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HM GREETES PRESIDENT OF TUNISIA

MUSCAT: His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik has sent a cable of greetings to President Kais Saied of the Republic of Tunisia on his country's Republic Day Anniversary. In the cable, His Majesty expressed his heartfelt sentiments and best wishes of good health, happiness and a long life to President Saied. His Majesty also prayed to Allah the Almighty for the return of this and similar occasions on President Saied while the Tunisian people realise further aspirations of progress and prosperity. **-ONA**



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Sayyid Shihab meets
Commander of Royal
Saudi Air Force

A3

TOP THREE INSIDE STORIES

OMAN Pressure trough headed for Oman

1 Latest weather charts and analyses of the National Early Warning Centre indicate the probability that, on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oman will experience the impact of a low pressure originating in India, with rainclouds predicted to overcast local skies. **>A3**

SPORTS ICC posts for Pankaj Khimji, Imran Khwaja

2 Pankaj Khimji, Imran Khwaja and Neil Speight have been elected as International Cricket Council (ICC) Associate Member Directors following an election process at the ICC's Annual Conference held in Birmingham, UK. **>A8**

MARKET Orascom hotels get over 70,000 guests

3 Orascom hotels in Oman have been able to attract more than 70,000 tourists each year in its 1,200 rooms, Mehmet Tunc Mustecaplioglu, general manager of Orascom Hotels in Oman said in an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman*. **>B1**

OIA'S 7 JOINT VENTURES GIVE OMAN AN EDGE IN PROMISING MARKETS

Since its inception, OIA has ensured handsome returns in the form of additional investments and good yields from timely exits

MUSCAT: Oman Investment Authority's (OIA) seven joint ventures with Arab and non-Arab countries have given the country an edge in promising markets.

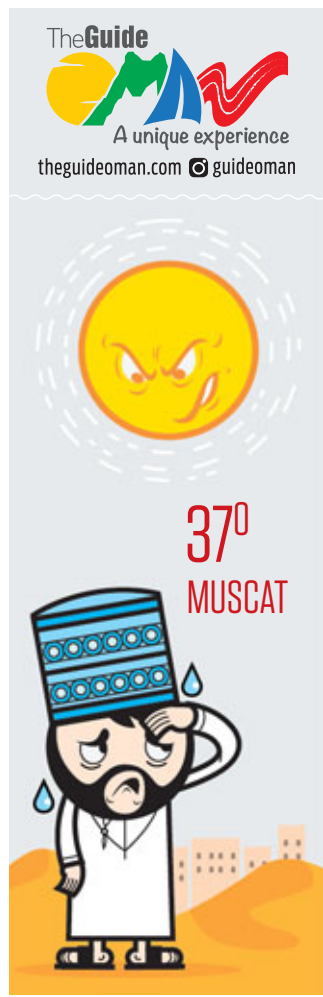


Mulham Basheer Al Jarf, OIA
Acting Deputy President for
Investment

Mulham Basheer Al Jarf, OIA Acting Deputy President for Investment said these strategic projects help the Sultanate further promote its relations with Arab and non-Arab countries, and get into strategic partnerships that serve the interests of all parties.

He added that OIA has successfully entered into seven joint ventures since its inception and together ensured some handsome returns in the form of additional investments, yields from timely exits, increased capital and investments in new areas.

To strengthen the partnership between the Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar, Al Hosn Investment Company (HIC) was established in 2007, as a closed joint stock company with its head office in Muscat. With assets totalling OMR135 million, and a capital of OMR250 million, the company invested in the economic sectors in Oman, e.g. banking, industry, communications and technology, food, healthcare and education. Currently, the company's portfolio has 14 investment projects in different sectors. **>A6**



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*CBSE Grade XII toppers with 95% and above can apply for our scholarship. Subject to meeting our admissions and eligibility process

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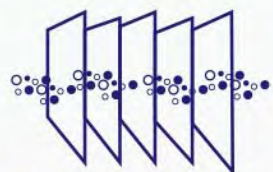
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Isha.....	8:17pm
Fajr (Tomorrow).....	4:10am

GROWING DEMAND

Oman Air increases number of flights to Indian destinations



Times News Service

MUSCAT: As demand grows, Oman Air, the Sultanate of Oman's national airline, will operate 10 weekly flights instead of 7 weekly flights between Muscat and Kochi, Delhi, and Chennai in India between August 1, 2022, and October 29, 2022.

"We are pleased to announce additional frequencies to Kochi, Delhi, and Chennai effective next month as part of our comprehensive plans to better serve our international markets and meet our guests' travel expectations during the holiday season," said Hamad bin Mohamed Al Harthy, Regional Vice President Sales - Indian Sub-continent & Asia-Pacific.

The airline will operate a total of 122 flights per week between Muscat and its 8 Indian destinations with the additional 18 flights per

week, offering 10 flights per week in each direction to Delhi, Kochi, and Chennai, 7 flights per week to Bangalore, Mumbai, Kozhikode, and Hyderabad, as well as 3 flights per week to Goa.

Al Harthy continued, "The airline will offer wide-body service, including the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Airbus A330 in addition to the Boeing 737, between Muscat and destinations in India.

Oman Air is renowned for its exceptional award-winning products and services, both in the air and on the ground, and for the signature Omani hospitality accessible to guests on every flight."

Oman 'Stopover Packages' offer Oman Air-ticketed passengers the flexibility to discover some of the most desirable tourist spots in and around Muscat.

Each stopover is designed to offer visitors a distinct taste of some

of Oman's leading attractions.

Enabling the country's flourishing tourism potential is something Oman Air Holidays does exceptionally well, and the launch of its stopover packages adds to Oman's growing inventory of custom stays and experiences.

Oman Air welcomes all guests to the Sultanate of Oman on board its award-winning flights. Updated flight times and schedules can be found by visiting omanair.com.

As of May 22, 2022, all COVID-19 preventive safety precautions and procedures previously in place at airports across Oman have been lifted.

Guests departing Oman should ensure that they are aware of all pre-departure requirements and requirements during their flights, which are provided at omanair.com.

TWO-DAY EVENT

Second Arab Tourism Forum kicks off in Dhofar

SALALAH: Activities of the Second Arab Tourism and Heritage Forum, organised by the Arab Tourism Media Centre, began here on Sunday.

The two-day event, which takes place within the context of Dhofar monsoon programme, was opened by His Highness Sayyid Marwan Turki Al Said, Governor of Dhofar.

The forum includes specialised workshops on a variety of topics: "Role of the new media in activating tourism", "World heritage sites in the Sultanate of Oman" and "sustainability and social development".

The forum seeks to establish strong partnership between me-



dia institutions and government and private sector establishments operating in the field of heritage and tourism. The aim is to enhance marketing in the back-

drops of economic challenges facing all countries, bearing in mind that the tourism sector plays a vital role in the future vision of every country. -ONA

ANTWERP

Shabab Oman II takes part in long distance sailing races

BELGIUM: Shabab Oman II of the Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) continues its participation in the 2022 festival for long distance sailing races at the port of Antwerp in Belgium..

RNO Shabab Oman II is currently docked at River Scheldt in Antwerp in preparation for the launch of the second phase of the sail race.

The second destination of RNO Shabab Oman II will be Aalborg City in Denmark.

The RNO Shabab Oman II will receive visitors from 21 to 25 July reflecting the bridges of brotherhood and the message of peace among the peoples of the world within its sixth international tour (Oman; the land of peace), which kicked off, last April, at Said bin Sultan Naval Base.

The RNO Shabab Oman II Tour in Europe would continue to next October. -ONA







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SAYYID SHIHAB MEETS SAUDI AIR FORCE COMMANDER

His Highness Sayyid Shihab bin Tarik Al Said, Deputy Prime Minister for Defence Affairs received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison on Sunday Lt. Gen Turki Bandar Al Saud, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the relations between the two countries and exchanged viewpoints on matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO). -ONA



COMMENTARY

The Rollercoaster of a Marriage



Saleh Al-Shaibany

As I watched the young newly wed being driven away to their honeymoon hotel, I thought of my own big day many years ago. We were radiant, big smiles on our faces and could not wait to do things together. As in most cases of newly wedded couples, we were inseparable. Well, until kids came along and they came too fast. Yes, children come along with special blessings but not without certain sacrifices. Sometimes ago, I assumed that someone had children just because she was married for many years. When she said she and her husband were not blessed with kids, my first reaction was show sympathy. I am glad I didn't. Instead, I said to her, "You have not missed much."

Perhaps I said that to make her feel good. Perhaps I

meant it. It could be I was of two minds when I said that. I wouldn't know that now. But very calmly, she answered, "children are a gift from God..." and she let the sentence trail away.

I am not sure but she may have meant that gift had not been extended to her. As my grandmother used to say, God's gifts are freely being given and if you have missed one of them, do not despair. She was absolutely true. Marriage is not about sharing a bed. It may start that way. I bet the young newly weds would feed each other with a spoon for the next one week and gaze each other in the eyes for another month. Then the gaze would slowly turn into a stare and divert somewhere else. The idealists among you may mock my words but I am not saying marriages should lose their sparkle when the honeymoon is a distant memory. It should be toned down and expectations should be lowered to allow room for maturity. As years pass by, priorities in life change. Children occupy the top rung of the priority ladder and parents tend to push each other in the background. It should not happen that way but it does. However, if it is manoeuvred the proper way, such precedence should bring the couple closer since they work as a team for the same common goal.

Just look at our parents and the way they lived together. I am not sure about you. But I have learned a few things from own mother and father. The patience and perseverance to make the marriage tick last a lifetime. I am not saying there were no turbulent moments. They were plenty of that but they are meant to be smoothed out. If there are no creases on the sheet, then the bed has not been slept on. If so, what is the use of buying the bed at all? When you come to think of it, sparkles of any marriage do not fly up like fireworks. All you need is one to light up whenever there is a dark moment. It is like a beacon of light to guide you out of the rough water of marriage. Perhaps that would be the appropriate advice one would give to the newly married couple. For whatever it is worth, they should know that beacon must be rekindled from time to time. Otherwise, routine and commitments, especially the children, can take their toll. But the worse mistake is to base the marriage solely on serving the children. We, as parents, too, need our space. The space that no child can access. We deserve that. After all, marriage is togetherness and not just the pack that comes later.

Marriage can be a bumpy rollercoaster but it is worthy in the end.

ACCIDENT

Al Hamra road accident cuts short journey of picnickers

Times News Service

MUSCAT: The picnickers were in a mood of revelry and no one thought such a fate lay in store for them when their bus, out for the some fun moments to Al Dakhliya governorate met with an accident at Al Jabal Al Sharqui in the Wilayat of Al Hamra, killing five of them on the spot and injuring 14 others, either simply or grievously, on Saturday.

The group of 19 consisted of students mainly, along with some staff of the Youth Hostels and Children Care Centre, who were out on a routine picnic excursion to the Al Dakhiliyah governorate. Such excursions was not a one-off event, but were routine, including trips outside the Sultanate and within it. What made the tragedy worse was the tender age of the picnickers, all between 12 and 20.

Following the tragic event, the Ministry of Social Development, in a statement, said that with

great sadness, the Ministry received the news of the death of 5 people and injuries to 14 others, who were immediately shifted to Nizwa Reference Hospital.

"The Ministry is closely following up with the concerned authorities and hopes that the Almighty God blesses the deceased with His mercy and forgiveness in His vast gardens and grant the injured a speedy recovery, health and wellness."

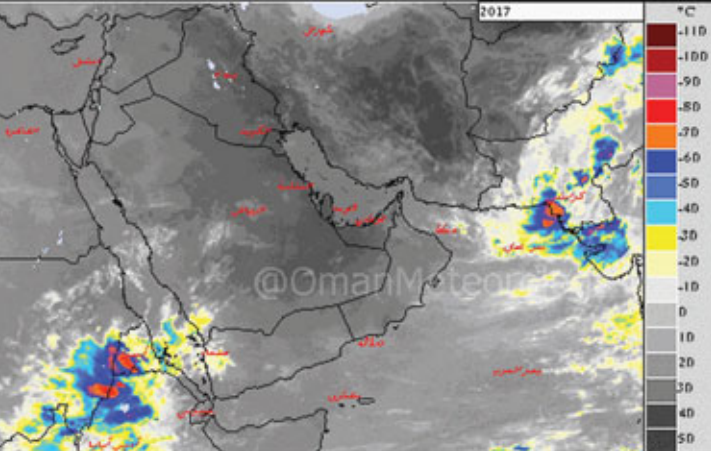
In an exclusive interview to *Times of Oman*, the Ministry said the youth hostel and the child care centre used to take its students and staff on periodic trips outside and inside the Sultanate, and the accident occurred when they were on a trip to the Wilayat of Al Hamra in the Governorate of Al Dakhiliyah.

In another interview to the *Times of Oman*, the Royal Oman Police said the accidents occurred at 9:25 am on Saturday, killing 5 people at the site of the accident and 14 injured were shifted to Nizwa Reference Hospital with moderate to serious injuries.

Captain Munir Al Sinan spoke to Oman TV about the details of the accident, when he said: "The Police Operations Centre received a report on Saturday morning at 9:25 am that a bus belonging to the Child Welfare Centre of the Ministry of Social Development had deteriorated in Al-Khouth in the Wilayat of Seeb, and that it was carrying 19 passengers. As soon as the report was received, the Royal Oman Police and ambulance patrols of the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority moved to the site of the accident."

