

>> PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:14 pm
Asr	3:42 pm
Maghrib	6:29 pm
Isha	7:41 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:37 am
>> IFTAR	6:29 pm



6 085010 120010

WORSHIPPERS TOLD TO FOLLOW SUPREME COMMITTEE'S DECISIONS

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has called on worshippers to abide by the decisions of the Supreme Committee during the blessed month of Ramadan, after it was observed that some did not adhere to the prescribed procedures during Friday prayer and Tarawih prayer. **>A3**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN

Know Oman: Is your termination illegal?

1 To check whether your termination is legal or illegal in Oman, one needs to look at the employment contract among other factors, according to a law expert. **>A3**

WORLD

Sri Lankan President says he won't resign

2 The Sri Lankan President has said that he will not step down but is ready to hand over government to the party that proves majority. **>A6**

MARKET

Pact on Sohar green hydrogen plant inked

3 A three-party agreement to evaluate the development of the first green hydrogen plant at Sohar, has been signed. **>B1**

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34°
MUSCAT



The Ministry of Finance has attributed this increase in revenues to a surge in crude oil prices

Times News service

MUSCAT: Oman's total revenues surged ahead by 75.6 per cent to around OMR1.918 billion at the end of February 2022 over the revenue collected in the corresponding period in 2021.

This was unveiled by the Financial Economic Bulletin (FEB) issued by the Ministry of Finance, which attributed the high surplus to a surge in oil price averaging \$81 a barrel, and

also increased oil production even as the gas revenues touched OMR509 million.

Collections

Higher collections from Value-Added Tax (VAT) and other fees contributed to raise the revenues by 29.6 per cent at the end of February 2022 over the corresponding period in 2021, according to the FEB.

Public spending at the end of February 2022 was around

OMR1.707 billion and this was driven by a rise in the repayment of loan interests, total investment expenditures (development and capital) of civil ministries and expenses on gas transport and procurement.

The state's budget continued to achieve financial surplus at the end of February 2022, amounting to around OMR210 million, a whopping rise from the OMR457-million financial deficit in the corresponding period in 2021.

Oman's 2022 Budget had allocated OMR4 billion to meet the debt obligations, including the repayment of OMR2.7 billion loan principals and payment of OMR1.3 billion in loan interests.

Debt management

The Ministry of Finance (MOF), as part of its debt management strategy, will reduce the public debt by more than OMR2.85 billion (\$7.4 billion) at the end of April 2022, the bulletin said. **>A5**

PANDEMIC FALLOUT

Salalah Festival cancelled

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The government has decided to cancel Salalah Tourism Festival 2022, an official from the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism confirmed on Tuesday.

Speaking to *Times of Oman*, the official said that the festival will not be held this year for the third time in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Activities

"We will also limit the number of recreational activities and events at a number of tourist sites dur-



ing the Khareef tourist season, which starts from June 21 till the end of August."

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the tourism sector and related events and activities in

the Sultanate since March 2020.

Paucity of time

He said: "Approvals for the Salalah Festival are issued by the authorities concerned at the beginning of each year and due to the unfavourable epidemiological situation at the beginning of the year, the festival was cancelled, adding that "although some events and activities related to tourism have recently been restored with life returning to normal and cases of Corona infections coming down, we do not have time to restore the Salalah festival." **>A5**



Omani talent helped create the nation's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai

A2

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THEME INTERPRETATION AWARD

Thanks to the efforts of country's youth, Oman pavilion bagged gold award at Expo 2020 Dubai

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Omani youth, whose talents helped create the nation's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, as well as the experiences available to visitors, are to be thanked for the country winning the gold award at the event.

Mohsin bin Khamis Al Balushi, the commissioner general of the Oman pavilion at Expo 2020, said while receiving the award: "We are proud of what has been achieved while participating at the expo, and today we reap the result of the efforts of the Omani youth who participated in creating the pavilion's concept and content with creativity and professionalism."

Oman won the gold award for theme interpretation at Expo 2020, which was held in Dubai in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Oman's pavilion

The country's pavilion was built in the shape of a burner of frankincense, a resin found almost exclusively in Oman that was shipped all over the ancient world and immensely shaped its history and culture. The pavilion also showcased future investment, diversifi-



SULTANATE OF OMAN - EXPO 2020

cation and business opportunities available, encouraging those from other countries to set up operations in Oman.

Reasons why Oman won

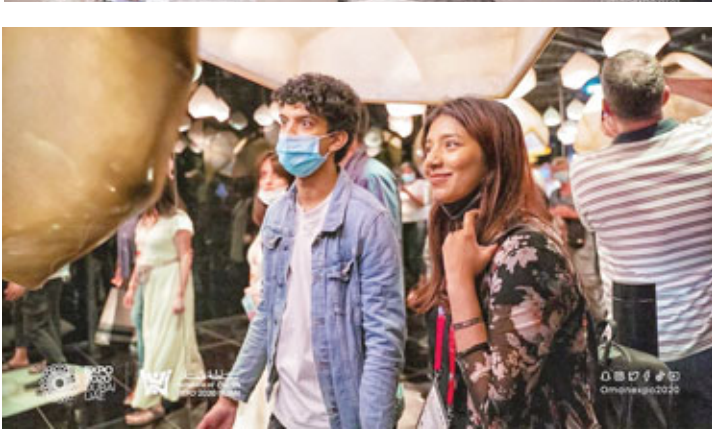
There were eight reasons Oman won the theme interpretation award, according to the national Government Communications Centre.

One of Oman's themes - connecting minds through space and time - resonated really well with audiences, as did a 3D hologram of a frankincense tree that people could explore to get a better understanding of Omani culture. People were also able to take a vir-

tual tour of frankincense groves, helping them understand the connection the country has with its natural wonders.

To add to the frankincense experience, the Oman pavilion also featured a tale that told the role it played over the centuries in shaping the country. People could also feel and smell the various strains of frankincense grown in Oman, and understand the role this resin continues to play in daily Omani life.

The Oman pavilion also showcased other projects that are dear to the country: The Arabian leopard conservation project that aims to improve the population of the



rare jungle cat, and the Million Date Palms project, which was founded to provide Oman with food security, while also providing

green cover and shade to the country's cities, and improving the aesthetic appearance of urban areas. Another aspect of Oman's bond

with nature that was featured at Expo 2020 was how the country has become a haven for migratory birds, which flock to many parts of the country and are a welcome sight for nature lovers.

When it came to focusing on the future, Oman displayed a number of key projects to visitors, including the creation of a model city, electricity generation through renewable sources and transitioning to a knowledge-based economy while also showcasing the ambitions of the nation.

Organisers also paid tribute to the guides at the pavilion, who over the last six months had shown more than a million visitors around.

"To be part of such a mega event and represent our country with pride and enthusiasm while our hearts are filled with joy and passion...it was worth every second we spent in this place," said the organisers. "We got to interact with a lot of mindsets and cultures, seniors and children from all over the world."

"Now, it is time to say goodbye," they added. "We do not want to think that all this will end, but to be part of the world's greatest show is our gain. Thank you from the Sultanate of Oman pavilion."

ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Fines for delay in renewal of resident cards waived

MUSCAT: Establishments and individuals will be exempted from paying fines pertaining to the delayed renewal of residence and resident cards effective from tomorrow Wednesday 6 April.

Royal Oman Police (ROP) said in a statement: "In implementation of His Majesty's Royal

directives, establishments and individuals will be exempted from paying fines pertaining to the delayed renewal of residence and resident cards effective from tomorrow Wednesday 6 April, 2022, provided that the current situation is rectified before 1 September, 2022."



Times of Oman Special Supplement April 2022

GUIDE
RAMADAN SPECIAL

Check out Guide: our Ramadan special supplement with Thursday's edition of Times of Oman.

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MINISTRY OF AWQAF AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Worshippers asked to comply with Supreme Committee procedures

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs has called on worshippers to abide by the decisions of the Supreme Committee during the Holy Month of Ramadan, after it was observed that some did not adhere to the prescribed procedures during Friday prayer and Tarawih prayer.

In a statement, the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs said: "The Ministry noted that some worshipers are not adhering to the established procedures. Therefore, it calls upon the masses of worshippers in mosques to adhere to the decisions of the Supreme Committee in the public interest and to preserve the safety of citizens and residents on this blessed land."

Based on what was decided by the Supreme Committee in



charge of examining a mechanism for dealing with developments resulting from the spread of the corona virus (COVID-19) regarding the procedures during the blessed month of Ramadan, which included the following:

First: Restricting attendance for congregational prayers, in-

cluding Taraweeh prayers, to recipients of the COVID-19 vaccine, and prohibiting the entry of non-vaccinated persons, including children under the age of twelve.

Second: Continuing to ban the establishment of charitable collective iftar tables at mosques and other public places.

Third: Continuing to work with preventive measures, such as wearing face masks, and physical distancing in closed places, including mosques.

The ministry requests the deputies of mosques, imams and preachers of the obligation to abide by these decisions and circulars and urge the masses to apply physical distancing and to wear a mask while performing the prayers, including Friday prayers and Taraweeh prayers; to avoid public action to ensure the safety and health of people.

KNOW OMAN

Is your termination illegal?

MADIHA ASIF
madiha@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: To check whether your termination is legal or illegal in the Sultanate of Oman, one needs to look at the employment contract among other factors, according to a law expert.

There are mainly two types of contract for hiring an employee – limited or unlimited, explained Yasin Chowdhury, Associate, BSA Al Rashdi Al Barwani Advocates and Legal Consultants, a law firm in the Sultanate.

Two types

Talking exclusively to TTV on its weekly show, T-Talk, the expert said: "Under the law and in broad categories, the contract generally falls within two types – limited and unlimited term of contract. If the contract of employment is a limited term of contract, it means the term is for a particular period – it can be six months, a year or even two years – depending on a particular project the employer needs an employee for.

