

PRAYER TIMINGS
Dhuhr 12:10 pm
Asr 3:36 pm
Maghrib 6:37 pm
Isha 7:51 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow) 4:18 am
IFTAR 6:37 pm



6 085010 120010

OMAN HELPS IN RELEASE OF BRITISH, INDIAN AND INDONESIAN NATIONALS

In compliance with the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, on responding to the request of the governments of the United Kingdom, Indonesia, India, and the Philippines, the Sultanate of Oman coordinated with the concerned departments and authorities in Sana'a for the release of their nationals. **>A2**



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ROYAL DECREE

His Majesty issues 3 Royal Decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Sunday issued three Royal decrees as follows:

Royal Decree No. 18/2022 on amending Royal Decree No. 95/2020 defining the prerogatives of the Ministry of Information and endorsing its organisational structure.

Article (1) stipulates that the annex attached to this decree shall replace Annex No. 2 of the aforementioned Royal Decree No. 95/2020.

Article (2) cancels all that con-

tradicts this decree or contravenes its provisions.

Article (3) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced on its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (19/2022) on the appointment of an Undersecretary for the Ministry of Information.

Article (1) appoints Mohammed bin Said bin Mohammed Al Balushi as Undersecretary for the Ministry of Information, along with his existing grade and financial allocations.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue.

Royal Decree No. (20/2022) on extending the membership of the Oman Human Rights Commission.

Article (1) states that the membership of the Oman Human Rights Commission shall be extended till 31 December 2023.

Article (2) says that this decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and enforced from its date of issue. **-ONA**

AT THE BEHEST OF HM



Eid Al Fitr holiday from 1 May to 5 May, 2022

MUSCAT: At the behest of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Eid Al Fitr holiday 1443 AH for employees in the State's Administrative Apparatus and other legal entities, as well as establishments in the private sector will be from Sunday, 29th Ramadan 1443 AH, corresponding to 1 May to Thursday, 5 May 2022.

Resumption of work

Work shall be resumed on Sunday, 8 May 2022.

The Ministry of Labour pointed out that employers may agree on terms to engage employees on the said holiday—if deemed necessary due to the nature of their work—provided they compensate the workers for the holiday. **-ONA**

MASSIVE PLANS UNVEILED FOR OMAN'S PRESENT AND FUTURE

OIA launches eight-point agenda to build a diverse and stable economy

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Expanding the contributions of specific non-oil sectors, attracting more private investors, focusing on divestment and privatisation, enhancing in-country value and ensuring good governance and transparency in companies are among the key priorities for the Oman Investment Authority (OIA) over the next five years.

OIA's eight-point agenda was revealed during its Business Briefing Plans Session to discuss the organisation's performance over the previous years as well as their plans from 2022 to 2026.

OIA's priorities

The first of its priorities is financial sustainability by enhancing the contribution of specific sectors like tourism, agriculture, fisheries and ICT to the portfolio's profitability, and reducing the general debt of the portfolio by 32 percent. The second priority is selective growth in specific sectors, where capital expenditure is set to reach OMR6.7 billion between 2022 and 2026, 30



percent of which will be spent on new growth initiatives.

The third priority focuses on contribution to the GDP, while the fourth seeks to attract private investors through new investments, divestments and privatisation. This priority is set to generate OMR1 billion in 2022 from private investments. The fifth priority aims to privatise over 20 assets between 2022 and 2026 and generate OMR2.6 billion from these divestments.

Contribution to In-country Value (ICV) is the focus of the sixth priority, which was realised through launching the ICV initiative 'Qimam.' As for the seventh priority, it highlights the vital aspect of synergies between the portfolio's assets in over 100 elements, including supply-chain, digital transformation, human resources and revenue.

Finally comes the eighth priority, which is the implementation of governance and transparency

through the Code of Governance for OIA Entities: More than ten policies and guidelines were issued; OIA is currently working on some new initiatives, including Environmental Social Governance (ESG), treasury, business plans and disclosure of financial performance.

"OIA has two main portfolios with clear objectives and mandates guaranteeing no overlap," said Abdulsalam Al Murshidi, the president of OIA. **>A2**

Eighteen investment opportunities worth OMR1.5bn announced

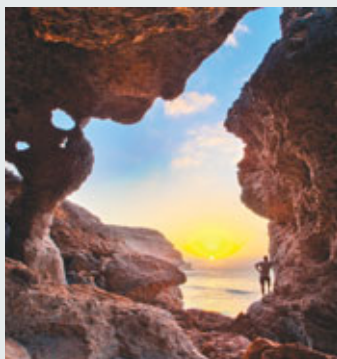
Times News Service

MUSCAT: Investors looking to set up operations in Oman now have 18 new opportunities to choose from, following the launch of fresh avenues for investment by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion (MOCIIP).

"18 investment opportunities have been launched, including six in the tourism sector, at an estimated investment volume of OMR974mn, and 12 opportunities in the circular economy related to waste management that are worth OMR528mn," said Asila Al Samsamiyah, the Undersecretary for Investment Promotion at MOCIIP.

The announcement of these 18 opportunities came during an event that was sponsored by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, with Minister of Heritage and Tourism Salim Al Mahrouqi officially inaugurating their launch through the Invest in Oman platform.

The platform lists a variety of investment opportunities that



meet the needs of both the market and investors, and is part of Oman's efforts to encourage and achieve sustainable economic development in the country.

These investment opportunities were made available owing to cooperation between the government and private sectors, following market studies and evaluations conducted to assess the feasibility of the projects.

Among the companies involved in organising the opportunities was Omran, the country's tourism development arm, whose CEO. **>A5**

Omran launches 'Double Your Delight' promotion

B8

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Supreme Committee issues new decisions

1 The Supreme Committee tasked with dealing with the COVID-19 has followed up updates about the disease and studied ways of protecting the public against the virus and curbing its spread. A statement issued on Sunday said that, "Upon the advent of Eid Al Fitr, the Supreme Committee is honoured to express its best wishes and heartfelt greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the people of Oman and residents on its land, as well as the Arab and Islamic nations. **>A3**

WORLD European Union chief begins India tour

2 European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in India on Sunday as part of a two-day visit aimed at strengthening European Union-India ties. She has kick-started her tour with talks on energy issues and a visit to the Energy and Resources Institute in New Delhi, where she met young climate activists. She will meet political and business representatives later in the evening. On Monday, the EU chief will hold a bilateral dialogue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **>A6**

MARKET Tissue culture centre agreement signed

3 The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Oman Food Investment Holding Company (OFIC), a subsidiary of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), signed an agreement on the management and operation of the Tissue Culture (farming) Research Centre in the Wilayat of Bahla, Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah. The agreement was signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Eng. Saleh Mohammed Al Shanfri, CEO of OFIC. **>B1**

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ROYAL DIRECTIVES

Oman helps in release of British, Indian and Indonesian nationals

MUSCAT: In compliance with the Royal Directives of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, on responding to the request of the governments of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of India, the Republic of the Philippines, the Sultanate of Oman coordinated with the concerned departments and authorities in Yemen for securing the release of 14 nationals held in the country.

The authorities in Sana'a positively responded to the requests of Oman.

Following communication with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for



facilitating the issuance of the necessary permits, the released persons were transported on Sunday onboard a plane of the Royal

Air Force of Oman (RAFO) for their return to their respective countries.

-ONA

Over 10,000 Omanis get jobs in first quarter

The job opportunities for Omani employees by replacing expatriates in the public and private sectors reached 2,573 in the first quarter of 2022



replacing expatriates in the public and private sectors with Omani employees reached 2,573 out of 10,000, constituting 20 percent.

The rate of job opportunities by replacing expatriates with Omani employees in the private sector reached 34 percent as 5,434 job opportunities were offered out of 16,000.

Of those 1,806 vacancies were Omanised jobs for General Education Diploma (GED) holders, while 1,785 opportunities are in the level of managers, specialists and technicians.

As for the training field, the rate of employment and replacement of expatriates with Omani work-

ers reached 78 percent as 1,553 job opportunities were offered out of 2,000.

The same reached 7 percent in the private sector as 457 opportunities were offered out of 7,000. Of those, 137 are employment-linked training jobs, while 320 opportunities were through the training of entrepreneurs.

The Ministry of Labour affirmed its keenness to boost the labour market with a highly productive national workforce. It also reiterated that its plans of replacing expatriates with Omani citizens are progressing as planned.

-ONA

INVITATION TO TENDER



Sohar Aluminium LLC (SA), PO Box 80, PC- 327, Sohar, Sultanate of Oman hereby invites qualified Suppliers/Contractors for the following tender:

Tender No.	: RFP 22-005
Tender Title	: Provide Custom Clearance and delivery Service
Scope	: Sohar Aluminium imports materials and parts from the various part of the globe for its day to day operation. The Contractor shall provide customs clearance & delivery services of Non-Hazardous & Hazardous material (s) purchased by Company covering via Inland transport, Road freight, Air freight and Sea freight. This excludes all raw material import custom clearance services.
Eligibility	: Only Omani SME Vendors are eligible to participate in this Tender (Sohar Aluminium will conduct the pre-qualification process and successful vendors will be provided with the tender documents)

Tender No.	: 2022-CSR-SOW-0002
Tender Title	: Smart School solution
Scope	: Contractor shall do supply, install and commission various electronic devices under Smart School solution for Government Schools in Al Buraimi Governorate and North Al Batinah Governorate as per SA scope.

Kindly send your email and company profile to: tender@sohar-aluminium.com

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Business plans focuses on creating job opportunities

"The first of these portfolios is the National Development Portfolio, which manages over 160 national assets and companies. This portfolio contributes to the national economic growth and development and supports the national GDP through dividend distributions, privatisation returns and treasury management, the OIA president said.

"The other portfolio is the Futures Generations Fund, which consists mainly of all international assets and some local assets," he added.

"It covers public and private markets and real estate investments. All in all, it aims to achieve maximum returns for future generations."

National Development Portfolio

The event in question revolved around the National Development Portfolio, which covers OIA's national assets, including the companies presenting during the event. This portfolio targets contributing to the national economic growth and development, besides supporting the national GDP.

The National Development Portfolio saw many milestones, starting with the transfer of national assets to OIA in June 2020, moving to the restructuring of boards of directors, establishing Rawabet Programme, initiatives like "Tarsheed" and "Qimam", setting key performance indicators on boards of directors and finally submitting initial drafts of business plans.

Hisham Al Sheedi, director of economic diversification investments at Oman Investment Authority commented, "The event's agenda embodies OIA's commitment to social engagement and its efforts towards realising the priorities of Oman Vision 2040, specifically in terms of economic diversification, empowering the private sector, attracting foreign investments and financial sustainability. "OIA companies' business



plans are based on several principles, most prominently governorate development, creating job opportunities for job seekers and business opportunities for local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and achieving financial savings," he added.

Presentation by OIA companies

During this public briefing session, 11 OIA companies made presentations, showcasing their performance over the last years, their business plans for the upcoming years and their projects between 2022 and 2026.

These companies were Fisheries Development Oman (FDO), Oman Food Investment Holding Company (OFIC), Asyad Group, ITHCA Group, OQ, Minerals Development Oman (MDO), Be'ah, Nama Group, Omran Group, Oman Air and Oman Airports. These presentations disclosed the performance of these companies utilising various performance measurements.

