

**ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER
RECEIVES LIBYAN ENVOY**

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, reviewed the march of relations between Oman and Libya, when he received Sania Abu Al Qasim Ghoma, Ambassador of Libya to Oman. **>A5**



**PROJECT LAUNCHED FOR CONSERVATION
OF ENDANGERED MYRRH TREE**

The Environment Authority, represented by the Environment Conservation Office in Dhofar Governorate, launched a project to collect preliminary data about the Myrrh tree, an endangered plant species. This species in Dhofar relates to the Arabian Myrrh tree, which assumes significance due to its natural, historical and economic values associated with frankincense over the ages. **>A2**



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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

**OMAN
PSM students excel in FBISE exams**

1 Pakistan School Muscat has achieved another landmark by producing 100 percent results in the FBISE SSC-II annual examination 2021-22. Raneem Ishtiaq achieved first position by securing 1052/1100 marks, both Fatima Zehra and Muhammad Basim Khan have secured second position with 1,048 marks. **>A3**

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Police raid Peru's
presidential palace**

2 Police searched the presidential palace in Lima after they had acquired an arrest warrant for Yenifer Paredes, the Peruvian president's sister-in-law. **>A6**

**MARKET
Yemeni business
team visits Madayn**

3 Hamad bin Hamoud Al Qasabi, Acting CEO of Madayn, received Hassan Al Khou, Chairman of the BCCI at the Capital Secretariat in the Republic of Yemen. **>B1**



**HM the Sultan receives written
message from Somali President**

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has received a written message from Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, dealing with bilateral relations between Oman and Somalia. The message was received on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan by His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs, when he welcomed on Wednesday Abdul Rahman Abdul Shakour, Special Envoy of the Somali President for Humanitarian Affairs and Drought.

The envoy conveyed the greetings of the Somali President to His Majesty the Sultan and Om-

ani people, along with the President's wishes of further progress and prosperity for the Sultanate of Oman. In his turn, HH Sayyid Shihab conveyed the greetings and wishes of His Majesty the Sultan to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, as well as His Majesty's wishes of progress and prosperity for the Somali people.

The meeting discussed fraternal ties between the two countries and ways of enhancing them in different fields. It also touched on issues of common concern. The meeting was attended by the Chargé D'affaires of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Somalia in Muscat. **-ONA**

**OMAN'S LOGISTICS
SECTOR TO CUT CARBON
EMISSIONS BY 7%**



Asyad Group and 44.01 will work jointly to capture the CO2 emissions and convert them into rock permanently through mineralisation

Times News Service

MUSCAT: In its efforts to reduce emissions by 7 per cent by 2030 under the terms of the Paris Agreement, Asyad Group has signed a Decarbonisation Strategic Partnership with a local firm.

Asyad, Oman's integrated logistics Group, has inked a strategic decarbonisation partnership with a local environmental start-up to further advance shared CO2 removal ambitions with 44.01.

"Both parties will work together on opportunities to remove carbon

emissions in the logistics sector and contribute to the development of a sustainable logistics industry in Oman, Asyad said in a statement on Wednesday.

Implementing emerging carbon removal technologies, Asyad Group will work with 44.01 to capture the CO2 emissions and convert them into rock permanently through the process of mineralisation. This collaboration indicates the extended efforts for further decarbonisation in the logistics sector.

The partnership also envisages using biofuels from 44.01's sister company, Wakud, to help decarbonise Asyad's existing logistics assets.

"Asyad firmly believes in the

creation of a growth model that is increasingly oriented towards group sustainability and focusing on promoting clean energy while monitoring all greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions and reducing waste and pollution through environmental management systems, Essam Nasser Al Sheibani, Asyad's Group VP for Sustainability, said.

"Our partnership with 44.01 goes hand in hand with the rapid progress that the logistics sector is witnessing and our role in positioning the Sultanate of Oman at the forefront of new sustainable technologies globally," he further added.

Following on its business

growth strategy centred around private sector partnership and engagement, the Group's collaboration with 44.01 will offer Asyad access to innovative solutions and open new opportunities for 44.01, enhancing its competitiveness and introducing its services to the global market.

Key highlights

"As key highlights on our environmental agenda, we aim to tap opportunities in the areas of the energy transition that represent the future, combined with CO2 capturing and storage, the green and blue hydrogen value chain, renewables and decarbonised

sustainable mobility products," he said.

"Our collaboration with 44.01 translates the Group's strategy to empower local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and boost research and development activities in the sector," he further added.

Both Asyad Group and 44.01 intend to identify opportunities for potential point source capture of carbon dioxide in connection with Asyad's logistics fleet and undertake studies in relation to local carbon removal projects. This includes exploring potential operational sites where carbon removal activities can be showcased.

NATIONAL PROGRAMME

**Royal administration academy
launches national leaderships
development programme**

MUSCAT: The Royal Academy for Administration has launched a national programme for developing leaderships and exploring the future. The programme seeks to groom efficient leaderships of middle management within departments of the State's Administrative Apparatus.

The programme comprises what is known as the First Educational Unit, which envisages training an accredited coach. It is attended by 26 specialised trainers from public and private sector establishments. It is aimed at transferring knowledge and localising expertise in a manner that fits with the vision of the Royal Academy.

Dr. Ali Qassim Al Lawati, President of the Royal Academy for Administration, said that the training programmes is the outcome of partnership between the Academy and Eller Executive Education Centre of Arizona University.

The national training pro-



gramme for the development of leaderships, executed in partnership with the Ministry of Finance, gets inspiration from the "Partnership for Development (Off-set)" programme and Linko company of the United States, with the objective of building capacities, national competencies, transferring knowledge and applying the best practices in the field. **-ONA**

BRONZE MEDAL IN ATHLETICS

**Barakat bags bronze
medal in 100m race**

KONYA: Oman's sprint star Barakat Al Harthy bagged the bronze medal in 100m race in the fifth edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games being held in Konya, Turkey.

Barakat finished the race in 9.99 seconds, slightly more than what he did at the West Asian competitions in Jordan in 2018, where he clocked 9.97 seconds.

Al-Harthy said: "The bronze medal qualified me for the World Championships in Athletics next year (2023). The last few months were difficult because of intense training and external camps in Turkey and I participated in a number of tournaments which greatly contributed to my readiness for participation in Konya games."

He added, "The race was very competitive with well-known runners, and I am proud of my third place, and I dedicate this achievement and the bronze medal to everyone who supported me." **Full story on >A2**





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TIMINGS



Dhuhr.....	12:17pm
Asr.....	3:43pm
Maghrib.....	6:48pm
Isha.....	8:04pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:21am

EA launches conservation project for endangered Myrrh tree

SALALAH: The Environment Authority, represented by the Environment Conservation Office in Dhofar Governorate, launched a project to collect preliminary data about the Myrrh tree, an endangered plant species.

This species in Dhofar relates to the Arabian Myrrh tree, which assumes significance due to its natural, historical and economic values associated with frankincense over the ages. The two species have been included into the list of plants running the risk of extinction in a semi-desert environment or what is known as 'rain shadow' areas in Dhofar mountains—an extension of Al Najd area. The project seeks to develop an initial database for Myrrh tree area of vegetation, its flowering season, its harvest and scopes of supplying the Authority's plantations with their seeds with a view to expanding the growth of this endangered species.

The survey also aims to protect Myrrh tree under adverse circumstances like overgrazing, climate change and insect attacks.

The EA plans to protect such fragile ecological systems through the establishment of an envisaged Myrrh Tree Park, said Khalid Ahmed Hardan, Head of Studies Department at the Environment Conservation Office. As part of the project, a plantation will be dedicated to the production of Myrrh tree seeds, he added. -ONA



Barakat bags bronze medal in 100m race

Barakat achieved a time of 9.99 seconds, close to his record, which he achieved in the West Asian competitions in Jordan in 2018

Times News Service

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participation in Konya games." He added, "The race was very competitive with well-known runners, and I am proud of my third place, and I dedicate this achievement and the bronze medal to everyone who supported me."

Sprinters Ali Al Balushi and Mazoon al Alawi had to bid farewell to the competitions. Salem Al Yarubi was also unable to qualify in the

triple jump and bid farewell to the tournament after finishing seventh.

On the other hand, the Omani delegation participated in the opening ceremony of the fifth edition of the competition under the auspices of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who announced the official opening of the tournament with welcoming words for the participating delega-

tions at Konya Stadium with more than 40,000 spectators.

Oman shooting team (trap) started the competitions on Wednesday with five shooters among 117 shooters from 21 countries. They competed in five qualifying rounds, including three rounds on Wednesday and two rounds on Thursday. Eight teams will advance to the final on Thursday.



WORLD CUP

Oman Air's Match Day Shuttle flights ready for take-off



Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, continues to facilitate travel for football fans to this year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar. The airline will operate 48 Match Day Shuttle flights between Muscat and Doha from 21 November to 3 December 2022.

The airline offers wide-body service, including Boeing 787 Dreamliner between Muscat and Doha. Passengers on shuttle flights will enjoy Oman Air's exceptional award-winning products and services, both in the air and on the ground, and its signature Omani hospitality accessible to guests on every flight.

Return Match Day Shuttle flights can be booked on the Oman Air website (omanair.com) with prices starting from OMR49 for Economy Class and OMR155 for Business Class. Fares include fees, taxes, airport charges, and hand baggage allowance.

Passengers are advised to arrive in Doha at least four hours before the start of a match due to

the high frequency of flights each day. In addition, all passengers must register for a Hayya card (fan ID) prior to their flight, as this is required for travel on all Match Day Shuttle flights and for entry into Qatar.

Throughout the tournament, football fans can book their Match Day Shuttle flights, which provide a smooth and comfortable 24-hour experience between Muscat and Doha.

The service is intended to seamlessly connect fans to Qatar so that they can attend their respective matches. A no-check-in baggage policy also allows passengers to plan an easy-in, easy-out travel itinerary.

Football fans to the region can also visit Muscat to experience thrilling adventures, breathtaking natural beauty, and genuine Omani hospitality through a variety of stopover packages available from Oman Air Holidays.

Whether stopping for a few hours, overnight or several days, the Sultanate of Oman has something to appeal to every traveler itinerary.

TWO-DAY FORUM

GCC Sustainable Development Forum begins



SALALAH: The Governorate of Dhofar acted host to the GCC Sustainable Development Forum, which kicked off on Wednesday under the theme of "One GCC Developmental Track".

The two-day forum seeks to ally efforts for a unified future vision and development indicators among GCC states.

The opening ceremony was held under the auspices of His Highness Sayyid Marwan bin Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar, who felicitated those who contributed to the conference.

The forum tasks cover two main themes: First: "GCC future visions and requirements for the unification of efforts" and secons the "Mechanisms for the development of GCC development indicators".

In its second day, the forum includes workshops on mechanisms on measuring performance indicators, societies progress, innovation, creating sustainable development opportunities, GCC partnerships and the overall methodology of unifying the development track. -ONA

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PSM students excel in FBISE exams

A prominent institution in the region, PSM has been implementing latest strategies to boost students' achievement level

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Pakistan School Muscat has achieved another hall-mark by producing 100 percent results in the FBISE SSC-II annual examination 2021-22.

Raneem Ishtiaq has achieved first position by securing 1052/1100 marks, both Fatima Zehra and Muhammad Basim Khan have secured second position with 1,048 marks and Arooj Shahzad has secured third position with 1,045 marks in the FBISE SSC-II annual examination 2021-22 and in SSC-I Syeda Pareesay Fatima has secured first position with 491/520 marks, Maheen Amjad has secured Second position with 490 marks and Sana Arslan has secured third position with 472 Marks.

PSM, one of the prominent institutions in the region, has been implementing cutting-edge strategies to increase students' achievement level since its inception. It aims to spark a pursuit of knowledge in students so that they may keep on learning and become a valuable part of society.

In this connection, the school induces the latest tools and technology-based plans to cater to the contemporary needs of learners. Owing to its timely planning and up-to-date strategies, the stu-

SSC-II EXAM 2022



FIRST POSITION
RANEEM ISHTIAQ



SECOND POSITION
FATIMA ZEHRA



SECOND POSITION
MUHAMMED BASIM KHAN



THIRD POSITION
AROOJ SHAHZAD

SSC-I EXAM 2022



FIRST POSITION
SYEDA PAREESAY FATIMA



SECOND POSITION
MAHEEN AMJAD



THIRD POSITION
SANA ARSLAN

dents of PSM Federal Stream have produced marvellous academic results in their FBISE Annual Examination, 2021-22 by scoring significant grades.

