

NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR OMANI-ITALIAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCED

The Omani-Italian Friendship Association has announced a new Board along with plans for a series of dynamic initiatives in 2022. **>A3**



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APPLYING AI FOR COOLING BUILDINGS

The 33rd issue of Scientific Insights magazine published by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) delves into an Omani research study that reveals a new way to apply AI in cooling buildings using renewable energies. **>A2**



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HH THE HONOURABLE LADY RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA

Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, yesterday received at Al Baraka Palace Ana Munoz de Gaviria, Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, HH the Honourable Lady wished Ambassador Gaviria continuous success in performing her duties. In her turn, Ambassador Gaviria expressed her utmost appreciation for HH the Honourable Lady's sincere sentiments, wishing her continuous good health, happiness and a long life. —**ONA More photos >A2**

50,000 HOMES TO BENEFIT FROM IBRI II SOLAR PROJECT

The solar plant is among the key energy transformation projects of Oman

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Oman's largest and one of its newest solar power plants is capable of providing clean electricity to 50,000 homes, marking a big step in the country's efforts to move towards renewable and sustainable sources of energy.

The Ibri II Solar PV plant, which is in the governorate of Al Dhahirah, was officially inaugurated yesterday under the patronage of Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi, the Minister of Interior.

Operational since August 2021, the plant features 1.4 million solar panels spread over an area of 13 million square metres, and was built at a cost of OMR155 million.

Eergy transformation

"With approximately 500 megawatts (MW) capacity, the Ibri Solar Plant is among the key energy transformation projects," said the Ministry of Economy in a statement. "It will also enable the realisation of the 10th Five Year Plan's priorities to increase renewable energy proportionate to 30 percent of the maximum load by 2030." The project was led by Oman Power and Water Procurement Company, an arm of Nama Group, through contracts with a group of GCC investment firms led by ACWA Power, Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) and the Alternative Energy Projects Company (AEPIC) to set up, own and operate the plant.

Mohammed Abunayyan, chair-

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE IBRI II SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANT

The plant has a capacity of 500 megawatts	Construction of the plant cost OMR 155 million
Commercial operations began in August 2021	It consists of 1.4 million solar panels
Oman ranked third among GCC countries in the 2021 Energy Transmission Efficiency Index, published by the World Economic Forum	
The Sultanate is also ranked fifth among Arab countries, and 74th globally.	The Ibri Solar Plant is considered a key component of Oman's 10th Five-Year Plan

man of ACWA Power, said, "The project will peak in productivity through the generation of power sufficient for supplying 50,000 homes with electricity and cutting down CO2 emissions by 340,000 tonnes a year."

The opening of the solar plant also marks another step taken under Oman Vision 2040's plans for renewable energy. Projects such as this will help achieve balance between economic development and environmental sustainability.

The plant was built under the strategic objective of building ef-

fective, balanced, and resilient ecosystems, while at the same time protecting the environment, and ensuring the sustainability of natural resources to help support the national economy.

Key areas

The project also contributes towards two key areas of priorities for Oman: encouraging private sector investment and international cooperation, and promoting a sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. **>A3**

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TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES



OMAN ROP in action at 'Arab Gulf Security 3' drill

1 The Royal Oman Police continues its participation with the security forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the joint tactical exercise named 'Arab Gulf Security 3' in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **>A5**

WORLD Relatives of diplomats told to leave Ukraine

2 Several Western countries cautioned against travel to Ukraine and moved to pull the families of their diplomatic staff out of the country on Monday. **>A6**

MARKET Largest container vessel at Sohar

3 Hutchison Ports Sohar received CMA CGM's APL Raffles, the biggest container vessel to ever call Port of Sohar. The ship is 398.50m long and 51m wide. **>B1**

PANDEMIC

Been near a COVID-19 patient? Might need to quarantine

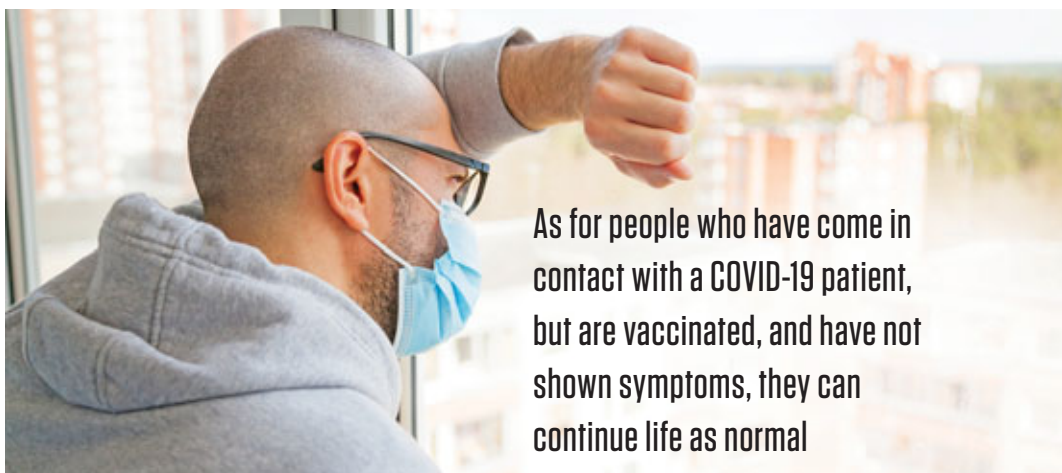
Times News Service

MUSCAT: People who have been in contact with patients infected with COVID-19 are required to quarantine at home for 14 days, if they are unvaccinated, irrespective of whether or not they show symptoms.

Advice provided by the Ministry of Health also called for people who have contracted COVID-19 to self-isolate at home for 10 days.

"Dear citizens and residents, if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you must adhere to home quarantine for 10 days," said the ministry advisory.

"As for people who have been in contact with the patient, are vaccinated, and have not shown symptoms, they can continue life as normal.



As for people who have come in contact with a COVID-19 patient, but are vaccinated, and have not shown symptoms, they can continue life as normal

"However, individuals who do show symptoms must perform the examination to confirm the presence of infection, and then adhere to quarantine for 10 days if they

test positive," added the Ministry of Health.

Recent surveys in Oman show that 99 percent of COVID infections reported in the country per-

tain to the Omicron variant.

The country has reported a total of 324,085 COVID-19 infections, since the start of the pandemic. 306,404 people who caught the

disease have recovered, leading to a recovery rate of 94.5 percent, but sadly, 4,129 people have died from the virus.

On Monday, 24 January, Oman reported 1,647 more infections and 729 recoveries. One more person also died from the disease.

Prevention

The Ministry of Health reported that as of Monday, there were 194 patients in healthcare facilities, 66 of them having been admitted in the last 24 hours. 22 patients were in intensive care.

"With our commitment to wearing masks and maintaining social and physical distancing, we will prevent ourselves, our families, and our community from the spread of the coronavirus," said the ministry as part of its daily COVID update.

PRAYER
TIMINGS

Dhuhr.....	12:24pm
Asr.....	3:32pm
Maghrib.....	5:53pm
Isha.....	7:07pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	5:31am

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HH THE HONOURABLE LADY RECEIVES AMBASSADOR OF COLOMBIA

EXCHANGE VIEWS

Sayyid Badr meets Aboul Gheit

MUSCAT: Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi received on Monday Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League.

The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of topics pertaining to the Arab League's tasks aimed at enhancing joint Arab action. They also touched on joint cooperation in various spheres of mutual interest. The two sides affirmed the importance of Arab solidarity, as well as means of actively engaging with current ground reality and future aspirations. The meeting also reviewed a number of regional and international matters of common concern. -OMA

"Tender Announcement"

Supply of Food Parcels for the "Ramadan Iftar Program" for the Year 1443 AH / 2022 AD for Al Mahrah Governorate and Surrounding Areas in the Republic of Yemen

Tender No. 1/2022

Oman Charitable Organization (O.C.O.) announces a tender for the supply of 27,900 (twenty Seve thousand and nine hundred) food parcels for the "Ramadan Iftar Program" for the year 1443 AH / 2022 AD, and distributing them to all the districts of Al Mahrah Governorate and the surrounding areas according to the attached list of locations (16 locations).

Specialized merchants and suppliers wishing to submit their bids for this tender can obtain the terms and conditions from the Financial Department of Oman Charitable Organization against payment of nominal fees, during the period from Sunday 23 January 2022 to Thursday 27 January 2022. The last date for bid submission and acceptance shall be Monday 31 January 2022.

Bids shall be deposited in the tender box at the Financial Department, O.C.O. Headquarters Building at the Wilayat of Baushar, Muscat Governorate, Al Khuwair 33, Southern Street No. 47, near Sultan Said bin Taimur Mosque.

Bids shall be placed in closed envelopes sealed with red wax and addressed to H.E. the Chairman of the Projects and Tenders Committee of O.C.O. before the specified date.

O.C.O. is not obligated to award the tender in whole or in part or to consider the lowest price.

Applying AI for cooling buildings

The AI-designed system predicts the volume and amount of cooling necessary for the building during summer and winter

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The 33rd issue of Scientific Insights magazine published by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (MoHERI) delves into an Omani research study that reveals a new way to apply AI in cooling buildings using renewable energies.

The research study led by Dr. Maryam Zuhair Al Lawati, from the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, discovered a new and innovative way to apply advanced artificial intelligence (AI) techniques and adapt them in cooling buildings in Oman.

These techniques use renewable environmental energies through a smart system that integrates these technologies through a specific mechanism.

The AI-designed system predicts the volume and amount of cooling necessary for the building during summer and winter. Based on the predictions, the control system operates the heat-conditioning system according to the building's needs.

Dr. Maryam stated that the idea of the research came about due to the importance of utilising renewable energies existing in Oman. The research also aims to solve the permanent and continuous problem of cooling and air conditioning buildings.