They also introduced the attendees to the planned upcoming

projects and strategies as per the companies' strategic directions.

Rawabet's strategic Pillar

Rawabet's Strategic Pillar targets the alignment of OIA Companies' business plans with OIA's strategies and Oman Vision 2040. The objective is to achieve financial and operational sustainability, stimulate and enable sectors outlined in Oman Vision 2040, promote high efficiency in allocating capital resources to achieve economic diversification and growth and encourage the private sector to partake in current and new investments.

Subject matter experts in Rawabet were able to prepare eight strategic priorities, develop the Business Plans Guidelines, review over 20 companies' policies, and establish key performance indicators for boards of directors for OIA companies. Companies are expected to submit the first draft of their business plans in August 2022 and the final draft in October 2022. OIA is set to approve these plans by November 2022.



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Ban on entry of unvaccinated to Eid prayers

The Supreme Committee reminded all that the ban persists on organising of all social events in public gathering areas



MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing convening, the Supreme Committee tasked with tackling developments resulting from coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic followed up updates about the disease and studied ways of protecting the public against the virus and curbing its spread.

A statement issued on Sunday said that, "Upon the advent of Eid Al Fitr, the Supreme Committee is honoured to express its best wishes and heartfelt greetings to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, the people of Oman and residents on its land, as well as the Arab and Islamic nations.

The committee prayed to the Almighty Allah to bring back such happy days when His Majesty the Sultan is enjoying good health and wellbeing. It also wished Omani people, Arab and Islamic nations progress, prosperity and wellbeing upon happy

returns of the occasion.

After studying the epidemiological situation in the Sultanate of Oman, based on the latest data about the virus and statistics of patients—including those admitted to intensive care units (ICUs) in different hospitals in Oman, the Supreme Committee took the following decisions to protect public health against the disease:

First, Eid Al Fitr prayers have to be restricted to worshippers who have taken two doses of the vaccine, while entry to the prayer grounds has to be prohibited to those unvaccinated and children aged below 12 years of age. All worshippers should observe physical distance, continue to wear face masks and avoid handshakes and embracing when

greeting each other.

Second, Formalities of protection like face masks and physical distance should continue to be respected in closed areas, while all are required to stick to healthy habits when sneezing or coughing.

The Covid-19 Supreme Committee hereby reminds all that the ban persists on organising all social events at public gathering areas, including Eid greeting gatherings and group celebrations.

The Committee also asserts that the ban persists on occasions of marriage arrangements and funerals at mosques, halls and other public areas. It urges all to comply with all the decisions and never to let go of precautionary and protection measures. -ONA

VALOR HOSPITALITY

Another global group enters lucrative Oman hotel sector

Times news Service

MUSCAT: Valor Hospitality Middle East, a full-service hotel acquisition, development, management and asset management company, has announced its first hotel in Muscat, Oman, adding to its portfolio in the Middle East.

The upscale, full-service hotel in Muscat, Oman is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2024, after complete renovation, refurbishment and rebranding. It will feature 201 guest rooms, ballroom and conference facilities, leisure and fitness amenities and multiple bars and dining venues. It will be located in the centre of Muscat, in Qurum.

"After our recent hotel opening in Dubai, UAE, it gives us great pleasure to expand our third-party hotel management services in the Middle East by partnering with Mustafa Sultan Enterprises for our first of, hopefully, many hotels in Oman," said Julien Bergue, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Valor Hospitality Middle East.

"We are working closely with the ownership on the full renovation plan and in identifying a suitable brand fit for the fully revamped hotel," Bergue said.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Firm fined for making furniture with pre-used wood

Times News Service

MUSCAT: A commercial establishment in the furniture industry has been fined OMR500 for violation of laws. Located in the Wilayat of Rustaq in South Al Batinah Governorate, the furniture industry establishment was found using prohibited wood.

"Rustaq Consumer Protection Department seized a commercial establishment for using used wood in the furniture industry and imposed an administrative fine of OMR500 in accordance with Article 47 of the executive regulations of the Consumer Protection Law," the Consumer Protection Authority, said in a statement.



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572 VIEWS

EMBASSY OF INDIA IN OMAN ORGANISED 'SEWA UTSAV' in conversation with the Indian Ambassador

T-Talk interview with India's envoy to Oman

A T-Talk interview with the Ambassador of India to Oman had 572 views and 27 likes on Instagram.

MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK



376 VIEWS

MIDDAY
MINISTRY LAUNCHES 18 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OMAN

Midday Update

The Midday Update had 376 views and reached 691 people on Facebook.

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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:37 pm



» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:10 pm
Asr	3:36 pm
Maghrib	6:37 pm
Isha	7:51 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:18 am

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» RAMADAN WORDS

“And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous.” [Quran 3: 133]

» IFTAR RECIPE



KOFTA BIRYANI

By Ambreen Jahangir

INGREDIENTS

- Beef mince: 500g
- Garlic paste: 1tbsp
- Ginger paste: 1/2 tbsp
- Bread: 2 slices
- Green chillies: 3
- Biryani masala: 1/2 tbsp
- Salt: 1 tsp

PREPARATION

- Add all into the chopper and chop till all combine.
- Make small meatballs.
- Heat oil in a pan and fry these koftas for 4 minutes each side on medium flame.

BIRYANI RICE

INGREDIENTS

- Rice: 1kg
- Onion: 4 medium
- Tomatoes: 4 medium
- Green chillies: 4 chopped
- Biryani masala: 2tbsp
- Salt: To taste
- Lemon juice: 2tbsp
- Oil: 1 cup
- Boil pre soaked rice with whole masala

PREPARATION

- Heat oil in a pan. Add chopped onion and ginger garlic paste.
- Cook on medium flame until light brown.
- Add chopped tomatoes and green chillies.
- When masala is ready add koftas and keep on the ‘dum’ for 20 minutes on slow flame.
- Now layer your rice and kofta masala.
- Add green chillies, coriander and mint on top.
- Cover the lid with foil and steam the biryani for 20 minutes.
- Garnish and present hot.

» RAMADAN HEALTH TIP

INCLUDE FIBRES IN YOUR DIET

Eat foods that include lots of fibre. Avoid fried or sweet foods. We should break fast with light foods first, and then after an hour have proper food. Try avoiding heavy food immediately after Iftar.



» GOOD DEEDS

CONTINUE
YOUR GOOD
DEEDS AFTER
RAMADAN

Every little good deed you do gets multiplied by several times when done during the Holy Month. As we step in the last week of Ramadan it is time to remember that the good deeds that we have been following this month should be part of our life always. Continue donating to the charities and other noble causes that are close to your heart. Distribute food and water to the ones in need, especially during the long summer months ahead. Keep your surroundings clean and stay in the company of good people who encourage righteousness. Don’t harm others, be it through your words or your actions.





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Specialised medical team conducts laparoscopic surgery successfully

The surgery included removing the tumour along with most of the oesophagus, part of the stomach, and nearby lymph nodes

MUSCAT: A specialised medical team from the Department of Surgery at the Sultan Qaboos Integrated Centre for Cancer Treatment and Research, for the first time in the Sultanate of Oman, managed to perform a full laparoscopic surgery of a tumour in the oesophagus of a 30-year-old patient suffering from oesophageal cancer.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Rawahi, a consultant of upper gastrointestinal tumours and oesophageal tumours at the Sultan Qaboos Integrated Centre for Cancer Treatment and Research, explained that the surgical procedure included removing the tumour along with most of the oesophagus, part of the stomach, and nearby lymph nodes, after which the stomach was pulled out and connected to the oesophagus through a simple opening in the neck.

This surgery requires high accuracy and professionalism to avoid any complications, and the operation took nine hours.

He pointed out that the medi-



cal team was able to perform the entire operation using the laparoscope only, without the need for an open operation, despite its complexity; The patient had a rare genetic condition called Fanconi anaemia.

Inserting endoscopes

He added: "Laparoscopic surgery requires inserting endoscopes through small incisions in the chest and abdomen instead of large openings, which makes the pain resulting from the operation very less compared to traditional surgeries and with fewer side effects, and this contributes to the rapid recovery of the patient and his return to his normal activity and nutrition after the operation".

He stated, "During the opera-

tion, we inserted a feeding tube through the abdomen and connected it to the small intestine, to ensure that the patient received adequate nutrition during the recovery period, until he returned to the usual diet. Samples of the removed cancer cells will also be examined to assess the condition of the disease, and determine the patient's need for other treatments. After the operation".

Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al-Rawahi confirmed that "the surgery department at the Sultan Qaboos Integrated Cancer Centre is equipped with the latest surgical devices that enable us to perform more complex operations using surgical endoscopes and reduce traditional surgical interventions."

-UNA



HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

Ministry announces 'Oman Tourism Forum 2022' in Dubai

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's Ministry of Heritage and Tourism announced the launch of 'Oman Tourism Forum 2022' to be held on May 10, 2022, at Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) during Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2022 in Dubai, UAE.

Partnership opportunities

The forum is a high-level event that aims to gather industry leaders to explore tourism and partnership opportunities in Oman through dialogue and to explore



some of the key areas where companies can be involved.

The forum will witness the presence of key speakers, including officials from the Sultanate of Oman and a number of speakers from China, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Review of how to access Invest in Oman platform conducted

Omran CEO Hashel bin Obaid Al Mahrouqi, said, "We seek at Omran Group to develop profitable and sustainable tourism destinations, to contribute to achieving economic growth, and consolidating Oman's position as an attractive tourist destination."

ASAAS Oman

Another of the companies involved was Muscat National Development and Investment Company, more commonly known as ASAAS Oman.

"ASAAS has been working since its establishment to achieve its national goals in economic diversification, and creating job opportunities for the youth, and small and medium enterprises, by

opening up to investment and attracting foreign capital in several sectors, including transportation and tourism," said ASAAS CEO Sulaiman bin Ahmed Al Kindi.

Mohammed bin Sulaiman Al Harthy, the vice president of Oman Environmental Services Holding Company, also known as be'ah, also emphasised his company's role in diversifying waste management and generating a circular economy across Oman.

A review of how to access the Invest in Oman platform and view the various projects available and prerequisites to invest in them was also conducted by Faisal Al Hakmani, the director of the Investment Opportunities Department at MOCIIIP.

Economic diversification

The expanded investment opportunities come as part of the ministry's aim of attracting qualitative investments in the sectors of economic diversification, and creating the appropriate environment for the success and development of investments.

The move will empower the private sector and motivate companies to invest, thereby increasing the contribution of foreign direct investment to Oman's GDP, and promote the country as a sound investment destination.

Also present at the launch were a number of top management executives from private sector companies, as well as businessmen and investors.



Ramadan Iftar Program

The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

The Oman Charitable Organization is pleased to announce that it will receive donations for Ramadan Iftar Program in Sultanate of Oman for the year 1443 AH AD 2022

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INDIA TOUR

European Commission President meets climate activists on India trip

NEW DELHI: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arrived in India on Sunday as part of a two-day visit aimed at strengthening European Union-India ties.

She has kick-started her tour with talks on energy issues and a visit to the Energy and Resources Institute in New Delhi, where she met young climate activists.

The European bloc is on the path to climate neutrality with the EU Green Deal, von Der Leyen said on Twitter after the talks.