Al Sinan added: "The accident resulted in the death of 5 people and injuries to 14 of them. They were transferred to Nizwa Specialised Hospital and Bahla Hospital." Captain Munir confirmed that the police aviation transported two critically injured patients from Nizwa Hospital to Khawla Hospital in Muscat Governorate.

Pressure trough headed for Oman



WEATHER CHANGE: The low pressure may extend gradually to cover the governorates of North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah, Al Buraimi and Musandam.

Oman's Meteorology Office reported that the northern parts of the country will undergo an elongated low pressure on Tuesday, Wednesday

MUSCAT: The latest weather charts and analyses of the National Early Warning Centre indicate the probability that, on Tuesday and Wednesday this week (26-27 July 2022), the Sultanate of Oman will experience the impacts of a low pressure originating in India, with columns of rainclouds predicted to overcast local skies.

Oman's Meteorology Office reported that the northern parts of the country will undergo an elongated low pressure on Tuesday and Wednesday, noting that the depression is expected to bring about

heavy rains in the governorates of South Al Sharqiyah, Muscat and South Al Batinah. It added that the low pressure may extend gradually to cover the governorates of North Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, North Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah, Al Buraimi and Musandam.

Peak rainfall range
During the peak of the low pressure, rainfall will range between 30mm to 80mm, causing wadis to

overflow, showers of snow pellets and active winds measuring 20-40 knots (40-80 km/h), said the Meteorology Office. It warned that the tropical condition could entail dusty winds and cause low visibility, on land, as well as high waves measuring 4 metres along most of Omani coast.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) urges all to exercise caution and avoid crossing flooded wadis or going to sea. -ONA

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Students of Indian School Muscat excel in CBSE board examination

The school average soars with a 81.2%. 19 students scored a perfect score 100 out of 100, 28% students scored above 90%, 60% students scored above 80% and 82% students scored above distinction.

INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT displayed an outstanding performance in the Grade X and XII CBSE Board Examination for the academic year 2021-22. In Grade X a total of 507 students appeared for the examination and have displayed an outstanding performance. 37 students secured A1 in all five subjects.

Sree Vallabh Goud Manga emerged as the school topper with 98.8 %. Incredibly scoring 98%, Reyna Jeprison, Arka Roy Choudhury and Mohammed Mobasshir Akram shared the second position and the third position was proudly earned by Deepika Anbalagan scoring 97.8%. The school average soars with a 81.2%. 19 students scored a perfect score 100 out of 100, 28% students scored above 90%, 60% students scored above

80% and 82% students scored above distinction. Remarkably 7% students secured A1 in all five subjects, 27% A1's in subjects' appeared and 43% A1 and A2 grade together. The school average plummeted to 94% in Painting, 90% in Sanskrit, 88% in English Language and Literature, 87% in French, 86% in Malayalam and Arabic, 82% in Social Science, 80% in Science and Home Science, 79% in Hindi Course B, 77% in Elements of Business and Computer Applications, 74% in Mathematics Standard and 55% in Mathematics Basics.

64% of students secured A1 in Sanskrit, followed by 60% of students getting the A1 grade in Painting, 41 % secured A1 in English Language & Literature, 29% in Science, 24% in French and Mathematics Standard, 22% in

CLASS X TOOPERS



FIRST POSITION
98.8%
SREE VALLABH GOUD MANGA



SECOND POSITION 98%
REYNA JEPRISON



SECOND POSITION 98%
ARKA ROY CHOUDHURY



SECOND POSITION 98%
MOHAMMED MOBASSHIR AKRAM



THIRD POSITION 97.8%
DEEPIKA ANBALAGAN

Social Studies, 20% in Home Science, 17% in Mathematics Basic, 14% in Hindi Course B and Elements of Business, 11% in Malayalam and 8% of students scored A1 in Arabic. Adding to the golden feathers 19 students scored centums, a perfect score of 100.

CLASS XII SCIENCE STREAM



FIRST POSITION 97.8%
TEJASSREE MOHANAKRISHNAN



SECOND POSITION 96.6%
SUMAIRAA KHAN



SECOND POSITION 96.6%
RIMAZ ALAM KHAN



THIRD POSITION 96.2%
ANANT AGRAWAL



FIRST POSITION 96.8%
SVETLANA RUTH D'SOUZA

CLASS XII HUMANITIES STREAM



SECOND POSITION 96.4%
NAISA SHETTY B.



THIRD POSITION 95.6%
ITHI ARUNKUMAR



FIRST POSITION, 97.4%
SHARLOTTE CARVALHO



SECOND POSITION, 96.4%
AARON ARTHUR MENEZES



THIRD POSITION, 95.2%
ADITI SHEKAR

Grade XII results

In Grade XII of all the 437 students who appeared for the above examination, 20.1% of students secured overall A1.

In the Science Stream, Tejassree Mohanakrishnan, scored 97.8% and secured the first position and topped the school result. Sumairaa Khan and Rimaz Alam Khan bagged the second position with a score of 96.6%, and Anant Agrawal secured the third position with a score of 96.2%.

In the Humanities Stream, Sharlotte Carvalho bagged a whopping score of 97.4% and secured the first

position, Aaron Arthur Menezes who scored 96.4% stood second and Aditi Shekar who scored 95.2% secured the third position. In the Commerce Stream, Svetlana Ruth D'souza stood first scoring 96.8 %. Close on her heels is Naisa Shetty B with a percentage of 96.4% in the second position followed closely by Ithi Arunkumar with 95.6% in the third position.

Another historic milestone is that eleven students took the lead by securing centum, 100 marks in various subjects. President Indian School Muscat Management Committee, Mr. Sachin Toprani

lauded the students for their brilliant, conscientious and sterling performance. He further extended heartfelt appreciation to the teachers and parents for their commitment and alliance that has always brought glory to the institution.

Principal, Dr. Rajeev Kumar Chauhan credited the mammoth victory to the sheer hard work and determination of ISM scholars.

He extended hearty congratulations to the toppers and all the students as they cross a milestone of their lives and dedicated this triumph to the united community at large.

ISWK

Indian School Wadi Kabir students give stellar performance



THE JUBILANT students of Indian School Wadi Kabir have performed exceedingly well, marking yet another year of excellent academic and personal achievements at the school. In Grade XII all of the 281 students (155 in Science and 126 in Commerce stream) appearing in the examination, came out triumphant. The following students have distinguished themselves by securing the first three positions in the Science and Commerce streams respectively:

Viren Haresh Kundnani topped the list of successful candidates among Science students with an astounding score of 97.4%. He scored the highest marks in Mathematics (99%) and Computer Science (99%). Akshaya Ayyappan secured the second place in the Science stream with 97.2%. She is also the subject topper in Physics (99%) and English (95%).The third position in the Science stream is bagged by Riya Deepak Shinde with 97%. She is

also the subject topper in Biology (99%) and Psychology (99%). Mohamad Salman Ali scored a centum in Chemistry. The topper in Engineering Graphics is Malcom D Souza with 97%. The top position in Computer Science has been shared by Viren Haresh Kundnani, Aadil Krishna Kalandiyil and Richa Thakur with 99%.

In the Commerce stream, Rohan Tom Saji topped with 95.4% He scored a centum in Accountancy and is also the subject topper in Eco-

CLASS XII - SCIENCE TOPPERS



1ST RANK, 97.4%
VIREN HARESH KUNDNANI



2ND RANK, 97.2%
AKSHAYA AYYAPPAN



3RD RANK, 97%
RIYA DEEPAK SHINDE

CLASS XII - COMMERCE TOPPERS



1ST RANK, 95.4%
ROHAN TOM SAJI



2ND RANK, 94.8%
MIRDULA NATARAJAN



3RD RANK, 94.6%
ALINA SUSAN MATHEW

CLASS X TOPPERS



1ST RANK, 98%
SOUNDHARYA RAMKUMAR



2ND RANK, 97.8%
ISRA IRFANKHAN PATHAN



3RD RANK, 97.4%
AANYAA NAGABHOOSHAN

nomics (97%) and English (95%).

Mirdula Natarajan secured the second place in the Commerce stream. She scored a centum in Business Studies and is also the proud subject topper in Economics with 97%.

Alina Susan Mathew bagged the third position in the Commerce stream with 94.6%. Savio Shibu scored 99% in Entrepreneurship.

Along with the Class 12 CBSE result, the Class 10 CBSE result was

also declared. With an astounding 08 centums in Science, 03 in Mathematics and 01 in English Language & Literature, ISWK students once again proved their academic prowess. Soundharya Ramkumar has topped the list of successful candidates with a stupendous performance of 98%. Following her is Isra Irfankhan Pathan in the second place with an aggregate of 97.8% while Aanyaa Nagabhooshan (97.4 %) is in the third place. The total number of students who appeared for the CBSE Class X examination was 359. The School Management and Principal, congratulated all the staff, students and their parents. on the grand success and for their dedication and hard work.

ISD

Indian School Darsait celebrates outstanding results

INDIAN SCHOOL DARSAIT once again rose to the pinnacle of academic excellence, with declaration of the CBSE Class X and Class XII results for the session 2021-22. ISD students had yet another successful year in terms of CBSE Board Examinations by scoring cent percent result with 129 students appearing for class XII and 169 appearing for class X exams. Students' dedication, coupled with detailed preparation by teachers, has been well rewarded.

In the Science Stream, Class XII - Niranjana Pramod Nair top-scored with 95.4% while Niveditha Ajaya Kumar Revathi bagged the second position with 95%, Abdul Jaleel Zaki and Sasireha Dhanalingam shared the third position with 94.2%.

Top Spot

Taking the top spot in Commerce Stream Angel Maria Tarson secured 97.8% followed by Hiba Shahin securing the second position with 90.4% while Nandhana Shaju and Elin Mariya Joshy shared the third position with 88.8%.

In Class X, Yash Vikram Kanchan with 98.4% was crowned the top student, second rank was bagged by Ruth Rose Donal with 97.6% and the third position with 97% is shared between Suprith Amathi and Thareesh Prabakaran respectively.

Students who scored cen-

CLASS X SCHOOL TOPPERS



FIRST POSITION 98.4%
YASH VIKRAM KANCHAN



SECOND POSITION 97.6%
RUTH ROSE DONAL



THIRD POSITION 97%
SUPRITH AMATHI



THIRD POSITION 97%
THAREESH PRABAKARAN

tums in Chemistry, Psychology, Mathematics and Science subjects respectively; Chemistry - Niranjana Pramod Nair; Psychology - Nesla Sherin and Niranjana Pramod Nair, Mathematics (Standard) - Suprith Amathi, Science - Suprith Amathi, Hari Chandan, Varun Saji Nair & Meghna Thekkoodan Joy.

Congratulations

Mr. Sebastian Chungath, President and the other esteemed members of the School Management Committee conveyed their congratulations for the excellent results. Principal, Mr. Amar Srivastava congratulated the students and lauded the strenuous efforts of all who worked as catalysts in making school proud.

CLASS XII SCIENCE STREAM



FIRST POSITION 95.4%
NIRANJANA PRAMOD NAIR



SECOND POSITION 95%
NIVEDITHA AJAYA KUMAR REVATHI



THIRD POSITION 94.2%
ABDUL JALEEL ZAKI



THIRD POSITION 94.2%
SASIREHA DHANALINGAM

CLASS XII COMMERCE STREAM



FIRST POSITION 97.8%
ANGEL MARIA TARSON



SECOND POSITION 90.4%
HIBA SHAHIN



THIRD POSITION 88.8%
NANDHANA SHAJU



THIRD POSITION 88.8%
ELIN MARIYA JOSHY





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MEETING

President of Zanzibar meets foreign ministry undersecretary

ZANZIBAR: President Hussein Ali Mwinyi of Zanzibar received at his office on Sunday Mohammed Nasser Al Wahaibi, Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for Administrative and Financial Affairs.

Al Wahaibi conveyed greetings of Sayyid Badr Hamad Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, to President Mwinyi. He also handed the President of Zanzibar an invitation to visit the Sultanate of Oman.

The meeting reviewed the bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as means of enhancing cooperation to serve the joint interests.

The meeting was attended by Saud Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Republic of Tanzania, Said Salim Al Sinawi, Consulate General of Oman in Zanzibar, the Tanzanian ambassador to Oman and some officials in Zanzibar's government.



-ONA

NORTH AL SHARQIYAH

'Tamkin-Sahim' empowerment programme conducted by ministry

IBRA: A training programme (codenamed "Tamkin-Sahim") for the empowerment of youth wishing to take up government jobs was conducted by the Ministry of Labour in the Governorate of North Al Sharqiyah.

The five-day course is the second leg of a training programme targeting 2,216 job candidates who passed interviews and tests from different governorates of the Sultanate.

It seeks to raise the volume of productivity in the workplace (for government job candidates, among them 202 from North A'Sharqiyah Governorate).

"Tamkin-Sahim" Empowerment Programme is undertaken by the Ministry of Labour, represented by the Training Support Centre based in different governorates of Oman.

The first stage of the programme was conducted in the Governorate of South Al Sharqiyah last June. The third will be in Dhofar Governorate next week. -ONA



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

More than 301,000 hours of part-time jobs announced

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Labour has announced the availability of 301,172 hours of part-time jobs as part of an initiative codenamed "A Million Hours of Employment" in government units.