The problem always occurs during summer. It can be solved through using modern and advanced AI techniques to find a way that helps reduce costs in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. Furthermore, Dr. Maryam added that the research included the use of several tools, such as: data analysis for different weather conditions in Oman (They are realistic challenges, especially due to the weather in the summer) and data of the buildings, including: the materials used in buildings and how they differ from the buildings in European countries.

Dr. Maryam chose solar energy as a type of renewable energy to cool buildings. This energy operates the thermal air conditioner, which provides energy to cool the building (The study sample is the Social Center building in Innovation Park Muscat). The heat is reduced through transferring the energy to the earth and utilising the land and geothermal energy. This type of optimal energy use is an innovative method, and the AI and control system has been programmed to determine the working hours that are very suitable for this system.

Dr. Maryam said that the research study applied AI to predict the operation of the cooling system by calculating the amount of cooling needed in the building. As it is known, the amount of cooling in Oman differs from other countries, where the cooling load increases in summer, especially in June, July and August. However, during these months and due to the exceptional climatic situation of the Khareef (monsoon) season in Dhofar, it affects the solar energy. The way to calculate this cooling load in the current world-wide AI system has several difficulties. Therefore, through this research, Dr. Maryam and her team devised a new method of using AI to calculate cooling loads to suit the relevant system.

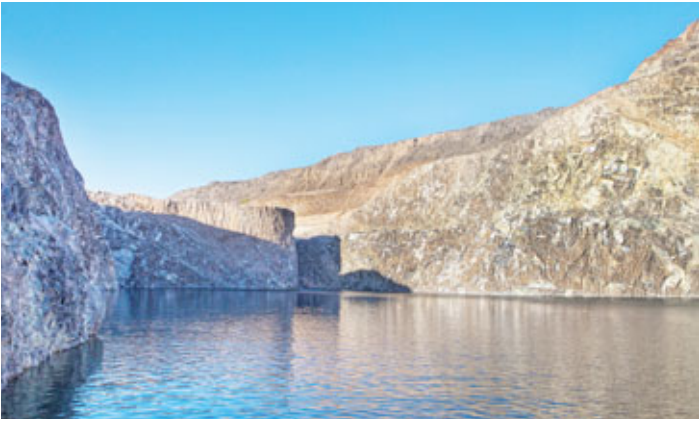
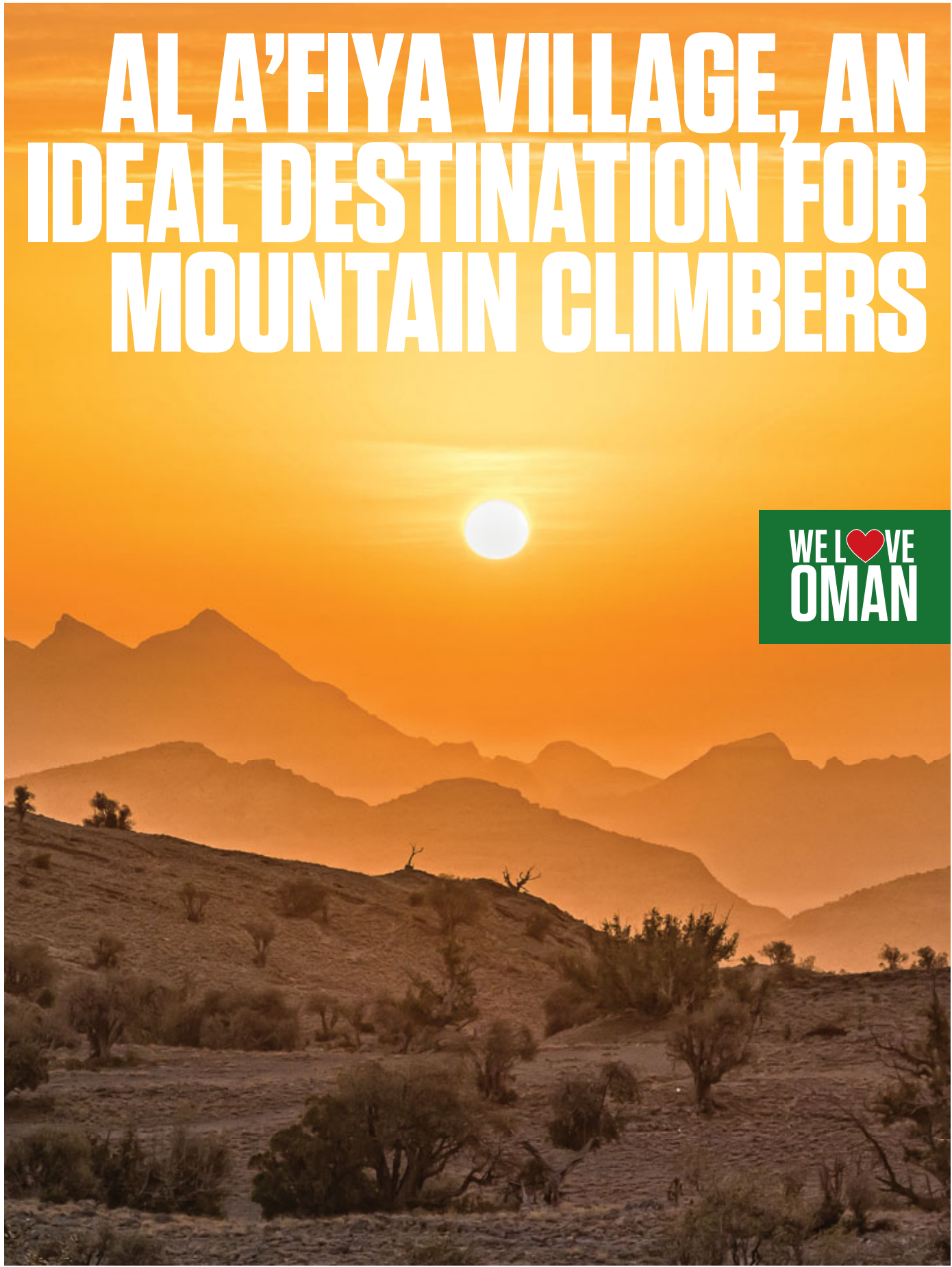
Dr. Maryam explained that the findings of the study showed that Oman entirely relies on electrical energy to cool buildings by 100 percent.

Fortunately, the study proved that the use of electrical energy may be reduced from 100 percent per year to 23.6 percent (which is a big difference), when thermal energy based on solar power is introduced.

The difference could be more remarkable, as the findings showed that the AI system can predict the amount of cooling for this hybrid system, with a high predictive accuracy of 98 percent.

The findings of this study have paved the way for other projects and alternative solutions for hybrid system in the future to continue implementation, as the cooling system in Oman currently has some difficulties, especially due to the complete dependence on electric air conditioners and because the smart system is reasonably modern in Oman. The research study also proved that the role of geothermal energy is small compared to the percentage of solar energy use. Solar energy must therefore be used efficiently in this area.

Scientific Insights is a scientific journal published every three months by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation in both Arabic and English. To read more interesting articles in the fields of science and innovation, interested readers can access the magazine online through the ministry's official social media channels.



AL A'FIYA VILLAGE in Wadi Bani Rawaha of the Wilayat of Sumail, the Governorate of A'Dakhiliyah, is located under a mountainous footpath surrounded by mountains from all sides, making it an ideal destination for nature and mountain climbers.

The village is located in the south-west of the Wilayat of Sumail. It is about 25 km away from its centre. It was formerly known as Al Hama, a name derived from the familiarity with bullets at that time. The village's name was changed into Al A'fiya for its beautiful nature that qualified it to be the first stop for tourists in the wilaya, especially expatriates. About 400 citizens live in Al A'fiya Village. One of the most important tourist attractions in the village is Wadi Al A'ssi.

It is one of the most flowing wadis in Wadi Bani Rawaha. It forms a twin with Al Mesqah valley in its strong overflow of waters during the rains on the mountains surrounding the village.

The flooding of the valley attracts many tourists to spend a beautiful day among picturesque nature and fruit trees

overlooking the sides of the valley while the water bubbling from the top of the mountains forming beautiful falls.

It is surrounded by an old wall that has been destroyed due to climatic factors. It connects three gates. Inside it, there are a number of old houses called Al Hujrah, which were inhabited by the residents of the village, who numbered no more than 30 citizens.

The houses were destroyed, but their remains are still present. The village still has a tall tower that tells of the past and present of the village.

Most villagers practice many professions, such as raising cattle, honey-bee keeping and harvesting thyme and wild berries from mountains. The products are sold in neighbouring markets. The village is linked by mountain roads, to the village of "Al Manakhar" in the Niyabat of Al Jabal Al Akhdhar, about 6 hours of walk. It is also linked by a shortcut mountain road to the village "Hadash" in Wadi Mastal, one of the villages in the Wilayat of Nakhal. It can be reached in 4 hours on foot.







UPCOMING MATCHES

WED, JAN 26, 2022	 VS 	6.30 PM
THU, JAN 27, 2022	 VS 	6.30 PM
SAT, JAN 29, 2022	FINAL	6.30 PM

51

LEGENDARY CRICKETERS

3

TEAMS

7

HIGH VOLTAGE T20 MATCHES

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Royal Oman Police takes part in ‘Arab Gulf Security 3’ exercise

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The Royal Oman Police continues its participation with the security forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the joint tactical exercise named ‘Arab Gulf Security 3’ in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

“The exercise aims to enhance security cooperation, raise the level of coordination, interaction and exchange between the security forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, in addition to joint planning to confront potential threats and risks,” the statement added.

-With Inputs from ONA



SWITZERLAND

Oman participates in meetings of WHO Executive Council

MUSCAT: Represented by the Ministry of Health, the Sultanate of Oman is taking part in meetings of the 150th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) being held in Switzerland from 24 to 29 January 2022.

In addition to health ministers, the event saw a large turnout of high-level officials from different countries of the world. Oman is represented by Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al Sa'eedi, Minister

of Health, while the Ministry's undersecretaries and top officials are joining the meeting via videoconferencing.