"By contrast, there is another type of employment contract – unlimited – which means there is no bound or limitation in terms of time in relation to the employment contract."

Chowdhury further explained that when one talks about termination, depending on the nature



Yasin Chowdhury, Associate, BSA Al Rashdi Al Barwani Advocates and Legal Consultants



law but it definitely depends on specifics of the case or situation of an individual employee as well as the interpretation of the court – whether the termination has been done according to the law or not and whether the parties have acted within the bounds of law and the procedural norms that needs to be followed in case of termination, etc."

The law expert said that in case the employer goes ahead with terminating the contract of an employee, he/ she should be given a fair chance in terms of notice period, and if an employee wants to respond to allegations made by his/ her superior, he may do so.

Trending ON SOCIAL MEDIA

📖 MOST READ ON FACEBOOK

31,192 REACH



A story on Green Energy Oman

A story on Green Energy Oman reached 31,192 people and had 510 link clicks on Facebook.

📺 MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM

1,005 VIEWS



Morning Minute video on fare drop for flights from India

The Morning Minute video on fare drop for flights from India had 1,005 views and 66 likes on Instagram.

📺 MOST WATCHED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

1,700 VIEWS



Morning Minute video

The Morning Minute video had 1,700 views and reached 6,800 people on Facebook.



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Ramadan

» IFTAR TIMING

6:29 pm

» PRAYER TIMINGS

Dhuhr	12:14 pm
Asr	3:42 pm
Maghrib	6:29 pm
Isha	7:41 pm
Fajr (Tomorrow)	4:37 am



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» IFTAR RECIPE

WHITE BEAN DIP

6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (15 oz.) can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cloves roasted garlic
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice (juice of 1 lemon)
- 2/3 cup oat milk
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 teaspoon distilled vinegar
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon chives
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill

PREPARATION

- In a food processor, combine beans, roasted garlic, lemon juice, oat milk, chopped parsley, white pepper, and distilled vinegar.
- Mix onion powder, garlic powder, chives, and dried dill. Add this blend to the food processor.
- Blend ingredients until smooth.
- Pour mixture into a bowl and chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before serving.
- Serve with vegetables sticks like celery, carrots, peppers.

» HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

HEALTHY IFTAR AND SUHOOR

Choose healthy cooking methods when it comes to making pastries. Try baking sambusa, fish cutlets, and pakora, instead of deep-frying them. Also enjoy your sugary Ramadan juices in moderation and aim for more servings of laban, homemade iced green tea, or plain water.

» GOOD DEEDS

THE ESSENCE OF THE SPIRIT OF FASTING

Fasting is not only a physical but also a spiritual exercise that has many lasting benefits. It enables a person to develop sustained consciousness of God, helps one to choose a healthier lifestyle by small but meaningful changes in the dietary habits, and helps to make a person more humble and purposeful in daily life. If you are fasting for the first time purely for the health benefits and finding it difficult to maintain in the first week, talk to a friend who has been fasting for years and hear this from him or her. “It might seem difficult in the first week, but it gets easier. Remember, it is all in the mind.” It is important to have a purpose. Without a purpose or a plan, the whole essence of the spirit of fasting gets lost.





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MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Pact signed for governance in training institutions

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation signed here on Tuesday an agreement of cooperation with Oman Centre for Governance and Sustainability (OCGS) and Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) for the governance in private training institutions.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Muna Salim Al Jardani, the ministry's Undersecretary for Vocational Training, Sayyid Hamid Sultan Al Busaidi, CEO of OCGS and Eng. Mohammed Ahmed Al Ghareebi, External Affairs and Communication Manager of PDO.



As per the agreement, the ministry will oversee governance in private training institutions, while OCGS will prepare and im-

plement the charter for governance in those firms. The project will be funded by PDO.

-ONA

ASMED

Agreement inked to prepare jobseekers for labour market

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour signed here on Tuesday a programme of cooperation with the Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises Development (ASMED) to fund on-the-job training programme for available

jobs in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) operating in various sectors.

Agreement
The agreement was signed by Sayyid Salim Musallam Al Busai-

di, Undersecretary for Human Resources Development and Halima Rashid Al Zar'ei, Chairperson of ASMED.

As per the agreement, 3,000 jobseekers will be trained in several fields. -ONA

ECONOMY

Higher surplus to be utilised for reducing fiscal deficit

The MOF also seeks to utilise the surplus arising from higher oil prices for reducing fiscal deficit and minimising the cost and risks of debt portfolio.

The government embarked on a public debt reduction programme targeting the OMR19.46-billion mark by the end of April 2022.

The 2022 Budget had allocated OMR900 million for implementing various development projects, representing the estimated amount to be paid during the year as per the actual work in progress on the projects.

These development projects have been reprioritised in terms

of their urgency, cost and economic and social return, the Ministry of Finance said in its Financial Economic Bulletin.

Credit rating raised
On March 2, for the first time since 2015, Standard & Poor's (S&P) raised Oman's credit rating to BB- with a stable outlook.

"Standard & Poor's raises Oman's credit rating to BB- with a stable outlook for the first time since 2015, as a result of the improvement in the state's public financial indicators and the decrease in the risks of public debt," ONA said.

Debt management
The Ministry of Finance (MOF) had earlier cut down its public debt. This is in addition to the MOF's effort to utilise fiscal surplus (emanating from the uptake of oil prices average rates) to minimise fiscal deficit and shrink the public debt portfolio's cost and risks.

The MOF pointed out that the fiscal consolidation measures taken by the government helped improve fiscal performance indicators, which led to increased confidence among various international institutions and rating agencies.

DHOFAR MUNICIPALITY

Authorities working to revive the tourist season

<FROM A1 The Dhofar Municipality, however, is working in cooperation with the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and other authorities concerned to revive the tourist season this year by organising some recreational activities for visitors at tourist sites.

Conductive weather
Dhofar governorate witnesses a tourist influx as the governorate enjoys conducive weather during the summer months and also during the rains when the temperatures drop to less than 20 degrees Celsius with greenery around.



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Ramadan Iftar Program



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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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Royal Oman Police

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Supply, Printing and Delivery of Vehicle and Motorcycle Number Plates

Tender No.	Tender Name	Companies eligible to bid	Tender Document Fee	Date of obtaining documents	Deadline for bid submission
2/FA/2022	Printing of Vehicle Number Plates	Companies specialized in this field	RO 250/- (Non-refundable)	Starting from 10 April 2022 from 8 am to 12 pm	30 June 2022 no later than 12 pm

- Applicants who want to purchase a copy of the tender document have to visit the building of the Directorate General of Financial Affairs at the Royal Oman Police, Al Qurum. The representatives must present a proof of their authorization from their company / institution.
- Bidders have to submit a bank guarantee in the amount of RO 10,000/- (Ten thousand Omani Riyals) to enter the tender, valid for a period of (90) ninety days from the date of bid submission and addressed to ROP General Command - Directorate General of Financial Affairs. The bank guarantee must mention the tender name, without mentioning the name of the bidding party. The bank guarantee must be submitted in an envelope separate from the financial offer and any offer otherwise will be disregarded.
- It is the responsibility of the bidder to visit the building of printing numbers at the Vehicle Registration Department at the Directorate General of Traffic on Tuesday, 19 April 2022 or on Monday, 25 April 2022 (from 9 am to 12 pm) to learn about the nature of the work. In the event of non-visit, the bidder will bear all responsibility arising from it.
- The deadline for responding to inquiries about tender documents shall be 12 pm on Thursday, 30 June 2022 by calling the phone number (24401206) or e-mail (dgfa@rop.gov.om).
- The two envelopes (financial and technical) shall be deposited separately at the Directorate General of Financial Affairs - Administrative Affairs Department. Bids that do not meet the conditions shall be disregarded. In the event of unwillingness to bid after purchasing the tender document, a written apology must be submitted before the date of bid submission.
- The Royal Oman Police has the right to cancel the tender or re-float it without giving reasons, and without any financial or legal claims arising from the cancellation or re-tendering.
- The Royal Oman Police shall not be bound to award the tender to the lowest price.

North Korea threatens Seoul with nuclear weapons if attacked

Kim said Pyongyang opposes war, since it would leave the Korean peninsula in ruins, and does not view South Korea as its principal enemy



PYONGYANG: Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said on Tuesday that Pyongyang would not hesitate to use nuclear weapons if South Korea attacked. Her comments appear to be in response to South Korean Defense Minister Suh Wook's recent statement that South Korea's military has a variety of missiles with significantly improved range, accuracy and power, having "the ability to accurately and quickly hit any target in North Korea."