The opportunities are open for job aspirants with different qualifications: 175 for holders of Bachelor's degree, 43 for holders of post General Education Diploma (GED), 35 for GED holders and 44 for any literate contestants. The Ministry will allow a period of two weeks for the competitors to register for the announced jobs. -ONA



DHOFAR GOVERNORATE

Date, honey exhibition opened

SALALAH: The Omani Rutab (date) and Honey Exhibition was opened, yesterday, at Lulu Hypermarket in Salalah, Dhofar Governorate.

The exhibition has been organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and would continue till 13 August, under the auspices of Sheikh Salim bin Suhail Shamas, Wali of Salalah.

A number of farmers and producers of dates from the various governorates of the Sultanate and owners of SMEs are taking part in the exhibition.

The exhibition aimed to encourage honey producers and farmers and SMEs owners find marketing outlets and to avail from the tourism season and to continue develop methods of display, packing and marketing their products. -ONA





سلطنة عُمان
وزارة النقل والاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology



إعلان مناقصة
Tender Notice

The Internal Tender Committee at the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology invites for the Following Tender:

TENDER NO.	TENDER NAME	DATE OF PUBLISHING	LAST DATE TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENT	SUBMISSION DATE	COMPANIES WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS TENDER	DOCUMENT PRICE
35/2022/MTCIT/HQ-12 - Recall - 1 (24251)	Design and construction of a signalized junction at Ibri souq roundabout - (Al-Dhahira governorate)	24-07-2022	07-08-2022	09-10-2022	Experienced companies in the similar works and registered with the Secretariat general of tender board (excellent Class)	(150/-) One hundred and Fifty Omani rial non-refundable
82/2022/MTCIT/HQ-17 (23818)	Digital transformation mystery shopper	24-07-2022	31-07-2022	16-08-2022	Experienced companies and registered with the Secretariat general of tender board (all grades)	(25/-) Twenty five Omani rial non-refundable

Interested Companies registered with the Secretariat General of Tender Board may obtain Tender documents from the E-Tendering website: <https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om> against non-refundable payment as mentioned above for each set of document. Tenders should be submitted online on given website. In addition to Tender Bond as Bank Guarantee issued by local bank in the Sultanate of Oman for the value of (1%) of the Tender value validity for (90) days.

CORRESPONDANCE:

1. Tender Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the TENDER Inquiry must be online at e-Tendering System. (<https://etendering.tenderboard.gov.om>)

2. E-Tendering System Inquiry: All correspondence pertaining to the e-Tendering System technical support must be directed to the following helpdesk email address and phone number:
Tel: +968 24402200 e-mail: etenderhd@mtcit.gov.om

INTERNAL TENDER COMMITTEE



البوابة العربية الرقمية
Muscat Arab Digital Capital



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GULF HOTELS (OMAN) COMPANY LIMITED SAOG					
P O Box: 1455, P C 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman		C.R. No. 1059459			
DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2022		STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022			
Dear Shareholders,			30th June 2022	30th June 2021	31st Dec. 2021
			RO'000	RO'000	RO'000
The company has recorded total revenue of RO 2.966 Million (30th June 2021: RO 1.264 Million) and net loss after tax of RO 0.002 Million (30th June 2021: net loss after tax RO 0.565 Million) for the six months period ended 30th June 2022.		Assets:			
		Non-current assets:			
The hotel witnessed an increase of 134.61% in total revenue, compared to the same period last year, due to recovery in travel and tourism sector. There was an increase of 189.28% in room revenue and 105.41% increase in food and beverages revenue compared to the same period last year. This helped the company to substantially reduce the net loss after tax for the six months period ended 30th June 2022.		Property plant and Equipment	28,910	29,446	29,141
		Current assets:			
One of the F&B facilities of the hotel is currently under renovation and is expected to open for our valued guests soon. We hope resumption and normalisation of leisure, business travel and a successful FIFA World cup football 2022 in Qatar will benefit tourism sector in Oman and generate better revenue for the hotel during second half of the year.		Inventory	59	44	46
		Trade and other receivables	356	158	468
We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said for His Majesty's inspiring leadership and wise policies. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless His Majesty with good health and strength to lead our nation to progress and prosperity. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Tourism for implementing right policies to encourage growth in tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman.		Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	1	1	1
		Cash and bank balances	503	462	501
We express our deep appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said for His Majesty's inspiring leadership and wise policies. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless His Majesty with good health and strength to lead our nation to progress and prosperity. We would also like to thank the Ministry of Tourism for implementing right policies to encourage growth in tourism sector in the Sultanate of Oman.		Total current assets	919	665	1,016
		Total assets	29,829	30,111	30,157
Ali Ahmed Al Najjar Chairman		Equity and liabilities			
		Equity			
Note: The complete accounts will be sent by mail to any shareholder or other interested party, who requests them either in Arabic or English, within 7 days from the receipt of request at company's address: Gulf Hotels (Oman) Co. Ltd. SAOG, P O Box: 1455, P C 112, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.		Share capital	3,428	3,428	3,428
		Share premium	58	58	58
		Statutory reserve	1,143	1,143	1,143
		Other reserve	18,620	18,620	18,620
		Retained earnings	361	497	363
			23,610	23,746	23,612
		Liabilities			
		Non-current provisions and borrowings:			
		Borrowings non-current	1,029	1,489	1,259
		Staff terminal benefits	279	239	258
		Deferred tax liabilities	3,385	3,411	3,387
			4,693	5,139	4,904
		Current provisions and borrowings:			
		Borrowings current	460	345	460
		Trade and other payables	1,054	869	1,169
		Current tax liabilities	12	12	12
			1,526	1,226	1,641
		Total Liabilities	6,219	6,365	6,545
		Total Equity and liabilities	29,829	30,111	30,157
		Net Assets per share (R. O.)	6.888	6.927	6.888
INCOME STATEMENT AND STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022					
	3 months period from 01.04.2022 to 30.06.2022	3 months period from 01.04.2021 to 30.06.2021	6 months period from 01.01.2022 to 30.06.2022	6 months period from 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2021	
	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000	RO'000	
Revenue	1,248	464	2,966	1,264	
Cost of materials consumed	(247)	(108)	(575)	(289)	
Service expenses	(275)	(173)	(529)	(319)	
Employee benefit expenses	(552)	(362)	(1,139)	(765)	
Depreciation	(143)	(161)	(291)	(322)	
Other operating expenses	(195)	(89)	(397)	(192)	
Profit (Loss) from operating activities	(164)	(429)	35	(623)	
Finance income	1	3	3	7	
Finance cost	(23)	(26)	(47)	(50)	
Impairment loss (Reversal)	-	2	-	2	
Loss before income tax	(186)	(450)	(9)	(664)	
Income tax and deferred tax	33	67	7	99	
Net loss for the period	(153)	(383)	(2)	(565)	
Total comprehensive loss for the period	(153)	(383)	(2)	(565)	
Basic earnings per share	(0.045)	(0.112)	(0.001)	(0.165)	





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MEETING

Saudi Royal Air Force Commander received



MUSCAT: Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) received in his office at Al Murtafa'a Garrison today Lt. Gen Turki Bandar Al Saud, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force. The two sides exchanged viewpoints and discussed a number of military matters that serve

the air forces of the two countries. They also reviewed several matters of common interest. The meeting was attended by Senior RAFO officers and the Military Attaché at the Saudi embassy in Muscat.

Visits MTC
Lt. Gen Turki Bandar Al Saud,



Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force visited the Military Technological College (MTC). The guest was accompanied during the visit by Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO), Chairman of the MTC Board of Directors. Upon his arrival at the college,

the guest was received by the Acting Dean of the MTC. The guest was briefed on the college's educational and service facilities, in addition to its general curriculum, technical specializations and various educational levels. He also toured several training workshops in the college.

— ONA



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DELEGATION VISIT

Saudi Air Force official visits Maritime Security Centre in Muscat

MUSCAT: Lt. Gen Turki Bandar Al Saud, Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force and his accompanying delegation visited on Sunday the Maritime Security Centre

(MSC). During the visit, the guest was accompanied by Air Vice Marshal Khamis Hammad Al Ghafri, Commander of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO). — ONA

ZUWARAT ASTER PROGRAMME

President of Muscat Municipality visits Aster Royal Hospital

Times News Service

MUSCAT: With the soft opening of Aster Royal Hospital nearing, the newest super-multi-speciality Hospital located in Al Ghubra, received His Excellency Ahmed Mohamed Al Humaidi, the President of Muscat Municipality for a friendly site-visit as a part Zuwarat Aster programme. During the tour, which was guided by the Hospital's CEO, Dr. Ashendu Pandey, His Excellency acknowledged information about all the departments, cutting-edge technology and unique services that the Hospital will avail to the



Oman community. He visited various departments, including the ICU, radiology and physiotherapy department, Op-

eration Theatres, Cath-Lab, Aster centre of excellences-Gastroenterology led by the Hospital's Medical Director and renowned

Senior Consultants, Dr Ashik Sainu Mohiyadeen and Dr Hisham Al Dhahab), Orthopaedics and Obstetrics- gynaecology for which an

entire floor is dedicated to women.

New services
The Muscat Municipality President valued the efforts of Aster Group for bringing new services to Oman, highlighting the importance of keeping the patients close to the families during complex procedures like organ transplantation or heart interventions. His Excellency Muscat Municipality President said: "During complex procedures or interventions, the patient needs to feel supported by their family and friends, and Aster Royal Hospital is opening this possibility to the Oman na-

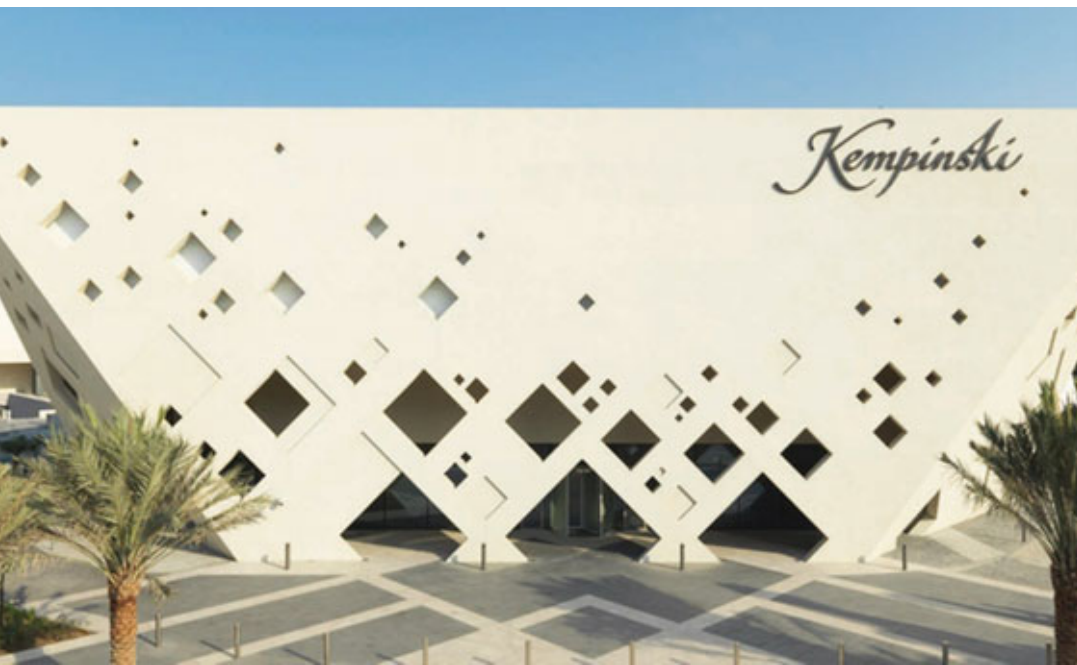
tions that used to travel abroad to get this kind of treatments, contributing to the reduction of the waiting list in the public sector. I appreciate Aster Hospital for this achievement and wish the best of luck for the Soft Opening". Aster Royal Hospital has two underground floors of parking area, 200 beds, one entire floor dedicated for Women & Children and a world class team of doctors and medical staff and it will open its doors to the public soon. Dr Ashendu was assisted by Ms Nadiya Azghar Al Balushi, HR Director and other team members for the tour.

OIA'S FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

< FROM A1 Mutually beneficial joint investment mechanisms established

Established in 2001 as a joint venture between OIA and the Government of Pakistan, Pak-Oman Investment Company (POIC) is a finance company with a capital totalling OMR40 million. The company achieved a net profit as a result of diversification of instruments between fixed and floating interest rates.

Oman-Vietnam
In 2008, Oman-Vietnam Investment Co. was established as a joint venture between OIA and the State Capital Investment Corporation (SCIC). It invests in businesses and projects aiming to achieve development and sustainable economic growth. The value of this joint venture is \$200 million covering 12 investment portfolios. From June 2020 to December 2021, the company invested \$20 million in CMES Company specialised in developing rooftop solar power systems and \$30 million in VPI, a real estate development company. Moreover, the company fully exited from BCG Solar Farms with an IRR of 13 percent, where the value of investment increased by 3.1 times and partially exited (70 percent) from CII Company operating in infrastructure projects, with an IRR of 13percent, where the value of investment increased by 4.2 times. Moreover, the company reviewed and updated its investment plan to cope with the expected



changes in the Vietnamese market, and to focus on the promising sectors, i.e. technology, education, health, logistics, retail and industrial zones.