The meeting began with the endorsement of the agenda of the WHO and a speech by its Director General, followed by a review of the outcomes of the second extraordinary session of the International Health Society aimed to hammer out an international accord for consolidating the WHO's

readiness to tackle pandemics.

It is hoped that the meeting will approve a proposal by Oman and Switzerland on the Global Health Initiative and discuss Oman's proposal to devise a comprehensive strategy for combating contagious diseases.

Other topics on the agenda include the enhancement of WHO's financial resources and the discussion of WHO task team's report on mobility to address COVID-19. -ONA



WILAYAT OF WADI BANI KHALID

Road construction pact to give a fillip to tourism

WADI BANI KHALID: An agreement was signed on Monday for a project to pave 16.4 km of internal roads in the Wilayat of Wadi Bani Khalid, the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah to the tune of OMR2,013,286.

The agreement was signed with the executing company by Sheikh

Ali Ahmed Al Shamsi, Governor of North Al Sharqiyah.

The roads will help promote tourism, economic activities and urban development in the Wilayat of Bani Khalid, besides easing traffic between the Wilayat's villages.

-ONA





Ministry of Defence

TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Defense invites MOD registered suppliers to participate in the following tender:

Subject	Tender Number	Last Date for Inquiries	Last Date to Obtain Tender	Tender Document Price per copy (RO)
Supply and installation nucleic acid amplification testing equipment with cassette printer for armed forces hospital	02/2022	24/02/2022	28/02/2022	25 RO

1. Tenders documents and terms may be obtained on payment from the office of the Secretary of the Tender Committee, gate No. 14 of MAM Camp between 0900 to 1300 hrs on the working days.

3. Payment of Tender documents to be made by using of any Visa Electron Cards or "Visa credit" Cards or through Smart Card issued from all the banks are operated in oman.

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HIGH-LEVEL TALKS

Taliban, Western envoys discuss Afghanistan crisis

KABUL: The Taliban and Western diplomats launched high-level talks in Oslo on Monday, according to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. The Taliban's delegation, led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan, met with envoys from the US, France, UK, Germany, the EU and Norway.

It's the first talks that Western officials have held with the Taliban since the extremist group seized

control of Afghanistan last August.

How do the two sides view the negotiations? The Taliban are urging the US and other countries to unblock nearly \$10 billion (€8.8 billion) in frozen Afghan assets. The group says these funds are needed to tackle the country's dire humanitarian crisis. "We are requesting them to unfreeze Afghan assets and not

punish ordinary Afghans because of the political discourse," Taliban representative Shafiullah Azam said late Sunday. "Because of the starvation, because of the deadly winter, I think it's time for the international community to support Afghans, not punish them because of their political disputes."

Western countries, meanwhile, are urging the Taliban to respect the rights of women and girls.

Western powers are also pushing the group to share power with ethnic and religious minorities in the country. The three-day discussions began on Sunday, with the Taliban meeting representatives from civil society. The Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August, as the US and other NATO countries attempted to pull out their military and diplomatic personnel from the country. **ww**

Huge Ukrainian military build-up visible on line of contact in Donbas: Kremlin

NATO has announced that it is increasing its presence in Eastern Europe over the situation in Ukraine



INFORMATION HYSTERIA: Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov pointed out that information hysteria in the West, not Russia, should be blamed for the increased tensions around Ukraine.

MOSCOW: Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday said that a huge build-up of Ukrainian forces on the Donbas line of contact indicates Kiev is preparing for an attack.

Peskov also pointed out that information hysteria in the West, not Russia, should be blamed for the increased tensions around Ukraine, reported Sputnik. "Indeed, the Ukrainian authorities are concentrating a huge amount of forces and equipment on the border with the self-proclaimed republics on the line of contact. Indeed, the nature of this concentration points to preparations for offensive operations, and, indeed, there is such a threat now", said Peskov.

He said that in this case, Moscow would like to see NATO countries urge Kiev not to even think about the possibility of a military settlement in Ukraine.

According to Peskov, the delivery of each unit of weapons to Ukraine inspires Kiev to start military operations in Donbas, reported Sputnik.

"The threat of provocations from Kiev in Donbas is now very high, even higher than before", the Kremlin spokesman noted.

Meanwhile, Peskov commenting on drills in the Baltic Sea said that Russian troops cannot ignore

the increased NATO activity near borders of the country, reported Sputnik.

NATO has announced that it is increasing its presence in Eastern Europe over the situation in Ukraine. Russia's Baltic Fleet later said that two corvettes went on a long voyage, which will take place as part of mass exercises led by the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, reported Sputnik.

"First of all, you should ask the Defense Ministry about this. Secondly, such actions by NATO and the increased activity of NATO near our borders cannot be ignored by our military, who are responsible for the security of our country. And thirdly, there is still a constant process of exercises, maneuvers, military construction, which has never stopped and will continue to continue," said Peskov. **ww**

CAUTIONED AGAINST TRAVEL

Western countries tell families of embassy staff to leave Ukraine

WASHINGTON: Several Western countries cautioned against travel to Ukraine and moved to pull the families of their diplomatic staff out of the country on Monday, following a similar move by the United States.

The growing list of countries calling on citizens to leave the country comes amid mounting tensions over Russia's military buildup on the border with Ukraine.



What did the US say? On Sunday, the US State Department told the relatives of diplomatic staff stationed at the embassy in Kyiv to start leaving Ukraine.

US officials advised against traveling to Ukraine due to "increased threats of Russian military action" and COVID-19.

In a travel advisory published on its website, the State Department said that there were reports Russia is planning significant military action against Ukraine.

travel advisory said.

"Demonstrations, which have turned violent at times, regularly occur throughout Ukraine, including in Kyiv."

AP cited State Department officials as saying that the embassy will remain open and the announcement does not constitute an evacuation. They added that the move does not reflect an easing of US support for Ukraine and had been under consideration for some time.

Besides ordering the departure of eligible family members of the Kyiv embassy staff, Washington also authorized the voluntary departure of embassy employees. According to the Associated Press (AP), their departure is at the US government's expense.

"The security conditions, particularly along Ukraine's borders, in Russia-occupied Crimea, and in Russia-controlled eastern Ukraine, are unpredictable and can deteriorate with little notice," the State Department's

What other countries are pulling embassy staff? In addition to the US, the UK said on Monday that it is also withdrawing some embassy staff and their relatives from Ukraine due to the "growing threat from Russia."

At the same time, Britain's foreign ministry said the Kyiv embassy will remain open for "essential work."

Australia quickly followed suit, with Canberra telling the country's citizens to "leave now" and withdrawing family members, the Sydney Morning Herald reported. **ww**

DETAINED

Burkina Faso President Kabore detained by troops



OUAGADOUGOU: Burkina Faso's President Roch Marc Christian Kabore has been detained in the capital, Ouagadougou, by mutinying soldiers, security sources and soldiers in the country reported on Monday.

Government officials did not immediately respond to the reports.

The news was confirmed by DW's West Africa correspondent Amaka Okoye, who said the detention of the president appeared to have occurred amid some violence.

"There definitely must have been a struggle, because there were armored vehicles ... from the presidency that were shot at," she said.

She also said that it remained unclear who was in control of the country and that the situation was chaotic. A statement from the mutinous soldiers to be released on Monday might bring more clarity, she said.

The government in the West African nation, however, sought to calm concerns about a potential military coup after gunfire was heard near the president's residence on Sunday.

In recognition of the poor security situation, the French Embassy in Burkina Faso on Monday advised its nationals not to go outside and said French schools in the country would be closed until at least Tuesday.

Confusing reports There were conflicting reports on Kabore's whereabouts circulating in security and diplomatic circles on Monday, Reuters said.

According to AFP news agency, security sources said the president was being held at the Sangoule Lamizana barracks in the capital.

Reports from the country are anyway difficult to verify owing to the poor quality of telephone connections and an outage of the mobile internet since Sunday.

In another development, soldiers in balacavars were seen outside the country's state TV on Monday by a journalist from the AFP news agency. It was unclear whether they were loyal to the government and protecting the site or from the side of the mutineers.

Widespread frustration Kabore's government has been facing growing protests against its handling of a deadly Islamist insurgency in the country.

Kabore, who has been in power since 2015, was reelected in 2020 on the back of promises to make fighting the jihadis a top priority.

But he and his government have since faced accusations of inaction as civilians and soldiers continue to be killed by the militants, some of whom are linked to "Islamic State" and al-Qaida.

For weeks, the president has been the target of regular street protests demanding he step down.

Some 1.5 million of the country's 21 million inhabitants are considered internally displaced and more than 6,000 people have been killed since the insurgency began six years ago.

Despite its gold resources, the country is also one of the poorest in the world and ranks at 182 from 189 nations on the United Nation's Human Development Index. **ww**

RESIGNATION

Armenian president Sarkissian quits citing lack of powers

YEREVAN: Armen Sarkissian announced on Sunday that he was stepping down as president of Armenia, citing his inability to influence policy during times of crisis.

Armenia has been embroiled in a political crisis that erupted in the wake of a war with Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh territory.



Why did Sarkissian resign? Sarkissian disagreed with Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan over his decision to remove the chief of general staff in the wake of the war with Azerbaijan and amid protests.

Pashinyan removed Armenia's chief of general staff in March of 2021, claiming that the military was planning a coup.

Pashinyan has been under pressure since the peace deal that ended the war with Azerbaijan, with regular street protests demanding he step down over the terms of the agreement.

Under the 2020 deal brokered by Russia, Azerbaijan regained

territory it had lost during a war in the early 1990s.

At the time the peace deal was being negotiated, Sarkissian criticized the fact that he had not been included in the deliberations.

"The president does not have the necessary tools"

"This is not an emotionally-driven decision and it comes from a specific logic," Sarkissian said in a statement on the website of the president of Armenia.

"The president does not have the necessary tools to influence the important processes of for-

eign and domestic policy in difficult times for the people and the country."

