

PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:10 pm
Asr	3:36 pm
Maghrib	6:37 pm
Isha	7:52 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:17 am
IFTAR	6:37 pm



HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Samia Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania on her country's National Day. In the cable, His Majesty the Sultan expressed his sincere sentiments and best wishes of good health and happiness to President Samia. His Majesty also wished the people of Tanzania further development and growth. **-ONA**



Founded 1975 · Volume 47 No. 43 | 16 Pages · Baisas 200 · Subscription OMR63 | ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company | Chairman/Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali | Printed & Published by Muscat Media Group

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ROYAL DECREES

HM issues two Royal Decrees

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Monday issued two Royal Decrees reading as follows:

Royal Decree No. (21/2022) on the ratification of an agreement between the government of the Sultanate of Oman and the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on mutual waiver of visas for holders of diplomatic, special, service and official passports, signed in Dhaka on 24 March 2022.

Article (1) ratifies the aforesaid agreement as per the version attached to this decree.

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

Royal Decree No. (22/2022) endorsing the Sultanate of Oman's joining the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

Article (1) endorses the Sultan-

ate of Oman's joining the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material as per the version attached to this decree.

Article (2) says that the competent departments shall deposit the endorsement document as per the aforesaid Convention's provisions.

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

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36° MUSCAT

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN
Omanis working in private sector up 8.1%

1 The number of Omanis working in the private sector and insured with the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI) increased by 8.1 per cent during the first quarter of the current year. **>A2**

WORLD
Zelenskyy meets Blinken, Austin

2 US secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III on Sunday became the first senior US officials to meet the Ukrainian president since the Russian invasion. **>A6**

MARKET
OMR2.3mn Opaz plan for greener Duqm



3 Two parks, landscaping and afforestation of five key areas in Duqm, and the installation of a number of other public facilities are a part of the first stage to make the fast-developing city greener. A 6,400 square metre park in the Rock Garden district and another one spanning 3,500 square metres in the neighbourhood of Al Saada are part of the landscaping efforts. **>B1**

HIGHER AIRFARES DAMPEN HOLIDAY PLANS DURING EID

High fuel prices and easing of the pandemic curbs have pushed up demand, say experts

SALEH AL SHAIBANY

MUSCAT: People who have waited until the last minute to book tickets to travel or see family back home during the upcoming Eid holidays, risk paying up to 300 percent more in airfares, due to high demand during the nine-day break.

With the Eid holidays from Friday, 29 April, to next Saturday, 7 May, there is huge demand for flight tickets, particularly after two years of global travel restrictions owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. While Istanbul is a popular tourist destination for

TICKET TO LONDON
OMR880
APRIL 29

APRIL 28
OMR 200*

people from Oman, a one-way ticket booked on Friday, 29 April, will cost you OMR464.5, two and a half times more than what it cost just two days earlier, on Wednesday, 27 April.

Similarly, a ticket to London – another in-demand destination – has been priced at OMR880 on Friday, 29 April. However, if you fly out on Thursday, just a day prior to it, you only need to pay a little more than OMR200, a quarter of the price on Friday.

People flying to Paris also need to fork out similar fares: A ticket

to the French capital on Saturday, 30 April, will set you back by OMR 812, but one booked for Wednesday, 27 April, is more than three times cheaper, at OMR211.

Cost of tickets are also similarly high for key cities in the Asian nations: People travelling to Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Philippines to meet family over the extended break also risk paying more for a ticket as the Eid holidays come closer, although the increase in cost is still a bit less compared to flights to Europe. **>A2**

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Number of Omanis working in private sector increases

275,529 citizens were working in the private sector, according to the monthly statistical bulletin of the National Centre for Statistics and Information

48.7 per cent of the total employees in the private sector and insured with PASI are drawing salaries ranging between OMR325 to less than OMR500

MUSCAT: The number of Omanis working in the private sector and insured with the Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI) increased by 8.1 per cent during the first quarter of the current year compared to the first quarter in 2021, to reach 275,529, according to the monthly statistics of the National Centre for Statistics and Information.

Of them, 31.5 per cent was working in the Muscat Governorate with 86,871 Omanis working in the private sector companies and establishments while the total number by the end of last year stood at 85,053 Omanis, an increase of 1,818 national workers.

The number of national employees in North Al Batinah Governorate stood at 49,022 representing 17.8 per cent of the total national employees in the sector,

followed by Al Dakhiliyah Governorate in the third place by 13 per cent to reach 35,703.

The number of national employees in South Al Batinah Governorate reached 26,651 representing 9.7 per cent, while the number of national employees in Dhofar Governorate reached 19,016 representing 7 per cent of the total employees in the private sector.

48.7 per cent of the total employees in the private sector and insured with PASI are drawing salaries ranging between OMR 325 to less than OMR500 including 50,848 Omanis drawing OMR400 to OMR500.

National employees drawing salaries from OMR500 to less than OMR600 amounted to 34,747. The number of national employees drawing salaries from OMR500 to less than 600 is 34,748.

The number of national employees drawing salaries from OMR600 to less than OMR700 amounted to 21,543 and the number of employees drawing salaries from OMR 700 to OMR1,000 amounted to 33,166 employees. **ONA**

COSTLY HOLIDAYS

<FROM A1 Oil prices are 32% higher than the last year's level

Tarek Al Zadjali, who normally likes to spend his Eid holidays in Europe with his family, said, "I was told that fares will keep increasing during the last week of Ramadan as travel demand gets higher over the Eid holidays."

But the high air fares are not only for flights to Europe. Omanis who are planning to spend their Eid holidays in East Africa were also shocked when they were quoted prices for air tickets.

"I am sure the airlines are taking advantage of the current situation," said Ahmed Al Hinai, who normally travels to Zanzibar during the Eid holidays.

Rising fuel costs, pandemic restrictions

Travel experts say the high fuel costs and the easing of the pandemic restrictions have increased the demand.

"Average oil prices in the first quarter of this year have increased by 32 per cent compared to the first quarter of last year. That means airlines need to pay more money for fuel now. But the bigger impact is that most coun-

tries now have lifted COVID-19 restrictions. The travel demand is coming back and it will reach its peak this summer," explained Salim Al Mabsali, owner of Far East Tours.

Relief to Indian expats

But for the Indian sector, the airfares have dropped considerably as more airlines restart their operations to the country, enabling the return of passengers to offset higher fuel costs.

"For the Indian sector, it is different. India has lifted restrictions on airlines travelling there. As a result, more airlines are returning to the Indian sector and there is an airline competition at the moment," Al Mabsali said.

India is returning to full international operations after suspending flights for a two-year period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is good news for me and my family. I am planning to travel back to India in the Eid holiday to see my parents. I am planning to buy tickets next week to take advantage of the situation," Naushad Ahmed, a salesman in Oman, said.

Despite the high airfare, many in Oman are still keen to travel abroad during the upcoming Eid break, said Faiyaz Khan, general manager for Travel Point, which has organised many package tours to destinations popular at this time of the year.

"We initially launched two tour groups to Turkey, and the demand was so high that we had to launch a third, that also sold out," he said. "We subsequently launched two tours to Georgia, and those were sold out as well."

Khan explained: "The main reason for high demand is that for two years, people have not been able to travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic - they were required to curtail their travel plans, and now that things are returning to normal, people are keen to travel once again to make up for lost time. "Destinations around Oman that are a short flight away are very popular during the Eid holidays," he added. "We also have trips to Azerbaijan, Morocco and Tunisia for travellers who wish to go there, and are seeing good demand for them as well."



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‘Don’t get sucked into the vortex of social media’

Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor says pointless arguments on social media should be avoided

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Bollywood star Shahid Kapoor has advised people to not get dragged into pointless arguments or discussions about themselves on social media as they matter little and this could actually drag a person down.

Speaking ahead of the official release of his film *Jersey*, which is currently running in theatres across Oman, the actor spoke to TFM's Evita Louis on the importance of being mentally strong and prioritising what matters.

"The thing with social media is that it can just suck you in – it is like a vortex, whether good or bad," he said. "When they're praising you, you're loving it, when they're antagonising you, you're down and really, that is not where the power should be.

"The power should be with you and you should chase what you love, and you should choose whether you had a good time with what you did," he explained. "You need to have that inner voice that tells you who you are, what you stand for and what you want to do."

At the end of the day, said Kapoor, people alone can decide what is important for them despite all



TALKING SENSE: The thing with social media is that it can just suck you in – it is like a vortex, whether good or bad, said the Indian film star.

the external noise that exists.

"You always know when you have done something well, and you always know when something's gone wrong, deep down," he explained. "It is important to recognise the voices that matter to you externally, and it is also important to recognise the popular sentiment – you have to respect that. But you can still respectfully disagree, because eventually, it is your own journey. People are commenting on what's happening to you – you are not commenting on them.

"Always remember that it is your journey, you got to walk the talk," said Kapoor. "It is your life... you go live it. Nobody else is going

to be there for you when you are up or down. It is pretty simple actually, but it takes time. You gotta keep it simple."

Jersey is a sports drama film in which Shahid Kapoor plays Arjun Talwar, a supremely talented cricketer who failed to taste the success everyone expected of him. Ten years after quitting the game, he is struggling to make ends meet and facing mounting debt, with his wife Vidhya (played by Mrunal Thakur) forced to bear the burden of raising a family on her own. Fate, however, intervenes and gives him a second chance, when he seizes the opportunity to return to the game he loves so much.



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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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Electronic Donations Portal www.donate.omo

OCO Headquarters : Muscat Governorate , Al Khuwair 33 , Street No. 47, next to Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque, or one of its branches :

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Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

63,942 REACH



Employees of government and private sectors will get Eid holidays on this date.

Story on the announcement of Eid holidays in Oman

A story on the announcement of Eid holidays in Oman reached 63,942 people and had 17,137 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,500 VIEWS



Kuwait Airways announces two weekly flights to Salalah

The Maghrib Minute video on Kuwait-Salalah flights had 1,500 views and reached 11,500 people on Facebook.

📺 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

614 VIEWS



Maghrib Minute news bulletin in Hindi

The Maghrib Minute video news bulletin in Hindi had 614 views and 31 likes on Instagram.



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» IFTAR TIMING

6:37 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:10 pm
Asr	3:36 pm
Maghrib	6:37 pm
Isha	7:52 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:17 am



» RAMADAN WORDS

“So remember Me; I will remember you. And be grateful to Me and do not deny Me.”

» IFTAR RECIPE

BLACK FOREST MINIATURES *By Oneza Tabish*

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup dark chocolate pieces
- 1/4 cup cream
- 1/2 cup whipped cream
- 1/2 cup chocolate cake (crumbled)
- 1/2 cup sugar syrup
- 10- 12 cherries
- Chocolate flakes for garnish
- 10 miniature glasses for serving

PREPARATION

- In a sauce pan, gently heat the dark chocolate pieces and cream on slow heat.
- Once it melts, turn off the flame and leave it aside to cool.
- On cooling, stir in the whipped cream and whisk well to combine.
- Reserve some whipped cream for garnishing.



FOR ASSEMBLING

- Take miniature glasses, fill the bottom with chocolate cream mix, add the crumbled chocolate cake and pour sugar syrup, drop in a few cherries and fill the top with chocolate cream.
- Repeat for all the miniature glasses.
- Garnish with whipped cream, cherries and chocolate flakes.
- Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving.