They have made a history by scoring the highest-ever results at SSC-II level. These outstanding grades make up 44% A*, 24% A, 20% B and 12% C grades of the total result at SSC-II level which is an outstanding record-breaking performance in the history of PSM and a significant proof of the very high standard of studies being followed, untiring efforts of the faculty, hard work of the students, concern of the parents and above all the unconditional academic support by the school

management and governing authorities. Pakistan School System has achieved overall grades 41% A* and 25% A at SSC-II level and 26% A* and 26% A at SSC-I level.

This result is catalysed by the efforts of the teachers who always went the extra mile to take students to this level of academic excellence. It has all been possible by the joint team work under the dynamic guidance and supervision of the Senior Principal Nasir Nawaz, the Central Coordinator Gul Rahim and the backstage support by the Pakistan School Management. It is indeed a matter of pride for Pakistan School System, students, faculty, parents and community.



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Story on cheap flights between Oman and India

A story on cheap flights between Oman and India reached 22,605 people and had 2,210 link clicks on Facebook.

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677 VIEWS

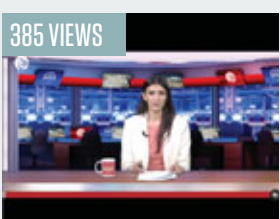


The Midday Update video

The Midday Update video had 677 views and reached 1,200 people on Facebook.

**MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON INSTAGRAM**

385 VIEWS



Midday Top Story video

The Midday Top Story video had 385 views and 20 likes on Instagram.



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SUR TRAINING CAMP



TO SHARPEN SKILLS OF YOUNG SAILORS

MUSCAT: Thirty young sailors arrived at the Oman Sail Sur Sailing School on Sunday 7th August to take part in a 14-day training camp as they prepare for a busy season of regattas, including the Arab Sailing Championships in October. Each day the sailors will be put through their paces with two sessions on the water to develop technique and boat handling skills, along with fitness and education in health and nutrition.

A Ranking Race will take place at the end of the camp to determine final positions for the regatta squads, bringing together sailors from all four of Oman Sail's Sailing Schools. Sailors from Optimist, ILCA 4, ILCA 6, ILCA 7, RS:X and iQFOiL windsurfing will be in attendance, and Optimist sailors will be able to learn from an expert Optimist coach and professional sailor in the second week.

Ahmed Nasser Al Qasbi, Training Camp Project Manager, said, "We have a busy season ahead, culminating in the Arab Sailing Championships at the Barceló Mussanah Resort from 11-15 October, so we are working towards that date by preparing the sailors in the best way we can. Over the next two weeks they will train together, learn from each other and the coaches and gain an understanding of how to become better sailors and stronger athletes."

He added, "The camp will be an exciting experience for the squads, and we look forward to seeing who rises to the challenge during the Ranking Race."

Approximately 50 sailors will take part in the Ranking Race, each competing for a place in the final Arab Sailing Championship team which will take on sailors from 14 countries across the region.



AHEAD OF BUSY SEASON OF REGATTAS





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ROYAL OFFICE MINISTER RECEIVES LIBYAN ENVOY

Gen. Sultan Mohammed Al Nu'amani, Minister of the Royal Office, reviewed the march of relations between Oman and Libya, when he received on Wednesday Sania Abu Al Qasim Ghoma, Ambassador of the State of Libya to the Sultanate of Oman. Gen. Al Numani and the Libyan Ambassador exchanged friendly talks about cooperation between the two countries, matters of mutual interest and ways of cementing ties. —ONA



LOCAL ROUND

Registration begins for Falling Walls Lab Oman competition

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation announced the start of registration for Falling Walls Lab Oman 2022 competition.

The event is organised in co-operation with Falling Walls Lab Foundation.

Registration for the contest lasts till 1 September, according

to the Ministry, which indicated that, on 19 September, innovators have an opportunity to articulate their intellectual products within a period of 3 minutes before an arbitration committee.

International event

The winner of the local round will contest a similar international

event on 8 November 2022 in the city of Berlin, Germany, and attend a related global conference the next day, which will see the final rounds of the competition. The competition was founded by the Falling Walls Lab Foundation, a non-profit organisation based in Berlin, on 9 November 1989.

— ONA

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SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Third edition of training programme 'Eidaad' launched

MUSCAT: The third edition of the education related training programme 'Eidaad' for training of university/college students, organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in cooperation with Petroleum Development Oman (PDO) Company and the participation of 17 educational institutions and 29 companies (incubators) supportive to the programme was launched on Wednesday.

The programme targets pre-final year students studying at the government and private higher education establishments.

The training programme, which is for one academic year, aimed to upgrade the level of education and training and to build the abilities of students and to bridge the gap between the industrial sector and academia.

Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation launched the online platform of the programme (eidaad.trc.gov.om), which would enable students to directly register in the programme effective from the upcoming edition.

The platform would enable the academic institutions follow with and evaluate the practical performance of students along with following with the needs of supply and demand from the

companies and establishments participating in the programme.

Hamad bin Saif Al Hadhrami, Director of Eidaad Programme and manager of Training and Development at PDO gave a speech which tackled the stages of development of the programme.

He said that the first edition of the programme was launched in the academic year 2020/2021 with a limited number of students and higher education institutions comprising five universities and six establishments from the industrial sector and the private sector.

He said that the programme expanded to cover ten universities, 21 establishments and 202 students while the number of the companies participating in the programme during this year amounted to over 29 companies, seventeen educational establishments and 257 graduates of the programme.

Dr. Rahma bint Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation signed the cooperation protocol between the industrial sector and the academia (academic sector) for executing the project on training of higher education establishments (Eidaad) with PDO, the educational institutions and the companies participating in the programme. — ONA



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Health

ANNOUNCEMENT

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-59/2022- Recall	Supply of Pharmaceuticals for the Royal Hospital	11/August/2022	17/August/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	R.O 45.000 Per set	
MOH/HQ-168/2022	Supply of Surgical Items (Hand Surgery)	18/August/2022	14/September/2022			
MOH/HQ-169/2022	Supply of Surgical items (Adult Cath lab) for The Royal Hospital	18/August/2022	14/September/2022			
MOH/HQ-170/2022	Supply of Medical Gas for the Royal Hospital	18/August/2022	14/September/2022			
MOH/HQ-171/2022	Consultancy Engineering Services (Design and Supervision) for Construction of Mudhaibi Health Center in North Al Sharqiah Governorate	18/August/2022	14/September/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board in The First Grade	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board	
MOH/HQ-172/2022	Supply & Installation of Servers for Health Establishments in Various Governorates	18/August/2022	14/September/2022	Specialized Companies registered with the General Secretariat of the Tender Board		
MOH/HQ-173/2022	Supply of Computer Equipment at Al Amerat Heights Health Centre in Muscat Governorate	18/August/2022	14/September/2022			
MOH/HQ-174/2022	Supply of Linen and Patient Uniforms for Various Health Establishment	18/August/2022	14/September/2022			
MOH/HQ-176/2022	Provision of Catering Services for Various Local Hospitals at Al Dakhiliyah Governorate	18/August/2022	14/September/2022			
MOH/HQ-178/2022	Provision of Catering Services at Quriyat Hospital in Governorate of Muscat	25/August/2022	14/September/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.

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RAID

Police raid Peru’s presidential palace over arrest warrant of his sister-in-law

LIMA: Police and public prosecution agents searched the presidential palace in Lima on Tuesday after they had acquired an arrest warrant for Yenifer Paredes, the Peruvian president’s sister-in-law, for alleged corruption and money laundering.

The raid has since been heavily criticized by the president, Pedro Castillo, who accused the Attorney General’s Office of intending to “break the constitutional and democratic order” in the country.

Alleged connection to corruption ring

Such a police operation is unprecedented in the country.

The prosecutor’s office had requested a “raid” of the “residential area of the government palace,” the Court of Justice said in a statement.

The search lasted for almost four hours, but the agents were unsuccessful in locating Paredes, who is assumed to be running from the law. She is being investigated for her alleged illegal involvement in a sanitation project in Cajamarca, the president’s native region.

The 26-year-old has been living in the presidential residence within the government palace with Castillo and his family.

Several other judicial raids were taking place simultaneously in



other locations around the capital, with a mayor and two businessmen arrested for alleged involvement in the same corruption ring.

Paredes had already been summoned to testify before the public prosecutor’s office and to appear before a commission of the Peruvian Congress in mid-July.

President takes to TV to criticise search

Castillo heavily criticized the raid on a televised broadcast.

“Those who seek to break the constitutional and democratic order are the same ones who report-

ed a non-existent electoral fraud to disregard my election,” Castillo said in a speech after describing the raid on the presidential residence as “illegal.”

“It is evident there is a conspiracy between a part of the Congress, the Attorney General’s Office and a sector of the press to destabilize the democratic order,” he claimed after learning of the preliminary arrest warrant against Paredes.

Low approval ratings as corruption allegations loom

Castillo took office in July 2021. His current disapproval ratings

among the public lie around 74%, as opinion polls report. The public prosecutor’s office has five open investigations against him, including one for corruption.

Earlier Tuesday, a parliamentary report recommended disqualifying and criminally prosecuting the president over his alleged consideration of a proposal to allow landlocked Bolivia to access the sea through Peru. Castillo has denied this allegation.

The 52-year-old former teacher and trade unionist has already faced two impeachment hearings in Congress. **ow**



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Chairman / Editor-in-Chief: Mohamed Issa Al Zadjali
Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Anees bin Essa Al Zedjali
Chief Executive Officer: Ahmed Essa Al Zedjali

EDITORIAL: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24813153, E-mail: editor@timesofoman.com
ADVERTISING: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24812624, E-mail: advertising@timesofoman.com
CIRCULATION: Telephone: 24726666, Fax: 24818270, E-mail: circulation@timesofoman.com

MONKEYPOX

WHO condemns attacks on monkeys over pox fears in Brazil

BRASILIA: The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday decried increasing attacks on monkeys over fears of spread of monkeypox in Brazil.

“What people need to know is that the transmission we are seeing is happening between humans,” Margaret Harris, the spokeswoman for the WHO, told reporters in Geneva.

Harris’s comments came after Brazilian news website, G1, reported Sunday that 10 monkeys had been poisoned in less than a week in Sao Jose do Rio Preto city in southeastern Sao Paulo state.

Harris said that while the disease can spread from animals to humans, the recent outbreak is

between humans only.

“People certainly should not attack the animals,” she said.

Similar incidents were also reported in other cities, with people attacking monkeys by throwing stones or poisoning them, according to local media reports.

Brazil has more than 1700 cases of monkeypox, according to figures from the WHO. One person died from the disease on July 29, according to Brazil’s Health Ministry.

Monkeypox, caused by monkeypox virus, is transmitted from one person to another through droplets, contaminated objects and close contact with an infected person, according to the WHO. **ow**



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INVITATION TO ATTEND ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG are delighted to invite the shareholders of the company to attend the Ordinary General Meeting (“OGM”) to be held on **Monday, 29 August 2022 at 3.00 PM** at Habrout and Lubaan Hall, Grand Hyatt Muscat as well as through Muscat Clearing & Depository website (www.mcd.gov.om). In the event the legal quorum for the meeting is insufficient, a second meeting will be held on Sunday, 04 September 2022 at 3.00PM to consider the following agenda:

- To discuss and approve the proposal to provide a 100% corporate guarantee from Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG to the subsidiary company in the United Arab Emirates, as 80% of the shares of the subsidiary company are owned by Al Jazeera Steel Products Co. SAOG while 20% of the shares are owned by Ms. Amal Suhail Salim Bahwan. This corporate guarantee is to be given to the lenders for obtaining loan for the subsidiary company.

Pursuant to the Company’s Articles of Association and procedures issued by Capital Market Authority for holding General Meeting through electronic platform, we would like to draw your attention on the following points:

- A legal person, exclusively, has the right to delegate a natural person to attend the meeting of the General Assembly and vote on his behalf through electronic portal, provided that this natural person has an investor number with the MCD.
- Voting on any of the items on the agenda begins no more than three (3) days before the date of the meeting until the end of the voting process on the day of the meeting. If the shareholder’s shares are increased or decreased, the voting process will be cancelled, and the shareholder will have to vote again on the day of the meeting.

