will bring them added value in the long-term," Al Balushi further stated.

RECOGNITION

Alizz Islamic Bank honoured for its humanitarian efforts

MUSCAT: In recognition of its strong commitment to sustainable social responsibility and its pioneering role in supporting people with disabilities in the Sultanate, Alizz Islamic Bank was honoured by the Ministry of Social Development at an event held to mark the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The event was held under the patronage of Her Highness Dr Mona bint Fahad Al-Said, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University. The award was received by Muna Al-Khusaibi, Deputy Senior Manager of the Marketing and Corporate Communications Department, at Alizz Islamic Bank.

Murtadha Jawad Al Lawati, Assistant General Manager and Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications Department at Alizz Islamic Bank said, "We in Alizz Islamic Bank, give priority to investing in our communities, as we always seek to provide a better life for the people we serve across the Sultanate. In this regard, investment in sustainable initiatives is critical to the prosperity of society, and the



bank makes sure to give strong support to the national organisations that takes efforts effective to build strong and flexible communities. Moreover, the bank continues to contribute to the growth of non-profit social organisations. The employees have dedicated more than 1,000 hours of their time for volunteer work and fundraising to support local community organisations. The bank has been supporting these efforts through employees' community programmes."

He added, "The secret of a happy life is not to achieve individual

success. There is nothing more beautiful than helping others to achieve success. When we live for ourselves only, life seems too short and shallow, but when we live for others, life becomes longer and deeply meaningful. Alizz Islamic Bank is committed to being at the forefront of banks that launch sustainable initiatives in the community as it firmly believes in the importance of community investment, and accordingly, it is keen to engage the community as a partner in all its business."

Alizz Islamic Bank seeks excel-

lence in providing humanitarian initiatives that best serve society. These efforts seeking to care for people with disabilities and orphans in the Sultanate are driven by the government's interest, represented by the Ministry of Social Development, in ensuring that such individuals obtain all rights, on equal footing with all other citizens of the Sultanate, including their right to be rehabilitated in different rehabilitation institutions, so that they can be easily integrated into the society to play their role in its prosperity alongside all Omanis.

Previously Alizz Islamic Bank and the Ministry of Social Development launched the website www.crowdfunding.alizzislamic.com as a crowdfunding project aiming to raise OMR 2 million to build the Centre of Excellence for Children with Disabilities. The crowdfunding website will allow all sectors and segments of the society to participate and contribute to building the Centre and help orphans living in and out of the Sultanate and following simple and flexible steps.



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