» HEALTH TIPS

FUEL YOURSELF WITH SMOOTHIES

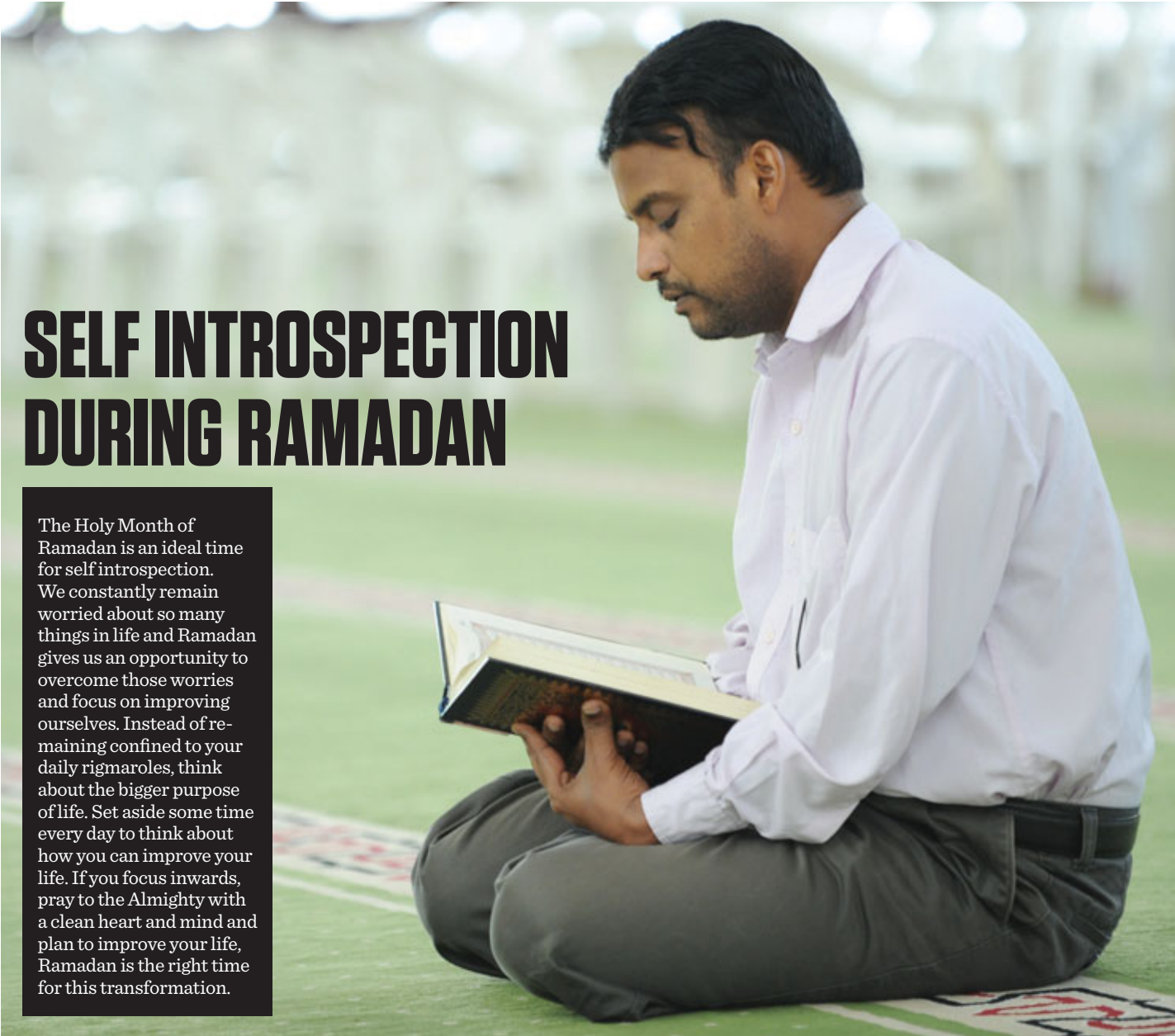
While you fast smoothies are a really easy, tasty way to fuel yourselves. It's a great way to get vitamins and micronutrients from fruits and vegetables.



» GOOD DEEDS

SELF INTROSPECTION DURING RAMADAN

The Holy Month of Ramadan is an ideal time for self introspection. We constantly remain worried about so many things in life and Ramadan gives us an opportunity to overcome those worries and focus on improving ourselves. Instead of remaining confined to your daily rigmaroles, think about the bigger purpose of life. Set aside some time every day to think about how you can improve your life. If you focus inwards, pray to the Almighty with a clean heart and mind and plan to improve your life, Ramadan is the right time for this transformation.





Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUCEMENT

The Ministry of Health invites specialized companies to participate in the following Tenders: -

Tender Ref	Description	Last date for Collection of tender Document	Bid Submission Closing Date on/ Before 08:00 am Wednesday	Eligibility	Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	
MOH/HQ-69/2022	Supply and Installation of Storage Unit for Directorate General of Information Technology	28-04-2022	25-05-2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	25.000	
MOH/HQ-71/2022	Supply of Laboratory Items	05-05-2022	15-06-2022		62.500	
MOH/HQ-72/2022	Refilling and Supplying of medical Gas Cylinders to Various Health Establishments in North Batinah	28-04-2022	25-05-2022		25.000	
MOH/HQ-74/2022	Supply of Surgical Items for The Royal Hospital	05-05-2022	11-05-2022		32.000	
MOH/HQ-75/2022	Provision of Laundry and Ironing Services to Various Health Establishment in South Al Sharqiyah Governorate	05-05-2022			25.000	
MOH/HQ-76/2022	Supply of Laboratory Items	05-05-2022				
MOH/HQ-77/2022	Supply and Installation of Medical Equipment for Fertility and IVF Center at Al Wattayah Extended Health Center (Obstetrics and Gynaecology)	28-04-2022	18-05-2022		70.000	
MOH/HQ-78/2022	Supply of Renal Dialysis Consumables	05-05-2022				

- Tenders should be submitted on line on <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> enclose Electronic Bank Guarantee issued by a Local bank for not less than One percent (1%) for the Tender value validity for (90) days from the Tender Submission date, addressed to The Chairman of the Tender Committee.
- Ministry is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accepts or reject any tender.
- For any Clarification, you may contact via Telephone: 24402200 , Email id etenderhd@ita.gov.om

IN DHOFAR GOVERNORATE

Restoration work completed in some sites at Land of Frankincense



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Restoration work has been completed at some sites of the Land of Frankincense in the Dhofar Governorate.

Oman News Agency (ONA) revealed that the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in the Governorate of Dhofar, represented by the Department of Land of Frankincense Sites, has completed restoration work on some sites of the Land of Frankincense registered in the World Heritage List.

Archaeological Castle

Ali bin Salim Al Kathiri, Director of the Land of Frankincense Sites Department at the Directorate, said that the restoration work has been completed at the archaeological site of Samharam (Khor Rori) and the archaeological Castle of Al Baleed.

Al Kathiri added that the restoration work started at the end of December 2021 and lasted for more than three months, noting that these works come within the Ministry's plan to sustain the architectural heritage and historical and heritage monuments and employ them for the requirements of the tourism sector through the rehabilitation, maintenance and restoration of archaeological sites.

Al Baleed, Samharam, Bar and Wadi Dawkah are sites registered in the World Heritage List under the name of the Land of Frankincense Sites.

The Ministry of Heritage and Tourism represented by the Directorate General of Heritage and Tourism in the Governorate of Dhofar is developing it and providing it with service and aesthetic facilities with the aim of promoting cultural and archaeological tourism in the Governorate of Dhofar.



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PRESIDENT OF SERBIA

His Majesty receives thanks cable

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a cable of thanks from President Aleksandar Vucic of the Republic of Serbia in reply to His Majesty's greetings cable on the occasion of his country's National Day.

In the cable, President Vucic expressed his sincere appreciation for His Majesty's heartfelt sentiments. He also reiterated his keenness to promote the bilateral relations to serve the interests of the two countries' peoples. — **ONA**

AWARENESS EVENT

Ministry of Education to organise seminar

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Education, represented by Oman National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, will organise a national seminar titled 'Culture, the driver of Purple Economy', on May 10 and May 11.

The event is being held in partnership with the UNESCO and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and a number of national institutions.

The seminar targets representatives of departments concerned with purple economy and national and international academics and researchers, officials concerned from the government sector and the private sector and civil associations.

The programme of the seminar includes workshops on the way to avail from purple economy to support the national economy. The seminar comes within the keenness of the National Commission for Education, Culture and Science for utilising from the programmes offered by regional and international organisations on dissemination of awareness with purple economy as one of the arms of the sustainable economies. — **ONA**

IN LOVING MEMORY



MR. KURIEN POULOSE

Those who love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday. Your principles guide us everyday and your life continues to light our path.

Condolences from all of us at
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Embassy of India
Muscat

Vacancy for the post of
"Arabic Interpreter/translator"

Applications are invited for the post of Arabic Interpreter/translator in the Embassy of India, Muscat. The pay scale of Interpreter/translator is RO 600-18-870-26-1130-34-1470 with starting salary of OMR 600.000 per month. The candidate should be of age group 25-35 years and holding a graduate degree from the recognized university with degree/diploma in translation.

Applicant should possess sound knowledge of English, Hindi and Arabic languages, should have good communication and translation/interpretation skills and also conversant with computers & social media platforms. Apart from Interpretation skills, the applicant is expected to carry out protocol duties and liaise with Govt and civic bodies.

Candidates with prior working experience would be preferred. Interested candidates meeting the required criteria may visit Indian embassy website and fill out an application form and send their detailed CV along with scanned copies of educational degree/ experience, Oman residence visa and copies of reference provided by previous employer, if any
at secondsecadm@gmail.com
latest by May 15, 2022

OBITUARY

IT IS WITH PROFOUND SORROW WE ANNOUNCE THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR MEMBER



MR. KURIEN POULOSE (77 YRS)

(K- 014) ON 24-04-2022

We express our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the bereaved family members
May the departed soul rest in peace

Funeral service will be held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 12 pm
at the Mar Thoma Church Thazhakara, Mavelikara
Vicars and Members

MAR THOMA CHURCH IN OMAN

SULTANATE OF OMAN

TENDERS NOTICE

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

Tender no.	Description	Tender documents price (R.O)	Class	Last date for collection of documents	Last date for Submission of documents
195/2022/MAFWR/HQ-19	Maintenance and rehabilitation works and removal of deposited sand and stones at the entrance to the fish landing in the areas of Bamah, Tiwi and Fins	25/-	Fourth	Monday 2/5/2022	Tuesday 24/5/2022
209/2022/MAFWR/HQ-23	Consultancy services for review design and construction supervision of fish markets at Al Khaboura	25/-	First	Sunday 15/5/2022	Tuesday 7/6/2022
210/2022/MAFWR/HQ-24	Maintenance of the Water Resources Department building in Haila Al Rakah branch in Dhofar Governorate	25/-	Fourth	Sunday 15/5/2022	Tuesday 7/6/2022
211/2022/MAFWR/HQ-25	Supplying Technical Expert to The Directorate OF Fishery Harbours	25/-	First	Sunday 15/5/2022	Tuesday 7/6/2022

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

TENDERS COMMITTEE
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Sale of Al Kamil Power Plant Equipment

Al Kamil Power Company SAOG (under liquidation) is offering for sale all the Plant equipment as part of winding down its business operations in the Sultanate of Oman, with preference given to buyers interested in purchasing the entire plant either for continuing operations in Oman or dismantling the equipment and transporting it to their own jurisdiction for their own use. To the extent that a buyer for the entire plant cannot be found, the equipment will be sold at the best price offered.