If you have any queries you may please contact Mr. Yousuf Ismail Al Kamali on telephone 26751763 / 4 / 5 Ext: 117.

Chairperson	Auditor	Legal Advisor
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UNITED FRONT

Nitish Kumar calls for united opposition against BJP for 2024 general elections in India

PATNA: Moments after Nitish Kumar was sworn in as Bihar Chief Minister on Wednesday after parting ways with the BJP and joining the Grand Alliance to form government in the state, he called for a united Opposition ahead of the General elections scheduled to be held in 2024.

Kumar parted ways with the BJP alleging that the party was trying to break the JD(U), and joined hands with the political opponents RJD in the Mahagathabandhan on Tuesday. Speculations have been rife regarding his future with his ‘national ambitions’ doing rounds in the political sphere since his move against the NDA, which whom he had reunited in 2017. However, the Chief Minister rejected any such speculations after being sworn in today.

“Those who came to power in 2014, will they be victorious in 2024? I would like all (opposition) to be united for 2024. I am not a contender for any such post (on PM post),” he said while speaking to the reporters here.

Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Kumar said that the party made the decision together to leave the BJP.

“The party made the decision together (to leave BJP). I did not want to be the Chief Minister after the previous election. But a lot of pressure was put on me to handle the post. When there were talks with them (points towards Tejashwi Yadav), the decision was made. whether I will stay or not (till 2024)...they can say what they want, but I will not live in the year 2014,” the Chief Minister said.



Nitish Kumar was sworn in as the Chief Minister while RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav became his Deputy in the Bihar government.

Earlier today, Union Minister Nityanand Rai, while addressing the speculations about Nitish Kumar’s national ambitions after quitting the NDA, said that the JD(U) leader will “never be the Prime Minister” of the country, adding that post of the head of the government is “reserved” for PM Narendra Modi.

“The people of not only Bihar but the entire country have made up their minds and blessed Narendra Modi to be the prime minister for lifetime. The people of this country will not accept anybody else as their PM if there is Narendra Modi. He will never be the Prime Minister. The post of PM

is reserved for PM Modi because the poor got its massiha for the first time,” Rai said.

Tarkishore Prasad, who was Nitish’s Deputy in the NDA government from which Kumar walked out yesterday, said that the people of Bihar will give a “be-fitting reply” if a leader acts as per his “own personal ambitions”.

“In 2017 Nitish Kumar said RJD trying to break JD(U). Yesterday, he said BJP trying to break his party. His decision to split from BJP was well-thought-out. If a leader acts as per his own personal ambitions, Bihar will give a befitting reply,” Prasad said.

BJP leader Shahnawaz Husain said that Kumar joined hands with the ones who “insulted” him and left the ones who “gave him respect”. **ANI**

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Trump to face questioning from New York State attorney general’s office

Trump had sat for numerous depositions over the years, and he fought for months to avoid the testimony

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump will face questioning from the New York State attorney general’s office this week, a new turn into the civil investigation.

Trump had sat for numerous depositions over the years, he fought for months to avoid the testimony, which could shape the outcome of the investigation into the former president and his family real estate business, the Trump Organization, The New York Times reported. Earlier, on Monday, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) raided Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home in Palm Beach, Florida.



QUESTIONING: Since March 2019, Attorney General Letitia James, and her lawyers have scrutinised whether Trump and his company fraudulently inflated the value of his hotels, golf clubs and other assets.

Trump in a statement said, “My beautiful home, Mar-A-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, is currently under siege, raided, and occupied by a large group of FBI agents.”

Since March 2019, the attorney

general, Letitia James, and her lawyers have scrutinized whether Trump and his company fraudulently inflated the value of his hotels, golf clubs and other assets.

Early this year, James said in

a court filing that the company’s business practices were “fraudulent or misleading,” but added that her office needed to question Trump and two of his adult children to determine who was

responsible for that conduct.

The deposition of Trump will follow similar questioning of Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr. in recent days. It will represent the final stage of James’s investigation, which Trump has dismissed as a politically motivated witch hunt, reported The New York times.

In January, Trump handed over 15 boxes of materials to government record-keepers amid concern he may have violated the Presidential Records Act.

This comes as the January 6 select committee’s latest public hearing said that then US President Donald Trump chose not to intervene as a mob of his supporters attacked the Capitol.

However, the former president declined to say why the FBI agents were at Mar-a-Lago. He confirmed that the raid was unannounced and added “they even broke into my safe.”

He called the raid by the FBI a Witch Hunt and said that there are dark times for the US stressing that the agency seized the “home of the 45th President of the United States.”

“Nothing like this has ever happened to a President of the United States before. After working and cooperating with the relevant Government agencies, this unan-

nounced raid on my home was not necessary or appropriate. It is prosecutorial misconduct, the weaponization of the Justice System, and an attack by Radical Left Democrats who desperately don’t want me to run for President in 2024, especially based on recent polls, and who will likewise do anything to stop Republicans and Conservatives in the upcoming Midterm Elections,” Trump added.

He termed the incident an “assault that could only take place in broken, Third-World Countries” and noted that “sadly, America has now become one of those countries, corrupt at a level not seen before.”

Expressing shock, the former President said, “They even broke into my safe!”

He even went ahead and compared the incident with Watergate Scandal. “What is the difference between this and Watergate, where operatives broke into the Democrat National Committee?”

The Watergate scandal was a major political scandal in the history of the United States of America. It occurred during the administration of US President Richard Nixon from 1972 to 1974 and led to his resignation. **ANI**

US RATIFICATION

Biden signs ratification of Finland, Sweden bids for entry into NATO

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed the US ratification of bids by Finland and Sweden to enter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), taking one step closer in response to Russia’s special military operation in Ukraine.

Taking to Twitter, President Biden said, “Finland and Sweden will make NATO stronger. Today, I signed the U.S. Instruments of Ratification, making the United States the 23rd Ally to approve their membership in NATO.” Earlier this month, Senators voted 95-1 in favour of the Finland and Sweden accession, making the US, the 23rd of the 30 Nato countries give a formal endorsement.

“Just a few months ago, I welcomed the President of Finland and Prime Minister of Sweden to the White House to demonstrate the strong support the US had for both the country’s decision to apply for membership in the NATO,” Joe Biden said while addressing presser.

Biden praised Finland and Sweden, saying that both have strong democratic institutions, strong militaries and strong and transparent economies” that would help to bolster NATO.

Ahead of the ceremony, the White House said that US President talked with Prime Minister



Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and President Sauli Niinisto of Finland.

“President Biden congratulated them on the US Senate’s swift, bipartisan ratification of their NATO accession protocols, and welcomed Finland and Sweden moving one step closer to becoming NATO Allies,” the statement reads.

US President affirmed that the US will work with Finland and Sweden to remain vigilant against any threats to our shared security and to deter and confront aggression or threat of aggression.

Earlier, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s (NATO) 30 allies signed accession protocols for Sweden and Finland, kick-starting the process to admit the two Nordic countries into the alliance. **ANI**

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ARRIVAL IN THAILAND

Former Sri Lankan President likely to visit Thailand

COLOMBO: Former Sri Lankan president Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was ousted from power in July, is expected to arrive in Thailand on Thursday after he fled the island nation last month following a large-scale uprising, media reports said.

Gotabaya is expected to leave Singapore and go to Bangkok, the reports added. These reports come a few days after the Sri Lanka government reportedly requested Singapore authorities to allow former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to stay in the country, the Daily Mirror reported. Rajapaksa, who is currently staying in Singapore, is expected to depart the country on August 11 when his visa expires. The former president was issued a 14-day visit pass when he arrived at the Changi Airport in Singapore. **ANI**

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Big spending FC Barcelona taking economic risk before pressure season

The club presided over by Joan Laporta has spent more than anyone in Spain over the summer after last season's disappointing campaign



MADRID: While reigning champions Real Madrid has been content to make just cosmetic touches to its squad, FC Barcelona has taken an entirely different approach, spending big in what can only be described as a major risk and one which could further risk its economic future.

The club presided over by Joan Laporta has spent more than any-

one in Spain over the summer after last season's disappointing campaign, and spent big despite debts of over 1.3 billion euros.

Spain's strict Financial Fair Play rules mean that sides have to be able to fulfil a series of economic criteria to include players in their squad, and in order to comply with these rules, Barcelona has activated what it calls 'palancas' (economic levers) to not just make signings, but also include them in

the squad for La Liga.

So far, the club has sold 25 percent of its TV rights for 25 years and also 25 percent of Barca Studios in order to be able to inscribe the summer arrivals Robert Lewandowski, Franck Kessie, Jules Kounde, Raphinha and Andres Christensen, along with Ousmane Dembele and Sergi Roberto, who also count as new signings as they renewed their contracts.

With Barca due to kick off its La

Liga campaign at home to Rayo Vallecano on Saturday, those asset sales still aren't enough for the players to be included and the club will almost certainly have to sell a further 24 percent of Barca Studios to raise the money.

It's clear that Laporta is taking a big risk, hoping that by selling off assets to build a winning side he will be able to ensure success on the pitch and then increase revenue to the club by going a long way

in Europe, filling the stands in the Camp Nou and ensuring greater shirt sales.

The early signs are hopeful: Xavi Hernandez's side improved following his arrival last November and has played well in pre-season, where it claimed a morale-boosting win over Real Madrid.

Lewandowski should provide goals, Raphinha adds further options in attack, while Kounde and Christensen should boost a defense that struggled at times last season, and Kessie has showed some neat touches in midfield.

The squad doesn't appear to be finished yet, with left-back Marcos Alonso set to join from Chelsea to provide back up for Jordi Alba, although there are still doubts over the future of midfielder Frenkie de Jong, who could leave before the end of August.

However, despite all the signings, Ansu Fati and Pedri could be two of Barca's key players this season, with Fati finally regaining full fitness after two years of struggles with knee and muscle problems, while Pedri looks to be back after muscle problems

dogged him all last season (perhaps due to the 70-plus games he played in the previous year.)

With 18-year-old Gavi also now a fixture in the first team, the young guns are the players who will be behind Barca's season.

Like Real Madrid, Barca will be affected by the FIFA World Cup in November and December, with Fati, Pedri, Gavi, Eric Garcia, Busquets and Alba all likely to be called up for Spain, while Raphinha, Lewandowski, Dembele, Kounde, de Jong, Sergino Dest and Christensen are also likely to be away. A packed fixture list and no rest for key players will certainly not help Xavi's job this season, but Barca do look to have more options in more positions than their rivals. Bearing in mind that, despite some dreadful performances last season, they still finished second in La Liga, an improved squad should present a serious challenge for the title this time around, but with the club's economic future at stake, they also need to go a long way in Europe, otherwise there could be more asset stripping to come. [xinhua](#)

ASIA CUP

CRICKET COMMUNITY MOURNS

Oman Cricket to host Asia Cup 2022 qualifiers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Qualifiers of the Asia Cup 2022 will be hosted by Oman from 20 August to 24 August 2022 at the Oman Cricket Academy Ground in Al Amerat. UAE, Kuwait, Hong Kong and Singapore will be competing for a single berth in the marquee event which includes test playing nations India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Pankaj Khimji, Chairman of Oman Cricket and Vice President of the ACC was delighted by this decision of the ACC with help from the Sri Lanka

Cricket and said, "We are indeed grateful on being chosen as hosts to stage the Qualifiers of the Asia Cup 2022. We assure Oman to be at the top of its hospitality and its facilities for all the teams in the Qualifiers. We also offer sincere thanks to ACC and SLC to select Oman as the venue for the Qualifiers of ACC's marquee event." Teams for the Qualifiers of the Asia Cup booked their berth contesting in the ACC Western Region 2020 - UAE and Kuwait hosted by Oman & ACC Eastern Region 2020 - Singapore and Hong Kong hosted by Thailand.

Cricket fraternity mourns demise of former umpire Rudi Koertzen

NEW DELHI: Cricketers across the world expressed their grief and shock at the passing of former international umpire Rudi Koertzen, who died on Tuesday after succumbing to injuries sustained in a car accident.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced that former international umpire Rudi Koertzen passed away at 73 after succumbing to injuries sustained in a car accident on Tuesday morning. "Rudi Koertzen officiated in 331 international



matches, the second-most by any umpire. Farewell to one of the earliest members of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires," tweeted ICC.