“But Europe alone won’t save our planet. It’s a global effort, and we need to work with India. And we count on you, the young people, to keep fighting for the climate,” she tweeted.

Von der Leyen is also scheduled to address the International Solar Alliance, the European Commission said.

She will meet political and business representatives later in the evening.



Ukraine on the agenda

On Monday, the EU chief will hold a bilateral dialogue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The war in Ukraine is likely to

be a key point of discussion during von der Leyen’s visit, as India has not officially condemned the Russian invasion.

She will also meet India’s Presi-

dent Ram Nath Kovind and Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

“India and the European Union share a vibrant Strategic Partnership which has been witnessing strong growth with wider and deeper cooperation in Political and Strategic, Trade and Commerce, Climate and Sustainability, Digital and Technology aspects as well as people-to-people ties,” India’s External Affairs Ministry said in a statement ahead of von der Leyen’s visit.

Trade, connectivity and security are also among the issues on the EU chief’s New Delhi agenda.

Before leaving for New Delhi, von der Leyen praised EU-India relations.

Brussels and New Delhi have “built a solid friendship” over the last 60 years, and would like to take their cooperation “to the next level,” she said on Twitter.

The visit is von Der Leyen’s first official tour to India.



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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

‘Fruitful’ talks with Sri Lanka held on loan request: IMF

WASHINGTON: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Saturday said that it held “fruitful technical discussions” with Sri Lankan authorities on the island nation’s request for an IMF-supported loan programme this week.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva met a Sri Lankan delegation during

the 2022 IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington, DC.

The Sri Lankan delegation was led by Finance Minister Ali Sabry and Central Bank of Sri Lanka Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe. The IMF team for Sri Lanka held initial technical discussions on an IMF-supported programme with the delegation.

SEEKING INVESTIGATION

UNHRC seeks probe into Afghanistan attacks

KABUL: Stressing the protection of Afghans’ human rights, the newly appointed United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) special rapporteur on Afghanistan Richard Benn has pledged to continue monitoring, seeking investigation and accountability over the recent attacks in the country.

“I stand with all Afghans grieving loved ones after last week’s

horrific attacks; will continue to monitor & seek #investigation & # accountability. Afghans’ #humanrights must be protected: prevent violations & ensure internationally-guaranteed justice,” he said in a Tweet, according to Pajhwok Afghan News. A blast occurred in the mosque of Afghanistan’s Imam Sahib district of Kunduz, killing at least 33 people including children and 43

wounded, Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban said.

“At least 33 people including children were killed and 43 were wounded in the mosque attack in the Imam Sahib district of Kunduz, Islamic Emirate spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said on Twitter. Condemning the attack, he said efforts are ongoing to bring the perpetrators to justice,” TOLO news reported.

A'SAFFA FOODS SA.O.G. الصفا للأغذية A'Saffa Foods S.A.O.G P.O Box : 3436, PC: 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman Tel: 22360250, Fax: 22360270		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31ST. MAR 2022			
DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER ENDED 31 MARCH 2022		Parent Company		Group	
2022 RO		2021 RO	2022 RO	2021 RO	RO
Dear Shareholders,					
On behalf of the Board of Directors of A'Saffa Foods SAOG, I am pleased to present you the unaudited financial results for 1st Quarter ended 31 March 2022.					
Performance Review					
The consolidated Sales for 1st Quarter ended 31 March 2022 was RO. 12,379,580/- as compared to RO 7,895,739/- during the same period of 2021 and reported a net loss of RO. 468,679/- as compared to net profit of RO 422,413/- for the same period of 2021.					
The reason for the losses were, exorbitant increase of feed material prices and lower Sales realization due to the cheap imports. Moreover, the Electricity from the supplier grid is not stable, therefore we have to run the Slaughterhouse through the diesel run electricity generators which has also increased the cost of the production.					
We would like to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said for the encouragement and support given by his Government and pray to Almighty ALLAH(swt) to provide Oman and its people peace and prosperity under His Majesty's wise leadership.					
We also take this opportunity to thank all customers, shareholders and staff for their continued support and confidence in the Company.					
Chairman					
Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder who requests that, in either Arabic or English, within 07 days of receipt of the request on the address mentioned above					
ASSETS					
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment		56,791,526	58,069,692	64,714,911	66,343,620
Right Of Use Assets		1,254,713	1,438,582	1,819,270	2,035,031
Capital Advances / CWIP		-	-	-	-
Intangible assets		-	-	1,143	13,370
Investments in subsidiaries		2,950,000	2,950,000	-	-
Investments accounted for using the equity method		6,618,312	6,726,944	6,618,312	6,726,944
Equity investment at fair value through OCI		2,427,217	2,448,355	2,427,217	2,448,355
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		47,671	47,671	47,671	47,671
		70,089,439	71,681,244	75,628,523	77,614,990
Current assets					
Inventories		12,171,268	7,882,470	12,946,408	8,785,278
Biological assets		2,752,600	2,703,663	2,752,600	2,703,663
Trade and other receivables		14,889,005	9,925,096	14,940,613	10,884,200
Term deposits		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Cash and bank balances		411,144	345,797	510,022	533,300
		32,224,017	22,857,026	33,149,643	24,906,441
		102,313,456	94,538,270	108,778,166	102,521,431
TOTAL ASSETS					
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
Equity					
Share capital		12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
Legal reserves		4,000,000	4,000,000	4,445,937	4,337,819
Retained earnings		18,770,640	24,959,600	22,587,866	27,803,766
Other Reserve		(4,425)	(4,425)	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY		34,766,215	40,959,600	39,029,378	44,141,585
LIABILITIES					
Non-current liabilities					
Term Loan		36,110,295	34,773,955	36,620,047	35,783,018
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)		1,147,272	1,245,748	1,771,593	1,928,786
End of service benefits		1,062,231	960,141	1,142,888	1,029,606
Deferred tax liabilities		158,302	633,677	373,957	828,047
		38,478,100	37,613,521	39,908,485	39,569,456
Current liabilities					
Borrowings		16,174,262	8,458,530	17,171,287	9,576,119
Lease Liability (IFRS 16)		221,769	264,044	244,540	285,425
Trade and other payables		12,673,110	7,242,576	12,424,476	8,948,846
		29,069,141	15,965,149	29,840,303	18,810,390
		67,547,241	53,578,670	69,748,788	58,379,846
TOTAL LIABILITIES		102,313,456	94,538,270	108,778,166	102,521,431
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
Net assets per share (RO)		0.290	0.341	0.325	0.368
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2022					
2022 RO		2021 RO	2022 RO	2021 RO	RO
Revenue From Contracts with Customers		12,230,507	7,811,966	12,379,580	7,895,739
Cost of sales		(10,236,177)	(5,142,349)	(10,164,937)	(4,853,133)
Gross profit		1,994,330	2,669,617	2,214,643	3,042,606
Selling and distribution expenses		(1,659,234)	(1,613,155)	(1,499,224)	(1,613,155)
General and administrative expenses		(485,649)	(494,108)	(581,437)	(578,725)
Other income		224,132	-	224,132	1,050
Profit before interest & tax		73,579	562,354	358,114	851,776
Finance income		17,262	12,832	17,262	12,832
Finance cost		(758,541)	(299,887)	(784,482)	(333,816)
Finance cost (net)		(741,279)	(287,055)	(767,220)	(320,984)
Share of loss from associates		(20,784)	(33,975)	(20,784)	(33,975)
Profit /(Loss) before tax		(688,484)	241,324	(429,890)	496,817
Taxation		-	-	-	-
Current Tax		-	(36,095)	(38,789)	(74,404)
Profit /(Loss) and total comprehensive income .		(688,484)	205,229	(468,679)	422,413
Basic earnings/ (Loss) per share (RO)		(0.006)	0.002	(0.004)	0.004

Recall Campaign for Mercedes-Benz
S-Class (223 platform)
Model year: 2021-2022

Date of Campaign: 25.04.2022
Recall Segment: Mechanical
Recall Type: Safety
Product Description:

Number of vehicles	Chassis number	To	Chassis number	Sales Designation
6	WIK2231611A010697	TO	WIK2231611A025729	S 450 4M L AMG
1	WIK2231631A021594			S 500 L

Description of defect:
Mercedes-Benz AG has determined that on certain S-Class (223 platform) vehicles, the airbag control unit might not have been bolted according to specifications.

In this case, the airbag control unit might detect incorrect acceleration values while driving. In this connection, an unintended deployment of the restraint systems in the vehicle cannot be ruled out completely.

Furthermore, in case of a crash, incorrect acceleration values might be detected. In consequence, the restraint systems might not be activated as specified.

Procedure:
As a precautionary measure Zawawi Trading Company LLC will check the bolting of the airbag control unit on the affected vehicles and correct it, if necessary. The expected workshop visit for the check and, if necessary, correction of the bolting will take around 2 hours and will be free of charge.

For more information:
Sultanate of Oman customers affected by the recall who have not been contacted already will be telephoned by representatives of Zawawi Trading Company LLC, so that they can arrange a convenient time from 25.04.2022 to get their car inspected.

Contact details:
Toll free number: 80079777 on all working days between 08:30 to 17:30 hrs with effect from 25.04.2022.

Mercedes-Benz

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UN says fighting in Mariupol should stop ‘right now’ to save lives

Earlier on Sunday, Ukraine also called for a truce as both Russia and Ukraine mark Easter this Sunday

KYIV: “The lives of tens of thousands, including women, children and older people, are at stake in Mariupol,” the UN’s coordinator for the Ukraine crisis, Amin Awad, warned.

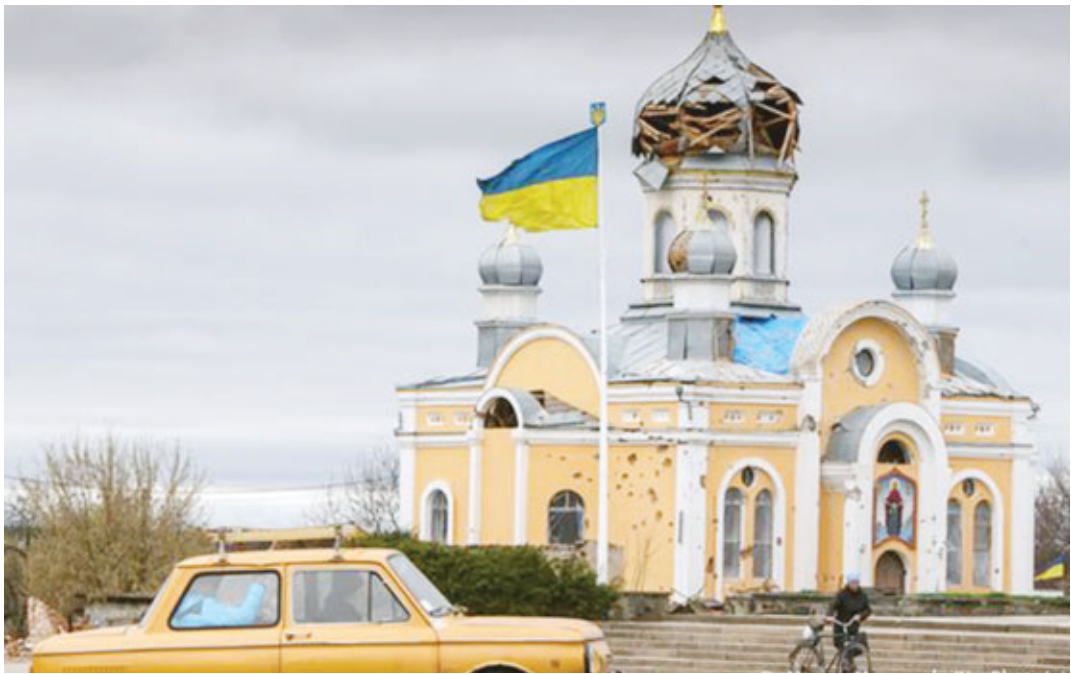
“We need a pause in fighting right now to save lives,” he said in a statement. “They must be allowed to safely evacuate now, today. Tomorrow could be too late.”