The Plant comprises of three (3) General Electric Frame 9171E gas turbines designed for operation in open cycle configuration, together with related ancillary equipment required for a fully independent operation. Turbines are also designed to run on both natural gas and light distillate fuel oil. Gas is supplied through a pipeline from Oman Gas Network, while light distillate is transported by road tankers to the site.

The entire plant and individual equipment items are being offered for sale on an "as is where is" basis, with bid prices to be submitted to the Company no later than May 23, 2022.

Tender documents which include further detailed information and data about the power assets can be obtained by downloading the Tender Document from the Company's website at:

<http://www.alkamilpower.com/Tenders/Tender.pdf>



View of Three Gas Turbines

The bid price for all or some part of the equipment shall be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Al Kamil Power Company SAOG
(under liquidation)
Office No. 53G, Landmark Building,
5th Floor (Located Opposite Al
Amine Mosque and next to Fraser
Suites Hotel) Bousher, Muscat,
Sultanate of Oman



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ECONOMIC CRISIS

Sri Lankan President willing to form interim govt

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday said that he is willing to take immediate steps to form an interim government to curb and resolve the ongoing economic crisis in the country.

He conveyed this message to the Mahanayake of the three Chapters who are high-ranking Buddhist monks overseeing and

regulating the Buddhist clergy in Theravada Buddhist countries, reported Daily Mirror.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, Sri Lanka has slipped into a dire economic crisis due to debt troubles, liquidity problems, and minimum foreign reserves leading to long power outages, and scarcity of fuel impacting manufacturing industries and

the middle class.

A series of protests can also be witnessed in the country as the citizens demand the resignation of Gotabaya Rajapaksa for his inability to control the situation.

The Sri Lanka President has also agreed to present a new Constitution if the Parliament approves of it, Daily Mirror reported citing Ven. Medagama Dhammananda

Thera, the Chief Registrar of the Asgiri Chapter.

Earlier, Mahanayaka Theras had urged the President, Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and other parliament members to take necessary action to bring order to the country. He added that failure to do so will force the Mahanayaka Theras to issue a Sangha Convention. **ANI**



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

Founder: Essa bin Mohammed Al Zedjali
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CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

UKRAINE CRISIS

Zelenskyy meets Blinken, Austin in first high-level US visit to Ukraine



KYIV: US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday, becoming the first senior US officials who have visited Ukraine since Russia launched its military operation in Kyiv on February 24.

“They (Blinken and Austin) are right now in Kyiv, talking to the president,” and “maybe something will be decided regarding how they can help,” Oleksiy Arestovich, an adviser to President Zelenskyy confirmed the news during an interview with a Russian lawyer and activist on YouTube. The US top diplomat and top defence official arrived in Kyiv on Sunday, *The New York Times* reported.

The US government has always backed Ukraine with financial aid and weapons and also helped in leading the international campaign of sanctions against Russia. But this visit has been called under pressure as recently several European officials including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and the PM of Spain and Denmark have visited the country.

US officials did not announce their visit but it was Zelenskyy who revealed it in his speech on Saturday, saying that he would use this meeting to discuss the “military assistance we need.”

A few weeks after Russia started its military operation in Ukraine, the prime ministers of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia travelled to Kyiv in March, which was kept under tight wraps, reported *The New York Times*.

Over the following weeks, they were followed by leaders of Britain, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia, Estonia, Spain and Denmark. Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, visited both Kyiv and Bucha, where journalists

The US government has always backed Ukraine with financial aid and weapons and also helped in leading the international campaign of sanctions against Russia

and investigators have found evidence of atrocities.

This is not the first time for America to visit the war zones unannounced, in Iraq and Afghanistan, the visit was typically not announced until after the official had arrived in the country and sometimes not even until after they had left, as reported by *The New York Times*.

Security concerns and contested airspace have still required leaders to make long journeys to reach Kyiv.

The British government said that Johnson, whose visit in early April was unannounced, used several modes of transportation, including a train from eastern Poland.

The White House had ruled out sending Biden, citing not only the risk but Biden’s enormous security requirements. Senior cabinet officials such as Blinken and Austin travel with smaller entourages, according to *The New York Times*.

Meanwhile, on Thursday, the US authorised new military assistance worth \$800 million for Ukraine.

Notably, Russia launched a “special military operation” in Ukraine on February 24, which the West has termed an unprovoked war. As a result of this, the Western countries have also imposed several crippling sanctions on Moscow. **ANI**



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UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS ON 31 MARCH, 2022

CHAIRMAN REPORT

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.

Dear, Shareholders,

After compliments,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to present the unaudited financial statement for the first quarter ended on 31th March 2022.

During the period, the company managed to produce 12,095 tons of chromite ore, compared to 4,505 tons in the same period last year. The company also managed to sell 10,343 tons, compared to 12,285 tons in the same period last year.

The company's efforts during the period in addition to the improvement in global ore prices, resulted in a net profit after tax of 204,154 Omani riyals, compared to 115,433 Omani riyals for the same period last year, with an increase of 77%. The company will continue its efforts to raise the sales to take advantage of the rise in raw material prices during the coming period.

Finally, on behalf of the board of directors and the executive management of the company, I would like to express my sincere loyalty, appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, may God protect him, and convey our thanks to the wise government for the extended support. I would also like to thank all the shareholders of the company for their continued support, confidence and above all for their trust in the board and the, executive management of the company and its employees.

Thank you,

Humaid bin Masoud Al Maqbali
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31, MARCH, 2022

	Mar-22 OR	Mar-21 OR
ASSETS		
Non-current Asset		
plant and equipment	266,061	103,134
Intangible assets	315,141	251,134
Deferred Tax Assets	38,192	182,675
Total Non-current Assets	619,394	536,943
Current Assets		
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	3,608	5,737
Inventories	894,279	855,897
Trade and other receivables	380,936	251,228
Cash and bank balance	230,653	300,952
term deposits	2,050,000	1,600,000
Total Current Assets	3,559,476	3,013,814
TOTAL ASSETS	4,178,870	3,550,757
EQUIT Y AND LIABILITIES		
Capital and reserve		
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000
Legal reserve	832,974	787,177
Retained earnings (loss)	(116,707)	-528,880
Total capital and reserve	3,716,267	3,258,297
Non-current Liabilities		
Employees benefits liabilities	21,644	17,955
Total Non-current Liabilities	21,644	17,955
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	330,039	254,135
Income tax (estimate)	110,920	0
Bank borrowings		20,370
Paid dividend	0	0
Total Current Liabilities	440,959	274,505
total liabilities	462,603	292,460
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	4,178,870	3,550,757
Net assets per share	1.239	1.086

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31 March 2022

	Mar-22 RO	Mar-21 RO.
Revenue	575,269	774,247
Cost of Sales	(181,312)	(450,339)
Gross profit	393,957	323,908
Other income	0	0
Total operating profit	393,957	323,908
Salaries and other related staff costs	(65,893)	(60,860)
Selling and distribution expenses	(72,362)	(111,251)
General and administrative expenses	(41,287)	(33,690)
Finance cost	(1,713)	(2,100)
Profit from operations	212,702	116,007
Realised gains on sales of investment at fair value through profit or loss	(660)	(378)
Interest income	28,139	20,174
Net profit before tax for the period	240,181	135,803
income tax expenses	(36,027)	(20,370)
Net Profit after tax and total comprehensive income for the period	204,154	115,433
Basic earnings per share	0.068	0.038

Note:

- The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder on request either in Arabic or English within 7 days of receipt of the request.
- Shareholders and investors are advised to read the full financial statements.
- Certain comparative figures have been reclassified in order to conform to the presentation for the current period.





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WORLD



COVID CASES

India records 2,541 fresh COVID-19 cases, 30 deaths

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 count witnessed a slight dip as the country reported 2,541 fresh cases in the last 24 hours, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed on Monday.

On Sunday, India logged in 2,593 COVID-19 cases. With the new infections, the total cases in the country have gone up to 43,060,086 including 16,522 active cases. The active cases account for 0.04 per cent of the total cases.

Of the fresh cases recorded, Delhi accounts for 1,083 cases which is 57.37 per cent of the cases recorded in the country.

A single-day rise of 30 fatalities pushed India's death toll to 522,223, the Government data added.

The Health Ministry also in-

formed that as many as 1,862 recoveries were logged in the last 24 hours taking the count of total recoveries to 42,521,341. India's recovery rate from COVID-19 is currently at 98.75 per cent.

Furthermore, the government data said that 83.50 crore total COVID-19 tests have been conducted so far of which 302,115 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours.

In these figures, a daily positivity rate of 0.84 per cent was observed in the country whereas the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 0.54 per cent.

On the vaccination front, as many as 1.8 billion vaccine doses have been administered so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive. **ANI**

FRENCH ELECTION

Emmanuel Macron wins second term as French President

PARIS: French voters on Sunday handed Emmanuel Macron a second term in the country's presidential election after his far-right rival Marine Le Pen failed to achieve a populist upset.

Macron won around 58.5% of the vote versus Le Pen on 41.5%, according to preliminary official results.

In doing so, he becomes the first French leader to win reelection in



two decades since Jacques Chirac in 2002.

Shortly after his win, Macron

told supporters at a rally in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris that he would be a "president for all of us" and that his second term would "not be a continuation of my previous mandate."

Sunday's election runoff was a repeat of the clash between the two candidates in 2017 when Macron won 66% of the vote.

But this poll was marked by much uncertainty over whether

supporters of far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon — who came a strong third in the first round of voting two weeks ago — would switch their support to either of the two finalists, abstain or spoil their ballot. Macron, a pro-European liberal, marketed himself as a stabilising force during a time of crisis, pointing to his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **-nw**



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TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	Description
1	Design, Supply of materials & setting up of Multimedia Lab.
2	Design, Supply of materials & setting up of Dance, Music, Drawing & CSE rooms.
3	Supply of school stationery materials.
4	Supply of cleaning materials.
5	Maintenance of MEP & AC.
6	Update & Maintenance of UPS and Battery Replacement.
7	General Insurance Service.
8	School Cafeteria Facility.
9	Installation of CCTV & supply of materials required.
10	Update and Maintenance of PA System.
11	Update & Maintenance of EPABX.

Competitive tenders are invited from the establishments specialized in each area. The collection of tender documents from School will commence from **26/04/2022 after a payment of R.O. 10/-**.

Tender submission is on or before **12/05/2022**.

The completed tender in all aspects should be dropped in the box kept in school office. A separate tender should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

The Chairperson, Purchase Subcommittee, Indian School Al Maabela

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



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COMPANY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Dear Shareholders,

We would like to wish all of our Shareholders, Stakeholders and Employees Ramadan Kareem and Eid Mubarak.

We would like to present to you the unaudited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31st March 2022.

At the group level, the total turnover of the Company for the period ended 31st March 2022 is 6.370 million OMR compared with 3.729 million OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 71%.

The parent Company's total turnover for the period ended 31st March 2022 is 6.335 million OMR compared with 3.471 million OMR for the same period of last year, i.e. an increase of 82%.

At the group level, we made a net profit after tax of 92,302 OMR for the period ended 31st March 2022, compared with 72,240 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 28%.