Oman-Brunei
Another joint venture is Oman-Brunei Investment Company. Established in October 2009, OBIC's investment strategy focuses on optimisation of capital in companies with high growth potential through private equity and investing in new projects or joint ven-

tures. OBIC seeks to achieve an IRR not less than 12-15 percent through a diversified portfolio that includes service, industry, health, education and tourism sectors. OBIC was founded with an initial capital of \$100 million, which was later increased to \$200 million in 2019. Currently, the company invests in assets worth \$1 billion. It contributed to the development of several key projects in Oman, including the Kempinski Hotel Muscat, Oman International Hospital, which is managed by an interna-

tional operator, a water desalination plant in Sohar in partnership with a specialised company from Spain and a portfolio of aircraft rental in partnership with a German company. It is working on developing a private school in collaboration with a global specialised educational company. Additionally, it invests in projects in the Sultanate of Brunei, including a shrimp aquaculture project and a salmon aquaculture project which is in the pipeline. It managed to profitably

exit from previous investments such as Majan Telecommunication (Renna Mobile), Babylon Medical Services Company and a stock portfolio specialised in the energy sector.

Uzbek-Oman
The Uzbek-Oman Investment Co. (UOI) was established in 2010 as a joint venture between OIA and Uzbekistan (75 percent by Oman and 25 percent by Uzbekistan), with a capital of \$200 million. UOI invests in textiles, food and pharmaceutical products, retail, financial and technological services, real estate and foreign currencies. The company currently has 12 investment projects after it fully exited from a number of investments. During the fourth quarter of 2021, the company's board of directors approved a proposal to restructure its investment portfolio with the aim of maintaining the portfolio's value and improving its returns by shifting from low-return assets to high-return assets.

Oman-India
The Oman-India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF) was established in 2011, and invests in different economic sectors in India in two portfolios. The first portfolio is a 50/50 joint investment fund between OIA and the State Bank of India (SBI) and includes 7 investment projects. It exited completely from 13 investments and partially from one in-

vestment, with an IRR of 2.3 times the cost. The value of the second portfolio is \$229 million, of which 63 percent is for OIA, while 22 percent is owned by the State Bank of India and another 15 percent is owned by other investors. Over 80 percent of the fund's capital is directed to investment projects.

Spain-Oman
Spain-Oman Private Equity Fund was established in 2014 as a 50/50 joint investment between OIA and COFIDES, a company owned by the Spanish Government. The capital of this joint fund is EUR 200 million. Currently, it has 6 investment projects representing 43 percent of the Fund's total capital. In April 2021, it invested in Logalty, a company that specialises in the provision of electronic evidence service for e-contracting, communications and personal identity. After it successfully added 35 new investments to its investment portfolio in the private equity markets, it exited some investments with good returns and realised average returns of 10.3 percent since its inception. OIA is pursuing new opportunities through partnerships with brotherly and friendly countries. OIA's first annual report, which has been issued recently, gives an overview of its business and investments since its establishment on 4 June 2020 under Royal Decree No. 61/2020 till 31 December 2021. — ONA

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TWO IONIC PLAYERS

Pankaj Khimji, Imran Khwaja, Neil Speight elected as ICC Associate Member Directors

Times News Service

BIRMINGHAM: Pankaj Khimji, Imran Khwaja and Neil Speight have been elected as International Cricket Council (ICC) Associate Member Directors following an election process at the ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham, UK.

In line with the Associate Members' Meeting Terms of Reference, the voting was conducted at the Formal Associate Members meeting by way of a weighted secret ballot in which all voters (each Voting Associate Member and each Regional Representative) have three votes.

Imran Khwaja and Neil Speight have both been re-elected as Associate Member representatives



Imran Khwaja



Pankaj Khimji



Neil Speight

on the Board, with Pankaj Khimji replacing Mahinda Vallipuram.

Khimji is the Chairman of the Oman Cricket Board and is a Vice President of the Asian Cricket Council.

International Cricket Council Chair Greg Barclay commented on the election: "I would like to welcome the elected Associate Member Directors onto the Board for the next term. I look forward to

working with Imran, Pankaj and Neil to continue to push the sport forward by delivering the strategy and growing the game so that more people can enjoy cricket across the world."

FIRST ODI

Team India fined for slow over-rate

DUBAI : Team India has been fined 20 per cent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over-rate during the first ODI against West Indies at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Friday.

Richie Richardson of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposed the sanction after India was ruled to be one over 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.

India captain Shikhar Dhawan pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Joel Wilson and Leslie Reifer, third umpire Gregory Brathwaite and fourth umpire Nigel Duguid levelled the charge.

Following his side's thrilling three-run win over West Indies in the first ODI, Indian skipper Shikhar Dhawan expressed disappointment of not being able to score a century. -ANI

WORLD ATHLETICS

Neeraj Chopra grabs silver with 88.13m throw



OREGON: Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, on Sunday, clinched the silver medal in the men's javelin throw final at the prestigious World Athletics Championships in Eugene.

Neeraj recorded a distance of 88.13m in his fourth-attempt throw and secured the second position. The Olympic medallist started the proceedings with a foul throw, which was followed by 82.39m and 86.37m. It was finally in the fourth attempt when he recorded the distance of 88.13m, which put him in contention for the silver medal.

The last two attempts by Neeraj went foul throws, and thus, he ended up in the second position. The first position was held by defending champion Anderson Peters of Grenada, who recorded a distance of 90.54m.

Neeraj also became India's first ever track and field athlete to

take the silver medal in the World Championships, and second to bag a podium finish after the legendary long jumper Anju Bobby George had finished third in the Paris Worlds in 2003.

World Championships debutant Rohit Yadav finished at the 10th position after making attempts of 78.72m, 78.05m and 77.95m.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lavished praise on Neeraj Chopra after he clinched the silver medal in the men's javelin throw final.

Taking to Twitter, PM Modi wrote, "A great accomplishment by one of our most distinguished athletes! Congratulations to @Neeraj_chopra1 on winning a historic Silver medal at the #WorldChampionships. This is a special moment for Indian sports. Best wishes to Neeraj for his upcoming endeavours." -ANI

McLaughlin sets 400m hurdles world record

The 22-year-old double Olympic champion smashed her own world mark to win her second world title in 50.68 seconds

EUGENE: The eighth day of the World Athletics Championships was capped with a new world record by Sydney McLaughlin of the United States in the women's 400m hurdles on Friday.

The 22-year-old double Olympic champion smashed her own world mark to win her second world title in 50.68 seconds. Dutch Femke Bol, also 22, finished second in 52.27 while American veteran Dalilah Muhammad, who won this event at 2016 Rio Olympics, took bronze in 53.13.

The 24-year-old Michael Norman landed his first major 400m title in 44.29 seconds after finishing fifth at last year's Tokyo Olympic Games.

London Olympic champion Kirani James of Grenada followed in second in 44.48 while Matthew Hudson-Smith from Britain came third in 44.66.

Two-time Olympic champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo of Bahamas lifted her first world title, clocking this season's world leading time



CHAMPION Sydney McLaughlin of the United States reacts after the women's 400m hurdles final at the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 in Eugene, Oregon, the United States.

of 49.11 seconds to triumph in the women's 400m.

Dominican Marileidy Paulino claimed silver in 49.60 while Sada Williams from Barbados took bronze, 0.15 further back.

Kimberly Garcia Leon of Peru won the inaugural women's 35km

race walk with two hours, 39 minutes and 16 seconds, a week after her gold over the 20km distance. Katarzyna Zdzielebo of Poland took silver in 2:40:03, and China's Qieyang Shijie added another bronze in Eugene after the 20km race in 2:40:37.

On the field, China's Olympic champion Liu Shiying could not bring out her full potential, finishing just outside the javelin throw podium where Australian Kelsey-Lee Barber defended her world championship glory with 66.91 meters. Kara Winger of the United States was second in 64.05 while Japanese Haruka Kitaguchi in 63.27.

The United States led both men's and women's 4x100m relay heats, with a world-leading time of 37.87 and 41.56 seconds respectively.

Canada wins 4x100m relay Canada upset pre-race favorite the United States to win the men's 4x100m relay at the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

The United States, who took all six medals in the men's 100m and 200m, led all the way in the first three legs, but was overtaken by Canada in the final leg due to a messy baton pass.

The Canadian team of Aaron Brown, Jerome Blake, Brendon Rodney and Andre De Grasse won in a world lead time of 37.48, 0.07 seconds ahead of the U.S. team.

The United States won the women's 4x100m relay with a world leading time of 41.14 seconds at the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

Jamaica, led by Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce who took the 100m gold and 200m silver a few days ago, finished just 0.04 seconds behind to take the silver, while Germany pocketed the bronze in 42.03. -Xinhua

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Muller optimistic of Bayern's success

BERLIN: Despite a narrow 1-0 defeat against Manchester City in a friendly on a US promotional tour, Bayern Munich is talking about maximum success this year.

"Our current situation reminds me of the 2012-13 season as we somehow felt near unbeatable," striker Thomas Muller stated after City's new arrival Erling Haaland scored the winning goal in a chaotic game, interrupted for over an hour by thunderstorms.

Club chairman Oliver Kahn spoke about the "hardest season ever" due to the 2022 FIFA World Cup being played in November and December interrupting the campaign for over four weeks. Kahn spoke of a situation of the highest possible competition within the squad that couldn't be better. The former German national keeper said the highest level of motivation for every single squad member has developed.

Nine years after Bayern last claimed the UEFA Champions League title, the Bavarian side again has to deal with significant changes after Robert Lewandowski left for Barca, with Sadio Mane and Matthijs de Ligt coming in. -Xinhua



MARKET

BUSINESS & FINANCE



MSX INDEX ENDS HIGHER
The MSX index closed at 4,317.6 points, up by 0.61 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.2 per cent at 458.15 points. Bank Dhofar, up 8.48 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 5.33 per cent, was the top loser.

40

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Orascom hotels in Oman attract over 70,000 tourists every year

Over one million visitors are expected to visit Salalah, during the current Khareef season which includes 80 per cent citizens and residents and 20 per cent from overseas

KHALID ORABI

MUSCAT: Orascom hotels in Oman have been able to attract more than 70,000 tourists each year in its 1,200 rooms, Mehmet Tunc Mustecaplioglu, General Manager of Orascom Hotels Management, said in an exclusive interview with *Times of Oman*.
“We extend a unique, rich and comprehensive tourism experience, integrated facilities and distinct services, besides a visit to the Aqua Park with children clubs and entertainment areas and fascinating beaches extending to 14 square kilometres,” he said.
As the general manager of the group, Tunc oversees the manage-



ment of four properties of Orascom Hotels Management which include Fanar Hotel & Residence, Juweira Boutique Hotel, Salalah Rotana Resort and Sifawy Boutique Hotel.
Rotana, Al Fanar and Juweira Boutique Hotel in Salalah offer 1,100 rooms and Sifawi Hotel at Al Sifa in the capital area offers 68 rooms. The Group started with Juweira Boutique Hotel which offered 82 rooms in 2014. The group opened Rotana Hotel with 422 rooms and late in 2015 it opened Al Fanar Hotel with 200 rooms which now has 577 rooms, he said.
Hotels Rotana and Al Fanar are working at full capacity, while Juweira Boutique Hotel is under temporary renovation, he added.
In Salalah, there are two tourism seasons, the first beginning from October till the end of March which corresponds to the tourism sea-



son for European tourists during which tourists come from several countries like Germany, Italy and Poland representing 75 per cent of tourists who stay at Orascom facilities, while other tourists (25 per cent) come from France, Czech Republic and Slovakia. Tourists also come from the UK, Poland, Italy and Switzerland. From April to the end of September, a majority of the visitors and tourists during the Khareef Season (from 21 June to 21 September) are from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, Tunc said.
Orascom Hotels Management Group is proud to have one of the largest and amazing entertainment facilities in Salalah, including the first and biggest Aqua Park in the Sultanate of Oman.
He added that the Aqua Park is available for the group's hotel

guests in Salalah. The group's hotels, due to their strategic locations, have beaches running into 7 kilometres in length and two kilometres wide, with a total area of 14 square kilometres, he added.
During the Khareef season, the employees of the group increased to 1,000 with 70 per cent working full time and 30 per cent part-time, he said.
Orascom Hotels Management has spent OMR1 million on the renovation and development of the group's hotels in Salalah in the past for the comfort of the guests. This has made Rotana and Al Fanar hotels receive visitors and tourists at full capacity.
While Juweira Boutique Hotel is still closed for some renovation works it will be opening soon with a date to be announced in due course.
Regarding the current Khareef



festival in Salalah, more than a million visitors are expected to visit Salalah, including 80 per cent (800, 000) citizens and residents from various governorates of the Sultanate and 20 per cent (200,000) visitors from abroad, mainly from the GCC countries.
He said that during the winter season, the group has 13 restaurants operating to tickle the taste buds of all with places designated for serving food and beverages from 7am to 10pm. During the other six months, the group's hotels usually serve breakfast and stay as residents prefer to go during the day to the mountain areas and have outdoor lunch.
Integrated hotel experience
“During the current Khareef Salalah season, we offer integrated hotel experience (and not just hotel stay)

to the guests of Orascom hotels. We are also keen on facilitating entertainment as we will host in our hotels in Salalah and Rotana hotels musical and entertainment bands/troupes (two from Russia and one from the UK), besides organising a number of entertainment shows throughout the week, including DJ concerts, drawing on faces of children and courses on cooking and other entertainment activities.”
“The hotels offer a rich and amazing experience in serving food and beverages with chefs from several Arab, Asian and European countries offering food and beverages that meet all tastes, he said reaffirming that the said experience would continue during the tourism season in Salalah to become a year-long facility and not just for specific months,” he further added.

CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT



T-Mobile settles to pay \$350 million to customers in data breach

NEW YORK: T- Mobile agreed to pay \$350 million to customers affected by a class action lawsuit filed after the company disclosed last August that personal data like social security numbers had been stolen in a cyberattack.
In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing, the mobile phone company said the funds would pay for claims by class members, the legal fees of plaintiffs' counsel, and the costs of administering the settlement.
It also said it would spend \$150 million next year and in 2023 to fortify its data security and other technologies.
T-Mobile said the settlement contains no admission of liability, wrongdoing, or responsibility by any of the defendants.
The company said that it expects court approval of the terms of the settlement as early as December 2022.
Nearly 80 million US residents were affected by the breach. In addition to Social Security numbers, other information breached included names and information from driver's licenses or other identification. -BNA

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION

Decision issued to regulate household business activities

MUSCAT: The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion has issued a ministerial decision (No. 473/2022) promulgating a regulation on making homemade business products.
The decision streamlines and legalises the activities of owners of household business activities undertaken by citizens to generate income, protects the rights of sellers and buyers and secures customer

confidence in commercial transactions within Oman and abroad. As many as 9,092 commercial registers have been issued for such household business activities, according to the statistics of the ministry.
The decision bans practising any home-based business before the individual or the family obtains a license from the ministry in coordination with the authorities concerned. -ONA



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MARKET



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MSX index ends higher

Bank Dhofar, up 8.48 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 5.33 per cent, was the top loser



MUSCAT: The MSX index closed at 4,317.6 points, up by 0.61 per cent from the previous close. The Sharia Index ended up by 0.2 per cent at 458.15 points. Bank Dhofar, up 8.48 per cent, was the top gainer while Jazeera Steel Products, down 5.33 per cent, was the top loser. Shares of Bank Nizwa 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 437 trades were executed during the day's trading session, generating a turnover of OMR3.97 million, with more than 19.9 million shares changing hands. Out of 45 traded securities, 10 advanced, 15 declined, and 20 remained unchanged. At the session close, foreign investors were net sellers for OMR101,000 while domestic investors were net buyers for OMR100,000, followed by GCC & Arab investors for OMR2,000 worth of shares.

Financial Index closed at 6,846.89 points, up 0.23 per cent. Prices of Bank Dhofar, Ominvest and Ahlia Insurance were up by 8.48 per cent, 1.3 per cent and 0.56 per cent respectively. Prices

of United Finance, HSBC Bank Oman, Global Financial Investments, Muscat Finance and Al Madina Takaful were down by 5.26 per cent, 4.41 per cent, 1.56 per cent, 1.49 per cent and 1.11 per cent respectively.

Industrial Index closed at 5,669.88 points, down 0.66 per cent. Prices of National Aluminium and Oman Cement were up by 2.56 per cent and 1.56 per cent respectively. Prices of Jazeera Steel Products, Raysut Cement, Oman Fisheries, Gulf Mushroom Products and Al Maha Ceramics were down by 5.33 per cent, 1.94 per cent, 1.84 per cent, 1.79 per cent and 1.22 per cent respectively.

Services Index was up by 0.47 per cent before closing at 1627.92 points. Prices of Shell Oman Marketing, OIFC, Oman Telecom, Al Jazeera Services and Ooredoo were up by 4.29 per cent, 2.36 per cent, 1.3 per cent, 0.72 per cent, and 0.55 per cent respectively. Prices of Muscat Gases, National Gas, Muscat Desalination, Renaissance Services and Oman National Engineering were down by 4.58 per cent, 2.9 per cent, 1.77 per cent, 1.75 per cent and 0.94 per cent respectively. — **United Securities**

OMAN STOCKS

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INDICES

Index	High	Low	Value	Prev. Value	Diff	Diff %
MSX 30 INDEX	4,331.62	4,291.45	4,317.60	4,291.45	26.15	0.61
FINANCIAL INDEX	6,883.28	6,812.31	6,846.88	6,831.14	15.75	0.23
Industry Index	5,743.55	5,663.41	5,669.87	5,707.30	-37.43	-0.66
Services Index	1,627.92	1,616.23	1,627.92	1,620.36	7.56	0.47
MSX Shariah Index	458.75	454.97	458.15	457.21	0.94	0.20
MSX TR INDEX	5,460.23	5,409.58	5,442.55	5,409.58	32.96	0.61
FINANCIAL TR IDX	7,260.57	7,128.32	7,164.49	7,148.02	16.48	0.23
SERVICES TR IDX	1,683.24	1,671.15	1,683.24	1,675.42	7.82	0.47
INDUSTRIAL TR IDX	5,960.84	5,877.67	5,884.38	5,923.22	-38.84	-0.66

Trading Summary							
Volume	Turnover	Trades	Market Cap	Up	Down	Equal	Sec. Traded
19,905,814	3,973,432	437	22,641,527,343	10	15	20	45

SHARE PRICE BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY, JULY 24

SECURITY NAME	VOLUME	TURNOVER	TRADES	OPEN PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE PR.	PREV. CLOSE	DIFF (RD)	DIFF %	LAST PR.	LAST BID	LAST OFFER	PUR VALUE	MARKET CAP	
REGULAR MARKET																
OM0000001525	OMAN INVST&FIN	1,413,687	181,706	51	0.125	0.131	0.125	0.130	0.127	-0.003	2.362	0.130	0.128	0.130	0.100	30,810,000
OM0000001749	OMAN CEMENT	16,000	4,133	4	0.258	0.260	0.258	0.260	0.256	-0.004	1.563	0.258	0.258	0.258	0.100	86,028,905
OM0000003026	OMAN TELECOM	1,128,900	10,433,602	12	0.920	0.932	0.920	0.932	0.920	-0.012	1.304	0.932	0.924	0.932	0.100	699,000,000
OM0000001533	OMINVEST	326,460	101,149	12	0.308	0.312	0.308	0.312	0.308	-0.004	1.299	0.312	0.310	0.314	0.100	208,530,013
OM0000002226	ALJAZEERA SERVICES	2,500	700	1	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.280	0.278	-0.002	0.719	0.280	0.265	0.284	0.100	17,137,196
OM0000003968	OOREDOO	187,168	67,220	12	0.366	0.368	0.358	0.368	0.366	-0.002	0.546	0.368	0.350	0.380	0.100	238,547,477
OM0000001400	OMAN FLOUR MILLS	548,976	292,047	4	0.532	0.532	0.522	0.532	0.522	-0.010	0.000	0.532	0.522	0.574	0.100	82,215,000
OM0000001483	NATIONAL BANK OMAN	402	96	1	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.240	0.000	0.000	0.240	0.228	0.240	0.100	390,227,125
OM0000002168	AL ANWAR CERAMIC	123,200	53,168	8	0.422	0.440	0.422	0.422	0.422	0.000	0.000	0.422	0.422	0.440	0.100	92,840,000
OM0000002200	AHLI BANK	4,307,534	541,945	32	0.129	0.130	0.125	0.130	0.130	0.000	0.000	0.130	0.128	0.135	0.100	253,455,471
OM0000002440	AL SHARQIA INV	46,880	3,773	6	0.081	0.081	0.080	0.080	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	7,200,000
OM0000002796	BANK MUSCAT	203,660	110,559	22	0.542	0.546	0.542	0.542	0.542	0.000	0.000	0.542	0.542	0.544	0.100	10,020,034,233,604
OM0000003281	TAGEER FINANCE	105,000	9,940	10	0.085	0.085	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.000	0.000	0.084	0.084	0.084	0.100	24,314,209
OM0000003398	SOHAR INT BANK	13,000	1,352	1	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.104	0.000	0.000	0.104	0.104	0.106	0.100	310,966,478
OM0000001152	OMAN NAT ENG	119,450	12,605	14	0.106	0.106	0.105	0.106	0.107	-0.001	-0.935	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	14,840,000
OM0000005005	ALMAHA CERAMICS	70,259	34,111	14	0.480	0.480	0.484	0.484	0.480	-0.006	-1.224	0.484	0.482	0.484	0.100	26,620,000
OM0000003125	GLOBAL INV H	31,000	1,897	3	0.062	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.064	-0.001	-1.563	0.063	0.062	0.063	0.100	12,600,000
OM0000003224	RENAISSANCE SER	26,746	12,036	3	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.450	0.458	-0.008	-1.747	0.450	0.448	0.460	0.100	106,384,500
OM0000002176	JAZEERA STEEL PROD	14,000	4,628	3	0.334	0.334	0.320	0.320	0.338	-0.018	-5.325	0.320	0.320	0.320	0.100	39,967,347
Total	19	8,684,822	2,476,709	213												
Parallel Market																
OM0000002549	BANK DHOFAR	484,470	58,557	13	0.118	0.128	0.118	0.128	0.118	-0.010	-8.475	0.128	0.120	0.128	0.100	383,532,984
OM0000002275	SHELL OMAN MRK	494,000	432,744	3	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.840	-0.036	-4.296	0.876	0.876	0.876	0.100	83,220,000
OM0000003139	ALUMINIUM PROD	97,843	7,569	9	0.078	0.080	0.077	0.080	0.078	-0.002	-2.564	0.080	0.079	0.080	0.100	2,685,716
OM0000006912	AHLIA INSURANCE	5,000	1,818	2	0.362	0.366	0.362	0.362	0.360	-0.002	-0.566	0.366	0.360	0.364	0.100	36,200,000
OM0000001020	OMAN CHROMITE	100	240	1	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400	0.000	0.000	2.400	2.440	2.500	1.000	7,200,000
OM0000001772	ALANWAR INVESTMENT	260,616	19,286	15	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.074	0.000	0.000	0.074	0.073	0.078	0.100	14,800,000
OM0000003521	GALFAR ENGINEER	853,000	113,325	29	0.118	0.120	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.000	0.000	0.118	0.118	0.119	0.100	23,662,401
OM0000004420	BANK NIZWA	7,286,162	692,185	26	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.095	0.000	0.000	0.095	0.095	0.100	0.100	212,510,538
OM0000004669	SHARQIAH DESALIN	818	94	1	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.000	0.000	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.100	11,247,248
OM0000004776	TAKAPUL OMAN	9,773	459	2	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.047	0.045	0.047	0.100	11,750,000
OM0000004925	ABLATINAH POWER	13,000	998	1	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.045	0.046	0.100	31,044,822
OM0000004933	AL SUWADI POWER	15,000	720	1	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.048	0.047	0.048	0.100	34,291,504
OM0000005260	OMAN ARAB BANK	3,957	463	3	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.117	0.114	0.117	0.100	195,320,970
OM0000005963	PHOENIX POWER	355,936	17,495	15	0.051	0.051	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.049	0.049	0.050	0.100	71,667,472
OM0000005970	BAHKA DESALINATION	90,723	12,701	18	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.000	0.000	0.140	0.139	0.140	0.100	10,573,080
OM0000004788	MADINA TAKAFUL	72,661	6,533	5	0.090	0.090	0.089	0.089	0.090	-0.001	-1.111	0.089	0.086	0.091	0.100	15,375,000
OM0000001590	MUSCAT FINANCE	78,750	5,223	7	0.067	0.067	0.066	0.066	0.067	-0.001	-1.493	0.066	0.066	0.067	0.100	20,271,657
OM0000007084	MCT DESALINATE	2,506	279	2	0.113	0.113	0.111	0.111	0.113	-0.002	-1.770	0.111	0.111	0.113	0.100	17,266,094
OM0000002287	GULF MUSHROOM P	35,960	10,005	14	0.280	0.280	0.275	0.275	0.280	-0.005	-1.786	0.275	0.275	0.280	0.100	11,441,450
OM0000001568	OMAN FISHERIES	299,945	32,254	32	0.108	0.108	0.106	0.107	0.109	-0.002	-1.835	0.106	0.106	0.106	0.100	10,482,288
OM0000001418	RAYSUT CEMENT	21,972	3,355	3	0.152	0.155	0.152	0.152	0.155	-0.003	-1.935	0.152	0.152	0.158	0.100	30,400,000
OM0000001160	NATIONAL GAS	10,000	1,340	1	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.134	0.138	-0.004	-2.899	0.134	0.133	0.138	0.100	11,390,000
OM0000001517	HSBC BANK OMAN	535,000	70,765	11	0.135	0.135	0.130	0.130	0.136	-0.006	-4.412	0.130	0.130	0.135	0.100	260,040,663
OM0000001178	MUSCAT SECURITIES	4,900	715	2	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.153	-0.007	-4.875	0.146	0.146	0.146	0.100	4,380,000
OM0000002374	UNITED FINANCE	87,500	7,905	7	0.092	0.092	0.090	0.090	0.095	-0.005	-5.263	0.090	0.086	0.091	0.100	31,422,997
Total	25	11,219,592	1,496,658	223												

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LIFESTYLE

MENTAL HEALTH CARE IS ESSENTIAL FOR HEART PATIENTS AT EVERY AGE

Many people who are born with heart defects show resilience and have a great quality of life, although they may encounter a variety of health-related psychological and social issues throughout their lives.