Recalling his first meeting with

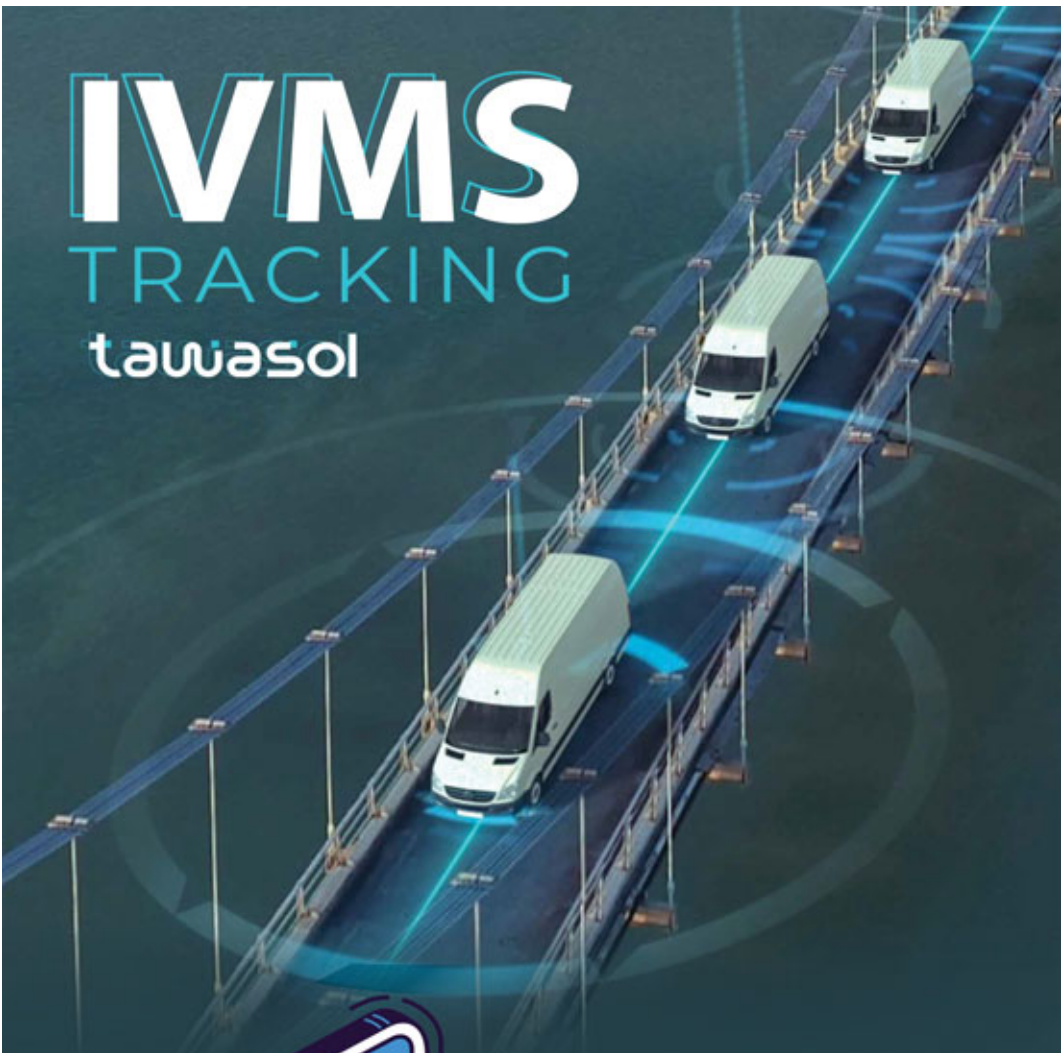
Koertzen, Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar also tweeted, "I first met Rudi in 1992 & we became good friends over the years. He was a warm-hearted person who always greeted players with a big smile. He commanded respect from one & all. My heartfelt condolences to his loved ones. He'll be dearly missed."

Legendary South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis expressed his sadness at the passing of Koertzen. "Such sad news hearing the

passing of umpire Rudi Koertzen. One of the gentlemen of the sport RIP Oom Rudi," he tweeted.

Legendary Australian wicket-keeper Adam Gilchrist also paid tribute to the South African umpire, tweeting, "Two moments in my career I'm most often asked about. Quick ton v England in Perth and walking in WCup Semi v SL. Umpire on both occasions was Rudi Koertzen. Iconic figure in the game. A great umpire and great friend. RIP mate." [ANI](#)







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MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER

The MSX index closed at 4,652.43 points, up by 0.05 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.02 per cent at 467.01 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser.

STATISTICS

Saudi's Industrial Production Index rises by 20.8%

RIYADH: The Industrial Production Index (IPI) in June 2022 increased by 20.8 per cent compared to June 2021.

The IPI continued to show positive growth rates due to the high production in mining, quarrying, and manufacturing activity, according to the General Authority for Statistics' (GASTAT) monthly report.

In June 2022, mining and quarrying grew by 19.2 per cent compared to June 2021. The manufacturing activity increased by 29.3 per cent compared to the same month of the previous year. The electricity and gas supplies decreased by 1.2 per cent.

Compared to May 2022, the overall IPI increased by 1.0 per cent. Mining and quarrying showed a month-on-month growth rate of 1.0 per cent. The manufacturing sector stabilised at the level of the previous month; electricity and gas supplies increased by 9.3 per cent.

The IPI is an economic indicator that reflects the relative changes of the volume of industrial output. It is calculated based on the industrial production survey. The IPI data is based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities (ISIC 4). This index is published on a monthly basis. -SPA

CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY

India to remove cap on airfares from August 31

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Civil Aviation of India has decided to withdraw the fare cap on air tickets imposed during the initial days of COVID-19 in 2020. The cap on fares will be removed from August 31, 2022.

"After review of the current status of Scheduled Domestic Operations viz-a-viz passenger demand for air travel, it has been decided to remove the fare bands notified from time to time regarding the airfares with effect from 31.08.2022," the ministry tweeted on Wednesday while attaching an order copy. The cap on airfares was imposed by the ministry on May 21, 2020.

Delhi-Mumbai flight ticket was then priced between Rs 3,500 and Rs 10,000.

The flight duration was divided into seven categories - 0-30 minutes, 30-60 minutes, 60-90 minutes, 90-120 minutes, 120-150 minutes, 150-180 minutes, and 180-210 minutes

"The decision to remove airfare caps has been taken after careful analysis of daily demand and prices of air turbine fuel," Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia tweeted. "Stabilisation has set in and we are certain that the sector is poised for growth in domestic traffic in the near future."

The order by the Civil Aviation Ministry said the airlines/operators shall, however, ensure that the guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19 are strictly adhered to and appropriate behaviour is strictly enforced. Domestic aviation operations have been seeing a rise with all COVID protocols in place. On Tuesday, 632,187 passengers flew in domestic flights, the ministry said. -ANI

FIRST TIME SINCE 2018

Thailand raises interest rate

BANGKOK: The Bank of Thailand raised its key interest rate for the first time in over three-and-a-half years in a bid to tame inflation. The move comes in line with economists' expectations due to the current economic situation in Thailand and all over the world. The Monetary Policy Committee voted 6 to 1 to raise the policy rate by a quarter basis point to 0.75 per cent, the central bank said. -DNA

STRENGTHENING TIES

Yemeni business delegation visits Madayn

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Hamad bin Hamoud Al Qasabi, Acting CEO of the Public Establishment for Industrial Estates (Madayn), received at the headquarters of Madayn, Hassan Al Kbous, Chairman of the Board of Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Capital Secretariat in the Republic of Yemen.

The meeting discussed ways to strengthen and develop economic and investment ties between the two sides, as well as highlighted the available investment opportunities in the industrial sector.

The delegation was also introduced to the incentives and facilities offered by Madayn to investors and business owners across Madayn's network of industrial cities.



OMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY S.A.O.G

Chairman's Report and Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Financial Results for the period ended 30 June 2022

Respected Shareholders,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of the results of the operations for the 6 months' period ended 30th June 2022.

Operating performance:

REVENUE

Group Revenue for the period ended June 2022 has reached RO 1,294.6 million compared to RO 1,194.1 million for the corresponding period 2021. The Group revenue include acquired business of Zain Group, which contributed revenues of RO 1,022 Mn.

Omantel (Domestic performance) Revenues reached RO 276.8 million compared to RO 265.7 million for the corresponding period 2021. Revenues growth mainly achieved in Mobile Postpaid and Fixed Broadband revenues.

EXPENSES

Group's total Operating expenses increased to RO 1,083.2 Mn compared to RO 1,007.6 Mn for the corresponding period 2021, an increase of 7.5 %.

NET PROFIT

The Group Net Profit after tax has grown by 18.4 % touching RO 128.6 Mn compared to RO 108.6 Mn in 2021. After adjusting for minority interest the net profit for the period is RO 34.6 Mn compared to RO 32.4 Mn in 2021, an increase of 6.8 %

Oman Domestic operation Net Profit for the six months ended June 2022 stands at RO 37.3 Mn compared to RO 36.1 Mn in the previous period. Increase in Net profit is predominantly on account of sustainable revenue growth in Postpaid Mobile revenue (11.7 %) and Fixed Broad band revenue (2.1 %), cost optimization measures, reduction in impairment provision against receivables (contributed by healthy collections) and depreciation.

Group Earning per Share (EPS) for the period ended June 2022 is RO 0.046 compared to RO 0.043 for the corresponding period of year 2021.

SUBSCRIBER BASE

The total domestic subscriber base as of June 2022 (including mobile and fixed businesses) was 3.166 Mn (excluding Mobile Resellers) compared to 3.215 Mn of the corresponding period of the previous year, a decline of 1.5 % over the last period. Total subscriber base with mobile resellers reached 3.719 Mn compared to 3.8 Mn last year.

SUBSIDIARY COMPANIES:

1) Mobile Telecommunication Company (Zain):

Zain Group revenues reached RO 1,022.4 Mn as of June 2022 compared to the corresponding period revenues of RO 932.4 Mn. EBITDA stands at RO 394.5 Mn, compared to the corresponding period EBITDA of RO 385.4 Mn recording a decline of 2.3 %. Net profit stands at RO 135.4 Mn compared to RO 115.3 Mn of the previous period.

Total customer base of Zain Group increased by 7 % to 52 Mn compared to 48 Mn of the previous period.

MARKET SHARE

Omantel's Mobile market share (including Mobile Resellers) is 50.4 % with a revenue share of 58.6 %. The Fixed Telephone (post & pre-paid) market share is 71.1 % with a revenue market share of 80.3 %.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION

We take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to our shareholders and loyal customers for their continued support that enabled us to achieve these excellent results. Also, we wholeheartedly appreciate the sincere contribution of the Executive Management and Employees for the performance in the challenging situation. With your support, we are confident that Omantel will continue its good performance and will be able to reach new heights of excellence. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff, we are honored to express our sincere gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq for His visionary leadership. We pray to Almighty Allah to grant him long live, health and welfare to achieve more progress, prosperity and welfare for Oman and its people.

CHAIRMAN

Note:

1. The unaudited consolidated financial statement will be delivered to any shareholders or other interested party who requests them, within 5 days of the written request. The request must indicate preference for Arabic or English
2. Request may be addressed to Secretary, Board of Directors, Omantel P.O. Box 789, P.C. 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman. Fax: 242 40 586.