The post of president is largely ceremonial in Armenia, and executive power is held primarily by the prime minister. Armenia became a parliamentary republic after a 2015 referendum that significantly limited presidential powers.

"We live in a unique reality, a reality where the President cannot influence matters of war or peace," Sarkissian said in his statement, adding that the president did not have the power to veto laws.

"I hope that eventually the constitutional changes will be implemented and the next president and presidential administration will be able to operate in a more balanced environment."

The outgoing president was elected in 2018, having previously served as Armenia's ambassador to the United Kingdom. Sarkissian also held the post of prime minister in 1996-1997. **ww**

SC APPEAL

UK court allows Assange to appeal to Supreme Court on a point of law

LONDON: The High Court of Justice in London on Monday ruled that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange can seek permission to appeal to the UK Supreme Court on a point of law.

Assange is charged with publishing swaths of US military records and diplomatic cables which US authorities claim put lives in danger.

The court agreed to a request

from Assange's lawyers arguing that the country's highest court should rule on "points of law of general public importance."

"The respondent's application to certify a point of law is granted," the court said. "The respondent's application for leave to appeal to the supreme court is refused."

That means the Supreme Court itself will have to decide whether

or not it should hear Assange's challenge.

A crowd of Assange's supporters outside the court cheered as they heard the decision.

"Julian won," Stella Morris, his fiancée and the mother of his two young children, wrote on Twitter. "It is now for the Supreme Court to decide whether it will hear Julian's appeal." **ww**



ASIA LIONS ROAR TO WIN IN LEGENDS LEAGUE CRICKET ENCOUNTER

Asia Lions (193/4) beat India Maharajas (157/8) by 36 runs. Asghar Afghan was named man of the match for his excellent performance with both bat and ball.



CRICKET ROUND-UP

Vanderlande, Design Group, Pitspot, Mazoon Dairy secure victories

MUSCAT: Vanderlande's wonder boy Rahul Chadha helped his side to a 46-run victory against Khalsa United in a C Division T20 League match at Muscat Municipality ground 2 in Amerat on Friday.

Opening the innings, Rahul topscored with a fluent 39 off 28 as Vanderlande posted 161 for 8 on the board. Muhammed Pervez picked up 3 for 32. Khalsa failed to make a match of it, folding up for a paltry 115 in 19.4 overs. Sajid Ali topscored with a 29-ball 40 as Rahul Chadha, Vignesh Kumar, Haja Hussain and Aasim Mohammed all took two wickets each.

Brief Scores (C Division): Vanderlande 161 for 8 in 20 overs (Rahul Chadha 39 - 7x4, Barathwaj Vinayagam 32 - 3x4, Muhammed Parvez 3-32, Har-minder Singh 2- 23) beat Khalsa United 115 all out in 19.4 overs (Sajid Ali 40 - 4x4, 1x6. Rahul Chadha 2-13, Vignesh Kumar 2-17, Haja Hussain 2-20, Aasim Mohammed 2-34,) by 46 runs.

Karthik stars in Design Group win In another C Division game, Design Group rode on a superb 52 by Karthik Rajappa to beat Al Jadidi Engineering and Contracting by 6 wickets at Muscat Municipality ground 1 on Friday.

Chasing Al Jadidi's 148 for 5, Design Group raced to the target in just 17.3 overs, scoring 149 for 4 thanks to brilliant batting by Karthik and Chaitanya (43).

Brief Scores (C Division): Al Jadidi Engineering and Contracting 148 for 5 in 20 overs (Qamar Nazir 33 - 1x4, 3x6, Mohammed Haris 2-41) lost to Design Group Engineering Consultants 149 for 4 in 17.3 overs (Karthik Rajappa 52 - 6x4, 1x6, Chaitanya 43 - 4x4, Gokul Gopinath 2-20) by 6 wickets.

Wajid helps Pitspot to victory Wajid Ali struck a match-winning 67 off 53 to steer Pitspot to a 6-wicket victory against OCT Al Mabela in a D Division T20 League game at Muscat Municipality ground 3 on Friday.

OCT Mabela set a modest target, scoring 124 for 8 thanks to major contributions from Shareef Al Balushi (38) and Bashar Al Balushi (25). Mohazin Moosa claimed 3 for 26.

Pitspot surpassed the total in only 16.5 overs, scoring 125 for 4 thanks to top knocks by Wajid and Fahad T (32). Shareef Al Balushi bowled well, taking 3 for 21.

Brief Scores (D Division): Oct Al Mabela 124 for 8 in 20 overs (Shareef Al Balushi 38 - 3x4,

Bashar Al Balushi 25 - 1x4, 1x6, Mohazin Moosa 3-26, Aneesh Chaziyottil 2-22, Valiyapeediyekkal Fasil 2-17) lost to Pitspot 125 for 4 in 16.5 overs (Wajid Ali 67 - 10x4, Fahad T 32 - 3x4, Shareef Al Balushi 3-21) by 6 wickets.

Ali takes Mazoon Dairy to victory Ali Asger's magnificent 38-ball 55 powered Mazoon Dairy Company to a 4-wicket win over Landmark Group in an E Division T20 League match at Muscat Municipality ground 3.

Dayanandan Rau's 3 for 14 and Ameer Hussain's 2 for 10 were instrumental in Restricting Landmark Group to a lowly 120 for 9. Mohamed Farzan was the main scorer with 21-ball 28.

Ali led the chase with a fine fifty as Mazoon Dairy sealed the win in 15.1 overs, scoring 121 for 6. Krishna Kydesi bagged 2 for 23.

Brief Scores (E Division): Landmark Group 120 for 9 in 20 overs (Mohamed Farzan 28 - 4x4, Dayanandan Rau 3-14, Ameer Hussain 2-10, Yusuf Patanwala 2-18, Essam Othman 2-20) lost to Mazoon Dairy Company 121 for 6 in 15.1 overs (Ali Asger 55 - 8x4, Krishna Kydesi 2-23, Kugan Kuganeswaran 2-36) by 4 wickets.

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

India fined for slow over-rate in third ODI against South Africa

CAPE TOWN: India has been fined 40 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate against South Africa in the third ODI in Cape Town on Sunday. Andy Pycroft of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction

after KL Rahul's side was ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration. In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-

rate offences, players are fined 20 per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

Rahul pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. ANI

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GOLF

Badar Al Aamri clinches Assarain Classic Crown

Times News Service

MUSCAT: Badar Al Aamri of the Sultanate Oman overcame a stiff competition from a strong field to emerge champion at the Assarain Golf Classic.

The 26th edition of the Assarain Golf Classic was held at the Ghala Golf Club on 21 and 22 January with the participation of over 136 golfers.

A delighted Badar said: "The Assarain Golf Classic is a fantastic tournament and it feels great to win a competition of this stature. I would like to thank my playing partners over the last few days. It was a pleasure to be in this event and again I would like to thank the sponsor Assarain Group of Companies."



Khalil Al Wahaibi, General Manager of Ghala Golf Club, who managed the event, said: "The atmosphere was electric from the

first day. I was truly amazed by the participation and overall feel of the 2022 Assarain Golf Classic. We were oversubscribed and had to

have a cut off for players as we unfortunately could not fit all of them in, but overall, it was a tremendous occasion."

His Highness Sayyid Azzan bin Qais Al Said was the guest of honour at the ceremony held on the final day that was graced by a host of dignitaries.

The Assarain Classic ended with its tradition of raffling off a Hublot watch which was won by Ahmed Syaifudin.

Commenting upon the success of the event, Ibrahim Al Wahaibi, Director of Assarain Group of Companies, said: "I would like to congratulate all the winners in the respective categories and would like to thank all the participants. With the success of the 2022 event, we are committed to making the

Assarain Golf Classic Tournament bigger and better in the coming years while maintaining our strong professional standards of hosting one of the oldest golf tournaments in the Sultanate."

List of Winners

Men: Gross:- 1st Badar Al Amri 81 & 75 = 156 (Taylormade Sim Max2 driver) Runner up Fahad Al Kitani 84 & 74 = 158 (Taylormade Sim Max2 3 wood) Nett:- 1st Mohamad Nasaruddin 68 & 74 = 142 (Cobra Radspeed Driver) Runner up Vishal Dhawan 73 & 71 = 144 C/B (Cobra Radspeed 3 wood)

Ladies: Gross Winner Jameela Daud -93 & 95 = 188 (Cobra F Max air speed Driver) Nett Winner Maralyn Hayes - 73 & 75 = 148 (Cobra F Max air speed 3 wood)

ICC RANKINGS

Shaheen Shah Afridi named ICC Men's Cricketer 2021

DUBAI: Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Monday was named as ICC's Men Cricketer of the Year.

Shaheen took 78 wickets in 36 internationals at an average of 22.20 with best bowling figures of 6/51. The tall Pakistani quick was on fire throughout 2021, knocking some of the best batters over across all three formats of the game. He especially had a year to remember in Tests and T20Is, reaching his peak during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in UAE where he impressed one and all with his sheer speed and skills.

He would take seven wickets in six matches during the tournament in Pakistan's run to the semi-final.

He ruled the shortest format throughout the calendar year, scalping 23 wickets in 21 matches with his death bowling improving by leaps and bounds.

After a slow start to the year in Test cricket in New Zealand, Afridi burst to life during the home series against South Africa. He continued his brilliant form throughout the rest of the year in the away tours of Zimbabwe, West Indies and Bangladesh. Overall, he claimed 47 wickets in only nine matches at a staggering average of 17.06.

A high-pressure encounter against India in Dubai beckoned in October. The T20 World Cup tournament opener for both sides with the history well and truly against Pakistan.