A new scientific statement reviews potential psychological and social challenges that occur from infancy through adulthood among people born with heart defects and the types of mental health care that may be beneficial. The statement advocates for mental health professionals to be integrated within interdisciplinary teams that provide medical care to children and adults with congenital heart defects, which is more common in cancer care than cardiac care.

Congenital heart defects (CHD) occur when people are born with structural abnormalities of the heart or blood vessels involving the heart. Surgery and catheter interventions are often required to address these issues. Most people with CHD survive through adulthood, with adults now outnumbering children among more than 2.4 million living with CHD in the United States. A surgical intervention, however, does not cure CHD. People may need multiple operations, and specialty heart care is required throughout their lives, especially if they were born with complex heart problems.

"Decades of research describes the psychological and social stressors and challenges that can present across the lifespan for people with CHD," said Adrienne H. Kovacs, Ph.D., chair of the writing committee for the scientific statement and a clinical psychologist who

specialises in working with people who have CHD. "It's long overdue that we move beyond awareness to action and providing more resources and expert mental health care for people living with CHD."

An American Heart Association scientific statement is an expert analysis of current research and may inform future guidelines. The Association's 2011 scientific statement on a related topic addressed developmental delays and other neurodevelopmental outcomes in children with CHD. However, this is the first statement to summarise the psychological and social challenges from childhood through adulthood and to review age-appropriate mental health interventions to improve quality of life.

According to the new statement, children with more complex CHDs have a 5-times higher rate of receiving an anxiety diagnosis in their lifetime compared to children without CHD. Despite the evidence of emotional, social and behavioral difficulties, only a small fraction of children with CHD are offered or participate in mental health assessment or treatment. For adults with CHD, the rate of experiencing a mood or anxiety disorder in their lifetime is about 50%, compared to about 30%

for adults in the general population.

The statement summarizes the psychosocial impact of CHD during various stages of life:

Infancy — Babies may be exposed to frightening or painful procedures, and they may be separated from caregivers and family for extended periods of time for surgery or other hospitalization. In response, infants with CHD may be hypersensitive to light and sound, have difficulty feeding and sleeping or display intense fear and distress, and they may have developmental delays.

Childhood — There may be additional hospitalisations and surgeries, therefore, less opportunity to play or attend school, and they may also have developmental delays. In response, children with CHD may become socially withdrawn, experience symptoms of anxiety or depression, have difficulty in school, or display aggression or hyperactivity.

Adolescence — Health concerns may arise at the same time teens are striving for independence, expanding their social networks and taking on more responsibility for managing their health care as they transition from

pediatric to adult care. In response, adolescents with CHD may have social difficulties, become angry, defiant or frustrated, or have body image concerns. They may also display risky behaviors or not follow health recommendations.

Adulthood — There may be new or worsening heart symptoms, repeat surgeries or other cardiac interventions during adulthood, and CHD can have a negative impact on finances, employment, insurance and family planning options. In response, adults with CHD may have difficulty with interpersonal relationships, higher education or employment. They may also have trouble taking care of their health needs and become worried about death and dying.

"It's completely understandable to have a psychological reaction to living with a congenital heart defect. The condition presents numerous challenges throughout the lifespan and may include unexpected news — such as a person realising they can no longer physically manage the demands of their job, or learning that there are significant risks to pregnancy," said Kovacs. "Many people with CHD have tremendous resilience in the face of these challenges. At the same

time, we want to normalise psychological reactions and increase the prevalence of care for psychological well-being to help people with CHD experience a full and healthy life."

According to the statement, approaches to mental health care may encompass self-care strategies, such as relaxation techniques and hospital-based or online support groups; psychotherapy such as talk therapies for individuals, couples, families or groups; and medication therapy where a medical team can determine appropriate, heart-safe medications for depression or anxiety.

The statement strongly advocates for the integration of mental health professionals within CHD specialty care teams. Integrated mental health care normalizes emotional reactions to health challenges, reduces stigma, improves timely access as soon as health challenges arise, and provides coordinated care across the multidisciplinary health care team.

"The goal of this statement is to foster psychologically informed care that empowers people with CHD and their families and provides emotional support," said Kovacs. "We would like mental health assessment and support to be part of comprehensive care for all people with CHD rather than a special service that is offered only in some places or special circumstances."

— ANI

IN PICTURES



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30th Celebration of Light fireworks competition kicks off in Canada
Fireworks presented by team Japan light up the sky during the 30th annual Celebration of Light at English Bay in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The competition kicked off by team Japan, followed by team Canada and team Spain. **Xinhua**

2022 China International Travel Mart kicks off in Kunming
Picture shows the exhibits at the 2022 China International Travel Mart (CITM) in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan Province. The 2022 CITM kicked off in Kunming after a hiatus of one year due to the COVID-19 epidemic. **Xinhua**



Cultural event held in vintage tramway in Bucharest
People attend a cultural event called 'Tramvaiul Bookaresti' (Bookarest Tramway) in a vintage tram in Bucharest, capital of Romania. Organised by the Cultural Centre of the Townhall, the cultural event is hosted in a vintage tramway where people could listen to poetry, music and historic stories about the town during a two-hour trip. **Xinhua**



Shahid Kapoor with wife Mira Rajput at Ritesh Sidhwani's party
Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor with wife Mira Rajput Kapoor poses for a picture at Ritesh Sidhwani's party for the Russo Brothers as they are in India for the promotion tour of Netflix's The Grey Man, in Mumbai. **ANI Photo**



Scenery of Moon Landscape scenic area in Swakopmund, Namibia
Picture shows the scenery of the Moon Landscape scenic area in Swakopmund, Namibia. **Xinhua**

Night economy drives up consumption in Guiyang, Guizhou
People tour a local market at the Qingyun Road in Nanming District of Guiyang, capital city of southwest China's Guizhou Province. Qingyun Road was a famous bustling food street at nighttime in the city of Guiyang. Thanks to local planning and years of renovation, the road has turned to be a popular commercial pedestrian street which contains various trendy businesses like cultural innovation and art design while retaining its food street fame. **Xinhua**



Fashion lovers gather at Dukuh Atas area in Indonesia
A man walks on a zebra crossing like a catwalk model at the Dukuh Atas area in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Dukuh Atas area in Jakarta has recently become viral among fashion lovers who gather here and show their styles like real models. **Xinhua**



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ROUND-UP



Enjoy exciting drives in Toyota Rush with exclusive benefits

Designed for those looking for functionality, the compact SUV offers a high degree of utility with its comfortable seating and plentiful luggage space

MUSCAT: Toyota Rush is a peppy and fun to drive SUV that is spacious, fuel-efficient and offers comfortable seating for occupants. The Rush is available with Service 3 years / 30,000 kms. (Which-ever is earlier). The campaign is valid until 15th September 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.)

Delivering a dynamic driving experience, the Toyota Rush is available with a 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine that generates a maximum output of 103.3 hp and 13.87 kg-m of torque. The engine is paired to a four-speed automatic transmission to offer a smooth shifting experience with superior fuel efficiency.

Designed for those looking for functionality, the compact SUV offers a high degree of utility with its comfortable seating and plentiful luggage space. With a 5.2-meter turning radius, the Toyota Rush boasts excellent manoeuvrability as a result of the vehicle's FR (Front-engine, Rear-drive) platform, in addition to exceptional ride comfort and handling stability through an axle type 5-link rear suspension.

The Toyota Rush exhibits a



modern and sleek identity with its long cabin and robust body. The front of the vehicle features large, wraparound headlamps and a thick lower grille that seamlessly encompasses the Toyota logo and headlamps for an aggressive and dominating look.

Furthermore, the vehicle has an aerodynamic hood with a longitudinal bulge, which gives it a further distinctive character. From the back, the Rush continues to look sporty with its large tail lamps and

chunky boot lid, while a seamless line flowing from the side to the rear further enhances the vehicle's dynamic image.

With an attractive interior and a sophisticated feel, the cabin of the Toyota Rush has been decked out with a range of enhanced features for more convenience and comfort including an LCD Multi-information display in the center of the meters displaying fuel efficiency in an intuitive format, a USB jack, an accessory socket for conveni-

ent charging of smartphones and other devices, in addition to 13 bottle holders placed deftly throughout the vehicle. The sophistication of the interior design has been further enhanced by the instrument panel, which integrates the speedometer and tachometer that are accented by elegant chrome-plated rings.

Offering three-row seating, the Toyota Rush can comfortably accommodate up to seven passengers with ample space for luggage. From a comfort perspective, both the

driver and passengers are ensured a relaxing cabin best-in-class Automatic Air Conditioning System, which allows the temperature of the interior to be quickly adjusted for maximum efficiency. For optimal cooling performance of the entire air conditioning system, upper vents have been incorporated on top of the centre cluster to achieve maximum cooling for passengers in the rear seats as well.

As with any other Toyota model, safety remains a top priority

for the Toyota Rush, which offers a comprehensive array of safety features to protect its occupants, namely six SRS airbags that include Dual Front SRS Airbags, Side Airbags for the front seats, and Curtain Shield Airbags for front and rear seats; Vehicle Stability Control (VSC); Anti-lock Braking System (ABS); Hill Assist Control (HAC); Rear Parking Sensors; Rear Fog Lamp; and Tyre Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS), among many others.

PROMOTION

Enjoy attractive offer on vibrant saloon Renault Megane

MUSCAT: As part of an exclusive offer announced by Renault Oman, from the house of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, Renault Megane, the vibrant and elegant saloon is available with attractive benefits.

Blending striking good looks and stunning performance, Renault Megane, the chic saloon, has been impressing auto aficionados. Admired for its driving performance, Renault Megane is known for its driving comfort, technology and safety features.

As part of the Renault Oman special scheme, customers who buy Renault Megane can enjoy free registration, free insurance, free periodic vehicle service package, three years/ 100000 kms manufacturer warranty, free AAA assistance card, and reference programme among others. Social media users who participate in the promotional campaign will also be eligible for attractive prizes.

The Renault promotion which has already begun will go on till August 19, 2022.

The unique offer boasts of a host of advantages for customers purchasing efficient Renault Megane. All customers purchasing Renault Megane from Suhail Bahwan Automobiles will be eligible to participate in the campaign scheme. Vehicles purchased with commercial registration will not be eligible for the scheme. Vehicles bought for taxi, driving school, ministries, fleet, and rent-a-car usage will not be eligible for this scheme.

A spokesperson for Renault Oman said, "The charismatic Renault Megane is a real head-turner. With its sedan body, dynamic lines and generous proportions, it has a style of its own, which is both lively and elegant. Renault Megane, which is available in 2.0 litres engine configuration along with 1.6 litres variant, is a popular car and much-loved car in Oman. This is a perfect time to own this car."

Free registration

All customers purchasing Renault Megane during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle registration. Applicable to the extent of private registration only. For commercial registrations, ad-



ditional amount including passing needs to be borne by customer.

Free insurance

All customers purchasing Renault Megane during this scheme period will be eligible for free first year vehicle insurance (Oman & UAE only). The insurance amount is applicable for private registrations only. For commercial registration, additional amount needs to be borne by the customer.

Free periodic vehicle service package

All customers purchasing Renault Megane during this scheme period will be eligible for Free Periodic Maintenance Service Package for three years / 60,000 km (whichever is earlier). This offer includes only the service intervals of 10,000km.

Digital promotion

Social Media users who will participate in this promotional cam-

paign and other online challenges on @renaultoman Instagram will get fuel voucher worth of OMR 50 (3 nos.) / UV sterilizer and wireless charger (four nos.)

3 years/ 100000km manufacturer warranty

All customers purchasing Renault Megane during this scheme period will be eligible for three Years/100,000 km mileage warranty (whichever is earlier).

Free AAA Assistance Card

All customers purchasing Renault vehicles during scheme period will receive Free AAA assistance card for first year only.

Reference programme

Renault will generate references of people looking to buy a car. This reference will be generated from existing Renault customers. The same person cannot refer himself but can refer multiple names. If any of the referred persons buy a

Renault car, then the person who referred him will get 50RO Gift Voucher. This Gift voucher can be redeemed during vehicle service at SBA workshop. Purchase of consumables from SBA counters, Purchase of parts and accessories from SBA counters. All such Gift Voucher winners will be declared on an ongoing basis. This Gift voucher is non-transferable and cannot be redeemed for cash or exchanged for credit. The Gift Voucher will be valid for 6 months from the date of issue. The voucher needs to be redeemed fully all at once. Part redemption will not be allowed.

Elegance and versatility

With its sleek silhouette, high-tech cockpit and sophisticated styling, Renault Megane combines elegance and versatility. Attractive and dynamic, Renault Megane makes a bold statement, unveiling its performance excellence and high-tech interior. Its energetic lines and substantial proportions

add to its increasing popularity with car aficionados in Oman. Megane presents a high-class driving experience, thanks to its technologies, design, and roominess.

Acclaimed expertise

Renault's designers have drawn upon their acclaimed expertise to seamlessly incorporate 503dm3 VDA of boot storage capacity without compromising the vehicle's aesthetic appeal. Its generous dimensions (4.63m long and 1.81m wide, with a record wheelbase in its class of 2.71m) underscore its status-enhancing credentials and provide additional room for occupants. Its sleek profile is the result of painstaking work on the proportion of glass to metal (one-third / two-thirds), as well as its low height (1.44m) and ground clearance (13cm).