In her statement, Kim said Pyongyang opposes war, since it would leave the Korean peninsula in ruins, and does not view South

Korea as its principal enemy. North Korea's state news agency, KCNA, reported that Kim called the South Korean defense minister a "lunatic," and said it was a "very big mistake" to discuss a preemptive attack on North Korea. "In case South Korea opts for military confrontation with us, our nuclear combat force will have to inevitably carry out its duty," said Kim, who is a senior advisor to her brother. Kim said their nuclear forces primarily served as a deterrent, but were capable of "eliminating the enemy's armed forces at a strike." South Korean forces will

face a "miserable fate little short of total destruction and ruin" and an "unimaginably terrible disaster" if the military violates North Korean territory, she added. **Tensions rise between the Koreas** North Korea had halted its long range and missile testing after dual summits between Kim Jong Un and former US President Donald Trump in 2019. However, the summits failed to yield the desired "denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula, and there are concerns the North will resume testing nuclear weapons for the first

time since 2017 as negotiations stall. The North has also carried out more than a dozen missile tests since the start of 2022, including a recent launch of a powerful intercontinental ballistic missile capable of hitting targets anywhere in the US. North Korea is forbidden by international sanctions from testing ballistic missiles. Conservative South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol has promised to take a tougher stance on relations with the North, in a turnaround from outgoing liberal President Moon Jae-in's policy of seeking rapprochement with Pyongyang. **dw**

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Lebanon declares country's bankruptcy, seeks IMF package

BEIRUT: Lebanon's Deputy Prime Minister Saade Chami on Monday announced "the bankruptcy of the state and the Central Bank of Lebanon," al-Jadeed local TV channel reported. "The state has gone bankrupt as did the Central Bank of Lebanon, and the loss has occurred; we will seek to reduce losses for the people," he said. He added that the negotiations to sign a preliminary deal between Lebanon and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a package to exit a deep financial crisis in the country are currently underway. The talks covered the restructuring of the banking sector, an economic recovery plan, approval of the budget as well as a capital control draft bill, he noted. Lebanon has been facing a major financial crisis amid a steep



shortage of foreign currency. The country's financial experts accused commercial banks of depositing clients' foreign currency deposits at the Central Bank of Lebanon in return for high interest rates. Meanwhile, the central bank used the clients' deposits to stabilize the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound and finance the state's budget deficit, experts said. **ANI**

Invitation to Tender (Re-Tender)

Dhofar Integrated Services Company S.A.O.C (DISC) invites reputable consultancy for carrying out following works in Dhofar Region.

Tender Reference No	Title of the Tender
DISC/E/Tender/2022/008	Consultancy Support for ISO 55001 Certificate Renewal
Tender Fee	RO. 52,500 Inclusive VAT (5%) Note: Tenderer who wish to participate in the above tender should collect the tender document from DISC's office or send an e-mail to below mention mail id for tender document.
Experience	- The consultant shall have minimum 5 years' experience in Asset management field. - The auditor shall have an experience of 3 years in the AM auditing. - It is preferred that the consultant should hold accreditation form an international firm like (UKAS) or similar
Pre-qualification	The Consultancy firm should propose experienced consultants who have performed similar Services for at least two Utility companies, preferably in Middle East in line with best international practices and in conformity with relevant standards. Preference shall be given if similar Service performed in Oman. Tenderer's Proposals which do not include such evidence or where evidence is unsatisfactory to the Owner may not be considered.
Last date for issue of tender documents	03:00 PM on 13 th April 2022
Site Visit	-
Last date for seeking pre bid clarification	-
Last date for response pre bid clarification	-
Last date for submission of bids	02:00 PM on 20 th April 2022
Any Queries Please Contact	Phone 23232554, purchase@disc.nama.om

Tenderers are requested to note that the bids accompanied with Tender Bond (1% of the quoted bid price and having 90 days validity) shall only be considered for evaluation.

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Sri Lankan President refuses to quit, ready to hand over power to party with 113 seats

COLOMBO: Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday informed senior party members that he will not step down as Sri Lankan President but is ready to hand over the government to whichever party proves that it has a majority of 113 seats in Parliament. According to Daily Mirror, Rajapaksa held political meetings on Monday even as public protests continued against shortages of essential goods and electricity power cuts. Parliament was scheduled to convene for the first time on Tuesday, since the public protests and with Speaker, Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena presiding to conduct a vote to determine which party holds the absolute majority of 113 seats in the 225-member assembly. On Sunday, 26 Sri Lankan Cabinet Ministers resigned en masse from their positions amid rising public anger against the government over the economic crisis. President Rajapaksa invited opposition parties to join the cabinet and form a unity government to tackle the crisis. Daily Mirror newspaper reported that with the exit of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and some government MPs threatening to sit independent, the government has lost its two-third majority.



On Sunday, 26 Sri Lankan Cabinet Ministers resigned en masse from their positions amid rising public anger against the government over the economic crisis

The SLPP is however, now trying to hold on to its 113 seats so that it could continue in government even with a simple majority and Mahinda Rajapaksa could continue as the Prime Minister. If the government fails to show its numbers today then a proposal will be made to the Speaker to call for a debate to decide on the new Prime Minister and as President Rajapaksa has decided, the government will be handed over to the new party, Daily Mirror reported. **ANI**

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Russia preparing new offensive, says Ukraine defence ministry

Luhansk governor Sergiy Gaiday said that Russia was preparing to attack the region and urged a mass evacuation

KYIV: Ukraine's Defence Ministry said that Russia is preparing to launch new attacks in eastern Ukraine and take the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Russia was attacking the towns of Rubizhne and Popasna in the Luhansk region, Defense Ministry spokesman Oleksandr Motuzyanyk said, adding that they were aiming to push through to Severodonetsk.

Severodonetsk has served as the Luhansk region's administrative center since the city of Luhansk was taken over by pro-Russian separatists in 2014.

Meanwhile, Luhansk governor Sergiy Gaiday said that Russia was preparing to attack the region and urged a mass evacuation.

"We understand that they are preparing for a full-scale big breakthrough," Gaiday said.

"Please don't wait for your homes to be bombed," he said, urging residents to evacuate.

A senior US official said that Russian forces were "repositioning" in a bid to conquer parts of eastern and southern Ukraine.

"Russia is repositioning its forces to concentrate its offensive operations in eastern and parts of southern Ukraine," US national security advisor Jake Sullivan said. "Russia has tried to subjugate the whole of Ukraine and it has failed. Now it will attempt to bring parts of the country under its rule," the US official added.

Sullivan said that this repositioning may mark a new phase in



UKRAINE CRISIS A senior US official said that Russian forces were "repositioning" in a bid to conquer parts of eastern and southern Ukraine.

the war in Ukraine that could "be measured in months or longer."

British, Ukrainian ministers condemn 'war crimes'

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said it was "very clear" that war crimes had been committed in Ukraine.

Speaking at a press conference in Poland, she said, "We are all appalled by the scenes in Bucha, the butchery, the clear evidence of crime, of the targeting of innocent civilians and it is very clear that war crimes have taken place."

Speaking on the same stage, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba called for tougher sanctions on Russia.

"The horrors that we've seen in Bucha are just the tip of the iceberg of all the crimes (that) have been committed by the Russian Army," Kuleba said.

"Half measures are not enough any more. I demand most severe sanctions this week, this is the plea of the victims of the rapes and killings. If you have doubts about sanctions go to Bucha first," he added.

Russian troops need 'significant re-equipping'

British military intelligence said Russian forces would need "significant re-equipping and refurbishment" before they could be redeployed in Ukraine.

In its latest intelligence update, the British Ministry of Defence said Ukrainian forces were retaking key terrain in the north after forcing Russia to retreat.

Moscow's troops were pulling out of areas north of Kyiv and Chernihiv in the north of Ukraine.

It said low-level fighting might continue while forces are withdrawing.

Talks with Russia challenging but necessary

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said the possibility of holding more talks with Russia was very challenging, but there was no other option.

Speaking on Ukrainian television, Zelenskyy added that a face-to-face meeting between him and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin does not look likely.

The Ukrainian leader said the killings in Bucha showed the phrase "needing denazification," which Putin used as justification for the invasion, applies more to Russia than to Ukraine.

He repeated that his country would need security guarantees as part of any peace settlement. Zelenskyy said the Ukraine and Russia would not be able to agree on all points over Donbas at once but should work on it. **bw**



First arrest made in mass shooting at US city of Sacramento

CALIFORNIA: Sacramento police announced on Monday that they arrested a suspect in a shooting that killed six people in the capital of California.

Police said a 26-year-old man was booked on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and being a convict carrying a loaded gun.

Detectives worked overnight to comb the crime scene spread out in the center of the capital of California. District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert said that the man was not arrested on suspicion of homicide, but suggested investigators were making progress.

SWAT teams have so far raided three homes in connection with the shooting, with at least one handgun recovered.

"The investigation is highly complex, involving many witnesses, videos of numerous types and significant physical evidence. This is an ongoing investigation, and we anticipate more arrests in this case," District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert told the Associated Press.

Authorities had said they were looking for at least two people involved with the shooting. Detectives are still trying to determine the motive.

What do we know about the shooting?

The shooting happened in Sacramento's downtown area near the state capital building in the early hours of Sunday morning as bars were closing and people gathered in the streets.

Police said multiple shooters fired more than 100 rounds.

The victims included three men and three women, Sacramento Police Chief Kathy Lester told reporters.

A vigil was held Monday evening attended by grieving relatives, friends and community members.

"America once again mourns for another community devastated. We must do more than mourn; we must act," said US President Joe Biden on Sunday. **bw**

Twitter stock soars after Musk buys 9.2% stake in company

CALIFORNIA: Twitter stock soared by around 25% in early trading on Wall Street on Monday following the disclosure that Tesla CEO Elon Musk acquired a 9.2% stake in the company.

Musk's acquisition of a major stake in Twitter was disclosed in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The shares are held by the Elon Musk Revocable Trust, of which Musk is the sole trustee. Monday's regulatory filing suggests he is seeking to become a long-term investor in the company.

He became the largest Twitter shareholder after questioning the social media platform's commitment to free speech.

In the past, Musk has said he contemplated launching a Twitter rival. **bw**

UN chief Guterres says world continues on 'fast track to climate disaster'

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday warned that time is running out for countries, corporations and others to adopt critical measures to reverse greenhouse gas emissions, but the crisis can be averted primarily by substituting renewable energy sources for fossil fuels.

He made these remarks in response to the sixth UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report issued on Monday. "The jury has reached a verdict. And it is damning," Guterres said in a statement. "This report ... is a litany of broken climate promises. It is a file of shame, cataloguing the empty pledges that put us firmly on track towards an unlivable world. We are on a fast track to climate disaster."

Echoing the conclusions of the panel, Guterres said that inaction would result in major cities finding themselves underwater and the world experiencing "unprecedented heatwaves, terrifying storms, widespread water shortages and the extinction of a million species of plants and animals."