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022 (Unaudited)

	Unaudited 30 June 2022 RO'000	Audited 31 Dec 2021 RO '000
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and bank balances	359,787	390,214
Trade and other receivables	1,092,656	972,305
Contract assets	103,964	90,679
Inventories	70,292	79,853
Investment securities at FVTPL	46,318	43,329
Assets of disposal group classified as held for sale	290,449	31,589
	1,963,466	1,607,969
Non-current assets		
Contract assets	65,181	52,937
Investment securities at FVTPL	24,962	25,522
Investment securities at FVOCI	26,664	22,438
Investment securities at amortised cost	1,000	1,000
Investments in associates and joint venture	130,786	114,288
Other non-current assets	66,311	83,463
Right of use of assets	181,163	225,860
Property and equipment	1,750,907	1,982,990
Intangible assets and goodwill	3,425,368	3,450,987
	5,672,342	5,959,485
	7,635,808	7,567,454
Liabilities and Equity		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	1,332,026	1,354,169
Deferred revenue	153,571	139,043
Income tax payables	35,147	45,479
Borrowings	377,782	579,725
Lease liabilities	30,462	46,277
Liabilities of disposal group classified as held for sale	109,840	3,249
	2,038,828	2,167,942
Non-current liabilities		
Borrowings	2,112,212	1,823,187
Lease liabilities	171,005	202,379
Other non-current liabilities	532,957	606,893
	2,816,174	2,632,459
Equity		
Attributable to the Company's shareholders		
Share capital	75,000	75,000
Capital contribution	7,288	7,288
Capital reserve	36,893	36,893
Legal reserve	25,000	25,000
Voluntary reserve	49,875	49,875
Foreign currency translation reserve	(89,727)	(88,590)
Investment fair valuation reserve	(2,372)	(2,375)
Other reserves	2,779	(4,217)
Retained earnings	473,694	480,331
	578,430	579,205
Non-controlling interests	2,202,376	2,187,848
Total equity	2,780,806	2,767,053
Total Liabilities and Equity	7,635,808	7,567,454

Condensed Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss – 30 June (Unaudited)

	Three months ended 30 June		Six months ended 30 June	
	2022 RO'000	2021 RO '000	2022 RO'000	2021 RO '000
Continuing operations				
Revenue	659,806	591,376	1,294,610	1,194,085
Cost of sales	(234,346)	(175,606)	(451,817)	(364,282)
Operating and administrative expenses	(166,289)	(171,546)	(336,977)	(329,719)
Depreciation and amortization	(138,932)	(146,675)	(275,708)	(293,422)
Expected credit loss on financial assets (ECL)	(8,053)	(8,379)	(18,740)	(20,133)
Interest income	1,497	962	3,087	3,263
Investment income	582	2,462	2,745	3,274
Share of results of associates and joint venture	915	693	2,866	1,069
Other (expense)/ income	(4,993)	3,957	(8,562)	8,746
Gain on sale and lease back transaction	-	782	-	782
Finance costs	(36,256)	(35,132)	(68,771)	(68,756)
(Loss)/ gain from currency revaluation	(657)	(2,902)	2,604	(9,423)
Net monetary gain/ (loss)	-	908	-	(783)
Profit before income tax from continuing operations	73,274	60,900	145,337	124,701
Taxation	(5,576)	(8,341)	(14,812)	(16,107)
Profit for the period from continuing operations	67,698	52,559	130,525	108,594
Discontinued operations				
Profit for the period from discontinued operations	(1,569)	-	(1,905)	-
Profit for the period	66,129	52,559	128,620	108,594
Attributable to:				
Shareholders of the Company	16,108	15,334	34,603	32,433
Non-controlling interests	50,021	37,225	94,017	76,161
	66,129	52,559	128,620	108,594
Earnings per share				
Basic and diluted – RO				
From continuing and discontinued operations	0.021	0.020	0.046	0.043



MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

A'Saffa Foods, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,652.43 points, up by 0.05 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.02 per cent at 467.01 points. A'Saffa Foods, up 10 per cent, was the top gainer while Al Batinah Development Company, down 9.09 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of National Finance were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Oman Telecom were the most active in terms of turnover. A total number of 546 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR2.08 million, with more than 10.69 million shares changing hands. Out of 51 traded securities, 17 advanced, 13 declined, and 21 remained unchanged. At the session close, domestic investors were net buyers for OMR526,000 while GCC & Arab investors were net sellers for OMR524,000, followed by foreign investors for OMR2,000 worth of shares. Financial Index closed at 7,424.26 points, up 0.13 per cent. Prices of Taageer Finance, Al Madina Takaful, Al Sharqia Investment, Sohar International Bank and Ahli Bank were up by

3.09 per cent, 2.25 per cent, 1.19 per cent, 0.91 per cent and 0.74 per cent respectively. Prices of Al Batinah Development Company, Bank Nizwa and HSBC Bank Oman were down by 9.09 per cent, 0.99 per cent and 0.66 per cent respectively. Industrial Index closed at 5,984.68 points, up 0.85 per cent. Prices of A'Saffa Foods, Dhofar Cattle Feed, Al Anwar Ceramics, Voltamp Energy and Jazeera Steel Products were up by 10 per cent, 8.89 per cent, 2.44 per cent, 2 per cent and 1.99 per cent respectively. Prices of Gulf International Chemicals, Gulf Mushroom Products and Raysut Cement were down by 8.16 per cent, 3.7 per cent and 0.52 per cent respectively. Services Index was down by 0.54 per cent before closing at 1,689.16 points. Prices of National Gas and Barka Desalination were up by 1.43 per cent and 0.74 per cent respectively. Prices of SMN Power Holding, Sembcorp Salalah, Ooredoo, Al Suwadi Power and Oman National Engineering were down by 4.76 per cent, 2.67 per cent, 2.44 per cent, 2.13 per cent and 0.89 per cent respectively. — United Securities

OMAN STOCKS

INDICES

Index.....High.....Low.....Value.....Prev. Value.....Diff.....Diff%

MSX 30 INDEX.....4,655.90.....4,642.10.....4,652.43.....4,650.25.....2.18.....0.05

FINANCIAL INDEX.....7,428.15.....7,406.66.....7,424.26.....7,414.92.....9.34.....0.13

Industry Index.....5,994.99.....5,934.02.....5,984.65.....5,934.02.....50.66.....0.85

Services Index.....1,708.97.....1,685.21.....1,689.16.....1,688.33.....-9.17.....-0.54

MSX Shariah Index.....468.80.....466.87.....467.01.....466.89.....0.11.....0.02

MSX TR INDEX.....5,872.17.....5,854.76.....5,867.79.....5,865.04.....2.75.....0.05

FINANCIAL TR IDX.....7,772.72.....7,750.24.....7,768.65.....7,758.88.....9.78.....0.13

SERVICES TR IDX.....1,774.61.....1,749.93.....1,754.04.....1,763.56.....-9.52.....-0.54

INDUSTRIAL TR IDX.....6,221.80.....6,158.51.....6,211.09.....6,158.51.....52.58.....0.85

Trading Summary

Volume.....Turnover.....Trades.....Market Cap.....Up.....Down.....Equal.....Sec. Traded

10,699,989.....2,075,654.....546.....23,240,946,986.....17.....13.....21.....51

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

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

REGULAR MARKET

OM0000003281 TAAGEER FINANCE.....424,440.....42,177.....12.....0.098.....0.100.....0.098.....0.100.....0.097.....0.003.....3.093.....0.100.....0.100.....0.106.....0.100.....25,866,180

OM0000002168 AL ANWAR CERAMIC.....284,345.....118,562.....24.....0.416.....0.420.....0.416.....0.420.....0.410.....0.010.....2.439.....0.420.....0.412.....0.416.....0.100.....92,400,000

OM0000002176 JAZEERA STEEL PROD.....20,949.....6,452.....7.....0.308.....0.308.....0.306.....0.308.....0.302.....0.006.....1.987.....0.306.....0.306.....0.308.....0.100.....38,468,572

OM0000002440 AL SHARQIA INV.....128,413.....10,923.....7.....0.086.....0.086.....0.085.....0.085.....0.084.....0.001.....1.190.....0.085.....0.085.....0.087.....0.100.....7,650,000

OM0000003398 SOHAR INT BANK.....260,000.....28,860.....7.....0.111.....0.111.....0.111.....0.111.....0.110.....0.001.....0.909.....0.111.....0.101.....0.111.....0.100.....331,896,914

OM0000002200 AHLI BANK.....33,000.....4,317.....2.....0.137.....0.137.....0.137.....0.137.....0.136.....0.001.....0.735.....0.137.....0.134.....0.137.....0.100.....387,103,073

OM0000002796 BANK MUSCAT.....518,712.....316,434.....37.....0.612.....0.616.....0.608.....0.616.....0.612.....0.004.....0.654.....0.616.....0.612.....0.616.....0.100.....231,970,255

OM0000001749 OMAN CEMENT.....32,432.....9,284.....6.....0.288.....0.288.....0.286.....0.287.....0.286.....0.001.....0.350.....0.287.....0.285.....0.291.....0.100.....94,960,468

OM0000001525 OMAN INVST&FIN.....26,100.....3,476.....5.....0.135.....0.135.....0.133.....0.133.....0.133.....0.000.....0.000.....0.133.....0.133.....0.133.....0.100.....31,521,000

OM0000001533 OMNIVEST.....3,940.....1,099.....1.....0.332.....0.332.....0.332.....0.332.....0.332.....0.000.....0.000.....0.332.....0.332.....0.332.....0.100.....221,897,321

OM0000001707 OMAN CABLES INDSTR.....18,500.....17,538.....2.....0.948.....0.948.....0.948.....0.948.....0.948.....0.000.....0.000.....0.948.....0.940.....0.940.....0.100.....85,035,600

OM0000002226 ALJAZEERA SERVICES.....5,588.....1,618.....3.....0.289.....0.290.....0.289.....0.290.....0.290.....0.000.....0.000.....0.290.....0.275.....0.290.....0.100.....177,49,239

OM0000003026 OMAN TELECOM.....417,465.....398,995.....27.....0.932.....0.932.....0.924.....0.932.....0.932.....0.000.....0.000.....0.932.....0.928.....0.932.....0.100.....699,000,000

OM0000003125 GLOBAL INV.H.....377,997.....24,310.....18.....0.065.....0.065.....0.064.....0.064.....0.064.....0.000.....0.000.....0.064.....0.064.....0.064.....0.100.....12,800,000

OM0000003224 RENAISSANCE SER.....1,500.....732.....2.....0.482.....0.500.....0.482.....0.500.....0.500.....0.000.....0.000.....0.500.....0.470.....0.500.....0.100.....118,205,000

OM0000005005 ALMAHA CERAMICS.....14,100.....6,204.....5.....0.440.....0.440.....0.440.....0.440.....0.440.....0.000.....0.000.....0.440.....0.430.....0.450.....0.100.....24,200,000

OM0000001152 OMAN NAT. ENG.....109,805.....12,260.....8.....0.112.....0.112.....0.111.....0.111.....0.112.....-0.001.....-0.883.....0.111.....0.111.....0.112.....0.100.....15,540,000

OM0000003968 OOREDOO.....1,000.....400.....1.....0.400.....0.400.....0.400.....0.400.....0.410.....-0.010.....-2.439.....0.400.....0.392.....0.402.....0.100.....260,377,692

Total.....18.....2,677,386.....993,754.....174.....