But Afridi's opening burst changed it all and evoked audible gasps from one and all at the wizardry on display. **ANI**

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OMAN CRUDE PRICE RISES

The price of Oman oil has increased, with prices for delivery by March 2022 reaching \$86.94, said Dubai Mercantile Exchange (DME). The DME statement said that the price of Oman oil rose by \$1.71 from the price of Friday, which was \$85.23. - OMA

MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS LOWER

The MSX index closed at 4,202.15 points, down by 0.53 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.05 per cent at 512.98 points. United Finance, up 3.45 per cent was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating down 6.15 per cent, was the top loser.

Hutchison Ports welcomes largest vessel berthing at Port of Sohar

Being the largest container vessel to ever call at the Port of Sohar, it was welcomed by Hutchison Ports Sohar and Sohar Port & Freezone's management with a cordial ceremony adhering to all the safety precautions



cordial ceremony adhering to all the safety precautions.

Commenting on the call, Anacin Kum, Chief Executive Officer of Hutchison Ports Sohar, said, "At the time when the world is facing a crisis due to COVID-19 which created a major impact on the logistics industry, the call of the 17K TEU class container vessel is a significant milestone and pride for us. We are continuing to expand our facilities and increase the number of automated equipment's to handle the largest container vessels afloat, at the time to reinforce our commitment to creating a sustainable future. Together with our unrivalled skills and experience of our dedicated workforce enables us to turn around even the biggest container ships as quickly and efficiently as possible, providing world-class service to our customers."

"Our capabilities have grown at a staggering rate over almost 20 years, from the first vessel call we ever welcomed, the MV Gaia Triumph, which at 100m meters in length, is just a quarter of the size of the MV APL Raffles. The

arrival of this vessel marks an exciting milestone as we continue to make way for bigger ships. It also opens up new opportunities for our customers to ship more products and make global connections that were previously not possible while keeping Sohar competitive and ready for growth. Today's maiden call bears witness to the steady growth in both our handling capacity and our efficiency at Sohar Port. The continued smooth operations at Hutchison Ports Sohar have brought us new lines and more connections, said, Mark Geilenkirchen, Chief Executive Officer, Sohar Port and Freezone."

In 2021, the terminal recorded an increase of 200 per cent in domestic movements compared to 2020 while the export full volume recorded a year-on-year growth of 9 per cent. The terminal not only fared well in terms of operations but also added two new direct services to its portfolio with Milaha's NDX service connection Sohar to India & Qatar and Aladin Express' new service connecting Sohar to Far East & India.

F2V, Occidental Oman Sign Agreement for Flare Gas Recovery at Mukhaizna Field



Flare2Value (F2V), an energy solutions company in flare abatement; and Occidental Oman (Oxy Oman), the Sultanate's largest independent oil producer, are pleased to announce the signing of an agreement, where F2V will construct and operate flare gas recovery facilities. The project will reduce emissions and create economic value from captured associated gas.

With the project, F2V demonstrates a novel business model that delivers flare gas utilization solutions and focuses on standardization, modular solutions, and the creation of In-Country Value. The project will capture associated gas that otherwise would have been emitted and achieves this in an efficient manner, utilizing the available energy in high pressure gas.

F2V would like to thank Oxy, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM) in the Sultanate of Oman, our investors and our partners for their trust and unwavering support through a challenging journey. F2V's mission is to complete the project and deliver rapid growth in Oman and elsewhere.

Ministry of Energy and Minerals (MEM): "We are very pleased that Oman can provide

a platform for innovation in the area of collecting and utilizing flared gas. What is even more pleasing is the alignment of this project and F2V business with our national aspirations, to reduce flaring of low pressure gases, reduce emission of greenhouse gases, build value in country, facilitate technology and know-how transfer and build a platform for further FDI into Oman. We are looking forward to rapid scale up: delivery of the follow up projects, first in Oman, and the expansion of flare out delivery capabilities," said H.E. Salim bin Nasser Al Aufi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Energy and Minerals.

"As Oxy was the first US Oil and Gas company to endorse the World Bank's "Zero Routine Flaring by 2030" initiative, we are proud to sign this agreement with F2V, in continuation of the company's efforts to reduce routine flaring and maximize the use of natural gas as a valuable energy resource. Taking advantage of innovative solutions will allow Oxy to achieve net-zero in our operational and energy-use emission before 2040 and our total emissions inventory before 2050," said Stephen Kelly, President and General Manager at Oxy Oman.

REPORT

Regional M&A transactions totalled \$109 billion in 2021

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The investment banking fees in the Middle East & North Africa (Mena) region amounted to \$1.4 billion in the full year of 2021, up 3 per cent from the same period last year and the second-highest total on record, according to a new report.

Mena equity capital markets (ECM) raised \$14.5 billion from 42 offerings in 2021, a 193 per cent increase in proceeds from last year and a 13 year high in the number of ECM deals," according to the report by Refinitiv, a London Stock Exchange Group Business, latest report.

"Debt Capital Markets (DCM) in the Mena region amounted to \$107.5 billion from 152 issuances in 2021, down 12 per cent in proceeds compared to the same period last year," the report further said. "Despite the uncertainties around the pandemic and outlook for 2021, merger and acquisition (M&A) transactions in the Mena region recovered strongly with \$109 billion in proceeds, up 57 per cent from last year and the third \$100 billion years on record," Saïem Jalil, Deals Intelligence Analyst, Refinitiv, said.

"The year 2021 was the first year M&A with any Mena involvement surpassed 1,000 deals demonstrating growing optimism in the region. Strong recovery in business performance throughout 2021 demonstrated a return for capital markets driving momentum, contributed by ECM proceeds up 193 per cent to \$14.5 billion and investment-grade corporate debt at record levels with \$66 billion in proceeds," he added.



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MARKET

MSX index ends lower

United Finance, up 3.45 per cent was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating down 6.15 per cent, was the top loser

MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,202.15 points, down by 0.53 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.05 per cent at 512.98 points. United Finance, up 3.45 per cent was the top gainer while, Dhofar Generating down 6.15 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of HSBC Bank Oman were the most active in terms of the number of shares traded while Bank Muscat were the most active in terms of turnover.

A total number of 383 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3 million, with more than 16.1 million shares changing hands. Out of 38 traded securities, 8 advanced, 12 declined and 18 remained unchanged. At the session close, GCC & Arab investors were net buyers for OMR184,000 while

domestic investors were net sellers for OMR135,000 followed by foreign investors for OMR48,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6704.32 points, down by 0.7 per cent. Prices of United Finance, Vision Insurance, Sohar International Bank, Ominvest, and Muscat Finance were up by 3.45 per cent, 2.33 per cent, 0.89 per cent, 0.65 per cent, and 0 per cent respectively. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Ahli Bank, Al Omaniya Financial Services, National Bank Oman, and HSBC Bank Oman were down by 3.15 per cent, 1.67 per cent, 1.48 per cent, 1.4 per cent, and 0.97 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5861.33 points, down by 0.21 per cent. Services Index was down by 0.23 per cent before closing at 1647.36 points. — **United Securities**

MUSCAT STOCK EXCHANGE

INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff.	Diff%
MSX 30 INDEX	4,224.43	4,202.15	4,202.15	4,224.43	-22.28	-0.53
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,746.56	6,704.31	6,704.31	6,751.82	-47.51	-0.70
Industry Index	5,884.75	5,853.00	5,861.32	5,873.65	-12.32	-0.21
Services Index	1,651.23	1,646.50	1,647.36	1,651.23	-3.87	-0.23
MSX Shariah Index	513.89	512.70	512.98	512.70	0.28	0.05
MSX TR INDEX	5,085.14	5,058.32	5,058.32	5,085.14	-26.82	-0.53

Trading Summary

Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap.	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
16,099,682	3,011,599	383	22,355,502,205	8	12	18	38

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 24

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PD	LAST BD	LAST OFFER	PDA VALUE	MARKET CAP
REGULAR MARKET															
OM0000006005	78,950	34,738	14	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.430	0.010	2.326	0.440	0.440	0.440	0.100	24,200,000
OM0000006820	22,000	1,936	1	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.086	0.002	2.326	0.088	0.088	0.088	0.100	8,800,000
OM0000003388	608,695	69,391	11	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.113	0.001	0.885	0.114	0.113	0.114	0.100	340,897,001
OM0000001533	311,923	96,072	11	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.308	0.306	0.002	0.654	0.308	0.308	0.316	0.100	205,856,551
OM0000003026	436,189	339,891	11	0.776	0.780	0.776	0.780	0.776	0.004	0.515	0.780	0.776	0.784	0.100	585,000,000
OM0000001160	5,000	645	1	0.129	0.129	0.129	0.127	0.127	0.000	0.000	0.129	0.127	0.139	0.100	10,795,000
OM0000001525	1,860,110	297,608	7	0.160	0.160	0.158	0.160	0.160	0.000	0.000	0.158	0.157	0.158	0.100	37,920,000
OM0000001590	10,000	580	2	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.058	0.000	0.000	0.058	0.058	0.060	0.100	1,734,487
OM0000002440	10,000	930	1	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.093	0.000	0.000	0.093	0.091	0.095	0.100	8,370,000
OM0000003000	10,000	6,920	2	0.692	0.692	0.692	0.692	0.692	0.000	0.000	0.692	0.000	0.692	0.100	47,748,000
OM0000003224	502,000	224,556	19	0.446	0.448	0.440	0.448	0.448	0.000	0.000	0.448	0.440	0.448	0.100	105,911,680
OM0000003968	280	98	1	0.376	0.376	0.376	0.376	0.376	0.000	0.000	0.376	0.368	0.378	0.100	244,755,030
OM0000000796	812,886	423,516	21	0.524	0.524	0.518	0.520	0.524	-0.004	-0.763	0.520	0.520	0.520	0.100	1,855,728,892
OM0000002077	329,990	43,789	17	0.132	0.133	0.132	0.133	0.135	-0.002	-1.481	0.132	0.130	0.132	0.100	38,827,378
OM0000002200	10,000	1,180	1	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.120	-0.002	-1.667	0.118	0.118	0.119	0.100	230,059,581
OM0000002226	77,208	25,403	13	0.330	0.330	0.328	0.330	0.336	-0.006	-1.786	0.328	0.324	0.360	0.100	20,197,410
OM0000002168	691,500	390,891	30	0.430	0.440	0.430	0.436	0.444	-0.008	-1.802	0.440	0.428	0.440	0.100	95,920,000
OM0000001418	64,108	12,535	6	0.196	0.196	0.190	0.196	0.200	-0.004	-2.000	0.196	0.190	0.200	0.100	39,200,000
Total	5,840,819	1,880,668	169												