Russia claims to control the entirety of the port city of a steelworks plant where several thousands of Ukrainian fighters are holed up. Earlier on Sunday, Ukraine also called for a truce as both Russia and Ukraine mark Orthodox Easter this Sunday.

UN: Almost 5.2 million Ukrainian refugees

The UN refugee agency said 5,186,744 Ukrainians have fled since the start of Russia’s invasion, an increase of 23,058 on Saturday’s figures. In April so far, more than 1,151,000 Ukrainians have fled their country compared with 3.4 million during the month of March.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi wrote on



Twitter that this Orthodox Easter “will be another day of fear, anguish, loss and separation from loved ones, as war continues to rage without mercy.”

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) estimates that more than 7.7 million people are internally displaced within Ukraine.

Russian forces attempting to storm Azovstal plant

Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych has said Sunday Russian forces are again attempting to storm the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol where Ukrainian forces and civilians are sheltering following a weeks-long siege of the southern port city.

On Facebook, Arestovych wrote, “Russian troops are trying to finish off the defenders of Azovstal and

more than 1,000 civilians who are hiding at the plant.”

Russian troops have surrounded the plant since early March. On Saturday, Ukrainian officials issued similar warnings and said Russian forces were laying siege to the plant.

No humanitarian routes out of Mariupol on Sunday

Iryna Vereshchuk, Ukraine’s Deputy Prime Minister, said that no humanitarian routes were established to bring civilians and the wounded out of Mariupol on Sunday. Vereshchuk blamed Russian forces for continuing their siege on the southern port city that has faced weeks of bombardment.

The Ukrainian side would try again on Monday, Vereshchuk said. She called on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to de-

mand a ceasefire “if he is preparing to talk about peace” ahead of his travels to Moscow and then Kyiv next week.

Pope Francis appeals for truce again

The blue and yellow Ukrainian flag flew among those gathered on St. Peter’s Square in the Vatican this Orthodox Easter weekend as Pope Francis appealed again for a truce in Ukraine.

He called for an easing of “the suffering of exhausted people.”

Francis added that, “Instead of halting, the war has become worse.”

Echoing the calls of senior Ukrainian government officials, Francis said, “I renew the appeal for an Easter truce, the smallest tangible sign of a willingness for peace.” **AW**



UK Minister backs coal mine opening to cut dependence on Russia: Reports

LONDON: UK Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove, is supporting plans to launch the first coal mine in the United Kingdom in decades, aiming to curtail the dependence on Russian energy supplies, the Telegraph newspaper reported on Sunday, citing sources in the UK Conservative Party.

According to Telegraph, Gove is backing opening a coal mine in Cumbria County in northwestern England. The pit will focus on extracting coking coal widely used in steel production. Opening the first pit in the UK in over three decades was endorsed by the UK government back in October 2020. Yet the protests by environmental activists forced the Ministers to revisit this issue. At the same time, the government sources claimed that in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis, the UK cabinet unilaterally stands for putting the mine into operation, the Telegraph said.

Gove must make an ultimate decision until July 7, meanwhile, the sources said that the decision could be pronounced earlier in mid-May, the newspaper added.

The UK’s dependence on Russian energy is primarily confined to the coal sector. In 2021, the UK imported over 50 per cent of its all coal supplies, with Russia accounting for 43 per cent of those. Moreover, Russia occupies a leading position in exporting both steam coal and coking coal to the UK, ensuring 46 per cent and 39 per cent of deliveries, respectively.

After Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine, the UK alongside the United States and European allies embarked on the path of completely abandoning Russian energy commodities. On April 6, UK Prime Minister Boris Jonson pledged to halt Russian coal and oil imports by the end of 2022, with UK marginal gas imports to be ceased as soon as possible thereafter. **ANI**

UKRAINE CRISIS

Zelenskyy wants Asian countries to ‘change their attitude’ towards Ukraine

KIEV: As the Russia-Ukraine war rages on, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is hoping Asian countries will “change their attitude” towards Ukraine as Europe has done.

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, Zelenskyy said that NATO’s decision not to accept Ukraine as a member was a “gross mistake” and that some of the alliance’s European member states had underestimated the country. Ukraine’s “strength” against Russia’s military operation “managed to change the attitude of the alliance and the European member states” toward the country, he added.

“I want very much want the Asian countries to change their attitude to Ukraine as well,” Zelenskyy was quoted as saying by The Hill.

Without naming any country, Zelenskyy singled out nations that are closer to Russia due to their past ties to the Soviet Union.

“Therefore, after the fall of the Soviet Union they historically were close to, the Russian Federation was the successor of the Soviet Union and the biggest country as part of former the Soviet Union, that’s why their relations remain



strong with Russia,” he said.

These remarks come as the US and other Western allies are attempting to pressure India to join them in condemning its close defence partner Russia. India has called for a cessation of violence but refrained from joining any US-led sanctions against Russia.

Meanwhile, China has refused to condemn Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and has accused the US of exacerbating the whole situation by supplying arms to Ukraine. **ANI**

RESCUE EFFORTS ON

Tour boat goes missing with 26 on board in Japan, at least 10 dead

TOKYO: Japanese rescuers said on Sunday at least 10 people had died after a tourist boat with 26 people on board went missing off the northern island of Hokkaido in rough seas.

The 10 bodies were found early Sunday near the tip of Shiretoko Peninsula. Rescuers found four people first, and then later six more people were plucked from the frigid waters nearby.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

has returned to Tokyo, cutting short his attendance at a two-day summit in Kumamoto, and instructed officials “to do everything they can for the rescue.”

Transport Minister Tetsuo Saito told reporters Sunday, “We will thoroughly investigate what caused this situation and what kind of safety oversight was involved to allow the tour in order to prevent another accident.”

Coastal authorities said the

Kazu 1 had been traveling in cold and choppy waters off the western coast of the Shiretoko Peninsula in the Hokkaido prefecture.

The search for the remaining 16 people, and possible survivors, continued Sunday.

A distress call was received in the early afternoon on Saturday, saying that the vessel’s bow was taking on water and the ship was beginning to list to one side. **AW**

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Shakib Al Hasan returns to Bangladesh team for first test with Sri Lanka

Bangladesh will finally get a boost from the return of the all-rounder, who missed out on two-match series against South Africa



DHAKA: Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan will return to the Bangladesh side for the first test against Sri Lanka on May 15. As per ICC, Bangladesh will finally get a boost from the return of the all-rounder, who missed out on two-match series against

South Africa due to personal reasons, which the Proteas won by 2-0. Bangladesh will play Sri Lanka in a two-match Test series, with the first test scheduled on May 15 at Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

The series will be a part of the ICC World Test Championship 2021-23, in which the Lankan lions are currently placed at fifth place with point percentage of 50 per cent while Bangladesh are at the eighth spot with

16.66 per cent. Left arm pacer Shoriful Islam's inclusion is subject to fitness, after the bowler missed the series against South Africa due to an ankle injury. Taskin Ahmed continues his recovery from shoulder injury, that he sustained during the first test against South Africa. Sri Lanka will arrive in Bangladesh on May 8. The side will play a two-day practice game before the first Test starts at the Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on May 15. The second test will take place at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium from May 23 onwards. Bangladesh squad: Mominul Haque (c), Tamim Iqbal, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfiquur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Liton Das, Yasir Ali, Taijul Islam, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Ebadot Hossain, Khaled Ahmed, Nurul Hasan, Rejaur Rahman Raja, Shohidul Islam, Shoriful Islam (subject to fitness). **ANI**

COMMENTARY

Rishab Pant lost the game on and off the field



Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

Match number 34 between Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals had lots of fireworks on and off the field. It was lit up first by Jos Buttler who scored his third hundred of the IPL in only his seventh match of the season and then the off field drama created by Rishab Pant for a no ball which was not called by the umpire.

With 36 runs required of the last over bowled by Obed McCoy, Romvell Powell hit the first two balls of the over for two sixes and the pressure got to the bowler who bowled a waist height full toss third ball which was also dispatched over the fence by the dangerous Powell. That's where mayhem stuck in the Delhi Capitals camp who were complaining as to why the no ball was not called and why was it not referred to the third umpire. Yes, it looked like a no ball to the naked eye and a frustrated Rishab Pant lost his head. He first wanted to call his players back and did not want to continue the game in anger.

When that did not happen, he sent Pravin Amre, assistant coach to run on the field to question the umpires call. And in doing so all the momentum which Romvell had was lost and most importantly the bowler McCoy who was under pressure could regain his composure and bowl the next three balls coolly and win the game for his team.

At the post match presentation too, Pant went on to say that the no ball could have been precious for them.

The on field umpires could have checked with the third umpire for the no ball. Pant then said, it was not in his control and he can't change the rule. Yes, my dear Pant, you can't change the rule by disrupting the game because a call went against you. You can't call the players back or send the assistant coach on the ground to fight your case. All that was under your control and could have been handled by lodging a complaint after the game. You are the captain of the team and probably a future captain of Team India and are setting a bad example to the youngsters and the people watching the gentlemen's game. You totally lost it.

The BCCI can't let this off the hook and should definitely ban the captain Rishabh Pant for disrupting the game for at least one game and send out a clear message that no player is bigger than the game. Just by giving a penalty won't work which will be paid by the franchise owners and player will be let off the hook. This was not a club match nor a Ranjhi Trophy game where one can show dissent and get away with it. Even in a football game a red card is given for dissent and that the player is not allowed to play the next game and one hopes some serious action will be taken on Rishab Pant so that next time a player will think twice before disrupting the game. Cricket is a gentleman's game but I am afraid Rishab Pant let it down with his immature actions. He not only lost the game on the field but sadly more badly off the field.

DEATH CONDOLED

Duleep Mendis pays emotional tribute to 'friend' Iqbal Ariwala

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Duleep Mendis, Chief Development Officer, Oman Cricket, has condoled the death of Iqbal Ariwala, International Cricket and Admin Manager, Oman Cricket.

Duleep Mendis, said, "I've lost a close friend and confidant today. Iqbal was one of the most genuine and hard-working individuals I've ever known - one who devoted his life to Oman Cricket. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. May his Soul Rest in Peace".

Iqbal's demise leaves an enormous void in the cricketing fraternity of the country. He has left an indelible mark on the sport and



his contributions will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of everyone associated with the Oman Cricket family.

Iqbal Ariwala passed away on April 23, 2022. The last rites were completed at the Amerat Cemetery at 10 am the following morning.

Iqbal took the post of Domestic Head and Admin Manager in December 2015 but was an honorary member of Oman Cricket for the two decades prior.