Climate scientists and other experts on the panel said if the world does not strengthen its policies toward renewable energy, global warming could easily surpass the 1.5 degree centigrade level that the world needs to not overheat and roll as high as 3 degrees by the end of the century.

Politics over-reliance on fossil fuels and the costs to transition away from fossil fuels appear to be the biggest reasons why countries are reluctant or resistant to



begin that move toward low-carbon economies, according to the panel.

"Every year that you let pass without going for these urgent emissions reductions makes it more and more difficult," the panel Chair Jim Skea said. "Unless we really do it immediately, it will not be possible to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. Every fraction of a degree matters. Even if we go beyond 1.5, that doesn't mean we throw up our hands and despair."

In an op-ed article penned for the Washington Post, Guterres described the latest IPCC report as "a litany of broken climate promises", which revealed a "yawning gap between climate pledges, and reality."

WHO chief wrote that high-emitting governments and corporations "are adding fuel to the flames by continuing to invest in climate-choking industries. Sci-

entists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate effects."

An increasing share of emissions can be attributed to towns and cities, the report's authors stated, adding just as worryingly, that emissions reductions clawed back in the last decade or so "have been less than emissions increases, from rising global activity levels in industry, energy supply, transport, agriculture and buildings".

Striking a more positive note - and insisting that it is still possible to halve emissions by 2030 - the IPCC urged governments to ramp up action to curb emissions.

The UN body also welcomed the significant decrease in the cost of renewable energy sources since 2010, by as much as 85 per cent for solar and wind energy, and batteries. **ANI**



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Ministry of Social Development

Tender Announcement

The Internal Tender committee of Ministry of Social Development hereby announces the following tender :-

Tender No.	Tender Subject	Grade	Last date for obtainment of tender document	Last date for tender submission	Tender Document Price (non-retundable)
15/2022	General maintenance works for the building of the Department of Social Development at- Bidiyah	Companies specialized in building contracting and registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in the first degree	Tuesday 19-4-2022 02:00 PM	Monday 9-5-2022 10:00 AM	R.O. 25/=

❖ Specialized Companies, registered with the Tender Board may obtain the Tender documents at theTender Board e-tendering digital portal link (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>) , On Thursday 31/3/2022

❖ Tender shall be submitted in compliance with the technical specifcations and terms along with a local bank warranty at (1%) of the tender value, valid ninety (90) days from the date of e-submission.

❖ For Inquiry , please contact though the e-tendering website (reg@tenderboard.gov.om) tel. (24402200)

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Crystal Palace rout Arsenal 3-0



Defender Andersen provided a superb pass to set up Jordan Ayew, who thumped home to make it 2-0

LONDON: Crystal Palace denied Arsenal a return to the top four with a comfortable 3-0 victory at Selhurst Park for their first home Premier League win of 2022 on Monday.

Palace took the lead on 16 minutes when Joachim Andersen headed back Conor Gallagher's free-kick for an unmarked Jean-Philippe Mateta to nod past Aaron Ramsdale.

Defender Andersen provided his second assist of the match

eight minutes later with a superb pass to set up Jordan Ayew, who thumped home to make it 2-0.

Arsenal looked for a response after the break, but Wilfried Zaha added a third for the Eagles from the penalty spot with 16 minutes remaining.

The defeat keeps Arsenal in fifth place, level on 54 points with fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur, but with one match in hand. Palace move up to ninth with 37 points. **ANI**

FOOTBALL

AC Milan's lead reduced to a point after draw against Bologna

MILAN: AC Milan on Monday missed out on a golden opportunity to extend their lead on top of the Serie A table after they were held by Bologna to a goalless draw.

League leaders tried everything to win but fortune favoured Bologna. The Rossoneri both created chances and afforded them to the guests in the first half, but they controlled the game after the break and had numerous opportunities to take the lead at San Siro.

This was Milan's fifth consecutive clean sheet in all competitions. This draw (the Rossoneri's first in Serie A since Udinese at home) is sure to leave a bitter taste in the mouth given the two points dropped in a crucial period of the season.

After matchday 31, the Rossoneri move to 67 points and are still in the first place, but their lead has been cut following wins for Napoli (-1) and Inter (-4 with a game in hand). **ANI**

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COMMENTARY

Defending Champions Chennai need to catch up

Anis Sajjan, Vice Chairman, Danube Group

What has gone wrong with the defending champions Chennai Super Kings in the 15th edition of the IPL?

The four times champions have lost their first three games which is the first in the history of IPL. Let's try and analyze what mistakes have hurt the defending champions.

First and foremost, MS Dhoni's stepping down as Captain and handing over the mantle to Ravindra Jadeja. For 14 seasons someone as big who has captained the team and with success, Jadeja is bound to feel the pressure of getting in to the big shoes of MS Dhoni. Since he fields mainly in the deep which is outside the circle, he has not been able to call the shots and take decisive decisions. The second game was in the pocket of Chennai Super Kings when Lucknow needed 34 of the last two overs. The 19th over was given to Shivam Dube who had not bowled and had to bowl the pressure over and but went for 25 runs and Lucknow chased down the 9 runs required in three balls and won the game.

The injury to Deepak Chahar has been the biggest setback for team Chennai Super Kings whose loss has been badly felt by the team. Mukeesh Chaudhary the left arm pacer has gone for 100 runs in his eight overs and picked just one wicket. Deepak Chahar's biggest strength was to pick early wickets and Chennai have not been able to get early wicket due to his absence. Deepak Chahar's injury is a serious one and will need at least three weeks before he returns for the Chennai to strengthen their



bowling attack.

Chennai's batting in the second game has gone haywire barring the match against Lucknow where they crossed 200. In their opening game they looked rusty against Kolkata Knight Riders and scored just 131 and in the last game against Punjab where they were chasing, but folded for just 126 in 18 overs and lost the game by 66 runs.

The form of Ruturaj Gaikwad who was the orange cap winner has been hurting them badly and he has scores of 0, 1 and 1 till now and Chennai needs him to fire and come good to give them a flying start. The rest of the batters have also not been consistent and skipper Jadeja will have to be the same finisher as he has been in the past.

In the past Chennai have made it to the playoffs in spite of winning just two games in their first seven games but this time the competition is far tougher and tight. Can Chennai come back only time will tell but the task for the men in yellow is quite tough this time.

CRICKET

OCT Ruwi, OCT Al Hail 'B' clinch wins

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Day 1 of the All-Omani tournament held at the Oman Cricket Academy on April 4, 2022 saw OCT Ruwi and OCT Al Hail 'B' emerge victorious. They beat OCT Muscat and OCT Al Mabela by 6 and 7 wickets respectively.

On Turf 1, OCT Muscat elected to bat first after winning the toss. Majid Hussein Doshambah Al Balushi was their most impressive batsman by a distance. After losing his opening partner in the very first over, Majid controlled the innings by building a 44-run partnership with Rashad Al Balushi.

But once he was dismissed in the 10th over, OCT Muscat crumbled. From 65/3, they were reduced to 82/10 in 18.3 overs. Mun-



jeed Al Balushi was the only batter apart from Majid and Rashad to reach double figures.

OCT Ruwi were excellent with the ball and on the field during this period. Their star in the first innings was undoubtedly Zubair Ali Akabr Al Balushi. He single-handedly shredded the entire OCT Muscat batting unit, picking

up 5 wickets for just 6 runs in his 3.3 overs.

The first five overs of the second innings saw the game turn into a contest once more, as OCT Ruwi found themselves teetering on the edge of collapse at 10/3. However, a superb 70-run stand between Abdul Aziz Qader Baksh Al Balushi and Nawed Abdulma-

jeed Al Balushi ensured that all further damage was done by them, instead of to them.

For OCT Al Hail 'B', Qais Khalid, Asim Abdul Qadeer and Khalid Rahim Bakhsh Al Balushi picked up 2 wickets apiece.

In response, after a tricky start, OCT Al Hail 'B' took total control of the tie, thanks to a majestic 93-run stand between Hassan Mohamed Hussain and Ahmed Mohammed. Hassan was dismissed for 50, but Ahmed carried on until the end and clinched a well-deserved victory for OCT Al Hail 'B' with 2.5 overs in the bank. He ended the day on 56 runs from 54 deliveries.

Nabeel Mohd Boota was the pick of OCT Al Mabela's bowling unit. His 4 overs brought 21 runs and 2 wickets for his side.

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by June 2022 reaching \$105.24, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$3.21 from the price of Monday, which was \$102.03. - **ONA**

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,137.46 points, up by 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34 per cent at 477.87 points. Dhofar Generating Company, up by 3.77 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Gases, down by 6.88 per cent, was the top loser.

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Pact signed to evaluate development of first green hydrogen plant at Sohar

The production of green steel has the potential to provide a huge boost to Oman's industries and the economy as the global demand for decarbonised steel products is expected to increase significantly in the coming years

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hydrogen Rise, Jindal Shaded Iron & Steel and Sohar Port and Freezone have signed an agreement to evaluate the development of the first green hydrogen plant at Sohar, which will



FIRST PHASE: After conducting techno-economic feasibility studies, the first phase will include the operation of a 35MW electrolyser capacity by mid-2024, paired with a solar renewable energy plant.

decarbonise the steel production process at Jindal Shaded's steel manufacturing plant.

Together, the partners will assess the potential to produce steel in a completely sustainable manner to reduce emissions, lower the complex's carbon footprint and preserve gas reserves for other applications across the country. Af-

ter conducting techno-economic feasibility studies, the first phase will include the operation of a 35MW electrolyser capacity by mid-2024, paired with a solar renewable energy plant. Following this first phase, an upscaling path to a potential 350 MW electrolysis capacity will be evaluated.