Parallel Market

OM00000002374	UNITED FINANCE	14,230	5,017	6	0.058	0.060	0.058	0.060	0.058	0.002	3.448	0.060	0.058	0.059	0.100	20,948,665
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT. ENG.	1,126,630	121,442	59	0.106	0.109	0.106	0.108	0.105	0.003	2.857	0.107	0.107	0.108	0.100	14,040,000
OM0000001319	ALUMINIUM PROD.	30,860	3,627	8	0.118	0.118	0.117	0.118	0.116	0.002	1.724	0.117	0.117	0.127	0.100	3,961,431
OM0000001426	OMAN REFRESHMENT	500	845	1	1.690	1.690	1.690	1.750	1.750	0.000	0.000	1.690	0.000	0.000	0.100	87,500,000
OM0000001681	OMAN EMIRATES HO.	40,650	2,439	6	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.060	0.000	0.000	0.060	0.057	0.066	0.100	7,312,500
OM0000002572	OMAN OIL MARKETING	500	446	1	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.904	0.904	0.000	0.000	0.892	0.892	0.892	0.100	55,392,600
OM0000002804	ASAFFA FOODS	155	23	1	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.000	0.150	0.140	0.150	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000003281	TANGERINE FINANCE	406,453	34,133	20	0.083	0.085	0.083	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.083	0.084	0.100	21,301,560
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	3,306,762	333,983	22	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.101	0.000	0.000	0.101	0.091	0.101	0.100	225,932,256
OM0000004735	SEMOBOP SALALAH	2,000	160	1	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.079	0.079	0.000	0.080	0.072	0.080	0.100	75,411,184	
OM0000004768	MADINA TAKAFUL	142,181	13,651	10	0.096	0.097	0.096	0.096	0.096	0.000	0.000	0.096	0.095	0.096	0.100	16,800,000
OM0000004925	ALBATINAH POWER	16,000	768	3	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.048	0.050	0.100	32,394,597
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,000	178	1	0.089	0.089	0.089	0.086	0.086	0.000	0.000	0.089	0.086	0.089	0.100	13,377,334
OM0000007910	AMAN REAL ESTATE	1,050	104	1	0.099	0.099	0.099	0.090	0.090	0.000	0.000	0.099	0.000	0.099	0.100	18,000,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	3,681,782	376,302	33	0.103	0.103	0.102	0.102	0.103	-0.001	-0.971	0.102	0.101	0.102	0.100	204,031,905
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	204,400	15,126	16	0.075	0.075	0.074	0.074	0.075	-0.001	-1.333	0.074	0.074	0.077	0.100	15,020,997
OM0000001485	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	831,630	176,647	12	0.215	0.215	0.210	0.212	0.215	-0.003	-1.395	0.210	0.210	0.210	0.100	344,700,627
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	350,000	43,110	9	0.126	0.126	0.123	0.123	0.127	-0.004	-3.150	0.123	0.123	0.139	0.100	368,551,227
OM0000007407	DHOFAH GENERATING	30,000	1,830	3	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.061	0.065	-0.004	-6.154	0.061	0.059	0.063	0.100	13,556,640
Total		19		10,257,763	1,129,631		213									

SUPPLY DISRUPTION

Oil prices rise on supply fears

TOKYO: Oil prices rose on Monday on worries about supply disruption amid rising tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, which could make an already tight market even tighter, while OPEC and its allies continued to struggle to raise output.

Brent crude futures rose 81 cents, or 0.9 per cent, to \$88.70 a barrel by 0344 GMT, reversing a 0.6 per cent loss on Friday.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 72 cents, or 0.9 per cent, to \$85.86 a barrel, having fallen 0.5 per cent on Friday.

Both benchmarks rose for a fifth week in a row last week, gaining around 2 per cent to hit their highest since October 2014. Prices are already up more than 10 per cent this year on the concerns over tightening supplies.

"Investors remained bullish due to geopolitical risk between Russia and Ukraine as well as in the Middle East, while OPEC+ continued to fail to reach its output target," said Kazuhiko Saito, chief analyst at Fujitomi Securities Co Ltd.

"An expectation for higher heating oil demand in the United States amid cold weather also added to pressure," he said. — **BNA**

AGREEMENT

AD Ports Group creates oil & gas logistics base at Mugharra Port for Eni Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI: Aligned with national efforts aimed at driving the growth of the UAE's energy sector, AD Ports Group has signed a new agreement with Eni Abu Dhabi B.V., the Abu Dhabi-based branch of the world-renowned Italian Integrated Energy Company, to establish a marine logistics base at Mugharra Port supporting offshore drilling operations in the heart of Al Dhafra region.

Mugharra Port's ultra-modern infrastructure and its strategic location close to the region's offshore oil and gas facilities will be made available to Eni Abu Dhabi operations.

In addition to being provided with a dedicated quay wall, marshalling yard, as well as manpower and logistical equipment, the company will also have access to liquid mud and bulk plant facilities onsite.

Saif Al Mazrouei, Head of Ports Cluster, AD Ports Group, said: "It gives us great pleasure to welcome Eni Abu Dhabi, a major player in the world's energy industry, who leads several offshore operations around the world, to join our flourishing industrial maritime community within the Al Dhafra region."

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CONSUMPTION IMPROVES DIGESTION



A recent clinical study has found positive effects of coffee on digestion and the gut, and it protects against common digestive complaints such as gallstones as well as The study has been published in the 'Nutrients Journal'.

The review of 194 research publications suggested that moderate coffee consumption (defined by EFSA as 3-5 cups per day) was not found to generate harmful effects on the various organs of the digestive tract.

Two areas of particular interest emerging from the research are the association between coffee and a reduced risk of gallstones and the evidence linking coffee consumption with a reduced risk of pancreatitis, although more research is still needed.

On its journey through the gastrointestinal tract, coffee has three main impacts:

1. Coffee is associated with gastric, biliary, and pancreatic secretions all necessary for the digestion of food. Coffee was found to stimulate the production of the digestive hormone gastrin; and hydrochloric acid, present in gastric juice — both of which help break down food in the stomach. Coffee also stimulates the secretion of cholecystokinin (CCK), a hormone that increases the production of bile, also involved in digestion.

2. Coffee appeared to be associated with changes in the composition of gut microbiota. In the reviewed studies, coffee consumption was found to induce changes in the composition of the gut microbiota, mainly at the population level of Bifidobacteria — a ubiquitous inhabitant of the gastrointestinal tract.

3. Coffee is associated with colon motility — the process by which food travels through the digestive tract. The data reviewed suggested that coffee may stimulate motility in the colon as much as cereals, 23 per cent more than decaffeinated coffee or 60 per cent more than a glass of water and it may be linked to a reduced risk of chronic constipation.

The latest research also strongly supported the protective effect of coffee against liver diseases, including hepatocellular carcinoma — one of the most common types of liver cancer.

Despite the evidence to suggest coffee consumption may support the first stages of digestion, most data did not support the finding that coffee had a direct effect on gastro-oesophageal reflux. Instead, this is a combined or additive effect of other risk factors such as obesity and a poor diet.

The new review was conducted by Astrid Nehlig, Ph.D., Emeritus Research Director at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM).

Nehlig commented, "Contrary to some assumptions, coffee consumption is not overall linked to bowel or digestive problems. In some instances, coffee has a protective effect against common digestive complaints such as constipation. Emerging data also indicate there may be an association with improved levels of gut bacterial groups such as Bifidobacteria which have recognised beneficial effects. Although additional data will be needed to understand coffee's effects throughout the digestive tract, this is an extremely encouraging place to begin." -ANI

ROUND-UP

Malabar Gold opens six new outlets across Oman, Qatar, Malaysia, India

All the new stores will impress jewellery buyers with strong customer service and product variety

MUSCAT: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 280 outlets spread across 10 countries, opened 6 new showrooms across Qatar, Oman, Malaysia and India. Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Al Khoud Street, Muscat was inaugurated by Khamis Thani Thunai Al Mandhari, Director, Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the presence of Najeeb K, Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Muhsin P, Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other dignitaries and management team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Mall of Oman was inaugurated by Assilabint Salem Al Samsamiya, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion (MO-CIIP) in the presence of Khamis Thani Thunai Al Mandhari, Director, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Najeeb K, Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Muhsin P, Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, SM Basheer, Managing Director, Babil Group, other dignitaries and management team mem-



bers of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. MGD – Lifestyle Jewellery outlet at Landmark Shopping mall, Gharafa, Qatar was inaugurated by Sheikh Abdulla Nazar Bin Abdulla Al Thani, Sheikh Hamed Nazar Bin Abdulla Al Thani in the presence of Santhosh. TV, Regional Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Naufal Thadathil, Zonal Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other dignitaries and management team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Penang, Malaysia was inaugurated by Yb. Prof. Dr P. Ramasamy A/L Palanisamy, Deputy Chief Minister II of Penang in the presence of Nijeeesh P, Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Aljas CV, Assistant Branch Head, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; other dignitaries and team members of Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Malabar Gold & Diamonds showroom in Varanasi, UP, India

was virtually inaugurated by M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group after which Varanasi Cantonment MLA Saurabh Srivastava opened the showroom for customers in the presence of senior management officials of Malabar Gold & Diamonds and other dignitaries. The showroom in Malaysia was inaugurated on 20th January while the showrooms in Oman, Qatar and India were inaugurated on 22nd January 2022. The newly

opened showrooms in Qatar and Oman cater to the design preferences of Arab customers, specifically Qatari and Omani nationals and showcase exquisite jewellery in 18K and 21K alongside diamonds, platinum and pearl jewellery, specially handpicked for jewellery lovers. Additionally, these stores have an impressive array of kids jewellery, with specific designs that appeal to children. “In addition to making ourselves more accessible, I am sure that all our new stores will impress jewellery buyers with strong customer service and product variety. We constantly make efforts to evolve in line with the jewellery preferences of our multicultural and multinational customers, as part of which we have launched stand-alone stores exclusively for local customers of the respective regions, with more openings in the pipeline,” said Shamlal Ahammed, Managing Director – International Operations. The newly opened showroom in Penang is the 6th outlet of the brand in Malaysia and 9th in Far East region, showcasing an extensive range of designs to suit traditional and contemporary tastes. With the latest collection crafted in gold, silver, platinum and diamonds, and trained jewellery experts, the showroom in Varanasi, UP, India will provide a world-class shopping experience to all its customers. Malabar Group commits 5% of its profit to support socially responsible purposes both in India and abroad, since its inception in 1993. Education, health, women empowerment, affordable housing and environmental protection are the focus areas for the group.