The parent Company's net profit after tax for the period ended 31st March 2022 is 63,568 OMR compared with 48,869 OMR for the same period of the last year, i.e. an increase of 30%.

The Management is focusing on the enhancement of LPG business to yield better results in the coming period and the Company will put all its efforts to maximise the shareholders return.

Thanking you,

Engr. Omar Ahmed Salim Qatan
Chairman

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT MARCH 31, 2022

	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
ASSETS				
Non-current Assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	2,845,591	3,057,527	2,686,625	3,080,980
Right of use assets	204,121	204,121	232,760	232,760
Investment	1,901,475	-	1,404,000	-
Goodwill	-	996,800	-	996,800
Trade Receivable	447,759	447,759	499,824	499,824
Total Non-current Assets	5,398,946	4,706,207	4,823,209	4,810,364
Current Assets:				
Inventories	566,552	637,400	840,244	856,173
Trade and other receivables	3,712,451	3,476,040	1,939,610	1,952,500
Cash and cash equivalents	2,040,306	2,047,823	3,074,145	3,097,468
Total Current Assets	6,319,309	6,161,263	5,853,999	5,906,141
TOTAL ASSETS	11,718,255	10,867,470	10,677,208	10,716,505
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
Equity:				
Share capital	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	1,000,000	1,009,975	1,000,000	1,000,000
Special reserve	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067	1,457,067
Land revaluation reserve	753,887	753,887	753,887	753,887
Retained earnings	128,977	217,152	50,597	73,968
Total Equity	6,339,931	6,438,081	6,261,551	6,284,922
Non-current Liabilities:				
End of service benefits	69,671	70,648	64,508	64,508
Non current portion of Term Loan	342,430	342,430	547,530	547,530
Non current portion of lease liabilities	186,105	186,105	206,917	206,917
Deferred tax	153,225	154,740	148,520	148,520
Total Non-current Liabilities	751,431	753,923	967,475	967,475
Current Liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	4,391,383	3,423,163	3,161,023	3,172,823
Current portion of Term Loan	164,784	164,784	205,445	205,445
Current portion of lease liabilities	29,376	29,376	24,513	24,513
Income Tax	41,350	58,143	57,201	61,327
Total Current Liabilities	4,626,893	3,675,466	3,448,182	3,464,108
Total Liabilities	5,378,324	4,429,389	4,415,657	4,431,583
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	11,718,255	10,867,470	10,677,208	10,716,505
Net Assets Per Share (RO)	0.211	0.215	0.209	0.209

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Parent RO	Group RO	Parent RO	Group RO
Revenue	6,334,634	6,370,493	3,470,636	3,729,077
Cost of sales	(6,059,731)	(6,058,783)	(3,242,301)	(3,460,030)
Gross Profit	274,903	311,710	228,335	269,047
General and administration expenses	(228,600)	(230,895)	(232,949)	(234,796)
Investment and Other Income	28,483	28,483	62,109	50,739
Profit for the period before tax	74,786	109,298	57,495	84,990
Provision for Income tax	(11,218)	(16,996)	(8,626)	(12,750)
Net Profit for the period after tax	63,568	92,302	48,869	72,240
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	63,568	92,302	48,869	72,240
Earnings per share	0.002	0.003	0.002	0.002

Note: The complete account will be sent by email to any Shareholders who request them in either Arabic or English as requested within 7 days of the request.



SPORTS



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Rayo Vallecano inflict historic 3rd consecutive home defeat on Barcelona

The result also means that Real Madrid can win the Spanish La Liga title with a draw against Espanyol next weekend

BARCELONA: Barcelona have fallen to defeat for a third consecutive home game in the same season for the first time in their history, as Rayo Vallecano won 1-0 in the Spanish La Liga Santander at the Camp Nou.

It followed defeats to Eintracht Frankfurt and Cadiz in the past two fixtures and leaves the Catalans under pressure on 63 points, only six points clear of Real Betis in fifth.

The result also means that Real Madrid can win the Spanish LaLiga title with a draw against Espanyol next weekend.

There were only seven minutes on the clock when Barcelona conceded yet another early goal, just as they had against Eintracht and Cadiz, when Alvaro Garcia broke free and fired beyond Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

It was enough to give Rayo Val-



DEFEAT FOR BARCELONA: There were only seven minutes on the clock when Barcelona conceded yet another early goal, when Alvaro Garcia broke free and fired beyond Marc-Andre ter Stegen

lecano only their second-ever win at Camp Nou as the Vallecans-based team held on to defend their lead.

Gavi was at the heart of much of what Barcelona did last night, hitting the crossbar with one fine effort from the edge of the box.

Xavi Hernandez twice felt that Barcelona should have won a penalty, with Gavi being the man going down on both occasions.

The strongest claim came in the 90th minute, but it was ruled offside in the build-up.

Rayo continued to defend valiantly and in numbers, facing a total of 16 shots from Barcelona.

In the 14 minutes of injury time

that were added on in the second half, Barcelona again hit the woodwork and applied constant pressure to the visitors.

Xavi ended the game with Ousmane Dembele, Memphis Depay, Adama Traore and Luuk de Jong all on the field as they searched for a win.

However, the best chance in injury time fell to Rayo's Pathe Ciss, who hit the post as the visitors counter-attacked rapidly.

Rayo Vallecano have all but ensured their safety from relegation, giving themselves a 10-point cushion over the bottom three.

Back-to-back wins in Catalonia in midweek against Espanyol and

against Barcelona on Sunday night - mean that Rayo can rest easy after ending a run of 14 games without a win.

Barcelona, on the other hand, can expect to see Real Madrid lift the title at the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu next weekend.

With Sevilla level on 63 points and Atletico Madrid only two points behind on 61, any further slip-ups could cost Barcelona dearly.

In particular, losing second place could be costly as it would mean that Barcelona would not qualify for next year's Supercopa de Espana. **ONA**

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

Max Verstappen tops honours at Laureus World Sports Awards

SEVILLE: The Winners of the 2022 Laureus World Sports Awards have been unveiled at a digital ceremony hosted from Seville.

Leading an illustrious group of sports stars honoured by the Laureus World Sports Academy are Formula One world champion Max Verstappen and Jamaican Olympic sprint queen Elaine Thompson-Herah, who have been named Laureus World Sportsman and Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year respectively. The awards recognise the greatest sporting achievements of 2021, one of the highlights of which was the European Championship victory by the Italian Men's Football Team who won their second Laureus Team of the Year Award as a result. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra missed out on the Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year award for 2022. Global tennis sensation Emma Raducanu received the Laureus Breakthrough of the Year Award following her US Open victory at the age of 18.

The Laureus World Sports Academy also made special presentations to three giants of sport: Tom Brady, seven-time winner of the Super Bowl, was honoured with the Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award; Robert Lewandowski received the Laureus Academy Exceptional Achievement Award for achievements including breaking Gerd Muller's long-standing goalscoring record



in the Bundesliga; and hugely popular motorcycle racer Valentino Rossi was presented with the Laureus Sporting Icon Award, after retiring in November at the end of a 25-year career.

Max Verstappen, who secured his first World Championship at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in December, said: "I was very happy, of course, but it was a lot of hard work and years of preparation. I'm incredibly proud. Since I was a little kid I dreamt of being on the top step and winning the championship. I said to my dad [Former Formula One driver Jos Verstappen] 'We did it, this is what we worked for all these years and now we are here, the two of us, all the memories, all the years of travelling all over Europe, going for that one goal and we achieved it'.

"I'm the first Dutch driver to win the World Championship, so the reaction back in Holland was amazing from all the newspapers and fans, it's something we'll never forget. It means a lot to be recognised for this Award, one of the highest ones in the world, so I'm incredibly happy." **ANI**

CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Lankan Lions to take on Mash Eagles in quarters

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Lankan Lions will take on Mash Eagles in the quarter-finals of Pran Frooto Ramadan cricket tournament at Al Hail Ground.

While some of the famous teams like Lions 11, Lankan Lions, Mash Eagles, Ayan International, BHT XI and Friendly Stars are under various stages of qualification, Muscat Zalmi will meet Al Fatah 11 in the pre-quarters on Monday night.

Ibn Sina pharmacy met Lions XI on Sunday night at Al Hail Grassy ground. The Lions XI won the match by 6 wickets and



entered the semifinals. Ibn Sina won the toss and elected to bat but they managed to score 58 runs in 8 overs for the loss of 4 wickets.

The Lions XI team chased the target in the last ball after losing four wickets only. Riaz Aoi top scored with 25 runs and other

useful contribution came from Jose with 21 runs.

The final match will follow the prize distribution function in the presence of SK Firoz Ahamed, Marketing & Business Development Manager of PRAN Food Oman.

FOOTBALL

Casemiro, Alaba travel to Manchester to undergo test at Etihad Stadium

MADRID: A new Real Madrid training session at Valdebebas brought disturbing news for Carlo Ancelotti, as Casemiro and David Alaba barely completed a gentle session on their own and remain serious doubts for the game against Manchester City on Tuesday.

Neither the Brazilian nor the Austrian have overcome their muscular problems, which could be a serious setback for Real Madrid in the first leg of the Champions League semi-final.

In any case, both were included in the squad for the match, pending today training session at the Etihad Stadium, the venue for the game, when they will undergo a definitive test.

The good news came from Fer-



land Mendy, who completed the session with the group.

The French full-back should therefore have no problem to be in contention to start against Pep Guardiola's side, the Spanish MARCA newspaper reported.

Mariano Diaz, who trained at a slower pace, was unable to join

the squad, as was Luka Jovic, who worked in the gym and was left out of the squad for the trip to England.

Also absent is Eden Hazard, who worked on his own on the pitch, recovering from recent surgery on his ankle.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE FALLS

The price of Oman oil has decreased, with prices for delivery by June 2022 reaching \$99.52, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil fell by \$5.45 from the price of Friday, which was \$104.97. - **ONA**

MARKET BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,194.9 points, down by 0.58 per cent from previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.14 per cent at 482.62 points. Takaful Oman, up 6.06 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sohar Power, down 8.89 per cent, was the top loser.

Opaz allocates over OMR2.3mn to increase green area in Duqm

The current green areas in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm cover about 26,000 sqm, while the new project will bring an additional 35,000 sqm

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Construction of two parks, landscaping and afforestation of five key areas in Duqm and the installation of a number of other public facilities are part of the first stage to make the fast-developing city greener.

A 6,400-square-metre park in the Rock Garden district and another one spanning 3,500 square metres in the neighbourhood of Al Saada are part of the landscaping efforts.

First phase

“The first phase of beautification, afforestation and landscaping works in Duqm include different locations over 16km on Sultan Qaboos Street, three roundabouts, pavements running for 4.5km on the Airport Street, Al Salamah Roundabout as well as the service road in the exhibition area over a



ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE: This project reflects Opaz keenness to improve the urban lifestyle by increasing the greenery in the zone, providing the best infrastructure and maintain environmental balance. - **Supplied picture**

distance of 4km,” said Yahya bin Khamis Al Zadjali, operations manager for the Special Economic Zone at Duqm (Sezad).

“The project reflects the keenness of the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones (Opaz) to improve urban lifestyles by increasing the extent of greenery, providing the best infrastructure and maintaining the

environmental balance,” he added.

Furthermore, the efforts include other works such as the construction of several public facilities, green spaces for kids’ activities and family gatherings, and other areas for sports, and cultural and social activity. All these zones will be irrigated through a modern system that is part of the development project.