Fitted as standard either across the range or in the higher-end versions, chrome detailing (grille, side mouldings, door window strips, door handles and exhaust tail-

pipes) point to the model's quality and reinforce its status-enhancing appeal. Its 1.57m front and rear track – the widest in its class – and its range of wheel sizes up to 18 inches imbue it with a striking stance. Its broad, sculpted shoulders express its sportier style.

Megane is available in a choice of eight exterior colours. Its seven metallic options include Pearl White, Mercury, Mink Brown, Cosmos Blue, Comet Grey, Flame Red, Dune Beige. It is one non-metallic finish: Glacier White.

Multiple unique features

The Megane shares many styling features with its larger sibling Renault Talisman, including its lighting signature which is visible night and day: The front C-shaped lighting signature features LED 3D-effect light guides. Available as option on the top version of the Megane is full LED (LED Pure Vision technology) head lights. The rear LED lights form a unique horizontal 3D-effect signature featuring Edge Light technology. The slender brush stroke-like lines emit a deep red light.

Carefully appointed 'cockpit'-feel

The carefully appointed 'cockpit'-feel cabin exudes an unmistakable 'cockpit'-feel thanks to sculpted, enveloping seats and features such as a configurable colour 7-inch TFT data display, R-LINK 2 which supports Apple carplay and Android Auto. Furthermore, the positioning of all the vehicle's technological features has been thought through to facilitate their everyday use.

Travelling comfort is further enhanced by the careful attention that has been paid to the interior finish, to the quality of the soft-to-the-touch materials, which are within easy reach of the driver and passengers: Materials found in Renault's higher-end models, Plush foam-backed covering selected for the dashboard, upper door panels, door inserts and armrests, Satin-effect chrome instrument, air vent and centre console surrounds, Full-grain Nappa leather-trimmed steering wheel, available on the top trim level.



ROUND-UP



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Imtiyaz account: Modern banking for ahlibank’s modern customers

Tailor-made to match the needs of the discerning customer who seeks nothing but the best, the account, has since its launch, successfully managed to create a niche by delivering world-class banking services

MUSCAT: The customer is at the centre of product innovation at ahlibank. It is this customer-first approach that has led the bank to continuously come up with products and services such as its Imtiyaz account, which was launched last year and has since then created a niche for itself among the bank’s loyal customers. Strengthening its already robust portfolio of services, Imtiyaz account is a modern service for today’s consumers. Tailor-made to match the needs of the discerning customer who seeks nothing but the best, the account, has since its launch, successfully managed to create its niche by delivering

world-class banking services. Available to both Omani and non-Omani customers with monthly salaries of OMR 1,000 or more, or those with savings deposits of OMR 10,000 or more, the account offers a seamless banking experience that comes with a world of exclusive benefits such as dedicated counters, branded debit, and credit cards, a branded cheque book (free for the first time), best prices on insurance products, reduced interest rates on all types of loans, and more. Customers who transfer their salary to the bank are rewarded with a 10% cashback of their salary amount along with the Imtiyaz



Platinum Credit Card which is free for the first year. It comes with several perks, including a joining bonus of 2,000 pearl points and two supplementary cards for free. Moreover, customers can also get

free travel insurance, entry to airport lounges, and discounts across a range of merchant offerings, such as a 50% discount on VOX cinema tickets and a Buy One Get One offer on Cinepolis cinema tickets,

and free access to all digital banking channels. Muneer Al Balushi – AGM-Head of Retail Distribution, ahlibank, said, “At ahlibank, customer centricity is among the key pillars

of its growth strategy. Our products and services are testimonials to the fact and each one of them has been created to enhance consumer satisfaction with a range of technologically up-to-date services that do not compromise on banking standards or the impeccable customer service that we are known for. “Our aim has always been to empower customers to bank the way they want while ensuring their best interests are not compromised and we are proud to say that our Imtiyaz account continues to achieve that with its suite of offerings and advanced banking experience. With the customer at the forefront, it has fast carved a niche for itself along with our other popular products and services.” As a bank that has built a stellar reputation and loyalty base, ahlibank knows how to treat its customers and has created relevant propositions for the same. The complete banking service package, the Imtiyaz account is ahlibank’s way of saying thank you to its customers by offering them the best-of-the-best services that go above and beyond to meet the local market requirements.

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(4) Key in the 'R' button.
(5) For help on displays see booklet.

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Majan Electricity prepaid meters: Best choice for electricity conservation

MUSCAT: Majan Electricity Company announced the strengthening of its efforts in providing prepaid meters to its customers starting from July 2022. Majan Electricity Company has recently been witnessing high demand from applicants to obtain prepaid electricity meters and receiving positive feedback from customers who already had them installed. Sultan Al-Wahaibi, Manager of the Prepaid Smart Meters Department at Majan Electricity Company, confirmed the company’s readiness in providing its customers with prepaid meters. Prepaid meters are an ideal solution for customers of all categories (residential, commercial,

agricultural, fisheries and tourism) to manage and control their consumption by paying for it in advance to ensure that it does not exceed their budget. This helps avoid the accumulation of electricity bills and a sudden increase in consumption. In order to obtain a prepaid electricity meter, new customers need to apply for a connection through the Majan company website majanco.co.om or one of its customer service centres. Existing customers would need to submit a request to replace a postpaid electricity meter with a prepaid one, ensuring that all previous dues are paid. A specialist from Majan Electricity Company will then register the request, and the customer will

receive a visit from a technician to ensure that there are appropriate technical connections for the installation of the prepaid meter. Once the application is complete, one of the contracting companies will start the installation process. It is worth noting that Majan Electricity Company, one of the Nama Group companies, is the company licensed to distribute electricity in the regions of North Al Batinah, Al Dhahirah and Al Buraimi. The company launched the prepaid meter installation service in October 2019 on a lower scale, with the aim of identifying customer demand before providing it on a larger scale, which started this month.

ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Zubair EDC sponsors entrepreneurship forum at Al Zahra College for Women



MUSCAT: The Zubair Enterprises Development Centre (Zubair EDC) sponsored an entrepreneurship forum at Al Zahra College for Women. The forum is organised by the college to enhance its role in supporting and fostering the culture of entrepreneurship within the Sultanate. This participation is within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Zubair EDC and the college, to empower and motivate college students to become entrepreneurs and promote entrepreneurship in the Sultanate by providing them with a suitable environment. During the occasion, Said Salim Al Sahib, Director of Zubair EDC, delivered a speech in which he stated, “Over the past years, Zubair EDC has been able to occupy a leading position in supporting small enterprises and emerging entrepreneurs. This enabled an increase in the number of Centre’s members, which exceeded 1,000, from various governorates of the Sultanate. This is in addition to thousands of beneficiaries from its various services, 40% of whom are female beneficiaries and business owners. Since its establishment, the Center has sought to promote a culture of entrepreneurship among Omani business owners.

Through steadfast determination, the right guidance and effective support from experts, budding entrepreneurs can achieve success and reach their desired goals. Our partnership with Al Zahra College reflects our principles and values through which we seek to support the business sector and embed the concept of entrepreneurship in Oman’s youth and continuously strive towards its development.” From his side, Dr Muslim Ali Al Maani, Dean of Al-Zahra College for Women, said, “From the start, the college has been working on supporting its female students, refining their scientific and practical skills and preparing them to enter the labour market. This was undertaken through opportunities created from respective programmes and various initiatives. We are working to build a young generation capable of managing its projects and have laid the foundation for launching a business incubator at Al Zahra College. This is being carried out in cooperation with the relevant authorities from the public and private sectors. We recently signed an MoC with Zubair EDC to open several areas of collaboration between the two institutions, especially in the fields of consultancy, guidance and support to equip college graduates with the neces-

sary skills that make them ready for the labour market.” During the forum, Nabiha Al Mandhari, Communication and Digital Marketing Specialist at Zubair EDC, presented the services and programmes provided by the Center to entrepreneurs, in order to help them develop their businesses based on scientific foundations. In addition, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority showcased its role in developing entrepreneurship in the Sultanate. The event also included a number of success stories from female entrepreneurs among college graduates. At the end of the forum, the participating guests and students in the forum were presented with honours and were taken for a tour of the accompanying exhibition. The attendees expressed their appreciation during the tour and praised the keenness of female entrepreneurs at the college in showcasing their creative ideas and turning them into executable business projects. The Zubair EDC provides a range of services that are summarized in consultancy, capacity building, project development opportunities, networking, partnerships and contracts, financing and financial support through a number of strategic partners from local financial institutions.



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GET OUTSIDE THIS SUMMER WITH THESE EXCITING ACTIVITIES

A lot is happening outdoors as the Sultanate is blessed with several beautiful and iconic places which you can find out only if you step out from your home

DURING SUMMERS in Oman, although one may find solace from the scorching heat by remaining within the air-conditioned confines of rooms, one will definitely miss out a lot of fun that is happening outdoors as the Sultanate is blessed with several beautiful and iconic places which you find only if you step out.

Even though the summer is harsh with heat and the sweat during a day out, it is during this time of the year that everybody is looking for a quick getaway to some cool retreat to beat the heat.

At this time of the summer nobody will want to go for holiday trips to exotic places in Europe, the Far East or elsewhere, hence, the best option is 'do it here in Oman'.

The rugged Western Hajar mountains, the cool sandy dunes, the islands of Oman and the amazing marine life thrive beneath the sea surface will be places where people would like to be. From the deep gorges and ravines where crystal clear streams still gurgle down mossy rocks to form emerald pools, or in the remote villages where the very traditions and beautiful people would cool you



off, Oman has many more options to cool off this summer. Make use of some of it to your advantage.

Turtle watching
Oman is a nesting place for four different species of turtle, namely, the endangered Green Turtle, the Olive Ridley Turtle, the Loggerhead Turtle and the critically en-

dangered Hawksbill Turtle.

And part of the Ras Al Jinz Turtle Reserve that was set up in the Sharqiyah Governorate to promote conservation of turtles that are indigenous to Oman, the Turtle Museum offers visitors an insight into the behaviour of these amazing reptiles, as well as scientific programmes aimed towards their

research, care and conservation.

This museum contains several state-of-the-art laboratories where experiments on optimal turtle care are conducted, and visiting it is part of the turtle-watching trips that many people who both live in and visit Oman regularly, embark on. That these expeditions often begin early in the morning,

before the sun has risen, which is peak egg-laying time for the turtles, shows the curiosity, interest and passion people have in learning more about this amphibian.

Close to the reserve is Ras Al Hadd, where around 13,000 sea turtles come ashore every year to lay their eggs. It is among the largest nesting sites in the Indian Ocean and the only one in the world where Green Turtles come ashore every night all the year round. The area is also home to an ancient fishing village which dates back to about 3,000 BC, proof that man and animal had been sharing the beach for close to 5,000 years.

The best time to see turtle hatching is between May and September.

in Oman to experience dune bashing is Bidiyah, on the edge of the Sharqiyah Sands, located some 233km from Muscat.

Desert safaris, also called dune bashing, is a popular sport in Oman. The abundance of sands across the country has made the Sultanate a hub for people who enjoy the sport.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, the town is about "a three- to four-hour drive from Muscat. Bidiyah is in the Wahiba Sands Desert, the most popular destination in Oman for dune-bashing, desert-crossings and camping. No visit to Oman would be complete without seeing these spectacular seas of sand, and there are other historic sites and natural wonders in the surrounding areas of the Sharqiyah region, including the waterfalls and river of Wadi Bani Khalid. Bidiyah is the village that serves as the jumping-off point for the region's tourism."

The excitement of dune bashing will instantly make you forget the glaring sun. If you are an adventure sports lover, waste no time, jump in your 4WD and charge up and down the vast stretches of the copper-coloured sand dunes of Oman. **>53**

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NEW HIGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY (HI-EER) ACS EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF COOLING WITH GENERAL AIR CONDITIONER

THE AIR Conditioning Division of Khimji Ramdas (ACD) has been in service to the people of Oman, providing continuous air conditioning solutions. This year it won the prestigious Oman's Most Trusted Brand award in the category of air conditioning solutions, a testament to its product quality, service network and customer confidence.

Over 50 years the customers have relied upon "General Air Conditioners" in Oman to effectively deal with extreme temperatures. Brand "General" of Fujitsu General Japan bound by the commitment to deliver excellence has been offering products which epitomize unmatched quality, design and performance. Continuous R & D and innovation have enabled the manufacturers to equip the products with unique features that ensure strong performance and durability. Over the years it has earned a unique position for itself as the most durable AC, delivering unequalled cooling in most adverse climatic conditions as in the Middle East.

The brand also stands for its commitment to be environment friendly and offers many products capable of immense power savings and using environment friendly refrigerants. These are some of the considerations why customers prefer to pay a premium for "General" ACs over many other brands as the value for money offsets the price factor. This is demonstrated by the fact that 'General' has the largest installed base in Oman, with some AC's working to capacity even after a whopping 30 years of service.

The range includes state of the



art Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) systems, Ducted splits, Cassettes, Wall Mounted Splits and Window Air Conditioners. The brand also complies with Environment standards as they use environment friendly gases.

Fulfilling its commitment to Energy Efficiency solutions "General" offers range of ACs with high Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) complying to Oman's prescribed Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). These machines are designed to offer great durability, performance and value for money. Characterized by a unique blend of environment friendliness and robust performance the ACs ushers in a new experience of comfort to customers.