FUNCTIONAL SPACE

Renault Master appreciated for handy features, low running costs

MUSCAT: A blend of functional space, pliable interior, handy features and low running costs, makes Renault Master the most favoured vehicle in Oman. Upholding the local market ideally, the model combines great value for money with high levels of driver and passenger comfort. Offering dynamic look, space, comfort, and efficient performance, Renault Master has been designed to be the perfect working companion for individuals working in different sectors. Renault Master is also available in variants including L4H3, L1H1, L2H2. A spokesperson for Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, said, “The energetic performance of the Renault Master makes it one of the best in the market. It has a capacity of 2,299 cc, power 92 kW (125Hp), four cylinders, 16 valves, Euro 3 and transmission of rear-wheel drive and gearbox of 6 MT. Thanks to its undeniable practicality, robustness and versatility, the LCV line-up has generated high demand.” Suleiman Al Yahyai calls Renault Master a “great partner” says, “With greater loading and towing capabilities, the Renault Master is a wonderful companion to transport significant loads over regular and soft ground.” Saif Al Jahwari likes that Master Van is fitted with a rear-view camera so you can reverse with confidence whether you are loading, parking, or manoeuvring tight spaces. He says, “The model continues to offer businesses and trades remarkable flexibility. It sets the bar very high and is powerful, economical and safe. Its engines and myriad innovations are designed to make life easier for the owners every day.” Amar Al Salim welcomes that Master Van provides loads of space and ability and suits delivery needs competently. He says, “class-leading safety technology and a feature-packed cabin has made Renault Master a favourite among customers.” Hamood Al Rashdi venerates Renault Master's comfort features such as electric front window (driver & passenger), electric mirrors, C-shaped DRL, rear glazed doors with 270° opening and heated rear window, floor anchorage points and side anchorage points in the load area. He also adds, “It delivers superior driving pleasure,



performance and fuel efficiency. With its bold style, its vertical front end, master asserts its robust and modern design. Its new dashboard, a vast range of equipment and driver assistance systems help make your daily life easier.” Ahmed Al Balushi believes Master Van sets a new benchmark for practicality with style. He says, “Its exterior features include new front grille, new bumpers, and front wings which is very impressive.” **Great companion** Renault Master has a bench with storage on the centre back seat and rotating tablet, full steel bulkhead (without window), ESP, C shape daytime running lights, rear steel doors with 270° opening, right sliding door, electric mirrors and electric front window (driver & passenger). Its loading benefits include greater permissible rear axle load, available in an L4 Panel van with the biggest load length (4.38m). Its traction and grip benefits include better traction with heavy loads, on a steep slope and on soft ground to limit the risk of getting stuck. It also has the better obstacle-clearing capacity, differential locking as an option, twin wheels for greater grip and a higher rear-axle load. **Embodies efficiency** With its strong and dynamic front end, the Renault Master embodies efficiency. With expressive lights, grille, dynamic logo, updated lines and a wide bumper maximising the bodywork protection, it is modernity personified. **Long journeys pleasant** Renault Master's cockpit is designed for a driver's and two pas-

sengers' comfort. Ergonomic controls, adjustable seat and steering wheel to adapt the driving position, air conditioning, optimized soundproofing, multiple storage compartments make long journeys pleasant and relaxing. You can call Renault Master a true office on wheels with numerous storage areas. All the comfort of a passenger vehicle in the cockpit and modern features: storage on the upper centre console, glove box, storage on the centre backseat with a rotating tablet. L4H3 has 270 degrees opening rear cargo doors, a bulkhead with or without a window. **Dynamic comfort** The latest-generation ESP comes as standard on the whole New Master range and has been combined with recent innovations such as Extended Grip and Hill Start Assist. Extended Grip optimises your road-holding ability on loose road surfaces such as sand and mud. Hill-start assist helps you pull away smoothly even with a full load. Master offers even more dynamic comfort with the load adaptive control where the ESP takes into consideration whether the vehicle is empty partly or fully loaded. With electro-hydraulic power-assisted steering, the electro-pump unit improves the vehicle's manoeuvrability at low speeds and reduces the amount of effort required. The differential locking is avoiding problems with slippery surfaces. Optional on the RWD versions of the Renault Master, the differential locking system improves your traction. Below 30 km/h, it is automatically triggered if a wheel starts to skid.

KHIMJI RAMDAS

Eshraqa initiates knowledge sharing workshop for SMEs

MUSCAT: In a first of its kind initiative, Eshraqa, Khimji Ramdas' Social Development Arm, conducted a knowledge sharing consultative workshop, in collaboration with Taiseer Platform, to assist SMEs representing Oman at the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai. Titled 'Marketing, Promotion and Market Growth', the first knowledge-sharing workshop from Eshraqa, was organised within the framework of Khimji Ramdas' vision to propel Omani SMEs to the forefront through various progressive initiatives. It was held under Tasees, Eshraqa's Entrepreneurship Academy, with the key objective of providing a platform for SMEs to assimilate the concepts of marketing and promotion and to acquaint them with the procedures involved in implementing those concepts while planning their marketing strategies. Ten SMEs, representing businesses in fisheries, honey manufacturing, frankincense products, perfumery, technology, apparel as well as natural skincare products and cosmetics, benefitted from this interactive hands-on workshop, which gave the participating entrepreneurs an up close and personal look at the various facets of market growth through marketing and promotional strategies. Highlighting the significance of the workshop for SMEs, Nailesh Khimji, Director of Khimji Ramdas, said, “Our primary objective behind this extensive program to create newer avenues to showcase our responsibility toward the society, and to raise awareness among the SME sector and emerging micro-businesses to find their niche at events like Expo 2020 Dubai. Through Eshraqa, we have repeatedly demonstrated our commitment to Omani society, in line with the priorities of Vision 2040. This augurs well with our larger goal to proactively contribute to the nation's economy and future development. We believe in empowering our fellow entrepreneurs with relevant and resourceful skills that are essential to market and promote their products and services.” Reiterating similar sentiments, Nada Bassam, CEO of Taiseer Platform, said, “We are grateful to the Sultanate's General Commission for Expo 2020 Dubai for facilitating a host of initiatives for the Omani SMEs, as part of their



participation at the expo. “We are pleased to have collaborated with Khimji Ramdas, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Eshraqa team for extending their support to the SMEs through this knowledge sharing session. The SMEs have certainly benefitted from this program and we will look forward to more collaborative initiatives in the future.” For Nadeem Ahmed, facilitator of the program and Chief Consultant for Tasees and Eshraqa Mentors, the workshop proved to be the right platform to expound on the facets of marketing for local SMEs. “From its very inception, Tasees has endeavoured to assist in the process of building a sustainable entrepreneurship culture, while addressing the futuristic economic goals of Oman through innovative interventions. We are pleased to have associated with Taiseerto support SMEs that are representing Oman in Expo 2020. We believe that with the right support and assistance, these participating SMEs can prove their potential to significantly boost the economic growth of the nation and position Oman at the global front.” The timely and carefully planned workshop received an overwhelming response from the participants. During the program, they were able to identify and constructively apply the techniques of creating a value proposition, segmentation, targeting and positioning of their product offerings with the support of Team Eshraqa. The participants, some of who will be further assisted by Tasees and Taiseer Platform, were delighted to have partaken

in such a thought-provoking exercise, which pushed them to contemplate their products in ways they hadn't before. Appreciating the range of topics dealt with as part of the program, participating entrepreneur Samah Hamood Al Mahrouqi, of Yomecare Company, said: “It has been a very insightful program, helping us understand the concepts of marketing. I am grateful to Taiseer for this wonderful initiative and the entire team of Eshraqa and Khimji Ramdas for giving us this opportunity to learn. This will definitely help us grow our business.” Another participant, Sulaiman Hamood Al Sumri - of Al Rahiq Almakhtoom Honey Production and Retailing Company said, “This program has been immensely beneficial in prodding us to understand and define our project goals and ways to achieve them. We learnt firsthand from marketing professionals on the crux of developing and executing effective marketing strategies.” To further bolster Omani SMEs participation in the Expo 2020 Dubai, Eshraqa, in association with Taiseer Platform, will conduct a new session on ‘Commercial Business Modeling’. This second knowledge-sharing exercise will help entrepreneurs to analyse, visualise and test the commercial viability of their business using proven business modelling tools. With these series of knowledge sharing sessions and other support facilities offered, Khimji Ramdas aims to play a role in fuelling the growth of SMEs in Oman, assisting them to become active contributors to Oman's Vision 2040.

ROUND-UP

Bank Muscat to receive Green Sports applications until February 2, 2022

Members from interested sports teams can view the application details and apply for the same using a mobile phone, tablet or computer as per their convenience



MUSCAT: Bank Muscat, the leading financial services provider in the Sultanate, in line with its commitment to corporate social responsibility, has announced that it will receive Green Sports applications till 2 February 2022.