The production of green steel

has the potential to provide a huge boost to Oman's industries and the economy as the global demand for decarbonised steel products is expected to increase significantly in the coming years. Hydrogen Rise, based in Oman and Germany will develop, build and operate the green hydrogen facility at Sohar supplying green hydrogen to

Jindal Shaded's steel manufacturing facility. Jindal Shaded's expertise in steel production can see the company become an early pioneer in utilising innovative decarbonisation technologies and in substituting natural gas with green hydrogen in the steel manufacturing process to become a major producer in the fast-developing global market for green steel.

Olav Carlsen, CEO of Hydrogen Rise, Oman, said, "We are excited to work with Jindal Shaded and Sohar Port and Freezone to evaluate the development of a step-wise scalable and bankable project for a very innovative decarbonisation process - from a starting electrolysis size of 35MW to a step-by-step ten-fold scaling of 350MW.

"This approach, plus the very cost-competitive renewable energy production in Oman and the commitment to decarbonisation processes here in the country will give all partners a significant competitive edge in the developing global market for green steel. It is no doubt a step in the right direction as we look at ways to decarbonise industries in Oman and their dependency on gas.

"If successful, this mechanism can be rolled out to industrial zones across the country and around the world."

Sanjay Anand, Chief Operating Officer and Head of Jindal Shaded Iron and Steel in Oman, said, "The range of products that are possible to be produced using this method has the potential to transform the steel industry in Oman. At Jindal Shaded, we are very proud to adopt an environment-friendly approach to steel making and have some of the world's lowest carbon intensity footprints. With this, we open new markets to us and reassure all customers that our products are not only of the highest quality but also made sustainably with the health of the community in mind."

Mark Geilenkirchen, CEO of Sohar Port and Freezone, said, "Sohar is ideally-positioned to become a major exporter of green steel across the world and lead the way in facilitating the production, transportation and utilisation of clean hydrogen. This agreement is the first major step towards developing a viable alternative to gas, which will promote sustainable practices for all industries operating within Sohar and attract new businesses to our clusters. We look forward to working with Jindal Shaded and Hydrogen Rise on this project and to break new ground in the transition towards renewable sources of energy."

CENTRAL BANK OF OMAN



Treasury bills worth OMR88 million issued

MUSCAT: The Central Bank of Oman (CBO) raised OMR88 million by way of allotting treasury bills on Tuesday.

The treasury bills are for a maturity period of 91 days, from April 6 until July 6.

The average accepted price reached OMR99.827 for every OMR100, and the minimum accepted price arrived at OMR99.820 per OMR100. The average discount rate and the average yield reached 0.69554 per cent and 0.69675 per cent, respectively.

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

It may be noted that the interest rate on the Repo operations with CBO is 0.75 per cent while the discount rate on the Treasury Bills Discounting Facility with CBO is 1.25 per cent.

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

MEDICAL CODING

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Capital Market Authority (CMA) reviewed with the members of the Omani Medical Association the execution of the health insurance scheme for the employees of the private sector, residents and visitors.

More than 30 doctors from different medical specialties participated to acquaint them with the developments of the project, medical coding systems and related training programmes.

The meeting discussed the progress of the project and the achievements in the regulatory infra-

structure of the health insurance ecosystem as well as the work of the first phase of the Dhamani platform which is the key step to coping with the technological revolution in health insurance transactions because it links private health institutions, insurance companies and the regulators. The platform provides investment opportunities for technology companies.

The meeting discussed the ongoing efforts in the medical coding project which the CMA has placed among the regulatory projects of Dhamani which is concerned with the coding of names, medical terminology, medical and surgical

procedures and diseases in a unified coding system. CMA concluded a contract with the American Medical Association to provide a CPT licence for the Dhamani platform and conducted a training programme in medical coding.

Said Sulaiman Al Saadi, Director of the Health Insurance Supervision Department said that the main object of the project is to provide healthcare for all, hence providing insurance coverage for the expatriates and residents in Oman is a human and social necessity. He pointed out that Dhamani platform is one of the pillars of the project.



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MSX index ends higher

Dhofar Generating Company, up by 3.77 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Gases, down by 6.88 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,137.46 points, up by 0.21 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.34 per cent at 477.87 points. Dhofar Generating Company, up by 3.77 per cent, was the top gainer while Muscat Gases, down by 6.88 per cent, was the top loser. Galfar Engineering & Contracting was the most active in terms of the number of units traded and Bank Muscat was the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 869 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.99 million, with more than 24.2 million shares changing hands. Out of 48 traded securities, 16 advanced, 9 declined and 23 remained unchanged. Financial Index closed at 6,634.81 points, up by 0.01 per cent. Prices of Al Shargia Investment and Bank Muscat were up

by 3.33 per cent and 2.38 per cent respectively. Prices of Ahli Bank, Al Anwar Investment and Muscat Finance were down by 1.67 per cent, 1.02 per cent and 1.64 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,998.93 points, up by 0.30 per cent over the previous close. Prices of Al Anwar Ceramic and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 0.47 per cent and 1.58 per cent respectively. Prices of Oman Cement and Raysut Cement were down by 0.43 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. Services Index was up by 0.64 per cent before closing at 1,615.61 points. The price of Al Jazeera Services, Oman Investment & Finance and Renaissance Services was up by 3.20 per cent, 2.17 per cent and 1.45 per cent respectively. The price of Oman Telecom was down by 0.46 per cent. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,138.46	4,129.10	4,137.46	4,128.65	8.82	0.21
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,645.08	6,622.50	6,634.81	6,633.88	0.96	0.01
Industry Index	5,998.93	5,985.11	5,998.93	5,981.00	17.94	0.30
Services Index	1,616.48	1,606.68	1,615.61	1,605.36	10.26	0.64
MSX Shariah Index	477.87	476.26	477.87	476.26	1.61	0.34
MSX TR INDEX	5,213.14	5,201.36	5,211.89	5,200.78	11.11	0.21
FINANCIAL TR IDX	6,947.46	6,923.85	6,936.72	6,935.72	1.00	0.01
SERVICES TR IDX	1,655.72	1,655.63	1,654.85	1,654.26	0.57	0.04
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	6,225.88	6,211.54	6,225.88	6,207.27	18.62	0.30

Trading Summary	Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
	24,206,928	3,995,388	869	22,134,358,391	16	9	23	48

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 5

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST RD.	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000002440	AL SHARGIA INV.	1,066,661	98,980	83	0.091	0.094	0.091	0.093	0.090	0.003	3.333	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.100	8,370,000
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	144,900	42,021	7	0.286	0.292	0.286	0.290	0.281	0.009	3.203	0.292	0.290	0.292	0.100	17,748,239
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	2,861,291	147,447	73	0.504	0.518	0.504	0.516	0.504	0.012	2.381	0.516	0.516	0.516	0.100	1,938,650,442
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	125,545	17,658	14	0.140	0.142	0.140	0.141	0.138	0.003	2.174	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.100	33,417,000
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD.	734,696	283,667	59	0.380	0.392	0.380	0.386	0.380	0.006	1.579	0.392	0.392	0.390	0.100	48,210,613
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE PRO	262,850	110,260	5	0.414	0.420	0.414	0.420	0.414	0.006	1.449	0.420	0.420	0.420	0.100	96,292,200
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	168,295	72,050	10	0.428	0.430	0.426	0.428	0.426	0.002	0.469	0.430	0.426	0.430	0.100	94,160,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	10,000	3,180	5	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.318	0.000	0.000	0.318	0.310	0.320	0.100	212,540,205
OM0000001707	OMAN CABLES INDSTR	2,829	2,965	4	1.000	1.050	1.000	1.050	1.050	0.000	0.000	1.050	0.968	1.020	0.100	94,185,000
OM0000003396	SOLARINT BANK	14,170,04	154,396	19	0.108	0.111	0.108	0.109	0.108	0.001	0.008	0.111	0.108	0.111	0.100	325,946,790
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	100	33	1	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000	0.330	0.320	0.336	0.100	214,811,596
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	142,000	67,664	3	0.472	0.480	0.472	0.476	0.476	0.000	0.000	0.480	0.472	0.480	0.100	26,180,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	39,151	9,044	11	0.231	0.231	0.231	0.231	0.232	-0.001	-0.431	0.231	0.224	0.235	0.100	78,431,596
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	25,000	21,500	1	0.860	0.860	0.860	0.864	0.864	-0.004	-0.463	0.860	0.804	0.868	0.100	645,000,000
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	169,449	27,943	12	0.164	0.165	0.164	0.164	0.165	-0.001	-0.606	0.164	0.165	0.164	0.100	32,800,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	2,510,759	242,485	68	0.098	0.098	0.095	0.097	0.098	-0.001	-1.020	0.095	0.095	0.100	0.100	19,400,000
OM0000001550	MUSCAT FINANCE	314,361	18,676	13	0.061	0.061	0.060	0.060	0.061	-0.001	-1.638	0.060	0.060	0.064	0.100	18,428,750
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	889,000	105,192	11	0.118	0.120	0.116	0.118	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.116	0.116	0.118	0.100	230,059,581
Total	18	10,883,921	2,752,159	399												