His passion and commitment to the cause of improving the standard of cricket in the Sultanate distinguished him as one of Oman Cricket's finest operators.

FOOTBALL

Antonio Rudiger set to leave Chelsea

LONDON: Chelsea are preparing themselves to lose one of their star players as central defender Antonio Rudiger has turned down a new contract offer and told the club that he will depart Stamford Bridge.

The German international rejected the latest offer, worth 200,000 pounds a week, and will leave Thomas Tuchel looking for a new defender, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported.

He would have been the highest-earning defender in the club's history. It comes after five years at the club in which Rudiger has won the Champions League, Europa League, UEFA Super Cup, FIFA Club World Cup and an FA Cup. **ONA**



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MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,219.3 points, down by 0.38 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended down by 0.31 per cent at 481.97 points. Dhofar Generating, up 4.84 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sembcorp Salalah, down 4.88 per cent, was the top loser

Pact signed to operate tissue culture centre

As per the agreement, tissue culture saplings will be produced to meet the needs of the agricultural sector, as well as the local and international markets

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Oman Food Investment Holding Company (OFIC), a subsidiary of Oman Investment Authority (OIA), signed an agreement on the management and operation of the Tissue Culture (farming) Research Centre in the Wilayat of Bahla, Governorate of



RESEARCH CENTRE: The agreement was signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Eng. Saleh Mohammed Al Shanfri, CEO of OFIC. - ONA

Al Dakhiliyah.

The agreement was signed by Dr Saud Hamoud Al Habsi, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and Eng. Saleh Mo-

ammed Al Shanfri, CEO of OFIC.

As per the agreement, tissue culture saplings will be produced to provide for the needs of the agricultural sector, as well as the lo-

cal and international markets. The production will stand at 120,000 saplings per year and it will go up to 300,000 saplings per year in the first phase of the project. -ONA

FINANCE SURVEY



HSBC tops Euromoney poll for trade finance service in Oman

MUSCAT: Businesses across the Sultanate have voted HSBC Bank Oman the best bank for trade finance services in the 2022 Euromoney trade finance survey. HSBC was also voted the number one bank in the same trade finance survey for Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar.

“Winning the Best Trade Finance Services in Oman reflects our continued commitment to delivering structured trade services to our clients wherever they chose to do business across the world. We continue to invest in the digitalisation of our products and services to make banking simpler, better and faster for our customers,” said Melika Betley, CEO of HSBC Bank Oman.

HSBC’s Internet Trade Service-

es executes 95 per cent of HSBC’s trade transactions in Oman, a proportion which reflects the bank’s commitment to investing in digital solutions and powerful tools to help customers manage their most complex banking needs.

“The impact of Covid-19 has put an even greater focus on digital banking and greatly accelerated digital trade activity. Digital trade is not just about making the physical and financial supply chains more efficient but also about creating opportunities to boost business volumes on the back of those efficiencies,” said Sunil Veetil, Head of Global Trade and Receivables Finance for HSBC in the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT).

ISLAMIC BANKING

Alizz Islamic Bank holds its first Sharia Supervisory Board meeting

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Sharia Supervisory Board of Aizz Islamic Bank held its first meeting for the year 2022 at the bank’s headquarters in the Central Business District of Ruwi.

The meeting was attended by Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Sawafi, the newest member of the Sharia Supervisory Board.

During the meeting, the CEO of Alizz Islamic Bank, Sulaiman bin Hamad Al-Harthi presented and discussed the bank’s performance during the first quarter of this year and the most important developments in Alizz Islamic Bank, highlighting that the performance was in line with the strategic plan despite the challenges witnessed in the opening months of the year. This is due to the tireless efforts made in terms of business realignment, cost optimisation, financial discipline and asset quality improvement.

The Sharia Supervisory Board also discussed in its meeting the audit reports, Sharia compliance and Sharia risks for the first quarter of this year, in addition to discussing and approving a number of new products and taking the appropriate decisions regarding them.

The meeting also saw the discussion of a number of requests to



reschedule financings related to companies and individuals and to determine its rationale to facilitate the owners and take appropriate measures and decisions for them to ensure the enforcement of these decisions.

Commenting on the occasion, Issa bin Salem Al-Riyami, Head of the Sharia Compliance and Audit Department at Alizz Islamic Bank, said, “Islamic banks do not compromise on Sharia principles, even though it is an institution that seeks to achieve the desired profit for shareholders and depositors, because Islamic banking is a system of trade through which the sale is carried out. Purchasing goods and services and investing

capital by taking risks to obtain legitimate profits. It is based on the principles of Islamic Sharia that permits trade and prohibits usury.”

Al Riyami added, “This meeting is held regularly to obtain the Sharia Supervisory Board’s opinion about the bank’s commitment to its decisions and to ensure the avoidance of any violations to the Sharia principles.

“I would like to thank the Sharia Supervisory Board for all their efforts aiming to ensure that the transactions at Alizz Islamic Bank are not conflicting with the various Islamic principles, enhancing the value of our products and the transparency of our transactions and performance.”

BANK MUSCAT

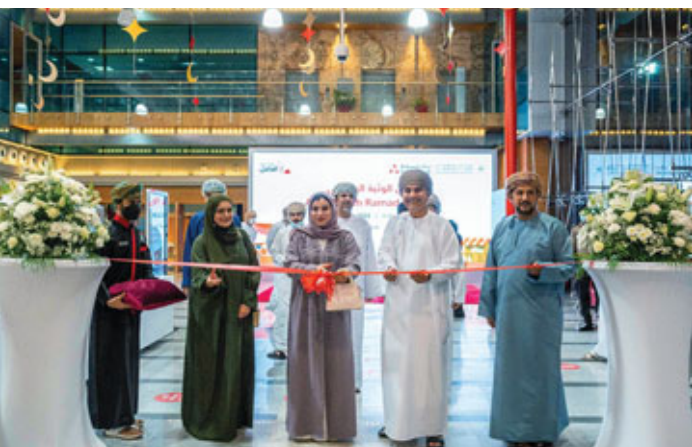
Souq Al Wathbah evokes excellent response from Omani SMEs

MUSCAT: The annual Souq Al Wathbah organised by Bank Muscat and the SMEs Development Authority at the bank’s head office from April 21-23 received an excellent response from Omani SMEs and the general public with hundreds of visitors thronging the over 120 SME stalls at the 3-day event.

The Ramadan Souq featured many products and services encompassing fashion, beauty, food and health products and was organised as part of the bank’s Social Corporate Responsibility (CSR) and its strong commitment to promoting SMEs and Public-Private Partnership.

Earlier, the Souq was inaugurated by Halima bint Rashid Al Zaria, CEO, SMEs Development Authority, in the presence of Sheikh Waleed Khamis Al Hashar, Chief Executive Officer, Bank Muscat and other officials from both institutions.

Ibrahim Khamis Al Balushi, Senior Assistant General Manager – SME, Bank Muscat, said: “SMEs are a pillar of support and creator of jobs in Oman. Bank Muscat, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2022, has been playing an important role in supporting this vital segment by providing a large number of highly essential financial and non-fi-



ancial support, which improves overall financial inclusion and economic stability in the Sultanate. We are delighted to play our role in Public-Private Partnership to create opportunities for local entrepreneurs to successfully grow the market for their products and services through a number of initiatives. We thank The SMEs Development Authority for the strong support and partnership in hosting the annual Souq Al Wathbah thereby enabling SMEs to play an important role in the further progress and development of Oman.”

Ibrahim Al Balushi added that the souq was organised in 2022 after a long gap because of the

COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the event witnessed excellent participation from both Omani entrepreneurs and visitors thereby contributing to the overall success of the event, which was held after abiding by the regulations set by the Supreme Committee for Dealing with COVID-19. He further explained that this year’s edition witnessed an excellent diversity in products offered as well as competitive prices. In addition, a number of new entrepreneurs participated in the event. He wished all success to the participants and MSME and assured them that the bank would continue offering the best banking services and facilities for their financial needs.

DELAY

Boeing 777X deliveries likely to be delayed until early 2025

WASHINGTON: Boeing is preparing for a new delay in the 777X programme that would push first deliveries by at least a year into early 2025, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

The delay is in line with an estimate given by the plane’s biggest customer - Emirates Airlines - whose president, Tim Clark, told *Aviation Daily* in an April 7 story he did expect to receive its first Boeing 777X before 2025.

Boeing had earlier said it expected to win certification for the 777X by the end of 2023. Certification is needed before Boeing can begin deliveries.

Asked about the delay report, Boeing said in a statement it remains “focused on working transparently with regulators and our customers.” -BNA

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LIFESTYLE

HOW MONEY WORRIES CAN HARM YOUR HEALTH

As much as we may dislike admitting it, money is essential in many aspects of life. It influences everything, from how we have fun to how we care for our health. We are happy, healthy, and able to live our lives in the correct manner when we have enough money (or more than enough). When we don't have enough, money concerns can impair our health, so it's critical to get things back on track.

STRESS

Stress is one of the most serious and troubling ways that money issues can impact your health. When we can't pay our bills or are concerned about how much money we'll have left over for food or recreation, stress might very well rapidly build up.

Stress is incredibly detrimental to our health. It can induce mental health difficulties such as depression, panic disorder, and anxiety (and stress is a mental health illness in and of itself), as well as physical manifestations such as headaches, high blood pressure, heart problems, and loss of sleep. Everything gets stressful when we are concerned about money.

If you feel this way, the best thing you can do is minimise your debt, assuming that debt is the fundamental problem. Although it is not always straightforward, there are options such as debt consolidation. If the problem is that you can't work because you've been injured, again, there is help available - find a accident lawyer or similar who specializes in exactly the problem you're going through and get the compensation you're owed; your mental and physical health will improve hugely when you do this.

BAD HABITS

It's possible that you've developed harmful habits in order to deal with your financial problems, and this is another way that worrying about money can hurt your health.

Instead of succumbing to unhealthy habits, why not adopt ones that will relieve your stress and offer you the mental clarity you need to cope with your issues? There are a number of ways to improve your health, including increasing your physical activity. In addition to benefiting your physical and mental wellbeing, this practice also lowers your stress levels. When you exercise, you can put your thoughts elsewhere and forget about your financial woes for a while. Serotonin and other calming hormones will be released, allowing you to think clearly about your financial troubles while you're feeling good and ideally come up with a solution.

NO FUN

Every aspect of someone's life should be well-balanced. Of course, you must work to make money (and to keep your mind active, which is critical for brain health), but you must also carve out time for enjoyment and leisure. You might get unwell if you don't maintain a good equilibrium.

Money concerns can be harmful to your health since they prevent you from getting enough relaxation time. When you don't have much money to spare, you won't be able to go out and have fun or pursue a pastime or course that interests you. You may even take on additional work to help you pay off your debts faster or give you enough money to live on.

If you discover that your life is out of balance, look into free methods to unwind. Is it possible to join organizations that don't ask for a fee? What about going for a stroll in the woods or reading a book? When you start exploring the potential options, you'll discover lots of possibilities that mean you can unwind and take some time for yourself without spending any money.

Money concerns can be harmful to your health since they prevent you from getting enough relaxation time. When you don't have much money to spare, you won't be able to go out and have fun or pursue a pastime or course that interests you.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

If you find that your financial situation is causing you to experience health issues, it's clear that something needs to be done.