“The current green cover in the

Special Economic Zone at Duqm is about 26,000 sqm, while the new project will add 35,000 sqm,” added Al Zadjali. “Post completion of the project, the total greenery will cover an area of more than 60,000 sqm, including the planting of over 5,000 different trees that suit the climate conditions of Duqm.”

He added that the Public Authority for Special Economic

Zones and free zones accords special attention to many other works related to developing the master plan of the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

Such works are aimed to increase the green areas, afforestation and landscaping, reflecting its environmental importance. In view of that, Opaz introduced several projects and initiatives earlier,

some of which are the ‘Plant a Tree’ initiative with a focus on beautification works in some areas.

This would serve to make the zone a model for integrated economic cities that mix industrial, commercial, tourism and social projects with high attention to environmental and health aspects, as well as providing various services for the community.

OMAN WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES

Sohar Water Desalination project worth OMR150 million becomes functional

Times News Service

MUSCAT: All works relating to the water transmission line project linking the Sohar Water Desalination Plant and the Al Dahirah Governorate have been completed and its commercial operation has begun. The total cost of the project is OMR150 million.

Announcing this, Ibrahim bin Hamed Al Hasani, Project Senior Manager of the Oman Water and Wastewater Services Company, said, “The project included the linking of water transmission lines, over a distance of 230 km, to the Sohar Desalination plant, and the construction of 15 tanks with a total storage capacity of 451,000 cubic metres in the Wilayat of Sohar, Ibri and Dhank.

In addition, the project consists of four pumping stations with a maxi-



mum capacity of 144,000 cubic metres per day and a pipeline parallel to the current water carrier line from Sohar to Al Buraimi. This pipeline

will also be employed to meet the future water needs of the Al Buraimi Governorate by linking the two water transmission systems together.

Following this, the network would be able to meet the water requirements of the governorates of Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi.

PRODUCT LAUNCH EVENT



Huawei Consumer enters enterprise market with new lineup of office products

MUSCAT: Huawei Consumer BG will now enter the enterprise market officially, serving government and enterprise customers, as well as individual consumers.

The announcement was made by Richard Yu, Huawei’s Executive Director, Consumer BG CEO and Intelligent Automotive Solution BU CEO, at the Huawei Business product launch event. Yu noted that Huawei would use its hardware and software ecosystems as dual pillars, to support a growing range of versatile office products that work seamlessly with a wide range of smart devices, including laptops, desktops, monitors, tablets, accessories, Visions, and wearables. These new office solutions will address the following key domains: government, education, health care, manufacturing, transportation, finance, and energy.

With fast-changing business requirements and market conditions, the need for nimble office solutions has never been greater. Smart workplaces and equipment have begun to replace traditional office products, which tended to boast impressive specs and control costs at the expense of versatility and user experience. Huawei Consumer BG hopes to endow office and business products with new smart and innovative capabilities, using its success in the consumer domain as a springboard for new-paradigm solutions. Huawei business products will meet customer requirements for performance and cost-effectiveness, while doubling down on a better and smarter user experience, based on next-

level digital technology.

As Yu explained at the launch event, “Our consumer-oriented products have drawn widespread acclaim over the past decade, due largely to their groundbreaking user experience. Huawei will incorporate this premium consumer experience into its business products, following three key principles: quality, intelligence, and reliability.”

As a new force in the enterprise equipment market, Huawei comes with a concept and vision that promise to revolutionise the industry. Huawei believes that the enterprise equipment is entering an era that will be dominated by Cloud and AI technologies, following the 1.0 and 2.0 eras dominated by desktops and multi-device convergence respectively. Today’s products emphasize performance, intelligence, full connectivity, and new paradigms centred around all-purpose convergence and intelligent interactions. At this crossroads in the enterprise market, characterised by widespread acceptance of versatile smart solutions

Huawei has launched a full set of business products, solutions, and service platforms, including MateBook B series for laptops, MateStation B series for desktops, Display B series for monitors, MatePadC series for tablets, B series for printers, B series for Visions, and B series for wearables, which make this vision access to a wide range of customers.

Huawei has unveiled several business solutions tailored to governments and small-, medium-, and large-sized enterprises.

STOCKS

Asian shares fall amid interest rate, earning worries

TOKYO: Asian shares declined Monday after US stocks ended last week on a tumble as global markets’ expectations for higher interest rates continued to set the tone.

Japan’s benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 1.9 per cent in morning trading to 26,583.70. South Korea’s Kospi slipped 1.6 per cent to 2,661.94. Hong Kong’s Hang Seng dropped 2.8 per cent to 20,064.32, while the Shanghai Composite shed 2.4 per cent to 3,012.93. Trading was closed in Australia for Anzac Day, a national holiday, AP reports.

The news that Emmanuel Macron won the run-off French presidential election over the weekend, clinching a second term as was widely expected, reassured markets that France won’t abruptly shift course amid the war in Ukraine.

But a significant show from contender Marine Le Pen, a populist and nationalist, served as a reminder of how fragile that situation might be, analysts said. Le Pen pledged to dilute French ties with the EU, NATO and Germany and spoke out against EU sanctions on



Russian energy supplies.

Rising COVID-19 cases in China are setting off worries about more pandemic lockdowns that would crimp economic recoveries in the region. Other nations are also dealing with economic woes related to COVID-19, such as the absence of tourism revenue in Japan, where cases are still going up and down while it gradually opens its borders, but only to business travellers.

Investors are also watching profit reports from companies, including Japanese big names that

are coming in weeks ahead. Several reports from US companies, which have already been released, have been disappointing, contributing to the fall that ended last week on Wall Street.

What the US Federal Reserve might do is high on investors’ minds. The chair of the Federal Reserve has indicated the central bank may hike short-term interest rates by double the usual amount at upcoming meetings, starting in two weeks. The Fed has already raised its key overnight rate once,

the first such increase since 2018.

The S&P 500 fell 2.8 per cent Friday to 4,271.78, marking its third losing week in a row. The Dow dropped 2.8 per cent to 33,811.40, its biggest drop in 18 months. The Nasdaq lost 2.6 per cent, closing at 12,839.29. The Dow and Nasdaq also posted losses for the week. Smaller company stocks also fell sharply. The Russell 2000 slid 2.6 per cent to 1,940.66.

“Coming after the heavy sell-off in Wall Street to end last week, overall risk appetite in the region may come under pressure as well,” said Yeap Jun Rong, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

Markets around the world are feeling similar pressure on rates and inflation, particularly in Europe as the war in Ukraine pushes up oil, gas and food costs.

In energy trading, benchmark US crude lost \$2.91 to \$99.16 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, the international standard, fell \$2.93 to \$103.72 a barrel. - **BNA**

MARKET



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MSX index ends lower

Takaful Oman, up 6.06 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sohar Power, down 8.89 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,194.9 points, down by 0.58 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.14 per cent at 482.62 points. Takaful Oman, up 6.06 per cent, was the top gainer while, Sohar Power, down 8.89 per cent, was the top loser.

Shares of Bank Dhofar were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded as well as in terms of turnover.

A total number of 776 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR9.95 million, with more than 54.31 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 8 advanced, 20 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR592,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR41,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,632.04 points, down 0.7 per cent. Prices of Takaful Oman, Muscat Finance and Bank Dhofar were up by 6.06 per cent, 1.43 per cent and 0.87 per cent respective-

ly. Prices of Bank Muscat, Global Financial Investments, Bank Nizwa, National Bank Oman and Sohar International Bank were down by 2.22 per cent, 1.32 per cent, 1.03 per cent, 0.98 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 6,099.11 points, down 0.23 per cent. Prices of Oman Cement and Oman Packaging were up by 1.62 per cent and 1.17 per cent, respectively. Prices of National Aluminium, Al Maha Ceramics, Oman Fisheries and Al Anwar Ceramics were down by 4.4 per cent, 2.29 per cent, 0.89 per cent and 0.89 per cent respectively.

Services Index was down by 0.21 per cent before closing at 1,656.7 points. Prices of Al Suwadi Power, Barka Desalination and Oman Telecom were up by 2.04 per cent, 0.68 per cent and 0.45 per cent respectively. Prices of Sohar Power, SMN Power Holding, National Gas, Oman National Engineering and Ooredoo were down by 8.89 per cent, 6.67 per cent, 2.74 per cent, 1.84 per cent and 1.14 per cent respectively.

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,219.53	4,194.28	4,194.90	4,219.30	-24.40	-0.58
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,673.87	6,632.04	6,632.04	6,679.10	-47.06	-0.70
Industry Index	6,119.12	6,092.99	6,099.11	6,113.22	-14.11	-0.23
Services Index	1,661.12	1,655.42	1,656.70	1,660.26	-3.56	-0.21
MSX Shariah Index	482.62	479.55	482.62	481.97	0.65	0.14
MSX TR INDEX	5,315.27	5,283.44	5,284.24	5,314.98	-30.74	-0.58
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,977.55	6,933.82	6,933.82	6,983.03	-49.21	-0.70
SERVICES TR IDX	1,711.73	1,705.85	1,707.17	1,710.84	-3.67	-0.21
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,350.62	6,323.50	6,329.85	6,344.49	-14.65	-0.23

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
54,319,292	9,954,796	776	22,289,726,398	8	20	20	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, APRIL 25

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT	711,053	178,135	25	0.249	0.251	0.249	0.251	0.247	0.004	1.619	0.250	0.248	0.249	0.100	83,049,050
OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE	4,078,949	280,143	138	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.071	0.070	0.001	1.429	0.072	0.071	0.072	0.100	21,807,389
OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM	4,163,727	3,288,580	11	0.884	0.888	0.872	0.889	0.884	0.004	0.453	0.880	0.878	0.878	0.100	266,000,000
OM0000001087 OMAN UNITED INSUR.	160,018	57,548	14	0.360	0.360	0.358	0.360	0.360	0.000	0.000	0.358	0.358	0.360	0.100	36,000,000
OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT	98,023	16,132	17	0.165	0.165	0.164	0.165	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.164	0.164	0.170	0.100	33,000,000
OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT	778,100	67,735	27	0.087	0.087	0.086	0.087	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.086	0.086	0.087	0.100	17,400,000
OM0000002176 ALJAZEERA STEEL PROD.	113,294	42,585	19	0.376	0.376	0.374	0.376	0.376	0.000	0.000	0.374	0.374	0.376	0.100	46,961,539
OM0000002440 AL SHARGIA INV.	418,073	38,982	32	0.094	0.096	0.093	0.094	0.094	0.000	0.000	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.100	8,460,000
OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES	60,139	16,849	13	0.282	0.282	0.280	0.280	0.281	-0.001	-0.356	0.280	0.280	0.282	0.100	17,137,196
OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.	75,000	33,600	1	0.448	0.448	0.448	0.448	0.450	-0.002	-0.444	0.448	0.443	0.448	0.100	105,911,680
OM0000001533 OMNIVEST	32,270	10,165	4	0.316	0.316	0.314	0.314	0.316	-0.002	-0.633	0.314	0.312	0.314	0.100	209,866,744
OM0000001525 OMAN INVST& FIN.	84,000	12,768	5	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.153	-0.001	-0.654	0.152	0.152	0.152	0.100	36,024,000
OM0000002200 AHLI BANK	1,261,968	148,093	13	0.117	0.118	0.117	0.117	0.118	-0.001	-0.847	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.100	228,109,924
OM0000002188 AL ANWAR CERAMIC	125,000	55,680	3	0.440	0.446	0.440	0.446	0.450	-0.004	-0.889	0.446	0.443	0.446	0.100	98,120,000
OM0000003396 SOHAR INT. BANK	72,600	7,983	2	0.110	0.110	0.109	0.110	0.111	-0.001	-0.901	0.109	0.109	0.110	0.100	328,906,852
OM0000003968 OOREDOO	507,000	176,428	12	0.344	0.348	0.344	0.348	0.352	-0.004	-1.136	0.348	0.348	0.348	0.100	226,528,592
OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT	1,950,431	1,029,024	68	0.534	0.534	0.526	0.528	0.540	-0.012	-2.222	0.526	0.526	0.530	0.100	1,981,688,824
OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS	40,750	20,904	12	0.518	0.518	0.510	0.512	0.524	-0.012	-2.290	0.518	0.508	0.518	0.100	28,160,000
OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS	95,462	13,650	11	0.140	0.143	0.140	0.142	0.146	-0.004	-2.740	0.140	0.140	0.141	0.100	12,070,000
Total	19	14,825,857	5,504,994	427											