Parallel Market

OM0000007407	DHOFAR GENERATING	24,900	1,370	2	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.053	0.002	3.774	0.055	0.055	0.058	0.100	12,223,200
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	4,923,474	467,665	158	0.095	0.096	0.094	0.095	0.093	0.002	2.151	0.094	0.094	0.095	0.100	19,283,712
OM0000004833	AL SUWADI POWER	6,035	296	2	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.001	2.083	0.049	0.048	0.049	0.100	35,005,911
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	1,540,855	97,105	46	0.078	0.079	0.078	0.079	0.077	0.001	1.299	0.078	0.077	0.078	0.100	15,800,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO	519,191	44,747	35	0.087	0.087	0.085	0.086	0.085	0.001	1.176	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.100	10,481,250
OM0000001566	OMAN FISHERIES	10,000	940	1	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.092	0.094	0.100	11,750,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	725,367	68,277	29	0.094	0.096	0.093	0.094	0.093	0.001	1.075	0.094	0.094	0.096	0.100	32,819,571
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	12,569	2,511	2	0.199	0.200	0.199	0.200	0.198	0.002	1.010	0.200	0.189	0.210	0.100	325,189,271
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	25,542	2,707	3	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.001	0.852	0.106	0.103	0.105	0.100	14,840,000
OM0000001301	DHOFAR CATTLE	3,095	192	1	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.063	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.062	0.063	0.069	0.100	5,093,550
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD	758,425	77,968	52	0.104	0.105	0.100	0.102	0.102	0.000	0.000	0.100	0.100	0.101	0.100	4,424,288
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM F	4,000	856	5	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.237	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.100	9,860,449
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	129,295	14,610	7	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.113	0.000	0.000	0.113	0.110	0.120	0.100	338,587,712
OM0000002804	ASAPFA FOODS	129,000	14,385	9	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.112	0.000	0.000	0.110	0.106	0.110	0.100	13,440,000
OM0000004348	SMN POWER HOLDING	95,739	4,308	5	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.000	0.045	0.045	0.049	0.100	8,983,602
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	1,283,000	124,451	15	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.000	0.000	0.097	0.097	0.097	0.100	216,984,444
OM0000004735	SEMBORPS SALALAH	70,000	5,740	6	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.082	0.000	0.000	0.082	0.075	0.090	0.100	78,274,500
OM0000004769	MADINA TAKAFUL	2,586,520	246,374	60	0.095	0.096	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	16,625,000
OM0000004776	TAKAFUL OMAN	150	10	1	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.000	0.000	0.066	0.066	0.066	0.100	6,600,000
OM0000004825	ALBATINAH POWER	42,000	2,016	2	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000005280	ALUMINIUM PROD	4,000	856	1	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.237	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.214	0.214	0.214	0.100	207,058,940
OM0000005963	PHENIX POWER	220,492	10,584	7	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.046	0.049	0.100	70,204,870
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	1,235	143	2	0.117	0.117	0.116	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.116	0.116	0.126	0.100	18,199,397
OM0000008447	OMAN RETT FUND	400	32	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.100	37,694,911
OM0000008710	BARBA DESALINATION	400	59	1	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.144	0.150	0.100	11,177,266
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	470,000	52,190	10	0.111	0.112	0.111	0.111	0.113	-0.002	-1.770	0.112	0.111	0.112	0.100	222,034,720
OM0000006979	OMAN QATAR INSUR	5,500	1,040	1	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.189	0.195	-0.006	-3.077	0.189	0.186	0.189	0.100	18,900,000
OM0000001178	MUSCAT GASES	11,000	1,639	2	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.149	0.160	-0.011	-6.575	0.149	0.145	0.149	0.100	4,470,000
Total	28	13,902,175	1,242,715	467												

EXHIBITION

Milipol Qatar 2022 to attract major international players as homeland security is on global agenda



the first time Austria.

Some of the industry's biggest names feature in the line-up including French military and armed vehicles manufacturer Arquus, and the French identity-related security technology provider IDEMIA; the UK's communications technology provider Motorola Solutions; from Turkey the armoured combat vehicle supplier Nurol Makina and Ares Ship-

yard, which manufactures naval craft, patrol boats and utility support vessels, and Belgian threat management and anti-terror leader Pitagone. Qatar heavyweights will also be out in force including the leading global defence and security investment group Barzan Holdings, the integrated security company G4S, enterprise data security and cybersecurity solutions provider Trend Micro, interac-

tive security solutions specialist Smart Communication Systems, the Ministry of Interior, Internal Security Force, FIFA 2022, and the General Authority of Customs.

Advance technological and civil defence solutions make up the largest exhibitor contingent with 35 per cent involved in authentication, access control and surveillance, 20 per cent specialising in information technology and cyber security and 10 per cent focused on fire and protection, major risk prevention, crisis management and civil emergencies response.

The 14th edition of Milipol Qatar is expected to attract over 200 official delegates and dignitaries from 40 nations.

Against this prevailing background, this year's Milipol could well exceed last year's event which attracted over 220 exhibitors from 17 countries, more than 8,000 visitors from 80 nations and sealed €89 million in on-site contracts value.

NATIONAL LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE

NLGIC to acquire RSA Middle East for building leading multi-line insurance group in region

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With common interests to further broaden and strengthen its regional insurance business, Company (NLGIC) – a subsidiary of Oman International Development and Investment Company (Ominvest) – has entered a strategic transaction to acquire 100 per cent shareholding in Royal Sun Alliance (RSA) the Middle East.

NLGIC will execute the transaction in two parts: (i) purchasing 50.00002 per cent shareholding in RSA Middle East from Sun Alliance Insurance Overseas LTD (SAIO), a fully-owned entity of Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Limited; and (ii) exchanging the remaining shares of RSA Middle East, owned by reputable Saudi shareholders, with new issued NLGIC's shares, thus making the Saudi shareholders collectively the second-largest Shareholders in NLGIC after Ominvest. The transaction is subject to approvals from the respective regulators and NLGIC's shareholders.

The agreements have been based on a deep understanding of RSA's business legacy and capabilities, and on the efficient utilisation of NLGIC's know-how and financial position, aiming to transform the combined entity into a larger, stronger, and more competitive regional insurance player emerging from Oman.



Khalid Muhammad Al Zubair



LIFESTYLE

VEGAN DIET

CAN EASE ARTHRITIS PAIN

A new study has found that a low-fat vegan diet, without calorie restrictions, improves joint pain in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The participants of the study have also experienced weight loss and improved cholesterol levels.

The study was published in the journal, 'American Journal of Lifestyle Medicine'.

"A plant-based diet could be the prescription to alleviate joint pain for millions of people suffering from rheumatoid arthritis," said Neal Barnard, MD, lead author of the study and president of the Physicians Committee.

"And all of the side effects, including weight loss and lower cholesterol, are only beneficial," she added.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a common autoimmune disease that typically causes joint pain, swelling, and eventually permanent joint damage.

At the outset of the Physicians Committee's study, participants were asked to use a visual analog scale (VAS) to rate the severity of their worst joint pain in the preceding two weeks, from "no pain" to "pain as bad as it could possibly be."

Each participant's Disease Activity Score-28 (DAS28) was also calculated based on tender joints, swollen joints, and C-reactive protein values, which indicate inflammation in the body. DAS28 increases with rheumatoid arthritis severity.

During the study, 44 adults previously diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis were assigned to one of two groups for 16 weeks. The first group followed a vegan diet for four weeks, with the elimination of additional foods for three weeks, then reintroduction of the eliminated foods individually over nine weeks.

No meals were provided, and participants handled their own food preparation and purchases, with guidance from the research team. The second group followed an unrestricted diet but was asked to take a daily placebo capsule, which had no effect on the study. Then the groups switched diets for 16 weeks.

During the vegan phase of the study, DAS28 decreased 2 points on average, indicating a greater reduction in joint pain, compared to a decrease of 0.3 points in the placebo phase. The average number of swollen joints decreased from 7.0 to 3.3 in the vegan phase, while that number actually increased from 4.7 to 5 in the placebo phase. For those who completed the study, VAS ratings also improved significantly in the vegan phase, compared with the placebo phase.

The vegan diet also led to greater decreases in DAS28 in a sub-analysis that excluded individuals who increased medications during the study and another sub-analysis limited to participants making no medication changes.

In addition to reductions in pain and swelling, body weight decreased by about 14 pounds on average on the vegan diet, compared with a gain of about 2 pounds on the placebo diet. There were also greater reductions in total, LDL, and HDL cholesterol during the vegan phase. - [ANI](#)



FEATURE



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IN PICTURES

DAILY LIFE DURING RAMADAN FROM AROUND THE WORLD



A woman prepares porridge for Iftar, the meal eaten by Muslims to break their fast after sunset during Ramadan, at Jogokariyan Mosque in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, April 3, 2022. [Xinhua](#)



Muslims wait to break their fast during the holy month of Ramadan at Jama Masjid in New Delhi, India, April 3, 2022. [Xinhua](#)



Volunteers prepare free food at a charity on the first day of Ramadan in Sanaa, Yemen, on April 2, 2022. [Xinhua](#)



Photo taken on April 3, 2022 shows the moon in Hawalli Governorate, Kuwait. [Xinhua](#)

Malaysian Muslims break their fast during the Holy month of Ramadan on Merdeka Square in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, April 3, 2022. [Xinhua](#)





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ROUND-UP



ahlibank named ‘Top Omani Brand in Banking’

The award marks a new chapter in ahlibank’s history, which has seen it grow exponentially with a rightful position of being one of the fastest-growing banks in the country

MUSCAT: ahlibank won the coveted ‘Top Omani Brand in Banking’ Award at the ‘Top Omani Brands’ felicitation ceremony, organised by Alam Al-Iktisaad, Oman’s pre-



mier Arabic business magazine from United Media Services, at the Al Bustan Palace – A Ritz-Carlton Hotel, recently.

The award marks a new chapter in ahlibank’s history, which has seen it grow exponentially with a rightful position of being one of the fastest-growing banks in the country.

As per the set protocol, the winning brands were chosen based on a survey, conducted by Alam Al-Iktisaad, in partnership with Arabian Research Bureau, to assess and evaluate Oman’s top brands. .