Something that can often be useful is to track your spending for two or three months and then look closely at the results. You'll immediately be able to see where you are spending too much and what you can cut back on, for example. You may also need to reframe your relationship with money; perhaps you see it as something negative, which could mean it's hard for you to look after it properly.





FEATURE




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CHINA ISSUES WHITE PAPER ON ITS YOUTH IN NEW ERA

The State Council Information Office of China on Thursday published a white paper titled “Youth of China in the New Era.” The white paper is the first of its kind focusing on China’s youth. The document records achievements in the country’s youth development in the new era, and reflects the spirit of its youth

II. All-Round Development in the New Era

Hard work builds ability, and adversity builds resilience. In the new era, China’s youth actively study the theory and practice of science and other knowledge and skills, improving their physical and moral qualities and their all-round ability. They are growing into a new generation that is capable of shouldering the responsibility of national rejuvenation.

(1) Firmer in Ideals and Convictions

Ideals provide direction in life, and convictions determine the success of a cause. In the new era, young Chinese should hold lofty ideals and be firm in their convictions, which are fundamental to their success, and they should strive to become aspiring young people, living up to the expectations of the Party, the country and the people.

Confidence in the Chinese path. Through comparison with the past and the rest of the world, and through social observation and hands-on practice, young Chinese keenly understand the importance of the Party’s leadership and leader’s guidance, the merits of the socialist system, and the strength of the people. A youth survey conducted in 2020 demonstrated that the majority of China’s youth wholeheartedly support socialism with Chinese characteristics, and are full of confidence about the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, they have learned about China’s speed, the China miracle, and the governance of China through vivid examples and objective data showcasing the country’s achievements, and through their own personal experience. They become prouder to be a member of the Chinese nation, and are more determined to join forces and achieve the Chinese Dream - the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Commitment to core socialist values. The value orientation of youth will decide the values of the whole of society. Young Chinese learn morals and values from heroes and role models of our times. They proactively uphold and promote core socialist values - prosperity, democracy, civility, harmony, freedom, equality, justice, the rule of law, patriotism, dedication, good faith and amity. A large number of outstanding youth have become role models for others to emulate, including more than 1,500 youth who have been awarded the China Youth May 4th Medal, and Excellent Communist Youth League Members at various levels. More than 20,000 young people have been honored as Positive and Kind Youth for exuding positive youthful energy. Although sometimes confused by exchanges, mingling and clashes of ideas, young Chinese always love the Party and the country sincerely, and continue to pursue their lofty values and ideals.

Stronger cultural confidence. Culture is the soul of a nation, and strong cultural confidence is a vital foundation for realising national rejuvenation. China’s youth draw nutrients from the best of China’s traditional culture, revolutionary culture, and advanced



socialist culture, and gain strength from the time-honored Chinese civilization.

A youth survey in 2020 showed that more than 80 percent of the respondents believed that the reason for the enthusiasm for Sinology among youth and adolescents is that “Chinese citizens have begun to pay attention to the innate value of traditional culture”. Young people have switched from coveting foreign brands to preferring national ones, from wearing Western attire to wearing traditional costumes, and from favoring Western dance styles to traditional Chinese ones. Young Chinese identify more and more with the splendors of Chinese civilization. They are deeply proud of the Chinese nation, and are more active in promoting traditional Chinese culture and boosting cultural confidence across society.

(2) Better Physical and Mental Health

The key to China’s development lies in the younger generations. A strong body and mind are important for the healthy development of young people. Chinese youth in the new era are of the highest caliber. This is first reflected in their sound physical and mental health, which sustain them in trials and tribulations.

Improved physical health. In schools, as the class hours for physical education continue to increase, students study academic courses in class, and engage in physical activities on the playground. More than 37 million rural students receiving compulsory education have benefited from the student nutrition improvement program, and their physical health has markedly improved. In 2018, 92 percent of students aged between 14 and 19 passed the physical fitness test, and the proportion of those rated good or excellent increased substantially.

In communities, young people participate actively in mass sports. Running, swimming and ball games are popular. Sport and fitness venues are crowded. The Beijing Olympic Winter Games have boosted young people’s enthusiasm for winter sports in China. Youth aged 18 to 30 are the main force in winter sports, with the participation rate reaching 37.3 percent, the highest among all age groups.

In competitive sports arenas, especially in international events such as the Olympic Games and the Asian Games, Chinese youth have taken golds and silvers inspired by the Chinese Women’s Volleyball Team known for its unyielding spirit, living up to the new Olympic motto “Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together”. They have manifested the vigorous spirit of the Chinese nation. Chinese youth enjoy, value, and participate in sports, becoming an active force in building a country strong in sports.

Confidence and optimism. Young Chinese begin by doing small things around them, then work hard to turn their firm ideals and convictions, sound values, and strong cultural confidence into a healthy social mindset. Although they are under significant pressure in terms of employment, education, housing, dating and marriage, and often have to take care of elderly family members, yet with care and support from the Party, government and society, they rise up to the challenge.

A 2021 questionnaire on the emotions of China’s young people showed that 88 percent of the respondents believed that they were capable of managing their emotions. China’s mainstream youth are confident about their future, and dream of and pursue a beautiful life. Confidence, optimism and

self-motivation are their salient characteristics.

(3) Stronger Intellectual Foundations

Knowledge can shape one’s future and education may change one’s life. As China makes headway with its education programs, the younger generations have borne witness to and benefited from the historic progress. They have received a better education on a fairer footing; their enthusiasm for learning keeps growing and their scientific and cultural achievements have flourished.

A much better education. Thanks to the strategy for invigorating China through science and education and the strategy on developing a quality workforce, hundreds of millions of young Chinese have been provided with opportunities to tap their potential and hone their talents through education. This has enabled them to create a better life and realise their value.

Take 2020 for example. The new additions to the workforce that year had an average education of 13.8 years, 1.1 years more than a decade earlier. More than 50 percent of employees with college or higher education were young people while young employees accounted for only 30 percent of the total workforce. Receiving higher and better education is still one of the best ways for young Chinese to shape their future, realise their dreams, and attain their ideals.

Learning is becoming popular. More and more young people take delight in learning and make it part of their everyday life, fostering a positive atmosphere of self-improvement through continuous learning.

A large number of young graduates pursue advanced studies after leaving school. In 2020, the number of adults receiving continuing on-campus education exceeded 7.7 million and more than 8.4 million people received online college education. Enthusiasm for on-the-job training is also very high. Surveys show that more than half of young workers have taken vocational training, choosing to add to their knowledge base after work. Thanks to the fast-growing network media, they have more study choices available: through MOOC (massive open online courses) for instance.

(4) Active Participation in Social Activities

Society offers an important space for young people to learn and practice skills. The younger generations of the new era have actively adapted to and integrated with society with more confidence and kept pace with social progress, displaying an acute sense of participation in society and the skills required, and acting as advocates and creators of positive energy.

Participation in political activities in an orderly manner. The younger generations are actively involved in politics and in China’s application of whole-process people’s democracy. Inspired by the lofty ideals of communism, they work hard and forge ahead, and an increasing number of them have applied to join the CPC and CYLC organisations.

By June 2021, the CPC had nearly 24 million members under the age of 35, accounting for 25 percent of its total membership. More than 80 percent of the CPC members admitted each year since the Party’s 18th National Congress in 2012 were under 35. The number of CYLC members (age range: 14-28) almost reached 74 million at the end of 2021.

A large number of young people have served as deputies to the people’s congresses or as members of

the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) committees at all levels. Through these organizations they have performed their duties and participated in the deliberation and administration of state affairs. In 2019, young people accounted for 10.9 percent of the deputies to the county-level people’s congresses and 13.7 percent of the county-level CPPCC committees. Young people are active participants in democratic elections, decision-making, management and oversight, making suggestions on major issues relating to economic and social development, and exercising their democratic rights and engaging in consultation to reach agreement on issues concerning youth.

Active participation in social programmes. In recent years, a growing number of young people have taken part in charity and public-welfare activities, providing services in the communities, protecting the eco-environment, conducting cultural programs, and offering elderly care and assistance to people with disabilities. While playing an important role in influential social organisations, they have also set up self-management and self-service bodies.

At present, there are more than 7,600 county-level organisations of volunteers or artistic and sports organisations for young people, which are operating under the guidance of the CYLC. With these as the driver, more than 150,000 youth organisations have been set up, covering all counties. Through such organizations, young people have played a constructive role in providing many public services on behalf of the government, enforcing industrial discipline, meeting diverse public needs for services, leading socially conscious lifestyles, and promoting communication between the public and the government. All of this displays their strong sense of participation and social responsibility.

III. Shouldering Heavy Tasks and Responsibilities

The new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics is a grand stage on which young people can enjoy bright prospects and accomplish great things. In the new era, China’s youth are striving to support high-quality economic growth, participate in the development of socialist democratic politics, create a flourishing socialist culture, promote socialist moral and ethical progress, and build a beautiful China. They are working hard and forging ahead boldly on this new quest to realise the second centenary goal of building a modern socialist country.

(1) Dedicated in Grassroots Work Posts

In the new era, respecting the PRC’s great tradition of “perpetual struggle”, treating their grassroots work posts as a stage to realise the value of their life, and applying their diligence, young Chinese are working for social progress and striving for happiness, national rejuvenation, and a bright future for the country.

Young people work in various fields - conventional fields such as industry, agriculture, commerce and the military, as well as in science, education, culture, health, and sports, and now in internet-based new business models, areas and occupations. Through their hard work in their grassroots work posts, they have turned the ordinary into the extraordinary, and make the impossible achievable.

In factory workshops, young workers hone their skills and strive for excellence. They tighten every screw and weld every joint to perfection. They vie to be

“young people who excel at their jobs” and they help “made-in-China” gain a competitive edge in the global market. In rural areas, young farmers cultivate the fields meticulously, increase grain yield and field fertility with technology, and work hard to ensure food security. On construction sites, young migrant workers painstakingly work all hours of the day and night to build skyscrapers, making the city more beautiful. At training venues, young athletes train hard and persevere in spite of all difficulties. With sporting prowess and indomitable spirit, they strive for Olympic games medals and see China’s national flag being raised at the awards ceremony. In city streets, couriers and takeaway delivery riders brave wind and rain to pass on happiness and warmth. Their sweat and toil demonstrate that Chinese youth have not forgotten the hard times, even though they now live in better days and no longer need to worry about food and clothing. They work hard and shine in their grassroots posts.

(2) Leading the Charge in Difficult Situations and Emergencies

In the new era China’s youth have shown no fear of difficulties and hardships in times of crisis, displaying their grit at critical moments. They rise to the occasion whenever the country and the people need them; they shoulder their responsibilities, make selfless contributions, and press ahead with the intrepidity typical of their generation.

Young people stand at the forefront in major projects emblematic of China’s composite national strength and national pride, in catastrophic natural disasters, and in other emergencies.