Parallel Market

OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	5,100	357	1	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.070	0.066	0.004	6.061	0.070	0.070	0.072	0.100	7,000,000
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	5,500	274	3	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.049	0.001	2.041	0.050	0.049	0.050	0.100	35,720,317
OM0000001608	OMAN PACKAGING	6,500	1,690	1	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.260	0.257	0.003	1.167	0.260	0.000	0.260	0.100	8,433,324
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	30,700,000	374,600	4	0.114	0.118	0.114	0.116	0.115	0.001	0.870	0.118	0.114	0.117	0.100	347,576,767
OM0000008710	BARKA DESALINATION	162,599	24,186	19	0.147	0.150	0.147	0.149	0.148	0.001	0.478	0.150	0.147	0.150	0.100	11,252,778
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	269,183	23,276	30	0.086	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.085	0.087	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000001897	MAJAN COLLEGE	4,780	688	1	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.144	0.000	0.000	0.144	0.000	0.144	0.100	12,960,000
OM0000001982	AL MADINA INV.	16,421	1,166	5	0.070	0.072	0.070	0.071	0.071	0.000	0.071	0.070	0.072	0.100	5,747,197	
OM0000002267	GULF MUSHROOM P	50,000	11,000	4	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.220	0.000	0.000	0.220	0.218	0.220	0.100	9,153,160
OM0000002648	NATIONAL FINANCE	46,600	5,617	3	0.121	0.121	0.120	0.121	0.121	0.000	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.121	0.100	65,488,885
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	3,046	639	3	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.085	0.080	0.085	0.100	11,400,000
OM0000003321	GALFAR ENGINEER	3,817,062	393,343	97	0.103	0.104	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.106	0.100	20,907,604
OM0000003961	VOLTAMP ENERGY	25,000	2,570	2	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.000	0.102	0.093	0.105	0.100	8,384,483
OM0000004735	SEMBICORP SALALAH	1,000	78	1	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.000	0.078	0.078	0.000	0.100	74,456,612
OM0000004789	MADINA TAKAFUL	719,201	69,043	24	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.094	0.096	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000004925	ALBATHANI POWER	1,500	74	1	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	33,069,484
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	17,063	836	4	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	370,300	41,194	20	0.112	0.112	0.110	0.111	0.112	-0.001	-0.893	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.100	13,875,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	781,000	85,910	16	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.110	0.111	-0.001	-0.901	0.110	0.110	0.112	0.100	220,034,407
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	34,001	6,880	3	0.204	0.204	0.200	0.202	0.204	-0.002	-0.980	0.200	0.200	0.202	0.100	328,441,164
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,212,818	116,464	28	0.097	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.097	0.001	1.031	0.096	0.089	0.099	0.100	214,747,491
OM0000001225	GLOBAL INV. H.	946,486	707,729	48	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.000	0.000	0.075	0.074	0.075	0.100	15,000,000
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	24,236	2,588	6	0.107	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.109	-0.002	-1.835	0.107	0.106	0.107	0.100	14,980,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	102,600	8,936	15	0.089	0.089	0.086	0.087	0.091	-0.004	-4.396	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.100	2,920,716
OM0000004248	SMN POWER HOLDING	83,500	3,541	3	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.042	0.045	-0.003	-6.667	0.043	0.042	0.043	0.100	8,384,695
OM0000003711	SOHAR POWER	50,000	2,950	4	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.045	-0.004	-8.989	0.041	0.041	0.049	0.100	9,961,410
Total	26	39,461,435	4,447,852	346												

BUSINESS FRIENDLY

Saudi's new investment law could increase international business by more than 50%

RIYADH: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) is emerging as a thriving international business hub as the recently announced new investment law by the KSA Ministry of Investment is predicted to increase international business by 50 per cent.

The appeal of the law, which declares that both local and foreign investment will receive equal treatment, has been strengthened by Saudi Arabia's recent award-winning presence at Expo 2020 Dubai which demonstrated the global value of the Kingdom's vibrant economy. As the country looks to diversify from oil exportation, more than \$936 million in funds was recently announced at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress 2022 to facilitate the access of international companies into Saudi Arabian markets.

Before the new investment law was announced, official data from the World Bank projected the



country's GDP to reach \$820 billion by the end of 2022, in comparison to \$700 billion in 2020. However, this recent development, which will see foreign investors enjoy neutral treatment without any discrimination, could see KSA's business activity spike significantly to shatter the World Bank's projections.

Saudi's new investment law is set to increase the attractiveness of doing business in the Kingdom as

it removes any commercial advantage previously extended to Saudi companies. As a result, the law will grant foreign investors the freedom to manage, sell and dispose of their economic projects, as well as to own any necessary properties that will ensure smooth business operations. They will also be able to conclude commercial contracts with the full support of all competent authorities. Moreover, both local and foreign investors will be subject to the same sectoral approval requirements for licenses and registration, as well as for approvals or permits for certain economic activities or special economic zones.

Interest in new businesses entering the Kingdom has been catalysed by the country's recent participation in the Expo 2020 Dubai, which highlighted the Saudi 2030 Vision and ambitious economic growth agenda. Serving as a window to the country's youthful ambition, the Saudi Pavilion recorded

nearly five million visitors (which represented almost 25 per cent of the total attendees of the six-month-long global event) and illustrated the country's growth potential as a leading business hub.

Paul Arnold, Managing Director of Sovereign Saudi Arabia commented saying, "The KSA Pavilion created a new awareness of Saudi Arabia's business potential to more than 4.6 million visitors and this new investment law only adds to the momentum to further reinforce KSA's position as one of the most globally appealing places to conduct business. Legally enforcing the principle of competitive neutrality to public and private investors removes any previous commercial barriers to entry. Whether you're looking to expand your company's presence or launch your brand for the first time, if you have a contract in hand, it has never been a better time to enter and invest in the Saudi market."

CONCERNS

Stocks, euro, oil tumble as French election relief short-lived

LONDON: Traders ditched riskier assets on Monday as relief over Emmanuel Macron's French presidential election win quickly gave way to renewed concerns about the global economy and the impact on it of rising interest rates.

Asian markets suffered their worst session in over a month overnight as worries that Beijing could soon be back in lockdown sent Chinese shares back to 2020 lows, and as the effects of Wall Street's 2.5 per cent slump on Friday lingered.

The bashing immediately continued in Europe. The STOXX 600 index dropped to its lowest since mid-March, led by 2 per cent and 1.9 per cent drops in French and German shares. The euro slid 0.7 per cent to its lowest since the initial bout of COVID-19 panic in March 2020, Reuters reported.

"The reality is there is more to the French election story than Macron's win yesterday," said Rabobank FX strategist Jane Foley.

Not only are there parliamentary elections still to come in France in June, but Macron also seems likely to keep the pressure up for a Europe-wide ban on Russian oil and gas imports, which would cause



5 SCIENCE AND NATURE CAN BENEFIT WELLNESS

In recent years, wellness has become more top of mind for many of us. Our wellbeing is directly affected by the choices we make such as how we work, travel, decompress and care for our bodies. Because of this it is important to ensure our daily routines prioritise our wellbeing and we take a holistic approach to wellness. Consider the following to develop a more conscious and healthy routine:

1 SPEND TIME WITH NATURE

A study conducted by Scientific Report found that being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature, can help boost your mood, and that spending just two hours each week engaging with nature is associated with increased health and wellbeing. Whether that means finding time to get outdoors for a walk, standing barefoot on the grass to feel it beneath us, or opening a window to let natural light in and breathe in the fresh air, any combination of this where we are interacting or immersing oneself in natural surroundings can help us feel good.

2 EXPERIMENT WITH DIY HOUSEKEEPING

Warmer weather might cue an annual household purge, but before we start to scrub, we should look at the ingredients in the cleaning products we are using to see if they could be harmful to people, pets or the environment. As an alternative, try a down-to-earth remedy that uses natural chemistry to get the job done. Mix equal parts distilled white vinegar and water, adding sprigs of fresh mint and juice from half of a lemon, for a crisp smelling DIY cleaner. Or, sprinkle baking soda on tough stovetop messes, followed by a spritz of homemade cleaner for a bubbling, grease-lifting reaction.

3 ENGAGE YOUR SENSE OF SMELL

Scientific research shows our sense of smell plays a major role in our lives and has a strong influence on our emotions. Engaging our sense of smell can have a short-term scientifically proven effect on our wellbeing and individuals may find different scents that are personal to them, to have a mood boosting effect. (3) With a few drops of essential oils or natural extracts of choice on a strategically placed cotton ball around the home, in your pocket or your car cup holder, any space can be transformed into a sensationally engaging or nature-inspired wellness experience.

4 SHOP WITH A CONSCIENCE

Shopping for personal care items that are people- and planet-friendly is one way to choose to care for ourselves and our surroundings simultaneously. The mouth is a window to your wellness so choosing products that support good oral health for you and your family is important. For more information, visit www.nateantoothpaste.com.

5 ARM YOURSELF WITH ALTRUISM

Treating others how you would like to be treated is age-old advice, but what many do not realise is that the scientific benefit behind this principle may be invaluable to our wellness. Bioethics studies revealed that altruistic acts may trigger the brain to release feel-good chemicals, which can have a positive effect on our health and potentially even our longevity. Be kind and devote time to do good deeds for others, like donating items you no longer use (which also helps reduce waste) or dedicating some time to volunteer for a cause you are passionate about. You will find that by doing so you are not only helping others, but you're also benefitting your own health as well.

Prioritising our wellbeing, alongside having an eco-conscious mindset, can offer a variety of wellness benefits. A simple swap of single-use plastics to post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials, reconnecting with nature and incorporating more conscious habits and products into our lives are easy ways to improve overall wellbeing. By leaning on nature and science, it is possible to improve your sense of balance and wellness.





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

(5) Spearheading Cultural and Ethical Progress

In the new era China’s youth advance with the times, adapt to the need to modernise China’s system and capacity for governance, and set the pace in making cultural and ethical progress. They advocate and follow new, positive trends.

In both urban and rural areas, in the workplace or on campus, young people embrace good moral values and ethical conduct. They champion pursuit of excellence and the greater good, and set healthy trends.