Thanking the organisers and expressing delight at being awarded the prestigious award, Zaliya Al

Balushi, Deputy General Manager Large Corporate and Mid Market, ahlibank, said, “This is a momentous occasion for team ahlibank. It is a reflection of our collaborative effort to shape the bank’s fortunes and bolster its growth to augment Oman’s Vision 2040. This award is proof of our ongoing endeavour to establish a strategic balance between our growth goals and our commitment to being responsive to our society. Our customer-centric approach to business has proven to be a winner in all spheres of our activities, and we will keep developing and implementing innovative products and services to cater to the ever-changing needs of our customers.

“At ahlibank, we are proud to have been chosen as the Top Omani brand in the banking services category, and this achievement is a motive for our commitment to continue our successful path towards achieving the highest quality standards for our customers,” added Al Balushi.

Refer 10 new customers and get OMR50 as reward

MUSCAT: To ensure that its customers benefit from its offers, services and products, Alizz Islamic Bank announced a special offer where any customer referring and bringing 10 successful new Bushra customers will have a chance to get an OMR 50 reward.

The first 500 customers who successfully refer 10 new customers to open Bushra accounts during the Holy Month of Ramadan and they maintain a deposit balance of OMR 1,000 for a minimum of 30 days will be rewarded with OMR 50. The new customer’s deposit must be sourced from pure credits (fresh deposits) while deposits sourced from internal transfers, existing salaries and postdated cheques will be excluded from the campaign.

Alizz Islamic Bank currently offers a tiered Bushra Savings Account, which is based on the Sharia principle of unrestricted ‘Mudarabah’, where the customer is the owner of the money, and the bank manages the ‘Mudarabah’ by investing the pool of customer funds in joint ‘Mudarabah’



transactions, in addition to other Mudarabah-based accounts. All profits are divided between the customer and the bank, based on a profit-sharing ratio determined by the bank. Profit rates based on each category will be applied to the deposit balances kept in the Bushra Account.

Based on each customer’s account balance, the bank will deposit their profit shares monthly.

The Bushra Savings account has been designed to keep up with the changes in customer lifestyles by ensuring the best possible profits for the customer.

PROMOTION



Celebrate with Lexus luxury now with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Own a Lexus this season and benefit with exclusive benefits including Service 5 Years / 50,000 km (Whichever is earlier), and 1 Year of Free Registration. (Conditions apply. Visit any Lexus showroom for details).

Lexus vehicles are equipped with inspiring luxury, features and technology to make every experience amazing. In Oman, Lexus has a distinctive range that includes luxury SUVs, sedans and coupes too.

The all-new NX is equipped

with two powertrain options. A newly developed inline 4-cylinder, 2.4 L turbocharged engine that produces 275 hp and 430 nm of torque and is mated to a new 8-speed Direct-Shift automatic transmission (8AT). Meanwhile, the new hybrid-electric system combines two power sources consisting of a 2.5-litre petrol engine and two electric motors producing 240 hp. The hybrid-electric system is also mated to a Direct Shift Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT).

HOLY MONTH

Experience spirit of Ramadan at Sheraton

MUSCAT: Sheraton Oman Hotel, the iconic landmark of the Sultanate, is inviting guests to experience scrumptious dishes, customary beverages, inspiring surroundings and enthralling music to welcome Ramadan. The hotel has planned culinary offerings that include Iftar, and Sohour along with traditional live music, and activities amidst a special ambience.

Cliff DeckCafé is a new addition that caters outside the hotel. Located in Muscat Bay and managed by Sheraton Oman Hotel, the café offers a trendy dining experience that blurs the boundaries of indoor and outdoor eatery options.

Samir Messaoudi, General Manager said, “We are looking forward to welcoming our guests and offering them an unforgettable experience with a collection of unique culinary options. Guests can enjoy authentic oud melodies throughout the Holy month in a perfect backdrop. This year we are delighted to introduce Ramadan Iftar at the Cliff Deck Cafe in Muscat Bay. There is no better way to enliven the dining experience than with a little fresh air and great views. The café boasts breath-taking bird’s eye views of the Muscat Bay skyline, promising an inimitable al fresco dining experience. We are also offering a unique dining experience of a private Iftar buffet at the Aquarium



in Muscat Mall. We aim to offer diverse and lavish Iftar buffets or takeaway meals that may tempt even the non-fasters.”

Inspired by different Arabic cultures and local Omani tastes, the Iftar buffet served at Courtyard restaurant will offer a rich array of Arabic special dishes, Ouzi, live stations, a fine selection of hot and cold starters, famous Ramadan desserts and a selection of traditional drinks such as Tamar Hindi, Laban and Qamar El-Deen. The Iftar buffet is served every day from sunset to 9pm.

Continue the holy nights of

Ramadan with ‘Suhour’ at Reehan Lounge from 9pm until 2am. Enjoy a curated à la carte menu enhanced by the solemn ambience of glistening pool views.

Sohour’s menu includes Arabic specialties dishes and a variety of traditional Ramadan beverages to choose from. Savour the traditional Middle Eastern, from Arabic Mezzeh to Omani Meshkak, and from classic Umm Ali to a signature halwa, to name a few.

Ramadan is a time to slow down and connect with friends and family. Order takeaway to celebrate Iftar and Sohour in the comfort of

your home with impeccable service and exclusive packages to suit unique requests.

Families looking for a staycation or getaway during Ramadan can enjoy special room rates. The special package includes an overnight stay, a delectable Iftar buffet and a Sohour set menu.

Challenge yourself this Ramadan in our state-of-the-art Sheraton Fitness Centre and enjoy a special membership promotion! Stay fit this holy season and enjoy our dedicated ladies only or mixed fitness area, steam, sauna, Jacuzzi and both indoor and outdoor pool facilities.

BENEFITS

Dhofar Automotive launches Ramadan offers on its various brands

MUSCAT: Dhofar Automotive Company, the official distributor of Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler, RAM, Fiat and Alfa Romeo vehicles in Oman, announced the launch of its Ramadan offers.

These include incredible benefits on a range of distinctive models from Jeep, Dodge and RAM brands. The offers which last until May 30 comprise up to 5 years / 120,000 km free service on select models, a 5-year warranty, 5-year roadside assistance, free registration and several value additions.

The Ramadan offer is available on a distinguished range of Jeep models that include the all-new Jeep Grand Cherokee with three rows of seats, which is available with a monthly instalment starting from OMR 292, in addition to a free service of 5 years/10,000 km,



free registration and insurance for the first year, and 5 year roadside assistance. The Jeep Wrangler (4-door) is available with a monthly instalment starting from OMR 225 with 3 years/60,000 km service, five years of warranty and roadside assistance, in addition to free registration for the first year. The offer also includes the Jeep

Wrangler (2-door) with a monthly instalment starting from OMR 196, free service of 3 years/60,000 km, 5 years of roadside assistance and warranty, in addition to free registration for the first year. Starting from 243 OMR, the Jeep Gladiator can be availed with free service for 3 years/60,000 km, warranty and roadside assistance

for 5 years, and free registration for the first year.

The Ramadan offer also includes the renowned Dodge Challenger with a monthly instalment of OMR 188 per month and the Dodge Charger with a monthly instalment starting from OMR 156 per month. Any customer who purchases the select Dodge models during the offer period will receive a free service with 3 years/60,000 km, free registration for the first year, 5 years warranty and 5 years of roadside assistance.

The Ramadan offers presented by Dhofar Automotive include the RAM 1500 double-cab models, available starting from OMR 265, alongside 5 years /100,000 km of free service and warranty, free registration for the first year, and 5 years of roadside assistance.

During the offer period, the Italian Brand Fiat DolceVita models are available with a monthly instalment starting from OMR 99 with 5 years/120,000 km warranty, 5 years of roadside assistance, and free registration. The Alfa Romeo Stelvio is offered at very attractive prices starting from OMR 25,980, with 5 years/120,000 km warranty and free service, in addition to, 5 years of roadside assistance, and free registration.

Commenting on the launch of these attractive offers, Hatem El Naggar, General Manager at Dhofar Automotive, said, “As part of the Ramadan offer, we have a wide range of models available to the public. Each of the included vehicles hosts distinctive and unmatched capabilities that make it a leader in its class. These vehicles

have also gained the popularity and trust of car enthusiasts due to the brand’s strong performance and renowned capabilities. Through this offer, our fans and customers can benefit from this opportunity to own one of the Jeep, Dodge, Chrysler, RAM, Fiat and Alfa Romeo vehicles in easy and affordable instalments, together with an exciting package of benefits and guaranteed cash gifts. In addition, it will also provide them with a pleasant driving experience and peace of mind for years to come.”

“The recently launched offers are valid until the end of May. I encourage all adventure enthusiasts and fans of high-performance vehicles to visit our showrooms in Wattayah, Azaiba, Sohar, Nizwa and Salalah and benefit from our Ramadan offers,” he added.



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Bestune launches special Ramadan offers on all its premium models

Customers will be able to experience the dynamic design, sporty character mixed with absolute elegance, high quality, and high performance from Bestune brand of vehicles which will be at par with some luxury end cars which have cutting edge technologies and radar-based features

MUSCAT: Gulf Great Sands (GGS) has recently launched Bestune, a popular automotive global brand, in Oman. Bestune Brand is owned by the



Chinese automaker FAW Group which is ranked 66 among global fortune 500 companies. Bestune is positioned as a mid-to-high-end brand in the mainstream automobile market. GGS is part of the Bahwan International Group Company (BIG), which is a reputed distributor of many international automotive brands in Oman. FAW Group produces and distributes passenger cars, commercial trucks and buses. Established in 1953, the company is China's oldest and largest automotive company. A spokesperson for GGS said,

"We are pleased to launch our first time Ramadan offer for Bestune brand of vehicles produced by FAW Group, a respected name in the automobile industry. Customers will be able to experience the dynamic design, sporty character mixed with absolute elegance, high quality, and high performance from Bestune brand of vehicles which will be at par with some luxury end cars which have cutting edge technologies and radar-based features. We are certain that auto enthusiasts in Oman will find the premium models very impressive. To begin with models including

compact crossover Bestune T77, mid-size crossover Bestune T99 and mid-size sedan Bestune B70 will be available in Oman." All retail customers purchasing Bestune vehicles from Gulf Great Sands between 20 March to 19 May (both days included) will be eligible for the below said offer. Eligibility: All customers opting for the Retail offer are eligible for the below said offer. All customers purchasing Bestune vehicles during this scheme period will be eligible for free 1st year Vehicle registration for private registration only.