Youth teams have played a prominent role in the strategic projects that transport natural gas and electricity from western to eastern regions, divert water from the south to the north, and channel computing resources from the east to the west, as well as the construction of many milestone facilities, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, Beijing Daxing International Airport, and Hualong One nuclear generator.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, young people have been risking their lives to combat this deadly disease. More than 5.5 million of them in 320,000 task groups have worked on the front lines of this combat, providing medical care, transporting supplies, and building facilities. They have made a tremendous contribution to the all-out people’s war on the virus. Of the 28,600 nurses from the medical teams sent to Hubei, 90 percent were born between 1980 and 1999. During the construction of the Huoshenshan and Leishenshan hospitals in Wuhan, young workers, who accounted for 60 percent of the workforce, established 13 task groups to spearhead the project. With an iron will and boundless courage, they created an engineering miracle. This was a shining example of how young Chinese can hold their own in the face of difficulties, face down threats, and rise to the challenge at critical moments.

(3) Tempering Themselves Through Community Service

The local community is the best place to temper young people in the new era, where they can learn through practice. By aligning their personal ambitions with the grand goals of the state and the Party, young people turn their pursuit of the Chinese Dream into pragmatic work, and hone their skills and increase their abilities through trial and experimentation.

Helping villagers solve prob-

lems in rural areas, providing services to residents in cities, and patrolling and guarding the frontiers ... More and more young people are now working in communities and in the places where they are most needed, fighting hardship to drive China’s modernization and realize their dreams.

Of the 1,981 individuals and 1,501 groups commended by the central authorities in 2021 who had stood out in China’s poverty alleviation campaign, many were young people. More than 1,800 people have died in the battle against poverty, and many of them were young people.

As the country implements the rural revitalisation strategy, young people have led the efforts to establish specialised cooperatives, apply modern agricultural technologies, and develop new industries and new forms of business in rural areas. They have taken the lead in abandoning outdated social mores, nurturing civil social norms of conduct, and improving rural living environments, and helped villagers increase their incomes. All of these have contributed to giving rural areas a bright new image.

By 2021, 470,000 college graduates had worked in rural areas on posts related to teaching, agriculture, medical service and poverty alleviation, and during their vacations, millions of college students had conducted surveys or taken part in cultural activities and other activities to spread understanding of science and technology and information on health in the countryside. Through these efforts, young people have offered their support to China’s poverty alleviation and rural revitalisation.

(4) Taking the Lead in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

In the new era, China’s youth have shown rich imagination and creativity, open-mindedness, and a pioneering spirit. They have the spirit to engage in the field of international competition as it grows ever fiercer, and have become a strong force driving innovation and entrepreneurship.

Backed by policy incentives of the Party and the state, young people take the lead in innovation, starting businesses, and striving for excellence, serving the country and the people with their ingenuity and expertise in economic, social, technological and cultural fields. Under the innovation-driven development strategy and open competition mechanisms, a large number of world-class young scientists have come to the fore in major sci-tech programs, including China’s space station Tiangong, deep-sea manned submersible Jiaolong, the five-hundred-meter aperture spherical telescope (FAST) Tianyan, the dark matter probe satellite Wukong, the quantum science satellite Mozi, the Mars probe Tianwen-1, and the lunar mission Chang’e. The average age of the core members of the research groups on the Beidou Navigation Satellite System is 36; the corresponding figures are 35 for Mozi and 30 for Tianyan. Every year more than 3 million science and technology and engineering students graduate from Chinese universities, which continuously replenish the country’s ranks of engineers. Well-educated and highly-skilled, they give China an “engineering bonus”, adding impetus to the country’s development and improving its standing in international competition.

China has introduced a raft of policies supporting business startups, and young people are responding warmly. They are active in entrepreneurship programs like the China College Students’ Entrepreneurship Competition, China International “Internet+” College Students Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition, carving out careers with their knowledge and ingenuity. Among the founders of market entities registered since 2014, more than 5 million are college students and new graduates. In creative industries such as IT services, culture, sports, entertainment and sci-tech, young people account for half or more of the workforce, and are at the helm of many unicorn and gazelle companies. Aligning individual inclination with national development, young people are putting their talents to use in innovation and starting businesses, and serving society in the process.



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ROUND-UP



Golden Palm Oasis unveils Eid promotion

With the anticipation of a week-long holiday, guests can choose from any of the well-appointed Palm Deluxe Rooms or spacious Royal Palm Suites, with breakfast and dinner plus an evening tea at the Rose Garden served with dates and luqaimat, a popular Arabic dessert

MUSCAT: Golden Palm Oasis, the only licensed luxury boutique desert camp in South of Sharqiyah, has launched its Eid promotion ‘Stay Closer, Discover More’. Only 265 km from Muscat via



the scenic Quriyat and 65 km from Sur, the luxurious destination will be packed with on-site and off-site activities. With the anticipation of a week-long holiday, guests can choose from any of the well-appointed Palm Deluxe Rooms or spacious Royal Palm Suites, with breakfast and dinner plus an evening tea at the Rose Garden served with dates and luqaimat, a popular Arabic dessert. The pet-friendly resort camp is closer to the Arabian Sea and promises cooler weather for guests to enjoy various fun-filled activities such as sunrise or sunset dune bashing. If the guests opt for sunrise, a trip will be arranged

8km deep into the desert for a visit to a Bedouin home and camel hub. The trip to Abu Rashidin will certainly give visitors a profound sense of gratitude after seeing how the locals can get by with the very basics of life. Guests who would like to pump some adrenaline can take a ride in a quad bike and conquer the dunes or perhaps face their fear of heights with a daring jump on a desert board. Or something lighter would be a guided camel ride. There are other activities available onsite, including an adult and children’s swimming pool. Al Wadha Al Awadhi, Chief Executive Officer of Golden Palm Oasis says: “I have been running

Golden Palm Oasis for a good 5 years now and it gives me immense pleasure in welcoming guests of different nationalities. Omani hospitality is known all over the world and our desert camp has been consistently receiving excellent reviews, a testament to our commitment to providing a memorable and exceptional experience.” Rates start from OMR 70 for a Palm Deluxe Rooms, OMR 85 for a Suites, and OMR 145 for a Family Suite suitable for 5 persons. All room rates are inclusive of all applicable taxes and service charges and are based on a half-board for meal plans. For more information, call +968 9707 0691, or email them at sales@gpo-oman.com.

FILM CRAFT CATEGORY



Jeep Wrangler Rubicon392 film ‘Rewild Yourself’ wins silver award

MUSCAT: Dhofar Automotive, the official distributor of Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge, Fiat, Ram and Alfa Romeo vehicles in the Sultanate of Oman announced that Stellantis Middle East won the Silver in Film Craft at the Dubai Lynx Awards for its Jeep Wrangler Rubicon392 ‘Rewild Yourself’ film, and went on to score two shortlists in the same category in MENA region. The snappy and evocative film positions the Jeep® Wrangler Rubicon 392 as the true catalyst of liberation for people yearning to escape from the increasingly mundane pressures of life and breathe again – to become that kid again and reconnect with the wild, a happy and fearless spirit that is innate to humanity. Commenting on the win, Cristina Guida La Licata, Head of Marketing Communications for Jeep at Stellantis Middle East, said: “We are absolutely thrilled with the Silver award in Film Craft for the ‘Rewild Yourself’ film at the Dubai Lynx International Festival of Creativity 2022. This is a true recognition of the creative benchmark set by the team at Stellantis and its creative communication partners, as well as a testament to Jeep as an enabler of life’s extraordinary adventures for more than 80 years.” “It’s a universal truth that as we grow up, we lose that sense of childlike wonder for the world around us. In ‘Rewild Yourself’, we see flashes of the protagonist’s innocent past juxtaposed with the struggles of today, until he puts his foot down to roam free in the powerful Wrangler Rubicon 392. We wanted to capture that feeling of breaking free through an invitation to Rewild Yourself – we wanted everyone to see themselves in this film. I am incredibly proud of what the team has accomplished in this short film that delivers a memorable knockout punch,” she added. Commenting on the occasion, Hatem El-Naggar, General Manager at Dhofar Automotive, said, “We are very pleased to hear that

our brands are winning prestigious awards in various categories. This skillfully presented film embodies Jeep’s promise, which is to enjoy life to the fullest through a range of vehicles that provide owners with a sense of security to tackle any journey with complete confidence. The 2022 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 392 boasts the same legendary off-road capabilities of its iconic predecessors, boosted by a 6.4L HEMI V8 engine that can deliver a thumping 470 horsepower and 470 lb-ft of torque to make it the most powerful Jeep of its kind ever produced.” Narrated through the eyes of a young man who is confronted by life’s obligations, the film connects with the target audience in the MENA region on a deeper and visceral level to convey the sense of freedom and adventure that awaits with the new Wrangler Rubicon 392. While appealing to the cultural identity of the region’s youth, the film creates a universal portrait of man’s struggle against the shackles of life, gradually becoming suffocated with the obligations and responsibilities of circumstance, culture and family. Flashbacks from childhood and visual metaphors of deep, unfulfilled desires are all woven together to create a visceral punch for the viewer, also identifying with their need to break free after more than a year predominantly spent confined indoors. ‘Rewild Yourself’ was announced as a Silver winner in the Film Craft category during a glittering Dubai Lynx Awards Ceremony on March 16 – the first live Awards ceremony since 2019. The Dubai Lynx Awards honour and celebrate the best creative works in MENA, recognising the foremost talent in the region’s creative communications and advertising industry. The work is adjudicated by international juries during the Dubai Lynx International Festival of Creativity, and the winners are announced at the awards ceremony.

FOURTH COLLEGE

College of Advanced Technology to fulfill Oman’s needs for new graduates: Dr Ali bin Saud Al-Bimani

MUSCAT: Dr Ali bin Saud Al-Bimani, Vice-Chancellor of the National University of Science and Technology, announced that the College of Advanced Technology (CAT) was declared the fourth college in addition to the current three colleges, under Ministerial Decision No. (6/2022) issued on 17/03/2022 by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, praising the great support and cooperation provided by the Ministry in this regard. Dr Ali Al-Bimani also indicated in a press statement that the establishment of this college comes considering the tremendous development of the technological revolution, stressing that the new college will be characterised by high quality and great efficiency, and will offer the labour market with distinguished graduates who enjoy the spirit of creativity and innovation and can deal with the latest technological devices, and the desire to move towards entrepreneurship. The VC of the University indicated that the New College would focus on the disciplines of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science



(DS) and Analytics, Cloud Computing, Internet of Things (IoT) and Cybersecurity, and Computer Science and Engineering to keep pace with achieving the goals of the Oman vision 2040. Dr Salem Bin Khamis Al-Araimi, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs and Scientific Research), pointed out that the declaration of the College of Advanced Technology comes in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which stems from the tremendous successes and achievements of the Third Industrial Revolution, especially in the field of the Internet, and its huge processing power, the ability to store information, and the unlimited possibilities of access to knowledge. Today, these achievements opened favourable prospects to unlimited possibilities through breakthroughs in technologies in the fields of artificial intelligence, robotics, Internet of things, self-driving vehicles, 3D printing,

nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, quantum computing, Blockchain, etc. Dr Salem Bin Khamis Al-Araimi said that after the establishment of the fourth college, the National University will have four colleges, namely the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, the College of Engineering, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Advanced Technology, which will be in the Wilayat of Seeb in the Governorate of Muscat.