The bank is currently receiving applications along with the necessary documents digitally through its electronic platform available at the following link: <https://www.bankmuscat.com/greensports>. Members from interested sports teams can view the application details and apply for the same using a mobile phone, tablet or computer as per their convenience.

The bank has encouraged all interested teams to commence the process at the earliest and ensure that applications are submitted well ahead of the deadline. The bank has announced that it will review and evaluate all applications and the 20 winners for 2022 will be announced as per the qualification criteria.

The scope of Green Sports support for sports teams include greening of football fields with natural or synthetic turf, floodlights or water desalination equipment in areas facing problems of water salinity. Ensuring wider representation, the Green Sports programme extends to develop sustainable sports infrastructure across the Sultanate.

Also, the facilities developed as part of the programme are often used as a venue for other social activities, leading to stronger community bonding and greater positive behaviour among young people. Teams may email GreenSports@bankmuscat.com in case of any queries or doubts regarding the application process.

Bank Muscat is proud of the success and achievements of its CSR programs, which draws from the values of leadership and partnership to create a positive impact on Omani society. The Green Sports initiative, which was launched by Bank Muscat in 2012, has supported 143 sports teams across Oman till date. It is estimated that the total number of people who have so far benefitted from this programme throughout the country is about 42,900.

Bank Muscat's CSR and sustainability programmes have been well appreciated and received a number of accolades. The bank was recently honoured by the Ministry of Social Development and the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its efforts in supporting persons with disabilities. Earlier in 2021, the bank also won the Middle East Sustainability Award from EMEA Finance.

CAMPAIGN SPECIAL PROGRAMME



Toyota Avalon available with exclusive benefits

MUSCAT: Own a Toyota Avalon and benefit with Service 2 Years/20,000 km, (Whichever is earlier). The campaign is valid until 9th March 2022. (Prospective buyers may be advised that the benefits vary between model variants, model year and manufacturing year. Terms & Conditions apply. Visit the showroom for exact details.

The Toyota Avalon with its design, comfort and luxury is a popular choice for customers. Complementing the Avalon's stunning looks is a thrilling drive personality imbued by a 3.5-litre V6 engine, which produces a maximum output of 298 HP and 36.3 Kg-m of torque and is equipped with a Direct Injection 4-Stroke Gasoline Engine Superior Version (D-4S) and Variable Valve Timing-intelligent Wide (VVT-iW) systems to achieve top-notch power performance, environmental performance, and fuel efficiency.

The engine is paired to an eight-speed automatic transmission that merges smooth, precise gear selection throughout the RPM range with alacrity for fuel efficiency and on-demand power.

The Avalon's cabin is accentuated with a range of advanced features, including an enhanced In-vehicle 9-inch Navigation System, a Head-Up Display (HUD), Wireless Charging System For Smartphones, Ambient Illumination, Automatic Air Conditioning System, 14-speaker JBL Sound System, Multi-Adjustable Power And Ventilated Front Seats, As well as 60:40 Split Folding Rear Seats.

The Avalon's safety system is complemented with Toyota Safety Sense, an advanced safety technology package that includes Pre-Collision System (PCS), Dynamic Radar Cruise Control (DRCC), Lane Change Assist (LCA), Lane Departure Alert (LDA) and Automatic High Beam (AHB). In addition, the car features a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, such as 10 SRS Airbags, Vehicle Stability Control (VSC),

Traction Control (TRC), Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD), Brake Assist (BA), Electric Parking Brake (EPB) with Brake Hold function, Blind Spot Monitor (BSM), Rear Cross-Traffic Alert (RCTA), and Hill-start Assist (HSA), among many others.

Specifications of vehicles imported from Toyota Motor Corporation are as per the GSO Conformity Certificate applicable to the model/grade.

Parameters such as vehicle weight, dimensions & fuel economy could vary from the GSO Conformity Certificate due to the fitment of dealer-installed accessories. Pictures and colours shown may differ from actual specifications.

In Oman, the nationwide parts and service network of Saud Bahwan Automotive supports Toyota's outstanding product quality. No wonder today, Toyota is one of the most trusted and well-known brands.

need to strengthen the citizen's culture of belonging to their beloved nation, by learning about its vast history over hundreds of years. This also reinforces the strong partnership that we hold between the subsidiaries of the Zubair Corporation, which is a reflection of our joint teamwork," Hilal added.

Fahad Al Hasni, Museum Curator & Exhibitions Manager of Bait Al Zubair, said, "We are pleased to host the employees of the Zubair Corporation and its subsidiaries, as part of the "Discover Oman" programme. This included an expansive tour of the various museum facilities to learn more about The Sultanate's various historical stages, in addition to a heritage workshop on ancient Omani heritage."

Zubair Corporation conducts Discover Oman programme



MUSCAT: The Zubair Corporation, together with Bait Al Zubair Museum, organised a special programme for its employees and staff and families of its group companies. Entitled, "Discover Oman", the programme provides a unique opportunity for invitees to delve into and learn more about the rich history of Oman, across various periods.

This was conducted through an exceptional visit to the Bait Al Zubair Museum, which hosts a unique collection of antiquities and artefacts that chronicle the historical stages of the Sultanate.

Commenting on the importance of the programme, Hilal Omar Al Siyabi, Head of Corporate Services at The Zubair Corporation, said, "The "Discover Oman" programme aims to bring together different generations, especially the youth and familiarise them with ancient Omani history and historical eras.

The "Discover Oman" programme aims to bring together different generations, especially the youth and familiarise them with ancient Omani history and historic eras

Hilal Omar Al Siyabi
Head of Corporate Services at The Zubair Corporation

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ROUND-UP



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HIGHER EDUCATION



Registration for 2nd semester of Academic Year 2021-2022 commences at Majan College

MUSCAT: Majan University College, the first private higher education institution to be established in Oman and the first higher education institution (HEI) to receive full institutional accreditation from the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAA), opens registration for the second semester of the academic year 2021/2022.

The college, in affiliation with the University of Bedfordshire, UK offers a wide range of programmes at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels designed to fit the needs of the prevailing job market. IT programmes in Computer and Network Applications, Computing for Oil and Gas, Banking Information Systems, Software Engineering as well as programmes in the Business Administration field, notably Marketing, Accounting, Finance, Islamic Banking, Tourism, Transport Operations Management, Small Businesses and E-Business are on offer.

All programmes operate in full and part-time mode.

Computing Oil and Gas is delivered in an On/Off study mode to suit the needs of students already employed in the sector. A unique Bachelor of English Language Programme that accords graduates with a multi-disciplinary advantage are also offered.

Besides the above undergraduate programmes, the Postgraduate Centre in Majan has on offer a Masters of Business Administration, and Masters degrees in Computer Science, International Human Resource Management, and Applied Linguistics, all in a part-time mode with very flexible study hours to suit working professionals. The Centre also runs an IELTS preparation course to enable students to attain a score of 6.0 necessary for Postgraduate admissions.

Professional courses such as ACCA (The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and CMA (Certified Management Accounting) as well as professional development courses, language training courses, accounting, finance and IT courses, are all available for enrollment at the College.

Majan University College's Campus is located in Darsait, in the heart of Muscat. The College provides Hostel accommodation that is within easy reach of the campus, and transport and shuttle services are provided.

For inquiries, the Admissions Office is open from Sunday - Wednesday 8:00 to 4:00 pm and Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and can be contacted on 24730400/ 80071000, WhatsApp 72355500, E-mail: Admissions@majancollege.edu.om.

2022 all-new Chevrolet Groove-Sensational, yet affordable

Chevrolet Groove, the sporty and youthful new offering from General Motors, made its debut in the Omani market after garnering spectacular reviews following its launch in key markets across the world.

The all-new 2022-edition of the compact SUV, bristling with innovative technologies and infotainment features, has been designed keeping in mind the tech-savvy millennial generation of the Middle East. And with prices starting at OMR 6,889 (inclusive of VAT), the superbly sculpted and engineered Groove is also one of the most affordable SUVs in its class and segment.

Every facet of the Chevrolet Groove is inspired by Chevrolet's design ethos. Stunning in style, the trendy SUV exudes a combination of lean, muscular and athletic sportiness whether parked or in motion. This striking

personality is also reflected in its signature horizontal three-line grille emblazoned with the Chevrolet bowtie and flanked by ultra-thin headlamps.

Neat and nimble, the Chevrolet Groove is powered by a 1.5L engine mated with a continuously variable transmission (CVT) to ensure a smooth and immaculate performance on the road. With excellent fuel efficiency and fun-to-drive characteristics, the sporty crossover delivers on looks, performance and reliability – the enduring hallmarks of GM's Chevrolet SUV range.

Safety features like 4 airbags and Technology features come standard across all variants in the Groove line-up from the base trim upwards. For ease of driving and maneuverability, there is a reverse camera and sensors, while a multifunctional steering wheel ensures all controls are easily accessible from Cruise Control. Stability and Traction Control also ensures the driver remains in control, no matter the road conditions.

A spacious and delightfully designed cabin can seat up to five people. Taking centre-stage in the cabin is an 8-inch screen packed with the latest Chevrolet infotainment capabilities with Apple Carplay and Android auto, including phone projection, USB ports, and up to six speakers.

A panoramic sunroof in the Premier trim helps bring a bit of the outside world into the comfortable cabin.

"We are excited about the introduction of the all-new Chevrolet Groove here in the Sultanate of Oman, given the huge buzz it has generated elsewhere in the Middle East and the wider world. Its youthful appeal and trendy features, not to mention its immensely affordable price tag, positions it well to be a bestseller in its segment in the Omani market," said Mr. Sudhir M., CEO – OTE Group, exclusive distributors of Chevrolet in the Sultanate of Oman.

Available in four distinct colour options Metal Red, Candy White, Aurora Silver and European Blue – the Chevrolet Groove is on display at OTE showrooms across the country.



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