A growing number of young people are engaged in community governance and services in both urban and rural areas. By participating in programmes like Youth Action in Communities launched by the CYLC Central Committee, they gain practical experience, and improve their ability to serve society. In all sectors of the economy, young people work in a spirit of dedication, collaboration, excellence and contribution, and have created many model worker teams. They represent the work ethic and professionalism of the new era. Young athletes, demonstrating good sportsmanship, score excellent results at games.

Since the China Young Volunteers initiative was launched in 1993, volunteering has become an important avenue for young Chinese to participate in social governance, fulfill social responsibilities, and temper themselves in the course of serving the people and society.

As of the end of 2021, more than 90 million people aged between 14 and 35 had registered at the volunteering platform Chinavolunteer.mac.gov.cn. They are active in community affairs, large sport events, environmental protection, development-driven poverty alleviation, healthcare, emergency response and cultural preservation. By spreading the spirit of volunteerism - contribution, friendship, mutual aid and progress - they promote unity, equality, amity, mutual aid, and common progress across the society.

Over the past 18 years, China’s “Go West” Programme has dispatched 410,000 postgraduates and college graduates to 2,100 counties in central and western regions to support poverty reduction endeavors there through teaching and healthcare service. Young people have always been the mainstay of volunteers providing services in large-scale events. They have made a deep impression on the world.

IV. Having a Global Vision and a Strong Sense of Responsibility

The younger generation is the future of a country and the hope of the world. China’s youth in the new era care about their family and country, and share that concern for the rest of humanity. They uphold the beliefs advocated by Chinese culture that all peoples are one family and the world is a commonwealth. They actively draw inspiration from the experience and achievements of other countries and civilizations. They work along with their peers from around the world to build a global community of shared future, and advocate peace, development, eq-



uity, justice, democracy and freedom, which are the common values of humanity, for the purpose of creating a better future for all.

(1) Embracing the World with Greater Openness and Confidence

As China opens its doors wider to the outside world, the country’s young people today are building a greater understanding of international exchanges and cooperation. They are embracing the world, pursuing broader and deeper integration with others, and showing greater rationality, inclusiveness, self-confidence and self-reliance, by studying, working, traveling, and participating in visiting programs abroad.

Studying abroad is the most important way for Chinese youngsters to learn about the world. In 1978, China sent just over 800 students abroad. In 2019, more than 700,000 Chinese students went abroad to undertake education courses. Over the past four decades, the total number of Chinese people studying abroad has exceeded 6.5 million. The number of Chinese overseas returnees grew from 248 in 1978 to more than 580,000 in 2019. The total number of overseas returnees has exceeded 4.2 million in the past more than four decades. In addition, a large number of Chinese young people go abroad for travel, visiting programmes, business tours, and labour cooperation, which enable them to better understand the world. In 2019 alone, Chinese citizens made 170 million overseas trips. The channels for Chinese youth to know about the world continue to expand, and their global vision is steadily broadening.

The “circle of friends” with whom China can communicate and cooperate continues to grow. China’s youth seize every opportunity to tell China’s stories and participate in global governance of youth affairs in various international arenas, and promote win-win cooperation through active exchanges and interactions under bilateral and multilateral frameworks. As young Chinese people take a more active part in bilateral exchange mechanisms, they become closer to their peers in other countries and build deeper bilateral ties. Under the framework of the Chinese Youth Global Partnership, China has established exchange and cooperation relationships with more than 100 international organizations, government youth agencies, political parties, and non-governmental youth organizations. Chinese youth are engaged in frequent international exchanges in fields like education, science, culture, arts, sports, and the media under the cultural and people-to-people exchange mechanisms between China and other countries and regions such as Russia, the United States, Europe, India and Japan. China’s youth and their partners in neighboring countries and developing countries carry out cultural and people-to-people exchanges that bring fruitful results; they also achieve mutual benefit through incubat-

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ing startups, promoting economic and trade cooperation, advancing technological exchange, and other efforts. China’s young people have become more active in joining international organisations, attending international conferences, and participating in global governance. As a result, they have succeeded in enhancing the international image of China’s youth.

Hundreds of young people from China work hard for the UN and other international organisations and contribute to world peace and development. China’s young people are growing in confidence as they spread China’s voice and express China’s ideas at the UN Youth Forum, the UNESCO Youth Forum, and other multilateral mechanisms and in international youth organizations such as the Asian Youth Council. This allows them to serve as young ambassadors of Sino-foreign friendship.

(2) Meeting the Responsibility to Build a Global Community of Shared Future

Young Chinese of the new era are fully aware that the future of each and every nation and country is interlocked. We should stand together and help each other in the face of adversity, and endeavour to build this planet of ours into a single family of shared future.

Building consensus among youth through heart-to-heart communication and dialogue. Young Chinese actively advocate and practice the idea of building a global community of shared future. They are committed to telling the stories of global youth, spreading the voice of global youth, and building consensus among global youth on issues such as poverty alleviation, climate change, and anti-COVID cooperation. In 2020, at an online seminar on COVID-19 organised by the World Health Organization and other UN agencies, a young representative of China shared her moving story as a volunteer, recounted some experiences, and explained China’s science-based response to the epidemic. Young Chinese also contribute their wisdom and ideas for safeguarding global youth rights to subsistence, development, protection and participation in the process of formulating documents on youth cooperation under international mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and G20.

During the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the youth volunteers of China and young athletes from many countries overcame language barriers and cultural differences as they expressed goodwill with smiles, build friendships through personal contact, and pooled their strengths through heart-to-heart communication. Those young people worked together to build bridges towards a shared future, and spread the vision of building a global community of shared future around the world in their own way.

Hand in hand on the journey towards a brighter future. China’s youth firmly bear in mind the concept of building a global community of shared future, and actively implement it in practice. They devote themselves to the construction of the Belt and Road while following the principles of “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits”. Hundreds of thousands of young employees in Chinese companies operating overseas work hard in foreign lands far from home, contributing to local economic and social development. They also take an active part in volunteer services, charitable donations, and cultural exchanges, building friendships and cooperation with young people in the host countries. At present, many volunteer Chinese teachers, most of whom are young people, are working in more than 100 countries to help youth in other countries to study Chinese culture. The China Youth Volunteer Overseas Service Program has sent more than 700 young volunteers to over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to provide services in areas like medical care, agricultural technology, civil engineering, industrial technology, economic management, and social development. Demonstrating a great love for humanity and upholding a spirit of humanism, young Chinese soldiers actively participate in UN peacekeeping missions; they have made their contributions to defending world peace. By 2020, China had dispatched more than 40,000 peacekeepers, and 16 of them, under the age of 30 on average, had sacrificed their lives. The actions of Chinese youth have demonstrated that as long as people around the world unite with one heart and one mind and move forward hand in hand, we will build a global community

with a brighter future.

(3) Global Action Initiative of China’s Youth

Humanity has entered a new era of interconnection, with countries sharing common interests and their futures closely linked. Across the globe greater deficits of governance, trust, peace and development are emerging, and we are seeing escalating chaos, discord and injustice. Profound changes of a scale unseen in a century, together with the COVID-19 pandemic, are presenting grave challenges to the global economy and people’s prospects of a better life. Humanity has found itself at a crossroads: peace or war, light or darkness, progress or regression - there are significant choices that we need to make. The era calls on global youth to unite with one heart, strengthen mutual understanding, learn from each other, view the world from the angle of mutual appreciation, mutual learning, and mutual benefit, so as to jointly build a global community of shared future. China’s youth therefore call on young people around the world:

- To uphold the values of beauty, uprightness, and goodness. Young people should set themselves lofty ideals and conduct themselves with moral integrity. They should follow the right path, value kindness, goodness, and beauty, have an ardent love for life, and contribute to society. They should make every possible effort to promote truth and spread positive energy.

- To maintain a spirit of youth and vigour. Young people should be self-confident, self-reliant, and high in spirits. They should seek to improve and extend themselves, fulfill their dreams, and show their worth, and strive to present themselves in the best possible light. They should advocate healthy lifestyles, pursue physical and mental health, foster a sound outlook, and maintain vigour.

- To shoulder the responsibility for national development. Young people, as masters of their respective countries, should study hard to improve their skills and abilities, leverage their wisdom, and be bold in innovation. Ready to struggle and willing to work hard, they should be at the forefront of the times and shoulder the historic

mission to realise the development and progress of their countries.

- To contribute wisdom and strength to world peace and development. With the world and the future in mind, young people should uphold the common values of humanity, set the trends of history and lead the tides of the times, and stand on the side of fairness, justice, and human progress. They should safeguard world peace, promote common development, defend democracy and freedom, and make a greater contribution to building a prosperous, beautiful world.

China’s youth look forward to a world of peace, stability, development and prosperity. They expect every country and region to provide favorable conditions for youth development, and hope all young people across the globe will shoulder their responsibilities and contribute their wisdom and strength to building an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

Conclusion

A country will be full of hope and can look forward to a bright prospect when its young generation has ideals, abilities, and a strong sense of responsibility. The future of China and the future of the wider world both belong to the young.

In the future, the young Chinese generation will “with their youthfulness, create a vibrant family, country, nation, human community, Earth and the universe.” They will make their youthful dreams come true.

In the future, with successive efforts from one generation of young people to the next, China will scale new heights in every dimension, achieving economic, political, cultural, ethical, social, and eco-environmental progress. The Chinese people will enjoy a happier and healthier life and the Chinese nation will become a proud and active member of the community of nations. The great Chinese Dream will eventually become a reality.

The future of the world is related to the destiny of every young person, and it also depends on the efforts that every young person makes.

If young people from all countries unite for the common goal, uphold justice, work in harmony, help each other, conduct consultation as equals, and commit to openness and innovation, we will be able to steer clear of strife and war, build a “global village” that pursues peaceful development and harmony, jointly create a future of prosperity, health, safety, mutual respect, mutual learning, and shared benefits, and ultimately realise the common dream of all of humanity.

China’s youth stand ready to work with their counterparts from all over the world and contribute their wisdom and strength to building a global community of shared future and a better world.



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IN-PICTURES





Highlight of Cotonou Marathon
Participants compete during the first edition of the Cotonou Marathon in Cotonou, Benin.

Xinhua



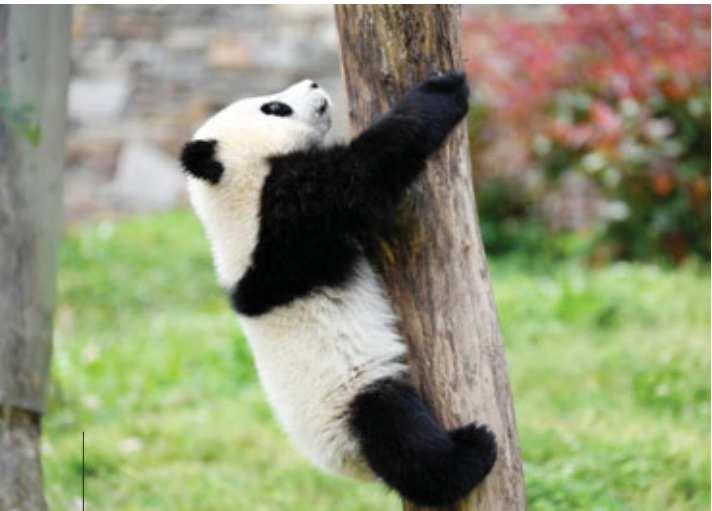
Anzac Day held in Sydney, Australia
People attend an event marking the Anzac Day in Canberra, Australia. The day dates back to a pivotal World War I campaign in 1915 fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corp on the shores of Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula.