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BENEFITS

Exclusive Ramadan offer on Nissan Patrol with ‘Go Anywhere’ capabilities



MUSCAT: Nissan Oman from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA) is offering a wide range of rewards for the patrons of Nissan Patrol as part of its special Ramadan. The offer, which is available on models purchased for personal use, will go on till May 19. A senior official of Nissan Oman said, “With a sleek new look and a range of Intelligent Mobility safety technologies, the stylish and capable Nissan Patrol range is always ready to take on any terrain. Conquering the elements comes as second nature to an SUV whose reputation and authority

are equalled only by its legendary V8 power. We are pleased to offer a surfeit of offers on Nissan Patrol range, vehicles that promise an unmatched customer experience.” Customers can avail low EMI rate as part of the offer. Starting EMI for Nissan Patrol Y 61 Super Safari is OMR207 and Nissan Patrol Y62 is OMR 230. These starting EMIs are calculated on the price of the base model with a 20% down payment, and 2.75 % rate of interest for 10 years loan tenure through Bank Muscat. Subject to credit approvals. Conditions apply. All customers purchasing Nis-

san Patrol during this scheme period will be eligible for a free periodic maintenance service package for three years/ 60,000km (whichever is earlier), limited to six services only. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km. Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers up to OMR 200. Voucher can be redeemed for purchase value-added service products, services contracts and Parts at SBA service centres. The gift voucher offer is subject to terms and conditions: VAS voucher will have to be utilised fully in one go and cannot be fragmented. Any additional

expenses on top of the voucher amount will be paid by the customer separately. VAS Voucher will have a limited validity period and will have to be consumer before October 31, 2022. VAS Voucher is transferable. VAS Voucher will be in OMR50 denomination. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the Voucher amount cannot be discounted in cash. Eligible for free first year vehicle insurance (Oman and UAE only). All customers purchasing Nissan Patrol during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration.



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Ramadan offer on all-new INFINITI QX55

From a provocative design perspective, the INFINITI QX55 is the spiritual successor to the brand’s iconic FX series



assured gifts vouchers, periodic vehicle maintenance, manufacturer’s warranty, AAA/ Road assistance card, digital promotion, INFINITI loyalty programme and reference programme.

The special offer will be available till May 19, 2022. The scheme applies to all the customers purchasing INFINITI vehicles for personal use only. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme. The scheme is applicable for retail billing only.

All customers purchasing INFINITI QX55 during the scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration.

All customers purchasing INFINITI QX55 during the scheme period will be eligible for Value Added Service (VAS) gift vouchers of OMR 200. Voucher can be redeemed for vehicle service, purchase of value-added service products at SBA workshop, purchase of parts/accessories at SBA workshop and purchase of service contracts from SBA workshop. VAS voucher will have to be utilized

fully in one go and cannot be fragmented. Any additional expenses on top of the voucher amount will be paid by the customer separately. VAS Voucher will have a limited validity period and will have to be used before October 31, 2022. VAS Voucher is transferable and will be in denomination of OMR 50. Multiple vouchers will be issued for OMR 200. VAS Voucher can be redeemed only at SBA Workshop and the amount cannot be discounted in cash.

Customers purchasing INFINITI QX55 in the scheme period will get free Periodic Vehicle Maintenance of two years or 30,000 kms (whichever is earlier). This offer excludes battery and wear and tear components. This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km. INFINITI QX55 purchased during the scheme period will have a 3 years / 100,000km Manufacturer’s Warranty.

Free AAA / Road Assistance card will be given on the purchase of INFINITI QX55 for the first year only and as supported by AAA Oman & UAE.

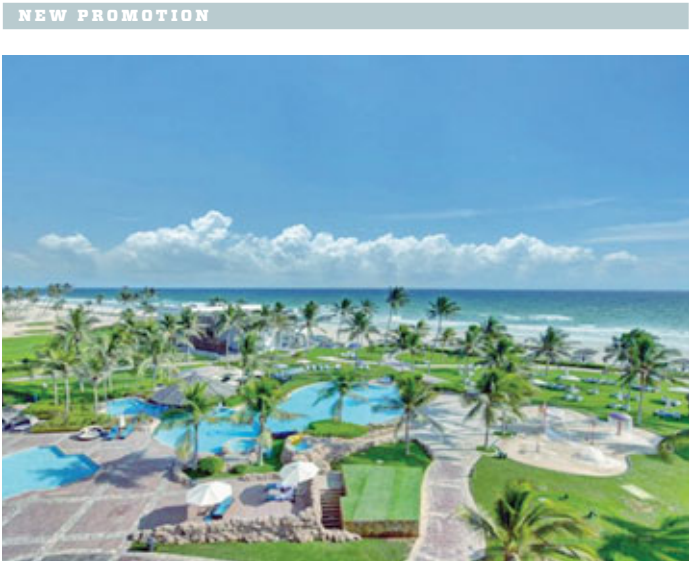
Two winners from all the social media users who will participate in the Ramadan campaign, Con-

test and other online challenges on Instagram (@sbainfinitiomani) and Facebook (@sbainfinitiomani) will get BOSE Ear Buds.

All INFINITI existing owners and their immediate family members [father, mother, son(s) & unmarried daughter(s)] will be eligible for the following additional benefits on purchase of another INFINITI vehicle. Diamond members will get a loyalty Bonus on trade-in price of Infiniti vehicle of OMR 300 and platinum will get OMR 400. Special in-house finance rate for diamond members is 3.75% and platinum is 3.50%. Diamond members will get a special accessories package of window tinting and platinum members will get window tinting and paint protection.

INFINITI will generate references of people looking to buy a car. This reference will be generated from existing INFINITI customers. The same person cannot refer himself but can refer multiple names. If any of the referred persons buy an INFINITI car, then the person who referred him will get OMR 100 gift voucher. This gift voucher can be redeemed during vehicle service at the SBA workshop, purchase of consumables from SBA counters, Purchase of parts and accessories from SBA counters. All such gift voucher winners will be declared on an on-going basis.

This gift voucher is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for credit. The gift voucher will be valid for six months from the date of issue. The voucher needs to be redeemed fully all at once. Part redemption will not be allowed.



Omran launches ‘Double Your Delight’ promotion

MUSCAT: As part of its efforts to enhance local tourism, Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group) launched the ‘Double Your Delight’ promotion, offering locals and residents an array of staycation options with a 30 per cent discount at 16 different hotels spread across the Sultanate’s governorates.

The new promotion will provide distinguished hospitality experiences and recreational and cultural activities for individuals and families, as well as encourage them to explore and enjoy the most prominent tourism components and enjoy Oman’s unique tourism offerings.

The offers will be available between April 28 and May 7, in the participated hotels including, Alila Hinu Bay, Atana Stay Salalah, City Hotel Duqm, Crown Plaza Duqm, Crowne Plaza Mus-

cat OCEC, Crowne Plaza Resort Salalah, Intercontinental Muscat, Al Bustan Palace, A Ritz - Carlton Hotel, Atana Khasab Hotel, Atana Musandam Resort, Atana Stay Al Ashkara, Barcelo Mussanah Resort, dusitD2 Na-seem Jabal Akhdar Resort, Masirah Island Resort, Ras Al Jinz, and W Muscat.

Guests are invited to book at their preferred hotel destination directly through the dedicated ‘Double Your Delight’ online platform via visiting the hotels’ websites.

Omran Group continues to work with all stakeholders, and partners to activate the tourism sector’s role to boost the local economy by providing a suitable tourist environment for all visitors and offering an exceptional offer for the guests in Omran’s hotels and resorts.

OFFER

Own Lexus RX with exclusive benefits



MUSCAT: Own a Lexus RX and benefit with free service for 5 years / 50,000 km and free registration (Conditions apply. Please visit your nearest Lexus showroom for details).

The sharp and fuel-efficient Lexus RX is powered by a choice of two powertrains. The RX 350 is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 petrol engine, which produces 296 HP and 377 Kg.M of torque and is paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission. Meanwhile, the RX 450h hybrid variant is equipped with a 3.5-litre V6 petrol engine and two electric motors and produces a combined system output of 308 hp. The RX Hybrid is available with a hybrid battery warranty of 8 years or 160,000 km, whichever is earlier.

To get the best out of every drive, the Lexus RX 450h can be switched to EV drive mode to reduce noise while driving in residential areas

and to reduce exhaust gas in indoor parking lots and garages or through a combination of its petrol engine and two electric motors.

This depends on the vehicle’s speed and the customer’s driving behaviour. The batteries in the hybrid electric drivetrain are automatically charged by either the petrol engine or when braking and decelerating, eliminating the need to plug in a power cord. A host of advanced technologies ensure the RX 450h drives like any other conventional vehicle, while not requiring special fuel.

For better family experiences as well as encouraging relaxing drives, the Lexus RX is available in 5 & 7-seater configurations.

The Lexus RX embraces Lexus’ reputation for engaging performance. The engineering team has scrutinized every part of the vehicle and has made significant enhancements to the rigidity of

the body and suspension system, as well as the shock absorber and brake-control system. The result is a vehicle with outstanding handling, which enables drivers to trace their desired driving line with incredible precision.

Inside the RX a 12.3-inch high-resolution, split-screen Lexus Multimedia System touchscreen positioned closer to the driver, offers control of both audio and climate systems.

The touchscreen also includes a rear-view camera to assist the driver in reversing. Furthermore, the Lexus RX’s advanced smartphone integration offers access to in-car connected technology applications from Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, together with a designated phone storage area and USB ports to ensure occupants always remain connected on the go.

As with any Lexus vehicle, safety is a top priority for the new RX.

‘SHOP AND WIN’ PROMOTION



Lulu picks 5th & 6th draw winners

MUSCAT: With the ‘Shop and Win’ promotion continuing to receive an amazing response from customers, Lulu has now announced the fifth and sixth set of winners of the campaign.

The first-of-its-kind promotion is a valuable opportunity for its customers to take home Cash Prizes worth OMR 100,000 during the Holy month of Ramadan and the following festive season of Eid. The promotion kicked off on March 10 and will continue till May 7.

The winners of the two draws were selected through the e-Raffle draw held on Wednesday, 13 April at the Lulu Hypermarket in the Mall of Muscat and 20 April, at Lulu Hypermarket, Nizwa.

Fayyas F M& Mohamed won the cash prize of OMR5,000 and Mahameed Rohan & Hayeltook

home OMR750 each. Mahmood Said, Said Salih, Hassan Nashab, Attaulla, Abdullah Ali Al Farsi & Badar Al Yahyai won OMR500 each while 20 winners won OMR200 and 40 others won OMR100 each.

To be part of the promotion, customers have to spend OMR10 at any Lulu store and register for the e-Raffle draws. The promotion will allow 281 customers to win amazing cash prizes. There will be a grand prize of OMR 10,000 cash as well as weekly cash prizes of OMR 5000, OMR 750, OMR 500, OMR 200 and OMR 100.

Speaking about the promotion, Shabeer K.A., Regional Director - Lulu Hypermarkets Oman stated “I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the winners of the fifth and sixth draws. The positive feedback we have re-

ceived from customers has been very encouraging.”

“We take every step to engage with our customers regularly. The month of sharing and caring has always inspired us to connect with our customers and offer them a very special experience, year after year. This year, we are adding to the excitement by giving them a great chance to win cash prizes and other offers that promise customer satisfaction and a greater value for money,” he added.

Along with the Shop & Win promotion Lulu has ramped up special deals and offers, across all categories, to help everyone prepare for Ramadan and Eid celebrations in the best possible manner. There will also be lots of daily deals on the online shopping app, which will make shopping a more convenient experience for customers.



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