Parallel Market

OM0000002804 ASAFFA FOODS.....1,014,051.....232,108.....55.....0.217.....0.231.....0.217.....0.231.....0.210.....0.021.....10.000.....0.231.....0.231.....0.231.....0.100.....277,200,000

OM0000001301 DHOFAR CATTLE.....430,039.....41,673.....36.....0.094.....0.098.....0.094.....0.098.....0.090.....0.008.....8.889.....0.098.....0.094.....0.099.....0.100.....7,923,300

OM0000007910 AMAN REAL ESTATE.....100.....9.....1.....0.093.....0.093.....0.093.....0.093.....0.090.....0.003.....3.333.....0.093.....0.090.....0.093.....0.100.....18,600,000

OM0000004788 MADINA TAKAFUL.....206,000.....18,780.....14.....0.090.....0.092.....0.090.....0.091.....0.089.....0.002.....2.247.....0.091.....0.091.....0.091.....0.100.....15,925,000

OM0000005661 VOLTAMP ENERGY.....354,085.....36,182.....22.....0.101.....0.105.....0.100.....0.102.....0.100.....0.002.....2.000.....0.102.....0.099.....0.102.....0.100.....8,303,081

OM0000001160 NATIONAL GAS.....441,500.....62,263.....26.....0.140.....0.143.....0.140.....0.142.....0.140.....0.002.....1.429.....0.142.....0.143.....0.142.....0.100.....12,070,000

OM0000003521 GULFAR ENGINEER.....211,000.....30,665.....15.....0.141.....0.147.....0.141.....0.147.....0.145.....0.002.....1.379.....0.147.....0.145.....0.147.....0.100.....29,839,008

OM0000001319 ALUMINIUM PROD.....52,000.....4,316.....5.....0.083.....0.083.....0.083.....0.083.....0.082.....0.001.....1.220.....0.083.....0.083.....0.083.....0.100.....2,798,430

OM0000008710 BARKA DESALINATION.....39,200.....5,370.....3.....0.137.....0.137.....0.137.....0.137.....0.136.....0.001.....0.738.....0.137.....0.136.....0.137.....0.100.....10,346,514

OM0000001020 OMAN CHROMITE.....38.....94.....1.....2.470.....2.470.....2.470.....2.470.....2.470.....0.000.....0.000.....2.470.....0.000.....2.470.....1.000.....7,410,000

OM0000001566 OMAN FISHERIES.....87,476.....9,556.....18.....0.114.....0.114.....0.109.....0.111.....0.111.....0.000.....0.000.....0.111.....0.109.....0.111.....0.100.....20,210,702

OM0000001590 MUSCAT FINANCE.....508,744.....34,596.....21.....0.069.....0.069.....0.068.....0.068.....0.068.....0.000.....0.000.....0.068.....0.068.....0.068.....0.100.....20,885,950

OM0000001772 ALANWAR INVESTMENT.....326,800.....25,657.....13.....0.078.....0.080.....0.078.....0.078.....0.078.....0.000.....0.000.....0.078.....0.078.....0.080.....0.100.....15,600,000

OM0000002549 BANK DHOFAR.....200,000.....28,000.....3.....0.140.....0.140.....0.140.....0.140.....0.140.....0.000.....0.000.....0.140.....0.134.....0.142.....0.100.....419,489,201

OM0000002848 NATIONAL FINANCE.....1,393,019.....149,990.....2.....0.115.....0.115.....0.115.....0.115.....0.116.....0.000.....0.000.....0.116.....0.116.....0.127.....0.100.....62,783,733

OM0000004925 ALBATINAH POWER.....125,250.....5,641.....11.....0.045.....0.046.....0.045.....0.045.....0.045.....0.000.....0.000.....0.045.....0.045.....0.049.....0.100.....30,360,634

OM0000005260 OMAN ARAB BANK.....677,666.....81,320.....31.....0.120.....0.120.....0.120.....0.120.....0.120.....0.000.....0.000.....0.120.....0.118.....0.120.....0.100.....200,329,200

OM0000005963 PHOENIX POWER.....26,000.....1,201.....2.....0.046.....0.047.....0.046.....0.047.....0.047.....0.000.....0.000.....0.047.....0.047.....0.048.....0.100.....68,742,269

OM0000007884 MCT DESALINATE.....439.....50.....1.....0.115.....0.115.....0.115.....0.115.....0.115.....0.000.....0.000.....0.115.....0.112.....0.115.....0.100.....17,888,296

OM0000001418 RAYSUT CEMENT.....217,000.....41,830.....29.....0.188.....0.188.....0.188.....0.193.....0.194.....-0.001.....-0.515.....0.191.....0.191.....0.212.....0.100.....38,600,000

OM0000001517 HSBC BANK OMAN.....212,000.....31,942.....7.....0.151.....0.151.....0.149.....0.150.....0.151.....-0.001.....-0.662.....0.150.....0.148.....0.150.....0.100.....300,046,919

OM0000004420 BANK NIZWA.....302,974.....30,297.....4.....0.100.....0.100.....0.100.....0.100.....0.101.....0.001.....0.999.....0.100.....0.099.....0.100.....0.100.....223,885,303

OM0000009447 OMAN REP. FUND.....1,000.....70.....1.....0.070.....0.070.....0.070.....0.070.....0.071.....0.001.....1.408.....0.070.....0.069.....0.070.....0.100.....1,408,000

OM0000004933 AL SUWADI POWER.....104,000.....4,788.....2.....0.047.....0.047.....0.046.....0.046.....0.047.....0.001.....-2.128.....0.046.....0.046.....0.051.....0.100.....32,862,692

OM0000004735 SEMBICORP SALALAH.....58,900.....4,271.....7.....0.080.....0.080.....0.072.....0.073.....0.075.....-0.002.....-2.667.....0.073.....0.073.....0.074.....0.100.....69,683,752

OM0000002977 GULF MUSHROOM P.....4,500.....1,170.....4.....0.260.....0.260.....0.260.....0.260.....0.270.....-0.010.....-3.704.....0.260.....0.255.....0.260.....0.100.....10,817,270

OM0000004248 SMN POWER HOLDING.....636,731.....26,001.....25.....0.042.....0.042.....0.040.....0.040.....0.042.....-0.002.....-4.762.....0.040.....0.040.....0.046.....0.100.....7,985,424

OM0000002028 GULF INTCHIMEI.....20,000.....1,800.....2.....0.090.....0.090.....0.090.....0.090.....0.090.....0.000.....0.000.....0.090.....0.089.....0.101.....0.100.....1,890,000

OM0000002366 AL BATINAH DEV.....160,000.....8,000.....4.....0.050.....0.050.....0.050.....0.050.....0.055.....-0.005.....-9.091.....0.050.....0.050.....0.050.....0.100.....1,500,000

Total.....29.....7710,492.....917,645.....365.....



GRAPES

MAY IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH IN NUMEROUS WAYS

Dr John Pezzuto and his Western New England University team recently published studies that demonstrate “astonishing” effects of grape consumption as well as “remarkable” impacts on health and lifespans.

According to a study that was published in the journal ‘Foods’, western countries’ typical high-fat diet could be improved by including

grapes in the amount of just under two cups per day, which would result in a decrease in fatty liver and an increase in lifespan. Pezzuto, who has written over 600 scientific studies, noted that these studies give the adage “you are what you eat” a whole new meaning and that the work with grapes demonstrated real modifications in genetic expression. “That is genuinely amazing.”

Grapes increased levels of antioxidant genes and postponed natural death in conjunction with a high-fat diet.

Pezzuto said his best estimate is that the change seen in the study would correspond to an additional 4-5 years in human life. He acknowledged that it is not an exact science to convert years of lifespan from a mouse to a human.

In a different study by Dr Pezzuto and his

group, which was published in the journal Antioxidants, it was discovered that grape consumption changed the way genes were expressed in the brain and improved behaviour recognition, both of which were hampered by a high-fat diet. A third investigation by a group under the direction of Dr Jeffrey Idle revealed that grapes alter not only the expression of genes but also the metabolism. -ANI



Grapes increased levels of antioxidant genes and postponed natural death in conjunction with a high-fat diet.



ROUND-UP



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Shell expands operations along Batinah Expressway, in Rusayl Industrial Area

These expansion plans come as part of the Shell Oman Marketing Company's ongoing efforts to cater to the changing needs of its customers and achieve its mission of making life's journeys better

MUSCAT: Shell Oman Marketing Company (SOM) announced the opening of new service stations, bringing its total network size to 205 strategic sites across Oman.

These expansion plans come as part of the company's ongoing efforts to cater to the changing needs



of its customers and achieve its mission of making life's journeys better.

SOM has inaugurated phase one of its third integrated service station on Batinah Expressway in Saham which is part of an earlier agreement signed with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, which stated to build four integrated service stations on the Batinah Expressway, three of which have been successfully inaugurated on this pivotal highway as follows: Saham Expressway service station in July, Twin Hoor service station in Suwaiq in June, and Liwa Expressway Service sta-

tion earlier in March, respectively.

The remaining service station in Suwaiq is scheduled to open within a few weeks.

In addition to these mega sites, another service station, Rusayl Industrial, has opened in Wilayat Al Seeb to serve motorists arriving from the Muscat Expressway and Al-Mawaleh.

"Service stations serve motorists' needs beyond simply refuelling their vehicles - we believe in the importance of providing our customers with a fully integrated journey through an evolving range of quality fuels, a welcoming and comfortable break, and a retail experience that offers them convenience, quality, and choices of energy solutions and non-fuel retailing. The first phase of these stations will provide a range of fuel products including our best performance and efficiency fuel; Shell V-Power that will enhance our customers' cars performance and clean up their engines, alongside Shell Mogas 95, Shell Mogas 91 and Shell Diesel.

"The Batinah Expressway and Rusayl stations are positioned in strategic locations where we intend to cater to the ever-evolving demands of our customers," said

Khalid Al Awaisi, Mobility General Manager at Shell Oman.

"The second phase of the new service stations on the Batinah Expressway will include a large commercial building that will house our popular convenience store - Shell Select, Shell Café and several other outlets and prayer spaces for both men and women.

"Prioritising customer convenience, the stations also have a dedicated lane for trucks and will also offer a wide range of Shell car care services. Through an inclusive list of amenities, SOM seeks to establish these service stations as a one-stop hub to provide motorists on the expressway with everything they need to make their life's journeys better," Al Awaisi said.

The Shell service stations on Batinah Expressway will also feature sustainability and energy efficiency solutions, including Shell Recharge service for Electric Vehicles as well as built-in solar panels, high insulating properties along with water recycling systems.

This step is aligned with the company's Powering Progress strategy and its commitment to supporting the nation to achieve the goals outlined in Oman's Vision 2040.

RECOGNITION

Badr Al Samaa Hospitals in Ruwi and Al Khoud re-accredited by JCI

MUSCAT: Badr Al Samaa Hospitals, Ruwi and Al Khoud recently retained prestigious Joint Commission International, USA (JCI) Accreditation. JCI, the gold standard of quality in healthcare, is the reflection of the group's unmatched commitment towards ensuring high standards in quality of care and patient safety.

Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals became the only healthcare group in the world to get six accreditations in six months. Recently Badr Al Samaa Hospitals, Barka, Sohar, Salalah and Nizwa were accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards International (ACHSI).

Badr Al Samaa Hospitals, Ruwi and Al Khoud have been accredited third time in a row; both facilities were first accredited in 2016. Both hospitals performed exceptionally well during the survey and did 100% compliance to the established standards of JCI. Survey was conducted based one more than one thousand one hundred and eighty measurable elements.

JCI is the largest and one of the highest quality international healthcare accreditation bodies of the world. It focuses on continuous improvement in patient safety and quality of healthcare by education, advisory, accreditation and certification services. This accreditation will be valid for 3 years. Both hospitals were assessed on



the recently revised JCI standards, 7th Edition, which is more comprehensive and stringent.

On this occasion the managing directors of Badr Al Samaa Group of Hospitals, Abdul Latheef and Dr P A Mohammed in a joint statement said, "We are overwhelmed by the outstanding performance of our two hospitals in JCI surveys. The accreditation process helps us to further improve our commitment towards ensuring high standards of quality and patient care. Our doctors, paramedics and allied services staff diligently follow the laid policies and protocols to ensure every healthcare function meets the standards. This accreditation has only increased the standards of care, our pricing is still the same and affordable."

Jacob Oommen, COO and Head

of the Quality Project said that it is an exceptional achievement for the group to bag six international accreditations in six months. This achievement was only possible because of the culture of quality and patient safety imbibed in their system and the commitment of their staff for ensuring highest standards of patient care.

Sam Varghese branch manager of Badr Al Samaa, Ruwi along with their Medical Director Dr Benny Panakkal and quality manager Dr Suhail CK led the Ruwi team and Jasimul Haque, branch manager of Badr Al Samaa, Al Khoud along with their Medical Director Dr Subramanya Uppunda and quality manager Dr Manikandan led the Al Khoud team. Lincy Kurian, Group Quality Coordinator and Shijo M Philip, Group Infection

Control Officer supported both teams in the survey.

JCI survey is very meticulous and stringent in their evaluation of quality and patient safety parameters set under 13 chapters, these chapters are divided in two categories line Patient Centered Standards and Health Care Organization Management Standards.

Surveyors of JCI comprises of Ann Watkins, Krishnan Sankaranarayan, Michael K Wood and Hasan Kus. In both culmination events held at Badr Al Samaa Hospital, Ruwi and Al Khoud, they appreciated the hospitality, cooperation and professionalism of everyone involved. They mentioned, in some areas and departments Badr Al Samaa's quality standards exceeded the ones laid by JCI, USA.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Double happiness for Indian School Maabela

MUSCAT: Indian School Al Maabela is extremely elated and honoured with the dream attainment of two of its students of middle school.

Aliya Siyad, a class 8 student of ISAM made the school proud by breaking the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records for maximum stencil art made by a teen.

She made 50 stencil art portraits of famous personalities Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sharukh Khan and Charlie Chaplin on different sheets of paper. She has displayed exceptional skills in stencil art by means of constant practice for years. Aliya is an inspiration for all the young-

sters of her age who dream of creating a niche for themselves in the field of creativity.