As commercial requirements go beyond the 'cooling' requirement alone, the Sales & Design Team in KR ACD is able to offer complete HVAC solutions with focus on Energy Efficiency, Environment Friendliness and Indoor Air Quality. It is a one-stop-shop for discerning customers from design to after sales service & maintenance.

All these products & services are available through a strong

sales & service network present in almost all locations to reach valuable customers through the length & breadth of Oman.

The customers' confidence in reinforced by an efficient After Sales Service. KR provides 24 x 7 complaint logging facility for the customers to register their complaints. In order to provide prompt and efficient services KR ACD has a fleet of about 20 mobile service stations branded as "Si-yana Wa Khidmaat" across Oman. Customers get their service needs fulfilled at their doorsteps without the need of having to transport their ACs to workshops. The network of service stations across the country helps to maintain a large population of ACs through Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMCs).

General has developed and introduced numerous pioneering technologies with a commitment for real comfort. This commitment has been applied to all its designs ensuring the brand will strive to maintain its position of the most admired brand in the Sultanate of Oman.

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The brand also stands for its commitment to be environment friendly and offers many products capable of immense power savings and using environment friendly refrigerants.



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<FROM S1 **Swimming** Swimming is one of the most enjoyable sports known to mankind especially if you are just floating in the water and not doing laps. It will make you forget all your problems and put you in a good state of well-being. Whether it is doing laps around the pool or just chatting with your friends, it is such a relaxing activity.

It is fun plus exercise, making it a win-win for all. Also, it gives a refreshing respite from the heat. Blessed with long stretches of pristine coastline and refreshing wadis, Oman is the ideal place for water adventure seekers. However, do not forget to take care of your skin and be generous with the application of sunscreen lotion.

Snorkelling If you are a confident swimmer and love to see underwater life, the sea of Oman has a lot to offer.

Plan snorkelling trips with your like-minded friends and discover the beauty of underwater life and corals in Oman.

It is a whole new world out there. Filled with excitement, mystery and a pleasant sense of unexplainable tranquillity, the deep blue seas of Oman have a lot to offer to those looking for something, anything in them.

There are also numerous diving companies operating in Oman, which offer snorkelling classes to make your trips more exciting and adventurous.



Picnic Summer has begun, and with rising temperatures in a number of governorates, there are a number of places in the Sultanate of Oman that maintain its mild atmosphere

to be tourist destinations throughout the year, including Al Ashkhara and Al Khalouf Village.

Al Ashkhara in the Wilayat of Jalan Bani Bu Ali in South Al Sharqiyah's sky is covered with light clouds in the summer, making it a prominent tourist destination in Oman due to the beauty of its beaches and its soft sand dunes. It is also an important source of Omani fish and a habitat for turtles.

The village of Al Khalouf in the Wilayat of Mahout in Al-Wusta Governorate is rich in tourism and natural aesthetics such as mountains, rocks and beautiful beaches. It has a number of tourist attractions. Its beaches are characterised by white sand, and most of its residents practice the profession of fishing.

Also, there are numerous islands in Oman which are accessible by short boat rides and enjoy the rest of the day with your family and friends swimming and playing in the water. To make things easy, there are a few tourism companies which provide such rides accompanied by food and games on the island.

Say no to these summer drinks Spend your summer by drinking enough water to avoid dehydration, but for those of us living in Oman, where summertime means adjusting one's diet and meals to survive the excruciatingly hot weather, it is also a time to explore some great summer alternatives.

For food-loving people there are plenty of places where you can satisfy your cravings. There are several places in Oman that serve refreshing drinks, colourful smoothies, hydrating fruits and healthy greens.

Instead of having sugar-loaded juices, opt for drinks that will quench your thirst, while entertaining the taste buds at the same time. There are several places that serve delicious, freshly-squeezed juices.

If you feel dehydrated, stop at a cafe near petrol stations and order coconut water; it's a natural drink

that hydrates the body quickly and also tastes amazing.

There are plenty of summer beverages you should be avoiding to save your waistline and your overall health.

Sugary summer beverages are to be avoided:



Instead of having sugar-loaded juices, opt for drinks that will quench your thirst, while entertaining the taste buds at the same time.

Lemonades and fruit juices For many, bottled lemonade and fruit juices are a summer staple. However, these drinks are packed full of sugar and fall under the category of summer beverages that you should be avoiding this summer. Lemonade and fruit juice contain plenty of sugar and high fructose corn syrup. In terms of the effects on your health, these drinks are very similar to sodas. Too much lemonade and fruit juice can increase your risk of weight gain as well as chronic degenerative diseases.

If you are craving lemonade, try making fresh lemonade. This will be lowest in fructose. If you need to add a sweetener, stick with stevia and avoid sugar as well as artificial sweeteners.

Sweetened iced teas Sweet teas are another summer staple. However, sweet teas are a summer beverage that you should be avoiding. It is a common misconception that sweetened iced teas are healthy for you just because they contain tea. Yes, tea can be a great source of antioxidants.

However, sweet teas contain excessive sugars that are not great for your health. One glass of sweet tea can contain up to 22 percent sugar. With sugar levels this high, drinking sweetened iced teas can actually contain twice the amount of sugar as one can of soda.

Soda Whether you are opting for regular or diet soda, you should just say no to soda this summer. Sodas contain way too much sugar or even worse - artificial sweeteners.

Some experts go as far as to say that drinking soda in many ways is just as bad as smoking cigarettes. For example, diet sodas typically contain a chemical known as aspartame. This sugar substitute has more than 92 different side effects including birth defects, brain tumours, diabetes, seizures and emotional disorders. Sipping on an ice-cold soda also exposes you to:

Phosphoric Acid: Phosphoric acid can interfere with your body's ability to use calcium. This can lead to osteoporosis.

Benzene: Researchers have found benzene levels as high as 79ppb in some sodas. Benzene is a known carcinogen.

Artificial food colours: Artificial food colourings, including the caramel colouring that is found in most sodas, is a known carcinogen.

The artificial caramel colouring is created by reacting corn sugar with sulphites and ammonia under high pressures at high temperatures.

Sodium Benzoate: Sodium benzoate is a common preservative found in a majority of soft drinks. This preservative can lead to DNA damage, which can eventually lead to Parkinson's disease or cirrhosis of the liver.



Chronic and acute effects of sun exposure on the skin With long summers in the region, we are exposed to the harsh sun for almost 8 months. Continuous exposure to the sun can cause various skin-related issues and can sometimes lead to chronic skin disease, even skin cancer.

Sunlight is the light we can see, and excessive amounts of exposure can contribute to the production of free radicals, which may have negative, aging effects on the skin. It comes in many forms like the light emitted from digital screens like cellphones and laptops and that's why experts advise taking steps to protect your skin the year round.

Talking to Times of Oman, a dermatologist sheds light on the most common skin problems affecting people due to chronic exposure to sunlight. Visit a dermatologist if you are affected by any of the symptoms mentioned below:

Photodermatitis: It is an abnormal skin reaction to the sunlight or UV rays. You may develop rashes and redness all over the face, neck, forearm and chest area or the exposed area of your skin. It also causes heavy itching.

Polymorphic light eruption: It is a skin rash caused by exposure to sunlight. The most common form of polymorphic light eruption is found as a circular lesion at the nape accompanied by severe itching, redness and plaque formation. It also appears on the head, neck, chest or arms.

Folliculitis: It is a common form of skin condition where the hair follicles are inflamed due to heat and sun. It is usually caused by a fungal or bacterial infection, which is due to sweat, dirt and

pollution. It is normally seen in labourers whose work involves being outdoors. Pimple-like lesions on the scalp and face mark it. In chronic conditions, these pimples discharge pus and blood.

Fungal infection: It is common during summer and is caused by the yeast, which lives on our skin.

Rashes appear with the outgrowth of yeast in the body. As we all are accustomed to the use of ACs in the office or at home, we tend to switch on the AC as soon as we are indoors. With the immediate varying body temperature of hot sweat while in the sun and exposure to moist cold in the car or within, a building can cause fungal infection. Taking bath twice a day in the morning and before bedtime is advisable as skin should be washed every 6 to 8 hours.

Miliaria: It is a condition marked by fine acne-like lesions on the face, neck and torso. It is also called sweat rash.

Sunburn: Redness and swelling of the skin due to overexposure to the sun. It causes burning sensation of the skin, hot to touch, painful, fatigue and dizziness.

Hyperpigmentation: Being exposed to sunlight for a longer duration can lead to hyperpigmentation, which is difficult to fade. The cells in the skin may die and may result in wrinkled skin. Regular application of sunscreen every two hours is a must irrespective of whether you are indoors or outdoors. Moreover, use moisturising cream at night.

"Blue collar workers working under the sun are not much aware of the sunscreen and also they cannot afford it. I advise the companies to provide sunscreen to those employees whose work involves working under the sun since they are prone to skin damage. In addition, companies should comply with the ministry rule of afternoon break so that they are not exposed to harsh sunlight during the peak time," he said.

"Workers who have worked for more than 6 to 7 years in this region are prone to skin cancer and we have seen a number of such cases," he further added.

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Genetco has consistently delivered excellence in both products and services to its valued customers in the Oman market. Genetco has been selling a wide range of High Energy efficient Gree air conditioners in Oman for more than a decade. The new innovative GMAX60 series is especially suited to Oman's climatic conditions and is designed to deliver maximum benefits to the discerning Omani customer.

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Gree is the global leader in air conditioners, developing some of the most advanced commercial and residential air conditioners in the world Based in Zhuhai, China, Gree has been the world's largest specialized air conditioner company for several years integrating R&D, manufacturing, sales and service. Thanks to 400 million user choices, Gree products are sold widely across 160 countries and regions. Today Gree's annual



production capacity of residential air conditioners (RAC) and commercial air conditioners (CAC) are 50 million and 5.5 million respectively. With 15 research institutes, 81 research centers, 929 labs and 8,000+ engineers. With over 15 production bases Gree has topped No.1 in production and sales volume for over a decade. Gree is committed to finding newer and more efficient ways to keep customers comfortable, healthy and productive.

Gree has successfully won many international projects, including 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, "2010 FIFA World Cup" in South Africa, 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou 2014 winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia and 2016 Olympic Games

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Gree believes in delivering an efficient world should not only be attainable, but easy and affordable in doing so. The strong belief in its combination of intensive R&D and passionate customer service ensures cooling solutions born not only from the latest technology but also with the customer's comfort in mind.

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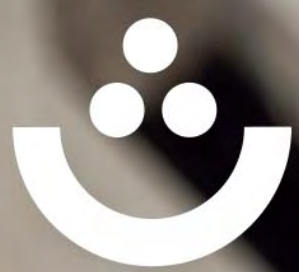
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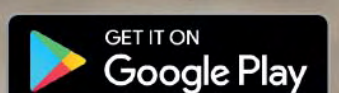
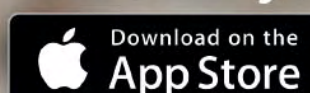
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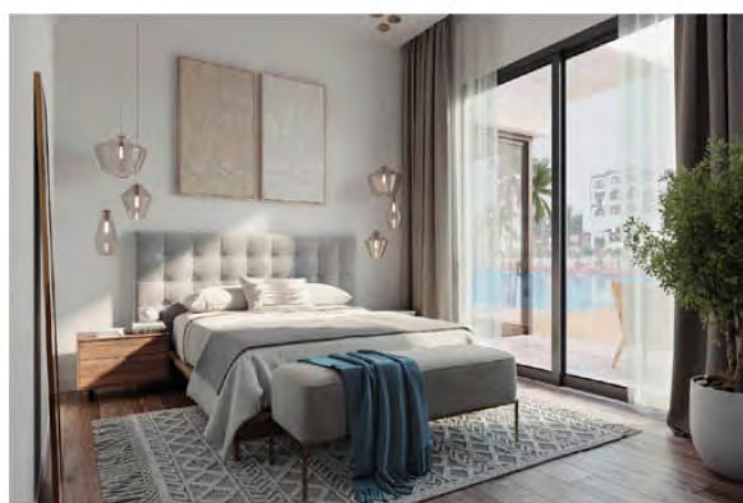
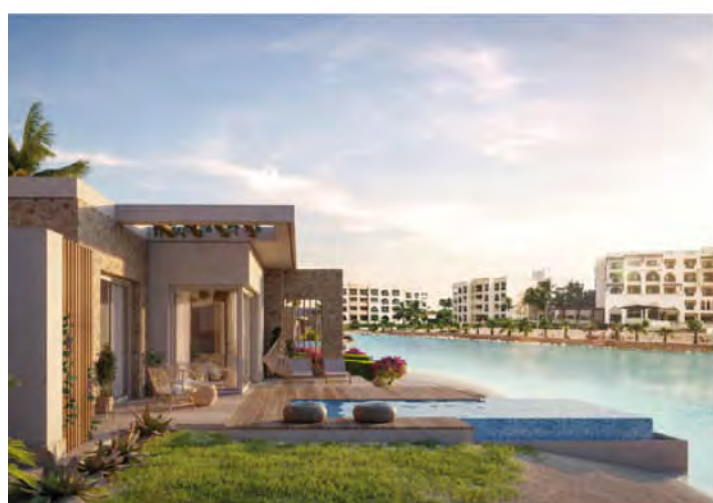
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