All customers purchasing Bestune models during this Scheme period will be eligible for a free 1st year of vehicle insurance. (Oman & UAE) for private registration only. Customer Purchasing Bestune model variants will get a free service package as mentioned below, in which no wear & tear parts are covered. Service proposed are Periodic Maintenance Service as per manufacturers recommendation every 10,000 km service intervals. Customers of Bestune B70, T77 and T99 model variants to get assured 3 years or 50,000 km service. (Periodic Maintenance Service

Only) Assured Free Gift on every purchase: (Apple iPhone*) Exclusive Gift on Bestune B70, T77, T99 every purchase: Apple iPhone. During the above-said offer period, we will provide the following. Customers purchasing T77 2WD Crossover models will get iPhone 13 Customers purchasing B70 Sedan and T99 Crossover models will get iPhone 13 Max Pro All customers purchasing BESTUNE Range of Passenger Cars and Crossover will be eligible for 6 years /250,000 kilometres Manufacturer's Warranty.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Malabar Gold sets aside OMR150,000 for CSR activities during Ramadan

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest global jewellery retailers amplifies the spirit of Ramadan by strengthening its corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in the GCC and the Far East. The brand has planned month-long CSR activities in association with embassies, and like-minded organisations, which include the distribution of food provision kits and Iftar meals to deserving labourers and families. This initiative is expected to benefit a large section of the society across all countries in which Malabar Gold & Diamonds operates.

"CSR remains a core value at Malabar Gold & Diamonds ever since its inception in 1993 and contributing to the community has been a key part of the company's ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) goals. Ramadan is usually the time we reflect on our actions and contribute to society in whatever way possible. Every year during Ramadan, we engage in various CSR initiatives, aiming to create a difference in the community in and around our area of operations and to drive other organisations, both big and small to initiate such activities that will help the needy," said Abdul Salam KP, Vice

Chairman - Malabar Group. Malabar Gold & Diamonds will distribute both Iftar meals and food provision kits as part of this Ramadan CSR initiative. It has set aside OMR150,000 for CSR activities. In Oman, Iftar meals will be directly distributed to various labour camps in Muscat, Seeb, Barka, Sohar and Salalah in addition to needy families, individuals who have lost their job, and those on visit visas, references of whom will be provided by like-minded organisations and customers of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. "The spirit of Ramadan gives us an added opportunity to exercise

humanitarian values while making a positive impact on the lives of those around us. At Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the Ramadan CSR activity is spearheaded by our team members themselves along with like-minded organisations and associations, together with whom we identify and provide support to the needy in the local communities. It gives me a lot of happiness that we can continue to add goodness to society with the generous support of all our customers, partners, shareholders, and team members," said Shamla Ahamed, MD - International Operations of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

NOBLE DEED



Al Hashar Pharmacy organises blood donation campaign

MUSCAT: In commemoration of 5 decades of quality healthcare services to the people of Oman a blood donation camp was recently organised at Central Blood Bank, Bausher in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, DG of Specialised Medical Care, Department of Blood Bank Services - Oman. Amongst various activities planned throughout the year, the blood donation campaign is one of the unique ones. Team members of Al Hashar Pharmacy participated actively in this effort to serve the people in dire need. Reflecting on this spirit of generosity & care, CEO, Suresh Gandhi has commended the blood donors with certification of appreciation and a token cash reward. "Someone lives when someone donates. Sympathy alone cannot save people in chronic conditions, but blood can. A drop of blood donated is a life saved, and this was the stronghold that guided

ed our organisation's employees into an impressive turnout for the cause," said Sachin Agrawal, the COO of Al Hashar Pharmacy. He also emphasised the need for more and more requirements of such camps in the backdrop as a good way to solve the problem of blood shortage in times of accidents and emergencies and donated blood helps save a life. He expressed satisfaction that the organisation is humbly working towards a social cause. On behalf of the BOD, The Chairman, Nasser Mohammed Al Hashar expressed his delight at this novel gesture and sent his congratulations to the management and staff for organising this thoughtful blood donation campaign to mark the occasion. "You have helped save many valuable lives and your remarkable contribution will surely fill hope to someone's life. Thanks to every blood donor for their valuable contribution," said the chairman.

PRIVILEGE BANKING

Win up to OMR5,000 with Bank Muscat's Al Jawhar referral scheme

MUSCAT: In line with the bank's vision 'To serve you better, everyday', and commitment to offering the best services in Oman to benefit its customers, Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, has launched the Al Jawhar referral scheme, which will be open to Privilege Banking customers till December 31. The scheme gives Al Jawhar customers a chance to earn up to OMR5,000 by referring their friends and family members to join the Privilege Banking services. Speaking on the occasion Amjad Iqbal Al Lawati, Deputy General Manager - Customer Segments, said: "Bank Muscat is delighted to once again launch the Al Jawhar-referral scheme with guaranteed rewards for the benefit of all existing Al Jawhar customers who can



now earn an incentive of OMR 50 for every successful referral, up to a maximum of 100 referrals. All new referrals who successfully open and maintain their Al Jawhar account will also win OMR 50 each. This makes the scheme a win-win proposition for existing customers as well as their family and friends and we welcome all eligible customers to try it out." All that needs to be done is to download and fill the form given in the link below with both the cus-

tomers' and referee's details and then email it to AlJawharCampaign@bankmuscat.com. The scheme is open to all existing customers of Bank Muscat Al Jawhar Privilege Banking who successfully refer new Al Jawhar salary accounts for their friends and family. The incentives will be credited quarterly into the accounts of both the referrer and the referee on successful completion of a three-month eligibility period. Designed to elevate Privilege

Banking to unparalleled heights, Al Jawhar opens a world of opportunities with a number of services and facilities that makes the banking experience truly rewarding for its exclusive clientele. Al Jawhar Privilege Banking customers are eligible for exclusive 2-for-1 deals on food, entertainment and shopping that are available through the 'Visa Offers MENA' app on their smartphones. They also have access to a higher ATM withdrawal limit of RO 800. Al Jawhar Visa Platinum Credit Cardholders offer access to 25 premium lounges around the world in addition to lounges at Muscat and Salalah airports. Cardholders are eligible for a complimentary Drag-on Pass and a 'Meet and Greet' service with a 15% discount at over 450 global destinations.



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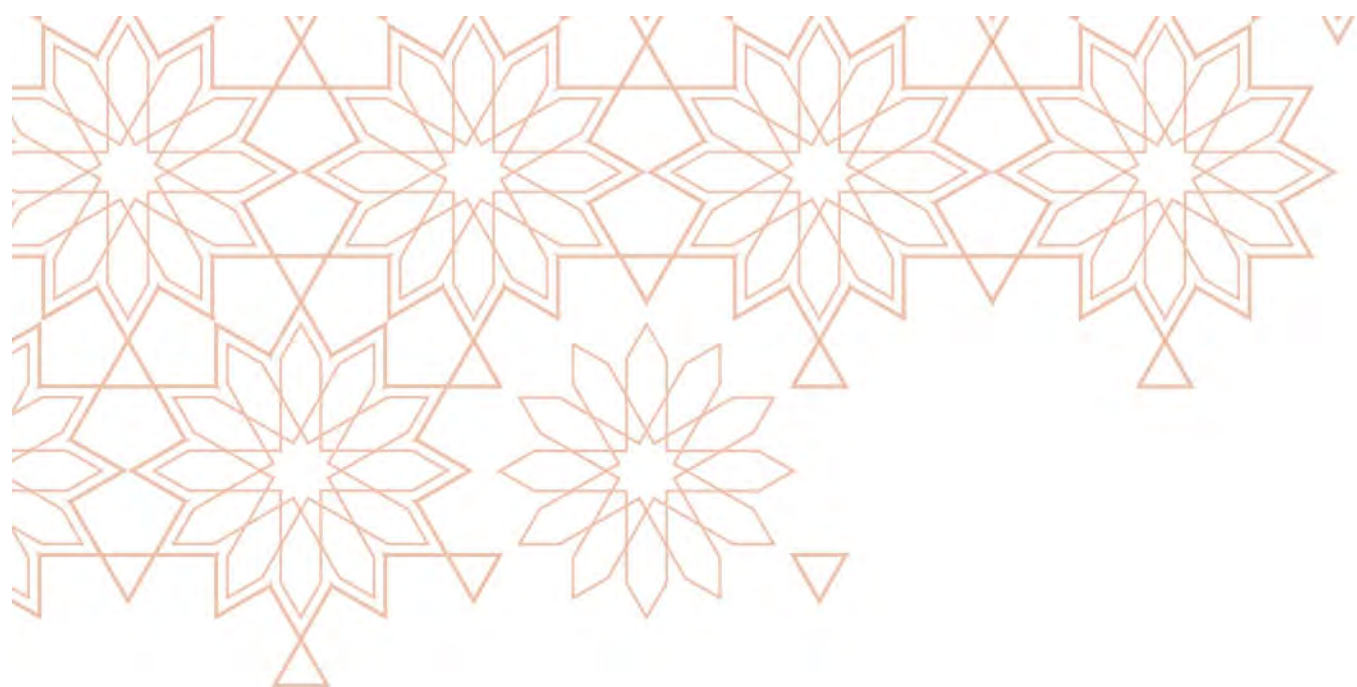
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