Xinhua



Libya arrests 541 illegal migrants
Migrants get off a bus at the Tariq al-Matar reception centre, where they will receive humanitarian assistance before being deported to their home countries, in Tripoli, Libya. Libyan authorities have arrested 541 illegal migrants in the city of Misurata, some 250 km east of the capital Tripoli, as they were attempting to cross the Mediterranean sea towards Europe.

Xinhua



Giant pandas in Wolong National Nature Reserve
A giant panda climbs a tree at Shenshuping base of China Conservation and Research Centre for Giant Pandas in Wolong National Nature Reserve, southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Xinhua

Ghanaian students display talents in Chinese language to boost cultural exchange
A Ghanaian student performs Sichuan opera in a competition held by the Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana, in Accra, Ghana.

Xinhua



African island winning battle against malaria
Picture shows boxes of Artequik, a Chinese-developed drug which has a swift effect against malaria parasites, at the outskirts of Sao Tome, capital of Sao Tome and Principe. The island country off the west coast of Africa, is on its way to eliminating malaria with the help of Chinese doctors and medicine.

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TyrePlus opens its new branch in Nizwa

Located in the heart of bustling Nizwa, the one-stop shop is set to serve a broad cross-section of the community in the city and neighbouring areas

MUSCAT: MHD ACERE has announced the recent opening of the 8th branch of the TyrePlus service centres in Oman.

This branch comes as an addition to a successful franchise serving various areas in the Sultanate such as Muscat, Sohar, and Sur, among others. Located in the heart



of bustling Nizwa, the one-stop shop is set to serve a broad cross-section of the community in the city and neighbouring areas.

The branch was inaugurated by Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, the CEO of MHD ACERE recently.

Like its counterparts all over Oman, the TyrePlus branch in Nizwa offers various services to car owners, such as general car checks, car battery replacement, nitrogen tyre inflation service, car tyres fitment balancing, and

wheel alignment, puncture repair, and more. Other services like car oil change and car AC gas refill will also be included soon. Apart from physically visiting TypePlus outlets, customers can now book appointments online through the TyrePlus website in any of the available branches.

Represented by MHD ACERE in Oman, the TyrePlus network has witnessed rapid growth, attracting car owners with its top quality service, global brand names, highly

competitive prices, and efficient world standard operations. On this occasion, Mohsin Hani Al Bahrani, CEO of MHD ACERE comments: “We are pleased to witness the growth of the TyrePlus network in Oman. Our cooperation with Michelin has been an incredible one, providing high-quality services to our valuable customers. At MHD ACERE we are committed to keeping improving and expanding our footprint to serve different areas in Oman.”

Since its deployment in 2002, TyrePlus has been catering to its customers all over the world. TyrePlus is a one-stop shop offering you a wide choice of major tire brands, lubricants, batteries, suspension and braking systems. It has a presence in 26 countries with over 1600 franchises, a network certified by Michelin, and continues to roll forward. Combining high quality products, skilled and knowledgeable technicians and multiple pit stops, TyrePlus offers unmatched levels of service so that you can enjoy a safe and comfortable ride.

FIRST OF ITS KIND

Al Araiimi Boulevard Award to promote products of Omani talents and support innovation

MUSCAT: In an initiative that is the first of its kind by the private sector in the Sultanate of Oman, Al Raed Group announced the launch of the ‘Al Araiimi Boulevard Innovation Award’ in cooperation with Innovation Oasis and the Omani Federation of Inventors and Beautiful Minds.

They have also invited all innovators to showcase their innovations in the ‘Innovation Week’ that will be held in Al-Araiimi Boulevard from May 8 to 12.

The award aims to enhance the institutions’ orientation towards investment based on modern technologies and the knowledge economy, support innovators, provide an incubator environment for innovation, demonstrate national capabilities and talents in the field of innovation and encourage them to provide modern and feasible products and services to investors.

The award reflects the great priority accorded to Al Araiimi Boulevard Mall to harness all possibilities to support society in all its categories within the responsibility and sustainable community communication and to encourage entrepreneurs to expand and grow based on a strong base of innovation.

The award works to achieve multiple goals, including providing solutions to improve community living, encouraging institutions to invest in innovation and technologies, creating competition among



innovators to increase productivity, refine and develop ideas, and encourage sustainability for a better life and future.

Sheikh Raed bin Abdullah Al-Araiimi, Vice President of Al-Raed Group, said that the economy of the Sultanate of Oman is witnessing major transformations towards diversification and the multiplicity of sources of national income. The future vision of Oman 2040, aims to place the Sultanate of Oman in the ranks of the developed countries that possess a productive and diversified economy based on innovation, integration of roles, equal opportunities and investing the competitive advantages of the Sultanate to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development.

In this context, the launch of the “Al Araiimi Boulevard Innovation Award” comes as an initiative by

Al Raed Group that contributes to promoting innovation and increasing its role in raising the competitiveness of the national economy and encouraging Omani talents.

Al-Araiimi added: We hope that the award will contribute to supporting the spirit of innovation and finding feasible outputs for the national economy and that it will represent an effective link between the knowledge economy in the Sultanate of Oman and innovative products that provide added value to the industrial, trade, logistics, services and other sectors, and provide them with new innovative solutions that meet the needs of the market and investors. And strengthening the local component in production and manufacturing, which contributes to reducing imports and enhancing the position of Omani exports in foreign markets.

“We also strive for the Innovation Week to be a platform that promotes innovation and promotes its products in the community and provides an opportunity for institutions to see solutions and products that can be adopted and converted into investment products, with the establishment of a permanent “Beautiful minds” headquarters in Al-Araiimi Boulevard to be a forum that brings together innovators, talented and outstanding students to exchange views And experiences and ways to develop them on the one hand with investors wishing to enter into an economically feasible partnership.”

Registration is open for participation in the Innovation Week from April 20 to April 30, 2022, through the link <https://innovationoases.com/Home/AlAraiimi-Boulevard>.

The award jury will evaluate and select the winners in cooperation with the innovation oasis, and the participants will receive valuable prizes provided by Al-Araiimi Boulevard for winners and visitors, and the award in its first edition will be open to receiving all innovations and solutions in various fields with a tendency towards the possibility of allocating topics for the award in its future editions, and participation is open within several categories, namely school students, university students and the general public.

OMRAN



Winners of Mahout Fishermen Village Design Contest announced

MUSCAT: In a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources and Oman Tourism Development Company (Omran Group), the awarding ceremony of the Mahout Fishermen Village Design Contest was celebrated at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The contest was launched to develop young Omani talents in the field of Architecture and engage them in various initiatives aimed at improving the facilities.

The contest witnessed wide participation from young Omani graduates who are majoring in architecture and urban planning. The contest’s jury received around 100 designs which were evaluated as per architectural, aesthetics, and environmental criteria. Critical elements of sustainability and geographical suitability were also taken into consideration.

Asma bint Hilal Al Kharusi won the first prize in the contest, and Wadha bint Khalid Al Jabri was the runner-up, whereas the third place has been won jointly by, Alaa bint Nasser Al Rawahi, Jawaher bint Salem Al Hajari and the ‘Abstract team’.

Acknowledging the high number

of entries received and the excellence of the participating designs, the jury decided to allocate incentive prizes, which were won by Bushra bint Walid Al-Sulaimani, Maryam bint Ali Al-Mashrafi and Afrah bint Saif Alshaali.

Dr Abdulaziz Said Al Marzouqi, Director of Fisheries Resources Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Wealth and Water Resources said: “The ministry’s goal is to create a safe and stable environment for fishermen all around Oman. We believe that this can be accomplished by developing an integrated infrastructure that includes all services. We’ve also made care to construct this particular project in a distinctive manner that represents the architectural design’s modernism while also taking environmental sustainability into account.”

Expressing her delight in winning the first place, Asma bint Hilal Al Kharusi said: “I am pleased to have participated in this contest that gave us a platform to hone our skills and showcase them in various ways. I would like to thank the organisers of this contest for their continued support and efforts to make it a success story.”

HEALTHCARE



Medstar Clinics expands its facilities

MUSCAT: Medstar Clinics which had started its operations in 2019, with one clinic in Ghubra has expanded its facilities to 5 clinics in 2022 March. Medstar focuses on family medicine services & projects itself as a clinic that gives genuine care at a very affordable cost.

Medstar is one point of contact for many corporate companies before referring their patients to speciality hospitals. Medstar has 2 general medicine clinics in Ghubra & Hamriya. The clinics in Samail have an addition of dental services and they also have entered into the field of Ayurveda with its newly opened clinic in Al Khoud. The latest announcement of the group is their polyclinic in Nizwa along with a visa medical facility. The location of the clinic is in Karsha, in the Al Dakhiliyah region of Nizwa.

The team of doctors and staff of Medstar emphasise providing the best care. In the same location with great pride, they also announced the opening of Medstar pharmacy.

The Al Khoud branch was taken over from Almas ayurvedic centre. This centre they have ayurvedic & physiotherapy services. They are planning to add family medicine and dental services soon. The Hamriya

branch was taken over from Abu Ahmed Clinic which was popularly known as Dr Sabitha’s Clinic which was existing for more than 35yrs in Oman.

Seeniya Biju, a popular name in the healthcare industry has previously served a healthcare chain for more than a decade and before that, she was with popular corporate organisations in Oman.

With her 23 years of experience, she takes the lead as the director & entrepreneur for Medstar clinics. Seeniya Biju was one of the speakers at the extraordinary women’s conference in 2015 & also awarded Al Mara’s excellence award in 2016 and was voted one of the 38 most powerful businesswomen in Oman by Oman economic review in 2014. Besides the clinic vertical they are also into consultancy services and manage more than 10 polyclinics in Oman. Along with her, the partners of Medstar include AR Biju, who is complete in charge of new projects & expansions and also has his businesses in construction, interior design & trading. Shaly Sabri & Sabri Harid are also associate partners & board members of the Medstar group. While talking to the press Seeniya was explaining the need for more such facilities which are affordable to the public.

PROMOTION

‘Biggest Excitement’ benefits on Toyota Corolla



MUSCAT: The popular Toyota Corolla is now available with the ‘Biggest Excitement’ benefits including 3 years / 30,000km Service (Whichever is earlier) and 1-year insurance (or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR175). The Corolla Hybrid is available with 8 years/ 80,000 km service (Whichever is earlier) and 1-year insurance (or cash gift in lieu of insurance OMR175).

The campaign is valid until May 19. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year

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

The attractive and stylish Corolla is expansive and comfortable. It has exceptional quality and finishing throughout. The interior design adopts a simple yet appealing style, with comfortable spaciousness and integrated functional parts combined to create a refined elegance. The ergonomically designed seats feature new cushion material, while the armrest and ample legroom offer superior comfort for the rear-seat passengers.

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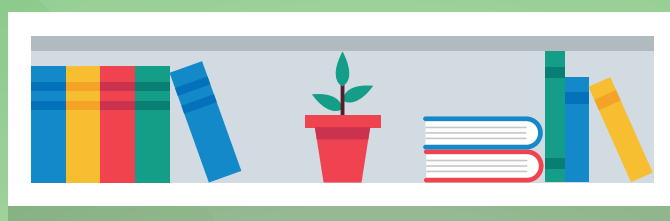


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