Prakriti Latheesh Nair, another gifted student of ISAM won Bronze Medal for 4X50 mtr medley relay in the 38th Sub Junior meet conducted by Tamil Nadu State Aquatic Association. It's a dream come true moment for Prakriti who worked relentlessly to fulfil her dream.

Both the talented students have won hearts all over the school and there has been a shower of praises for their achievement.

The entire ISAM family congratulates Aliya and Prakriti for their remarkable accomplishments and wish them much success in their future endeavours.

PREMIUM LAPTOP

Why new Huawei MateBook X Pro stands out as high-performance flagship laptop in Oman

MUSCAT: Flagship laptops are for those who want a laptop that doesn't compromise on anything.

What separates the flagship laptop from other good laptops is how it balances performance, efficiency, portability, and comfort. Its display should be easy on the eyes, bright, and sharp enough that you aren't distracted by jagged edges and visible pixels. It should be powerful for the heaviest tasks from intensive video editing to advanced gaming. It should be easy to carry around from place to place, and it should be able to last all day without needing to be plugged in. So if a company its laptop with the flagship title, it must have the best of everything be it design, screen resolution, performance, etc.

As a disruptive force in the conventional PC industry, Huawei is dedicated to building premium and smart flagship laptops, represented by the MateBook X Pro, for business people who have high requirements. Here's why we think the Huawei MateBook X Pro is the most elegant high-performance flagship laptop of 2022.

A screen like no other with a 3.1K Real Color FullView Display and an ultra-slim magnesium alloy body

The importance of having a good screen on a laptop cannot be overstated. It is the number one thing to look for in a premium high-end laptop. But the display on Huawei MateBook Pro is not just good; it exceeds expectations. The 14.2-inch OLED Huawei Real Colour FullView Display with 3.1K high resolution just makes everything look stunning.

It also has a high refresh rate of 90Hz, making every interaction feel buttery smooth and nimble. But that's not all; the colour accuracy of E < 1 with support for both the P3 and sRGB dual colour gamut means that this display is also suitable for colour-sensitive tasks like photo and video editing.

Furthermore, the Magnetically-controlled Nano Optical AR Layer effectively reduces reflection for greater clarity, even in extremely bright environments. Huawei MateBook X Pro has received TÜV Rheinland low blue light (Hardware Solution) certification because of its innovative luminous material that reduces the amount of blue light that is harmful to your eyes

Also, Huawei MateBook X Pro is a beauty to behold. It sports a



skin-soothing metallic body, delivering a unique matte surface and offering a comfortable grip. The Premium Edition of the Huawei MateBook X Pro's body is made of lightweight and durable magnesium alloy. It has undergone a Micro-arc Oxidation Coating process, which not only increases the hardness and wear-resistance of the product body but also makes it environmentally friendly. The surface of the cover has a unique matte finish that delivers a warm and comfortable touch. The laptop weighs just 1.26 kg, making it highly portable. You can choose from the two brand-new colours of the Premium Edition, Ink Blue and

White, as well as the Space Grey of the other edition.

Performance is front and centre

Huawei MateBook X Pro is designed to give you the best and most ultimate performance to help you breeze through your workload. It has the powerful 12th Gen Intel Core processor in its lightweight and stylish chassis and is powered by the advanced Intel Core™ i7-1260P. The latest generation processor uses a hybrid architecture that efficiently handles complex tasks. Moreover, the laptop allows you to switch to the 30W Performance Mode when you need the

extra boost by pressing the Fn + P key. This mode allows you to smoothly run multiple complex tasks at the same time.

The Intel® Iris® Xe graphics card provides outstanding graphics processing performance, making complex graphics processing effortless and smooth. The laptop comes with 16 GB LPDDR5 5200 MHz dual-channel high-speed memory and supports up to 1 TB NVMe PCIe SSD.

In addition, the upgraded Super Turbo technology facilitates in-depth optimisation at the system level for a quicker and smoother response. This contributes to a better experience, especially in video conferencing and heavy office scenarios

The Huawei MateBook X Pro take multi-device collaboration to a whole new level, thanks to the Super Device extraordinary features. It lets you effortlessly connect to other Huawei devices nearby and collaborate between them all. Simply place your Huawei FreeBuds Pro 2, mouse, keyboard, speakers and printers close to the Huawei MateBook X Pro, and the laptop will automatically discover them and provide a prompt for

quick and easy pairing.

In addition, with smartphones like the newly launched Huawei Mate Xs 2 and tablets like the new Huawei MatePad Pro, it is even more useful. Once you have wirelessly connected your phone, you will see its UI (User Interface) appear on your laptop screen, so you can operate it as if your smartphone and laptop are one device. You can access and edit your files, use and manage up to three phone app windows simultaneously, take video or audio calls from your phone through the Huawei MateBook X Pro, and even use your mouse and keyboard to control your smartphone.

In Mirror Mode, the laptop screen is projected onto the tablet, with both devices showing the same content: the tablet can benefit from the laptop's incredible performance; while the laptop can access the tablet's stylus, making drawing even easier.

With Extend Mode, the laptop display is extended to the tablet, allowing the tablet to serve as an external monitor so you can scroll and browse easily between the two - perfect for making notes during a class or meeting.



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ROUND-UP

Enjoy perfect weekend at Jumeirah’s newest luxury resort in Muscat

Jumeirah Muscat Bay invites visitors to indulge in a luxury ‘daycation’ including delectable Friday brunch plus Beach & Pool Day Pass this summer

MUSCAT: Nestled within the secluded cove of Bandar Jissah between the dramatic Al Hajar mountains and the sparkling Arabian Sea, just 15 minutes from Muscat, Jumeirah Muscat Bay combines sublime restaurants, stunning views, magnificent pools and Oman’s finest beaches to deliver the ultimate daycation this summer.

Valid every Friday until September 30, guests at Jumeirah Muscat Bay can enjoy an exquisite brunch paired with pool and beach day access, providing the definitive day experience for couples, friends and families to kick back and relax at Muscat’s newest luxury address. Set against a backdrop of azure



ocean views and overseen by Culinary Director Claudio Dieli, Peridot brunch features interactive live cooking stations showcasing fresh and healthy favourites from all over the world, an exquisite seafood tower and sushi selection, plus refreshing gelato selection, alongside a mouth-watering crepes station. Live music and a kids’ entertainment area with a variety of board and card games, drawing activities, a cookie baking station and a specially curated

kids menu provide the perfect ambiance and ensure little ones are kept amused at this must-visit spot for Friday brunch.

Guests can also take advantage of Day Pool & Beach access, with a special rate. Boasting three alluring, temperature-controlled swimming pools, including adults only, kids and family pools, plus wide expanse of pristine beach and plush sunbeds, visitors can enjoy a blissful day soaking in the magnificent surroundings and outstanding service.



WIDE RANGE OF DEALS

Experience outstanding benefits on remarkable Nissan Sunny

MUSCAT: Confirming its commitment to extending customers an unmatched buying experience, Suhail Bahwan Automobiles (SBA), is offering a wide range of deals for the patrons of Nissan Sunny.

The car continues to be a popular choice amongst customers in the segment because of its outstanding design, intelligent technology and remarkable performance.

As part of the special scheme, Nissan Sunny customers can enjoy special EMI, a free periodic vehicle service package (3 years/60/000 km), free insurance and free registration. Customers can also avail of additional benefits on the purchase of a second Nissan in the family.



Nissan Sunny: Advanced powertrains

The latest Sunny is an addition to the growing line-up of Nissan’s renewed sedan models and features a bold new look, advanced powertrains and technology features.

The fully upgraded model comes with an expressive exterior featuring Nissan’s V-motion grille and combines a spacious interior design with harmonious materials and colours to give a fresh and renewed feel to the car.

Practical safety features

Safety and technology remain a top priority at Nissan and the Sunny features Nissan Intelligent Mobility technology that helps provide front, side and rear safety monitoring and intervention technologies to enhance awareness on the road. This model also makes for an easier and more confident driving experience with seamless smartphone sync options and driver assist technology. This is bolstered by mechanical innovations including an advanced engine design, upgraded Xtronic transmission and an electric power steering system – all of which come at a highly affordable price, making it ideal for entry-level buyers. The all-new model comes in three trim levels, models - S (MT or Xtronic), SV (Xtronic) and the sporty SL (Xtronic).

Emotional Geometry design

Under Nissan’s “Emotional Geometry” design language, Sunny adapts key elements – such as the V-motion grille, boomerang-shaped headlamps and tail lamps, kick-up C-pillars and floating roof. The result is an entry-level car that the designers describe as an energetic, provocative, and engaging modern

compact sedan. The wheels are pushed out, there’s an imposing grille presence, everything about it says lower, wider, longer.

The exterior dimensions are 3 mm longer and 45 mm wider (than the previous generation Sunny) – along with a 44 mm lower height. Contributing to the new Sunny’s dramatic stance are reduced gaps between the fenders and tires. The new dimensions also help provide easy ingress and egress through all four doors. In addition, the new body offers a wider, more user-friendly trunk opening and 14.3 cubic feet of cargo space. Halogen headlamps with auto on/off feature are standard, with the Sunny SV and SL featuring LED low and high beam headlights, LED signature lamps and fog lights. Other available exterior features include heated side mirrors with integrated turn signals and body-colour exterior door handles and camera on SL grade.

Colour is another carefully considered element of the Sunny’s appeal. Seven exterior colours help accent the sleek body design: Electric Blue Metallic, Brilliant Silver Metallic, Gun Metallic, Super Black, Scarlet Ember Tintcoat, Aspen White TriCoat and Radiant Red.

Signature elements

Sunny’s interior also represents a reimagining of the previous generation design with signature elements found in Maxima and Altima – including the “Gliding Wing” instrument panel that expands the feel of the space through use of a light and sleek “wingspan.” The effect of the design’s spatial symmetry is an enhanced sense of togetherness. The horizontal architecture, open spaces and use of harmonious materials and colours add a fresh, up-level

quality to the entire cabin.

Nissan Sunny features roomy 5-passenger interior with a comfortable rear seat with ample rear legroom and knee room. Its large interior volume of 88.9 cubic feet is matched with 14.3 cubic feet of trunk volume (split rear seat).

Other equipment, standard on SL grade and optional on SV, include a 7.0-inch colour display with touch screen capability (resistive type), Bluetooth® Hands-free Phone System and Streaming audio via Bluetooth®, 12-volt power outlet, three USB ports (two charge only), interface for iPod® and other compatible devices, Siri® Eyes Free and AM/FM audio system with 6 speakers.

Nissan Sunny also comes complete with a long list of standard convenience features, including front and rear power windows with driver’s one-touch auto up/down, speed-sensing auto door locks, front map lights, front door map pockets with bottle holder, dual front and rear cupholders, and remote keyless entry with fobs.

The Sunny SL grade adds Nissan’s Intelligent Key System with Push Button Ignition, Around View Monitor and, Cruise Control. Three interior colors are offered: Charcoal (S grade), Graphite Premium Cloth and Grey Premium Cloth (SV & SL grade).

Standard on all three Sunny grade levels is a next generation 1.6-litre 4-cylinder engine rated at 118 horsepower and a 149 Nm of torque – increases of 12 percent and seven percent respectively.

The new “Gen3” 16-valve DOHC HR16DE engine features a 10.4:1 compression ratio, spray-coated bore cylinder block, high thermal conductivity piston rings and sodium-filled exhaust valves.

NEW COLLECTION

Omega reveals Novelties 2022 in Mall of Oman

MUSCAT: Omega revealed the new 2022 collection of its watches on August 10 at the Omega boutique in Mall of Oman to the rapturous attention of watch lovers who keenly went through the stunning new array of watches.

The new collection included the Seamaster Ultra Deep with the 2022 version of it seeing the release of seven new models of Omega’s Ultra Deep Collection. Watch connoisseurs enjoyed going through the six models from the Ultra Deep collection which was been built in brand-new O-MEGASTEEL, thus once again showcasing to the watch lovers the brand’s leadership in the production of advanced materials.



The Seamaster Professional Diver 300M watch was also seen back in the 2022 collection but this time it was bolder than ever with a wave-pattern dial in a striking shade of green. The 42 mm watch in stainless steel sported a uni-directional rotating bezel with a polished green ceramic ring with Grand-Feu white enamel diving scale.

Driving the beautiful new Seamaster Diver 300M with green polished ceramic dial was Omega’s Co-Axial Master Chronometer Calibre 8800 with a special luxury finish.

On the other hand, the Seamaster Aqua Terra models from the 2022 collection were all about colour, with a range of new dial shades that tracked a smooth transition from Aqua to Terra. And for those who wanted more colour options, they could choose larger sized models in 38 mm with dials in Atlantic Blue, Bay Green, Sandstone, Saffron and Terracotta or 34 mm editions with dials in Sea Blue, Lagoon Green, Sandstone, Shell Pink and Lavender.

Launched first in 1952 and then beautifully re-designed in 1982, the Constellation collection continued to shine even brighter in the collection showcased for 2022.

Among the new models for 2022 that were displayed was the Constellation 41mm star performers with all the new dials clasped by the famous Constellation claws.

Materials on offer were stainless steel, stainless steel and 18K yellow gold, and stainless steel and 18K Sedna Gold. Ceramic bezels in polished blue, black or brown; displayed Roman numerals filled with white enamel or Omega Ceragold, depending on the model.

Omega had so included the Constellation Aventurine collection and these extraordinary 29 mm models had dials made from natural Aventurine stone. There were twelve new editions, in stainless steel and 18K Sedna™ Gold - or full Sedna™ Gold for purists - all with natural Aventurine stone dials in either green, red or blue. Lady watch lovers could choose bezels paved with diamonds or engraved with Roman numerals.

Replacing the famous monorail bracelet were leather straps in colours to match the dial. The driving force behind the natural dials has always been Omega’s Co-Axial Master Chronometer Calibre 8700 or 8701 for the all-gold models. The trio featured its shimmering blue, red with glittered scale lines or green. Providing the power was Omega’s Co-Axial Master Chronometer calibre 8701, visible through the domed scratch-resistant sapphire crystal.

Omega’s beautiful new Constellation 28mm additions to the Constellation family revealed its softer side and feature pastel dials in a choice of four colours: Blush Rose, Patchouli Blossom, Celestial Blue and Green Matcha. The subtle new hues also made an appearance on the bezel.

To add an extra pop of pastel to the display, Omega matched the engraved Roman numerals to the colours of the dial. All four watches were seen with a case and bracelet in stainless steel and feature hands, indexes and applied elements in 18K white gold. Providing the power was Omega’s Calibre 4061, a superb quartz movement that offers unwavering precision.



ROUND-UP



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7-seater 2023 Chevrolet Captiva: Ideal SUV for large families

A seven-seater with plush interior, great fuel efficiency, superior technology and impressive safety features, make it a perfect choice for customers with large families

MUSCAT: With its combination of spaciousness, dynamic design and infotainment, the 2023 Chevrolet Captiva is unlike any other SUV of its type on the market. A seven-seater with plush interior, great fuel efficiency, superior technology and impressive safety features, make it a perfect choice for customers with large families. This model from the Chevrolet portfolio is also the most cost-competitive in its category. All three trims – LS, LT and Premier – are powered by a 1.5L turbo-



charged 4-cylinder engine generating 149hp and 255Nm of torque, connected to a CVT transmission and FWD drivetrain. With this impressive powertrain, fuel efficiency is ramped up to 13.4 km / litre. Space – lots of it – is a standout feature of the 2023 Captiva. As a family car, the compact SUV can

comfortably accommodate seven passengers. Furthermore, with a flat rear floor and multiple cargo configurations, the Captiva also adjusts to the passengers' needs. A bold and distinctive style adds to the Captiva's striking looks. The front features a horizontal front grille, LED headlights, daytime

running lights, front fog lights and projection headlights. The sides feature 17-inch wheels, body-coloured door handles, body-coloured electric adjustable and folding side mirrors with LED turn signals and black wheel well trim. The rear of the Chevrolet Captiva 2023 includes an exhaust system, liftgate

cargo access, rear brake lights, rear spoiler and rear fog lights. In addition to its 7-seater configuration, the interior is thoughtful in its design and outfitting. Features include dual-tone seats, 6-way power-adjustable driver seats, adjustable steering wheel with control buttons, gear shift le-

ver, glovebox, front centre armrest with cupholders, sun visors, rear view mirror, foldable second and third-row seats, and rear AC vents. A sunroof is also available on the LT and Premier trims. The 2023 Captiva also comes equipped with a range of class-leading technologies and all safety features to provide maximum safety. Infotainment options include an 8-inch diagonal colour touchscreen display, Apple car play/ Android Auto, USB ports, 7-inch driver information display, Bluetooth, 6-speaker sound system and keyless entry. Safety and driver assistance features come in the form of a front/rear vision camera, front and rear parking sensors, airbags, tyre pressure monitoring system, ISOFIX child seat locks, antilock braking system, electronic brakeforce distribution, stability control, traction control and hill start assist. Safety systems also include a rearview camera and electronic parking brake. The 2023 Chevrolet Captiva is available in five attractive colours: Glaze Red Metallic, Earth Brown Metallic, Polar White, Aurora Silver Metallic and Star Twinkle Black Metallic. Customers can check out the impressive line-up at any of the showrooms of OTE Group, the exclusive distributors of Chevrolet in Oman.

FOR OMANI WOMEN

Oman Cables, ministry sign pact to launch SHE STEMS social development project

MUSCAT: Believing in the importance of joint work between the public and private sectors, as well as emphasising the principle of integration between the service units of the state's administrative apparatus, and to achieve the objectives of Oman's Vision 2040, the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) on August 9 signed the SHE STEM social development programme agreement with Oman Cables Industry (OCI) and the Ministry of Labour (MoL). The programme was signed on behalf of MoHERI by Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al-Mahrooqi – Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation; for the MoL by the Ministry's Undersecretary for Human Resources Development Salim bin Musallam al Busaidi; and for OCI by the company's CEO Cinzia Farisè. Emphasising hands-on skills development and on-the-job training, SHE STEMS aims to prepare more Omani women for the nation's manufacturing and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) sectors. Registration in the programme starts in September 2020 with the first cohort of 20 Omani women who will attend an extensive 6-month practical "Operating Maintenance" course certified by MoHERI. The training will be supervised by a number of highly proficient, qualified instructors. Upon completion, each participant will receive a SHE STEMS certificate recognised by MoHERI. The eligibility criteria for participants are Omani nationals aged between 18 to 28 years who are registered as job seekers with the Ministry of Labour, and who have a General Education Diploma as a minimum academic qualification. (It should be noted that this training will not be applicable if the candidate has attended other training supported by the Oman government). For enrolment, interested par-



ties apply through omancables.com/careers before August 25. Speaking about the SHE STEMS programme, Rahma Al-Mahrooqi stressed the importance of engaging all vital sectors in the effort to achieve the goals of the nation's comprehensive development plans, and to implement Oman's ambitious Vision 2040 with regard to building promising national employees in all fields. Al-Mahrooqi explained that she valued OCI's initiative in collaboration with the MoHERI and MoL, which would serve to develop the skills of Omani women, and open new horizons for them in the labour market. Al-Mahrooqi also indicated the ministry's keenness to cooperate with many sectors to ensure the quality of programs directed at female graduates and job seekers is maintained.

This would ensure that participants receive high-quality practical skills and work ethics, which would qualify and empower them to compete in local and international labour markets. Underlining its support for SHE STEMS, the Ministry of Labour affirmed its full readiness to cooperate in this qualitative program and to provide the necessary support and incentives to contribute to the upgrading of human resources in the Sultanate of Oman. According to Cinzia Farisè, CEO of the Oman Cables Industry, the SHE STEMS programme is considered an important milestone in OCI's social ambition to support the local community. "We are very pleased and honoured to launch this program in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, and the Ministry of

Labour. SHE STEMS forms part of a global initiative that has been moulded, initiated, and launched within the Sultanate of Oman. "This is an exciting programme that aligns closely with OCI's stated values of Innovation, Empowerment, and Excellence. We are confident that it will attract and empower more Omani unemployed women to achieve excellence in their career fields within Oman," Cinzia Farisè explained. The CEO added: "As part of the Prysmian Group, OCI is launching SHE STEMS as a joint amalgamation with Prysmian's sustainability development strategy and goals, and within the framework of the Prysmian Social Ambition 2030 objectives of Diversity; Equality and Inclusion; Digital Inclusion; Community Empowerment; and Employee Engagement & Upskilling."

OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER



Excellent response for Bank Muscat kiosk at Salalah Eat

MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate of Oman, has been greatly encouraged by the excellent turnout at its stall at the ongoing Salalah Eat festival. Designed to create a memorable experience with a number of events and performances, the inaugural Salalah Eat Festival got off to a great start at the Hawana Resort in Salalah on August 4 with the participation of well over 50 MSMEs. It will conclude this Saturday, August 13. With a number of fun activities including a Fan Zone Photo Booth, raffle draws, a Kids' Arena, face painting and a Game Booth, the Bank Muscat stall was one of the most visited stalls at the festival. The bank also took the opportunity to showcase its Limited Edition Visa Prepaid Card to visitors, who could easily apply for up to 3 of these cards through their Mobile or Internet banking. Visitors to the stall were particularly excited by the fact that the bank is raffling away an iPad every day, with as many as 10 iPads to be given over the course

of the full festival. All that visitors have to do to participate in the daily raffle draw is to apply for a Prepaid card through their mBanking app and show the proof of application at the bank's stall. They will then receive a raffle ticket, which automatically entitles them to a chance in the draw. With the festival drawing to a close soon, visitors have been reminded to take advantage of the ongoing promotion, and participate in the daily raffle draw at the earliest. Bank Muscat, which is the official banking partner, is also facilitating the participation of a number of its Najahi Business Banking customers at the festival. Over the past many years, Bank Muscat has successfully supported a number of initiatives and events that strengthen tourism and other national development priorities. It must be noted that the bank has supported the Tour of Salalah, the Tour of Oman, Muscat Festival and the Salalah Festival, all of which have drawn thousands of visitors from across the world to the Sultanate.





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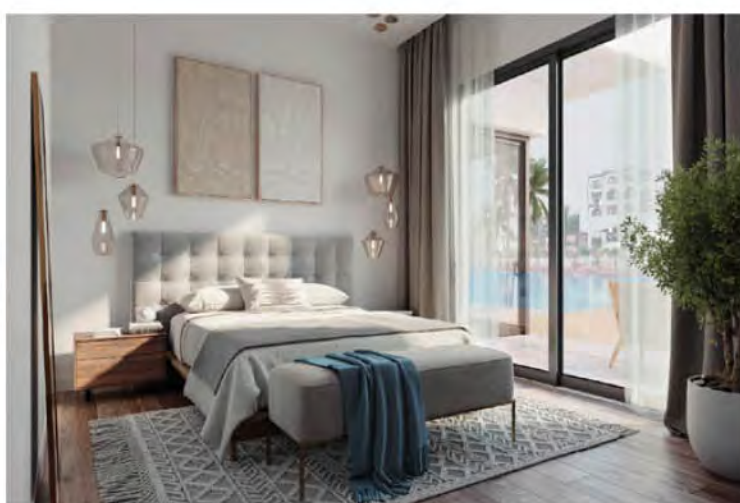
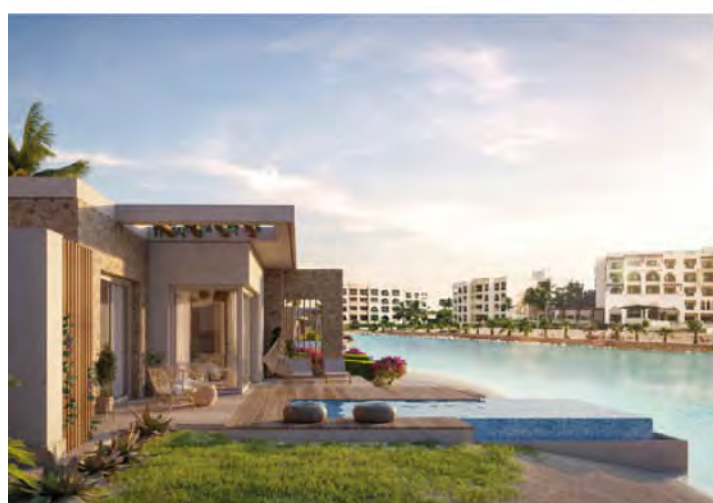
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